



GRAND VALLEY

STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Meghan Townsend, CAO/Clerk
Meeting Date: March 25, 2025
Report Number: 2025-059
Subject: Final 2025 Budget

Recommendation

THAT Council receives the Report – Final 2025 Budget,
AND THAT Council approves the 2025 Budget as presented and directs staff to prepare and present the necessary by-laws for passing.

Executive Summary

Purpose

To present a budget that incorporates all discussions from the draft budget meetings, and obtain Council approval.

Key Findings

After many discussions, a budget of \$22,067,422 is presented. The Tax Levy is \$5,227,812. The Tax Rate increase is 4.781% over last year.

Financial Implications

- Property tax increase for all property types.
- Significant use of reserves
- New reserve creation for future capital asset management
- New borrowing to finance large capital projects

Report

Background

Over the past 5 months, Council has received and deliberated several versions of the 2025 budget. Final revisions were made as directed from the March 11, 2025 meeting, where Council directed that the tax rate increase be 4.79% at most.

Discussion

Attachments 1 and 2 to this report present the final Reserve Status report and the 2025 Budget table. The last line of the budget table is the Tax Levy of \$5,227,812, which represents a \$400,884 increase from 2024. In order to collect this levy, the tax rate will increase by 4.781% - just under the 4.79% directed by Council.

Grand Valley will complete several projects this year, including:

- Microsurfacing of Mount Haven Crescent, Deaken Drive and the Connecting Link
- More gravel for the township roads
- Construction of an expansion and rehabilitation of the Grand Valley and District Community Centre
- Planning for Bridge 7 replacement
- Construction of Hill Town Drive in Monticello
- Preparations for Luther Road Inflow and Infiltration Remediation project
- New generator for the Water Tower
- Completion of Ball Diamonds at Concession 2-3 Park and planning for new building
- Completion of updated Official Plan and Zoning By-law for the Town
- Growth related studies for water and wastewater servicing
- Repairs to the “Grand Valley” stone wall
- Updates to the hybrid meeting system and other council chamber upgrades
- New gateway signage and economic development planning

In addition to these projects, staff will continue to work with Council on several projects, including land use planning, service realignment for fire and medical centre, routine road maintenance, routine water and wastewater service operations, among others.

A by-law is attached to this report to approve the budget.

Recommendations for future budgets

We are in a period of financial uncertainty. Assuming that this uncertainty will continue into the next few years, the following recommendations are presented for the 2026 budget process:

- Put Capital and Operating budget deliberations back together into one package
 - o Costs for some capital items are decreasing while others remain much higher than pre-pandemic levels. Operating costs have not decreased, though, which makes it

difficult for Council and the public to be able to approve capital projects separate from an analysis of operating needs.

- Combining operating and capital discussions will prevent the frustration experienced by approving part of the budget only to experience difficulties completing the rest after the fact.
- Request that joint boards complete and pass their budgets in December.
- On October 28, 2025, use that meeting to review priorities, present anticipated growth projections, and establish Council's budget expectations, so that this information can be presented at the November 26 public open house.
- Present the draft total budget at the December 9 meeting.
 - While this might delay authorizing capital projects from proceeding to tender immediately following the holiday season, by the end of this December 9 meeting, staff will have direction on what capital projects will not be proceeding.
- If needed to ensure that tenders are seen by vendors early in the new year, present capital items for approval at the first meeting of January 2026 so that the tendering process can start.
 - If the entire budget is ready to be presented at that meeting, proceed with that presentation; otherwise, present the whole budget at the second meeting of January

Financial Impact

The tax rate will increase by 4.781%. For every \$100,000 in assessment for a residential property, the property owner will pay an additional \$37.69. If a house is valued at \$500,000, their taxes will increase by \$188.46.

Agricultural taxes will increase by \$8.29 per \$100,000 in assessed value.

The Town will borrow to fund the Community Centre expansion, the Hill Town Drive project and the Bridge 10 project from 2024.

Development Charges will pay for several other projects for planning the expansion of our infrastructure to accommodate growth.

Consultations

Staff

Engineers

External Consultants

Local Boards

Attachments

Table - Reserve Status

Table – 2025 Budget

By-law – 2025 Budget

This report was submitted by

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This report was approved by

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