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www.redwater.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2026 BUDGET

Town of Redwater Council has approved the 2026 Operating and Capital budget that addresses long term and current challenges while providing valuable services for residents.

Redwater, AB, (December 17, 2025) –The Town of Redwater Administration presented the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets at the Special Council Meetings and Regular Council meetings from the end of November until early December 2025. Details are available at www.redwater.ca.

At the December 16th meeting, Council approved a budget increase of 4.91%. The 2026 Operating and Capital Budget includes critical maintenance of equipment and facilities, maintenance of essential infrastructure, increased policing costs, and continuation of the long-term strategy to address the Town's aging underground infrastructure with the 47th Ave Sanitary Main Rehabilitation Project.

"Investing in renewing infrastructure continues to be a focal point in the 2026 budget. Sidewalks, including the downtown core, street overlays, and gas line replacement as well as the ongoing renewal of the underground water and wastewater infrastructure have been funded in the budget. In addition, we continue to prioritize the maintenance required to ensure that the public maintains confidence in our ability to provide core water, sewer and gas utilities." per Chief Administrative Officer, Ken Van Buul.

Administration worked with Council to find a balance between taxation and user fees as a source of funding for the 2026 budget, in addition to grant funding available. For the average Redwater home (assessed at \$223,381) 2026 municipal taxes will be approximately \$2,340 (\$195/month), an increase of about \$18 per month compared to the previous year.

During the budget deliberations, utility rates were set based on a review of the cost of maintaining the utility system, which includes both capital and operating expenditures. The intent behind the rate increases for 2026 is to move away from a tax subsidized system and towards a user pay system, and to ensure sustainability of funding for future capital and operating projects. Included in the 2026 operating budget is an increase to the water variable rate to \$2.00 per cubic meter (\$1.65/m³ in 2025) as well as an increase in gas variable rate to \$2.35 per gigajoule (\$2.15/GJ in 2025).

Following the passing of the 2026 Operating and Capital budgets, Mayor McRae had the follow remarks regarding the budget deliberations and subsequent budget for the coming year:

"The budgeting process is more complex and difficult each year, as Council wrestles with needs, wants and expectations. This year was also complicated by an election process which saw candidates campaigning for their budget expectations. Over five difficult meetings this Council worked through equipment needs, service levels, end of life cycles, improved utilities and public safety to reach an acceptable level of taxation.

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Each of these issues had pros and cons that elevated or diminished their importance in the decision-making process. Ultimately, Council worked collectively to try and achieve a level of service, safety and security that will continue to make Redwater a great place to live, work and play. For some, our decision will not be enough and for others too much, but overall I believe we have achieved a strong supportable answer to this year's taxation discussion.

My thanks to Council and Administration for the hard work and effort that was directed towards the budget. I encourage all residents to review the meeting discussions to see how we arrived at our decision and the challenges we faced getting there."

More information on the 2026 Operating Budget, Capital Budget and Long-Term Capital and Operating Plans can be found at www.redwater.ca.

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