

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12th, 2023

Mount Pearl presents Budget 2024

City balances fiscal responsibility with planning for the future

Mount Pearl, NL – Today, the City of Mount Pearl presented its balanced 2024 budget of **\$58,483,356**.

The budget delivered responds to the rising operational cost of doing business while continuing investment that supports the strategic plan launched earlier this year, largely focused on growing the city - all while realizing the impact of inflation felt by taxpayers.

“With this year’s budget, we were faced with striking the balance between fiscal restraint and poising the city for growth,” said Mayor Dave Aker. “We believe we have achieved the right balance.”

With development a major focus of Budget 2024, \$300,000 has been allocated for a Municipal Plan review and an Integrated Transportation Plan, that will act as a framework for the future of the city. Over \$3.2 million has been assigned to support new and existing housing through upgrades to critical infrastructure, and continued investment in the North of Topsail Road development, including funding for phase one of a new water tower to support that area. Budget 2024 also includes \$85,000 in funding to expand existing programs that support those in our community who experience financial hardship. Complimenting the forthcoming accessibility plan, this budget also commits to enhancing accessibility of our buildings and community events with an investment of \$180,000. Budget 2024 will also provide \$630,000 to enhance recreation, trails, and the city’s urban forest, and has designated \$150,000 to expand metrobus service in Donovan’s.

“We are the financial stewards of city assets and resources, and we must always act in the best interest of the city as a whole,” said Councillor Mark Rice, Co-Chair of the Corporate Services and Public Works Committee. “Our residents and businesses deserve the best value for their tax dollars, and this budget delivers.”

The 2024 residential and commercial mil rates remain at 7.7 and 12.4 mils, respectively. Water taxes, however, will increase slightly by \$25 per household and 0.1 mils for commercial properties to match inflation and allow for investment in infrastructure.

By the numbers:

- The total 2024 budget is \$58,483,356.
- The 2024 budget includes no changes to residential or commercial mil rates.
- The 2024 budget includes slight increases to water and wastewater fees; \$25 for residential properties and 0.1 mils for commercial properties.
- The 2024 budget makes no increases to recreation or waste disposal fees.
- The total capital budget for 2024 is \$10,639,407.

Full details on the budget can be found at www.mountpearl.ca/budget.

- 30 -

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Responsible Planning

- \$300,000 in a Municipal Plan Review which will include a new Integrated Transportation Plan.

Accelerating the Build of North of Topsail Road

- \$700,000 for Owner Advisory Services which will support the development of the North of Topsail Road.
- \$4.5 million over 3 years through the Multi-Year Capital Works program to upgrade water, sewer, curb, and gutter on Holden Street.
- \$2 million for phase one of the construction of a new water tower to service proposed residential and commercial properties.

Enhancing Accessibility

- \$180,000 will be invested in accessibility enhancements, including an inclusive boardroom, accessible stages at city facilities, and a detailed accessibility audit. This investment will be complemented by the city's forthcoming Accessibility Plan.

Supporting Our Community

- \$50,000 allocated to the P.E.A.R.L program, which is designed to help those with financial challenges participate in city programming.
- Supporting seniors through increasing the property tax discount for those in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement from 20% to 25%.

Continued Investment in Infrastructure

- \$1.1 million investment in fleet renewal.
- \$300,000 allocated for building maintenance.
- \$450,000 invested in the asset management contingency fund.
- Over \$1.9 million for the city's share of federal and provincial cost-shared matching funding programs.

Investment in Recreation and Safety

- \$300,000 for the replacement of the existing artificial turf at the Team Gushue Soccer Field.
- \$70,000 earmarked for the replacement of the playground structure at the Gloria Pearson Community Centre.
- \$80,000 to fund minor sporting groups through the Mount Pearl Sport Alliance.
- \$50,000 allocated to explore trailway lighting.
- \$50,000 allocated to the city's Urban Forestry Plan.

Economic Development

- \$150,000 allocated to explore enhanced bus routes to Donovan's Business Park.
- \$45,000 invested in the Find Your Centre – City Centre Renewal Plan, including funding to build a second commercial kiosk and comprehensive design for a trailway north of the Waterford River.
- Commitment to identifying city-owned land to support housing development.
- Implementation of the city's Long-Term Economic Development Strategy.