

September 18, 2026

Questions from Candidates

Has an assessment of current conditions and projected lifecycle costs of gravel roads been completed? If so, when?

A formal, stand-alone assessment of current gravel road conditions and projected lifecycle costs has not yet been completed. Gravel roads are currently assessed through routine road patrols and operational inspections, and maintenance is completed as required based on observed condition and service needs. Annual maintenance gravel is applied on a 5-year rotational bases. This is based on the duration of time for material breakdown for the surface gravel.

A Gravel Roads Needs Study is proposed for 2027, subject to budget approval. This study would provide a more formal condition assessment and support future asset management planning, including lifecycle costing and maintenance priorities.

What data was used in calculating the lifecycle costs for gravel roads?

The lifecycle cost calculation was based on the Municipality's 2025 Asset Management Plan and the total inventory of municipal gravel roads. The Asset Management Plan identifies annual lifecycle costs for all municipal gravel roads at \$489,475. Staff have identified approximately 173 kilometres of gravel roads across the Municipality, including 0.92 kilometres in Almonte, 112.18 kilometres in Pakenham, and 59.72 kilometres in Ramsay. Based on this inventory, the annual lifecycle cost equates to approximately \$2,829.34 per kilometre.

How are contracted services accounted for in winter maintenance, and what is the cost of those services?

Contracted winter maintenance services are included in the operating budget using recent actual expenditures as the basis for forecasting. The budget is generally developed using a rolling three-year average, with adjustments for inflation, contractual cost changes, growth, and anticipated service requirements.

Contracted services are primarily used for hired trucks to support snow removal operations. A smaller contract also supports winter sidewalk maintenance in Clayton, located in Ramsay Ward.

For the three-year period used to calculate the 2026 budget, contracted winter maintenance costs ranged from a low of approximately \$81,000 to a high of approximately \$138,000. After applying adjustments for growth, CPI, and contract values, the 2026 budget amount for contracted winter maintenance services is \$113,000.

In what capacity are contracted services used for winter maintenance, and what percentage is used in each of the three wards?

Contracted winter maintenance services are used primarily where additional resources are required for snow removal and sidewalk maintenance. Based on current operations, the greatest use of contracted services is in Almonte, followed by Pakenham and then Ramsay. This is largely related to the concentration of sidewalks and snow removal needs in those areas.

Exact ward-by-ward percentages are not currently available because contracted service costs are not tracked in that format. Determining precise percentages would require a detailed review of individual invoices and work records.