

BUDGET 2027

The proposed 2027 budget balances today's needs with tomorrow's opportunities by keeping taxes competitive, supporting community growth, managing financial risks, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability for residents.

New Opportunities



Over the past few years, Council has focused on attracting investment and strengthening the County's finances. These efforts have been very successful. New investments are helping grow the tax base, which can reduce pressure on future tax rates while supporting the services residents rely on.

Major industrial and other private-sector investments—including data centres, as well as other technology and oil and gas investments—are expected to increase the County's tax base over the coming years.

As new development occurs, the County expects stronger revenue growth that can help:

- Maintain the County's ability to offer highly competitive, low tax rates
- Support the continued delivery of reliable municipal services
- Create opportunities for future community infrastructure and services

What this budget means for you

The proposed budget is focused on keeping the County's operations lean and efficient, while pursuing responsible investment and service improvements.

It aims to:

- Keep municipal tax rates stable—the proposed budget recommends **no tax rate increase** for 2027 and potentially beyond, despite inflation and new municipal projects
- Maintain key services and identify areas for exciting improvements
- Commit the largest spend in County history on municipal projects, including more paved roads and improving our existing roadways, fire services, and other municipal infrastructure
- Enhance the County's financial sustainability
- Keep the County's competitive advantage while using our responsible growth approach



Without the major projects currently being developed, the County would face greater pressure to increase taxes and/or reduce services in the future.

Financial Challenges

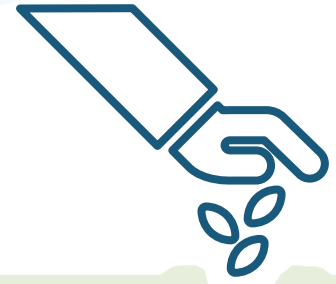
While future opportunities are encouraging, the County continues to face financial pressures today.

For example, a major tax assessment appeal still under provincial review could affect a significant portion of the County's property tax revenue, creating uncertainty for future budgets. To prepare for this uncertainty, the County completed a comprehensive budget review in 2025 and identified approximately **\$10 million in savings** and efficiencies. These actions strengthened the County's financial position and helped prepare for potential outcomes. Sturgeon County's operations are now amongst the most efficient and effective compared to similar Alberta municipalities.

However, like many municipalities across Alberta, Sturgeon County continues to experience higher costs relating to:

- Inflation affecting municipal goods and services
- Rising costs for maintaining and replacing infrastructure
- New or changing service demands
- Emergency preparedness
- Responding to extreme weather events, including wildfires and flooding
- Managing higher provincial policing costs, and other provincial costs transferred to municipalities

These pressures require careful financial planning to ensure services remain reliable and sustainable.



A Responsible Approach

While the County expects to see significant new revenue from major investments in future budgets, there is still uncertainty about when this revenue will arrive, future costs, and other financial risks outlined above.

In 2027, the County plans to use development revenue and limited short-term borrowing to manage the timing between major costs and expected new revenue.





Key Projects



With no tax rate increases, the proposed budget includes more than \$190 million in municipal project spending over the next three years. **This represents the largest multi-year infrastructure plan in the County's history.** Highlights include:

- A **new fire hall** serving the east part of the County and partner communities
- **Road and transportation improvements**
 - ♦ Reconstruction and paving of Twp Rd 554 from Rge Rd 255 to Hwy 44
 - ♦ Mobility Safety Program to enhance transportation safety
 - ♦ Broadband Program to deliver high-speed internet to about 40 communities throughout the County
 - ♦ Rehabilitation of Boysdale Road from Highway 825 to Riverside Park
 - ♦ Rehabilitation of internal roads within Pro North Industrial Park
 - ♦ New open spaces and trails
 - ♦ Gravel road improvements
 - ♦ Drainage system improvements
 - ♦ Renewal of existing road and bridge infrastructure
- **Responsible infrastructure renewal and replacement**

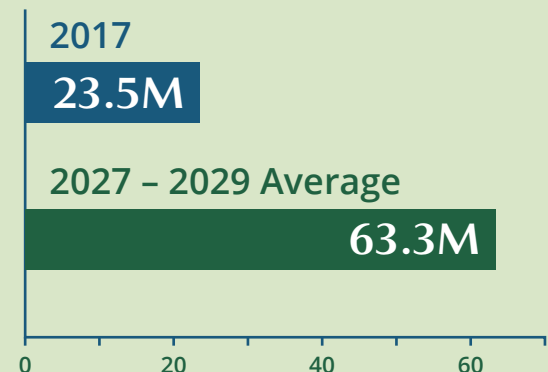
The proposed budget also delivers high levels of municipal services to support:

- **Day-to-day municipal services** (including road maintenance and seasonal service, parks and open spaces, family and community services, planning and development, economic growth, public facility maintenance, and more)
- **Asset management and capital project coordination**
- **Community grants and supports**
- **Intermunicipal cost-sharing**
- **Public safety initiatives**
- **Reserve fund (savings) contributions**

Capital Projects

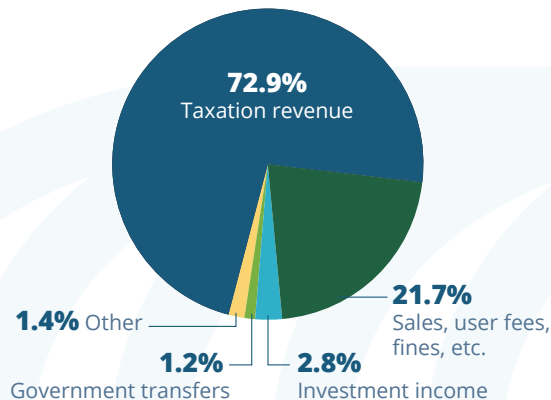
2017/2027 Comparison

Compared to 2017, spending on capital projects has increased by 169%, while residential tax rate increases have averaged less than 1% since 2017.

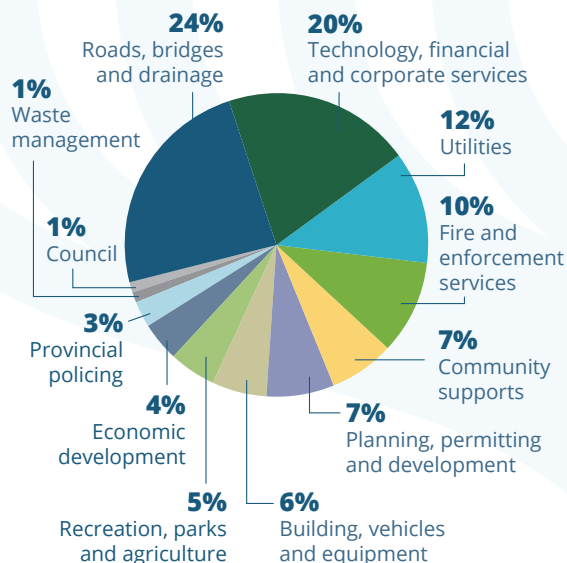


The County relies on taxes and other sources of income to pay for the services, programs, and infrastructure our residents rely on each day. These charts show you where the money comes from, and where it is spent.

Where the money comes from



Where the money is spent



Budget Timeline

BUDGET PRESENTATION

OCTOBER 28

The draft budget is presented to Council, including any proposed service changes to residents.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

MID-OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 15

Members of the public can comment on the draft budget by speaking at the public hearing on October 28, or by sending a written submission to legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca by November 15.

BUDGET DEBATE

NOVEMBER 18-20

Members of Council debate the draft budget. During their debate, Council meets to discuss and decide how tax dollars will be spent, taking into account public feedback and other inputs received on the proposed budget.

FINAL BUDGET POSTED

BY MID-DECEMBER

The budget is adapted to include Council's decisions and the approved budget is posted on the County's website for members of the public to see.

For more information on the proposed budget, visit [SturgeonCounty.ca/budget](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/budget)

NOTE: Final tax rates are subject to Council's budget deliberations and the finalization of a tax rate bylaw in spring 2027.

Multiple factors, such as year-end financial results, assessment growth, and future Council decisions, may impact that tax rate bylaw.