



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Planning Committee
From: Ken DeHart, County Treasurer
Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021
Subject: **Preliminary 2022-2031 Ten-Year Plan: Planning Department**

Background:

This forecast provides a high-level view of major budget issues and planned capital investments and serves as a guide for departments in preparing their detailed current year operating and capital budgets. The preliminary corporate ten-year plan will be considered by the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee on November 16, 2021 and the forecast will be updated at the time the budget is approved early in the New Year.

Major Operating Budget Impacts

Staff are in the process of compiling the detailed 2022 operating budgets for each department. Major items expected to be reflected in the 2022 Planning Operating Budget include the following:

Planning:

Rural Water Quality

As reported to committee in October, the Source Water Protection Coordinator position (employed through Centre Wellington) had been delayed significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has just recently been filled. As a result of the delay the position end date has been adjusted to end mid-year 2024. Previously the position was budgeted to end in 2023. The transfer payments line in the 10 year forecast will now reflect this change.

Climate Change

In September, Planning staff brought forth a report and five-year budget forecast in order to guide the implementation of the Future Focused climate change mitigation plan for the County. A separate cost centre within Planning has been established in order to track costs for climate change initiatives outlined in the five-year Climate Change forecast. The significant revenues and expenditures in 2022 related to the implementation of the plan are outlined below:

Revenues

- Grants and Subsidies are made up of two separate grants:
 - \$280,000 for the Home Energy Retrofit Programme;
 - \$125,000 for Living Labs
 - At this time no funding confirmation is in place for either grant and the related programmes will not proceed without successful approval of the grant applications

Expenditures

- Two contract positions including:
 - A new Energy Data and Engagement Assistant (\$51,400 April 1st start date)
 - A new Sustainability Programme Assistant (\$51,400 April 1st start date)
 - This position is split with Smart Cities (in Economic Development) and is offset by \$30,000 in anticipated Smart Cities funding
- Two programmes anticipated to be partially offset by grants:
 - Home Energy Retrofit Programme (\$350,000) – net cost of \$70,000 after grant
 - Living Labs Study (\$150,000) – net cost of \$25,000 after grant
- Electronic Vehicle Adoption (\$50,000) by the community – including outreach and education

The overall levy impact from the implementation of the mitigation plan under the Planning Department is anticipated to be just over \$250,000. In addition to this amount, \$10,000 has been budgeted throughout the forecast towards Social Housing building audits. This brings the overall County operating impacts of corporate climate change initiatives to close to \$260,000.

Green Legacy:

- There are no major operating impacts within Green Legacy identified in the 10 year forecast

Community Emergency Management:

- Salaries, Wages and Benefits includes the addition of Summer Student hours in order to provide support for the Critical Infrastructure (CI) Common Operating Picture (COP) map, with general photo updates and other more general updates.

The detailed 2022 operating budget and revised ten-year plan will be presented to the Committee in January. Attached to the report is the current proposed ten-year operating budget and ten-year capital budget for the Planning department.

Capital Budget Forecast

In accordance with the Budget Management Policy, the list of capital works includes those initiatives that have a long-term benefit to the corporation and whose capital cost is at least \$25,000. Capital budgets are presented as inflated by 3.5% per year, which represents the five-year average of the non-residential construction price index. Highlights of the capital forecast are as follows:

Planning:

- Projected capital spending includes additional budget to the existing Official Plan / MCR Update project primarily covers the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) component of the project. Additional Official Plan updates include conformity/consistency with the Greenbelt Plan (2017), the Provincial Policy Statement (2020), and changes related to Source Water Protection Plans in Wellington County. Updates to the Official Plan are included in 2023 and 2028.
- New to the forecast – Climate Change Initiatives projects as identified in the Corporate Climate Change Mitigation Plan are included in the forecast. Corporate items reflected in this budget total \$2.1 million and are funded through a mix of subsidies and the Climate Change Mitigation Reserve.

Note: subsidies are included in this forecast however; no grant funding is secure at this time. Staff will evaluate project feasibility, as grant application results are communicated.

- Climate change initiatives affecting other departments are summarized below, and are budgeted within departmental budgets.

Department	Project	Year	Cost	Incremental Cost
Social Housing	Attic Insulation	2022-2025	225,000	225,000
Solid Waste Services	Pick up Truck EV Replacements	2023 - 2031	546,000	122,000
Roads	Pick up Truck EV Replacements	2024, 2027	810,000	312,000
Property	Pick up Truck EV Replacements	2025	128,000	18,000
CAO and Clerks	IT Van EV Replacement	2025	62,000	7,000
Library	Courier Van EV Replacement	2027	107,000	18,000
Total			\$1,878,000	\$702,000

Green Legacy:

- End of lifecycle vehicle and equipment replacements are included throughout the forecast for a total of \$322,000.

Community Emergency Management:

- The Emergency Management capital forecast includes a Vehicle replacement in 2028 and the Emergency Management Portable and Mobile radios replacement in 2028.
- New to the forecast - an allocation for generator replacements that addresses the generators located at the paging / radio sites throughout the County, in partnership with the County's member municipalities. The preliminary budget reflects the estimated County contribution to these purchases. Staff will continue to work with local Fire Chiefs to determine the timing and cost of replacements and report back with refined figures in January.
- New to the forecast – an allocation for paging site battery replacements. The batteries supply twelve hours of power in the event of a power outage and are nearing the end of estimated life. Replacements are scheduled every five years.

Recommendation:

That the preliminary 2022-2031 Planning capital budget forecast and major operating budget impacts as set out in this report be endorsed and forwarded to County Council for inclusion in the County of Wellington's Preliminary Ten-Year Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken DeHart, CPA, CGA
County Treasurer