CITY OF FERNIE 2025 BUDGET AT GLANCE



Provide your feedback at letstalk.fernie.ca/budget2025

WHAT IS A MUNICIPAL BUDGET?

Each year Council and Staff work together to develop an annual budget and five-year financial plan to guide where limited tax dollars, funding, and resources are allocated.

The City's budget is guided by **Council's Strategic Plan,** the need to maintain and replace our **infrastructure and assets,** and priorities expressed by the **community**.

From clean running water, recreational programming, and safe roads, to emergency responders being on hand ready to assist, city services impact your everyday life and provide the foundation for a safe and healthy community.



THE ANNUAL BUDGET

The Annual Budget is made up of two expense groups - the Operating budget and Capital budget.

In a municipal budget, the **operating budget pays for the day-to-day expenses** such as snow removal, staffing, recreation programs, fire & protective services, and daily maintenance of public facilities.

The **capital budget funds long-term investments** such as park improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and new vehicles and equipment.

Imagining your personal budget; operating expenses are your monthly bills, grocery costs, tuition, clothing, and other monthly expenses that keep the household running. Capital expenses would be one-time purchases or upgrades like a vehicle, renovations, repairs, or new appliances.

DID YOU KNOW?

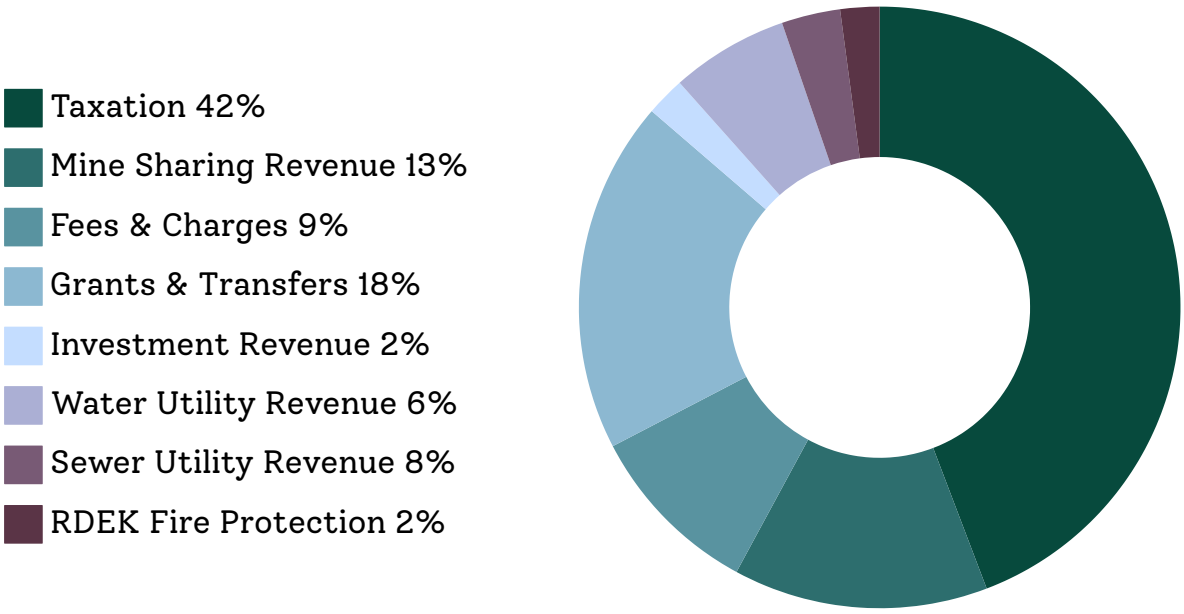
Utilities services such as garbage and recycling collection, clean drinking water, and reliable wastewater management are paid separately through quarterly utility bills.



WHERE DOES OUR REVENUE COME FROM?

The City's budget is funded through a variety of ways, with the largest portion coming from property tax revenue.



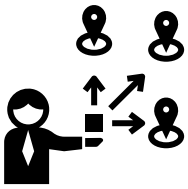


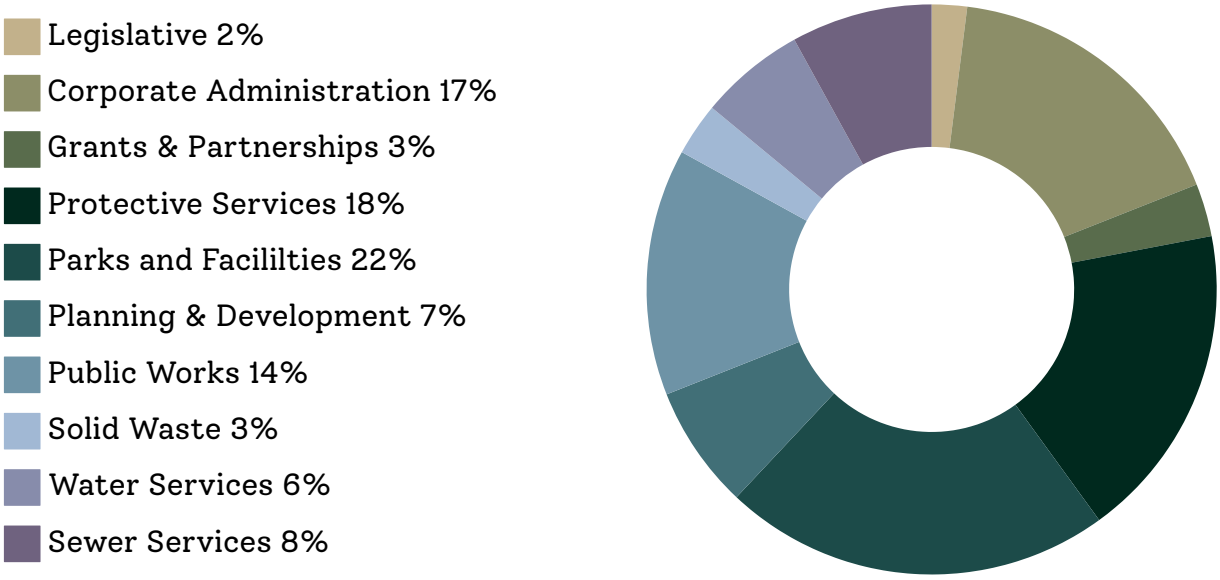
2025-2029 Financial Plan Revenues

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Revenue					
TAXATION	15,561,018	17,498,787	18,815,939	19,367,436	19,753,237
PARCEL TAXES	518,735	534,297	550,326	566,836	583,841
WATER SERVICE	1,530,781	1,576,705	1,624,006	1,672,726	1,722,908
SEWER SERVICE	2,063,788	2,125,701	2,189,472	2,255,157	2,322,811
SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING	464,915	478,862	493,228	508,025	523,266
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	441,628	454,877	468,523	482,579	497,056
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE	899,478	926,462	954,256	982,884	1,012,370
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	603,700	621,811	640,465	659,679	679,470
GRANTS	4,109,441	5,150,000	9,515,633	-	-
INVESTMENT INCOME	450,000	463,500	477,405	491,727	506,479
PROCEEDS FROM BORROWING	1,500,000	18,550,000		-	-
	28,143,485	48,381,002	35,729,255	26,987,049	27,601,439

WHERE DO YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO?

Money that the City collects through taxation helps fund our financial plan and allows us to maintain City **infrastructure** and provide a wide range of **services**.





2025-2029 Financial Plan Expenses

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Expenditures					
LEGISLATIVE	273,934	282,152	290,617	299,335	308,315
CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION	3,058,834	3,150,600	3,245,118	3,342,471	3,442,745
GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS	534,181	550,207	566,713	583,714	601,226
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	3,340,750	3,440,973	3,544,202	3,650,528	3,760,044
PARKS AND FACILITIES	4,148,554	4,273,010	4,401,201	4,533,237	4,669,234
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	1,180,151	1,215,556	1,252,023	1,289,583	1,328,271
PUBLIC WORKS	2,551,908	2,628,466	2,707,320	2,788,539	2,872,195
SOLID WASTE MANAGMENT & RECYLCING	516,669	532,169	548,135	564,579	581,516
WATER SERVICES	1,076,574	1,108,872	1,142,138	1,176,402	1,211,694
SEWER SERVICES	1,501,024	1,561,065	1,623,508	1,688,448	1,755,986
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	**18,182,581**	**18,743,069**	**19,320,972**	**19,916,836**	**20,531,226**

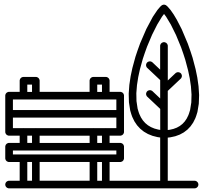
SNAPSHOT OF CITY SERVICES

A highlight of services the City provides and maintains:

73.1 km
of Roadway



151 ha of Parks
and Open Space



30 km
of Sidewalks



22.8 km
of Pathways



247 km of active
Water & Sanitary Mains



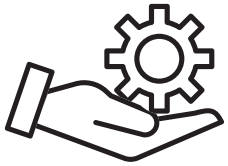
2,129 Sanitary
& Storm Manholes



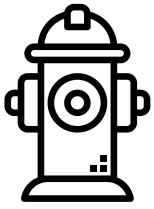
17,460 Pool & Arena
Admissions



707 Requests
for Service



278 Water
Hydrants



236 Licensed
Pets



140 Building
Permits Issued



1142 Business
Licenses Issued



BUDGET FOCUS: ADVANCING COUNCIL'S STATIGIC OBJECTIVES

Projects that advance the objectives in Council's Strategic Plan are prioritized in the 2025 Budget.

Objectives



Quality Services

Deliver dependable, sustainable services that meet the expectations of the community.



Liveable Community

Ensure citizens can flourish in an inclusive and diverse community with sustainable infrastructure, amenities, and services.



Organizational Excellence

Improve our organization and culture as we learn and adapt to the changing needs of the community.

OTHER GUIDELINES & CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Inflation -** The 2025 budget was developed taking into account inflation (BC CPI 3.1%) and contractual obligations (both Collective Agreements are expired.)
- **Service Levels -** We've used existing service levels, and the increased costs to maintain them (approximately 7.46% increase in 2025 for the status quo.)
- **Staffing -** With the exception of a GIS co-op student, no new positions are included.
- **Efficiencies** - Ongoing focus on cost containment and efficiency strategies.
- **Community Funding -** Community partner funding remains at current rates with the exception of the Fernie Heritage Library which will see a 6% increase.
- **Reserve funding -** Contributions on par with recommended in the 2018 Asset Management Investment Plan.
- **Debt, Non-Market Change, Mine Tax** - Debt levels remain unchanged, NMC = $134K, and the Mine Tax is approximately $3.56 million (3.1% increase)
- **Public Consultation -** All budget meetings are open to the public, with an open house and public input opportunity forming part of the process.

BUDGET 2025 OVERVIEW

At a series of Special Budget Meetings, City of Fernie Staff presented the proposed operating and capital budgets for 2025.

The Draft 2025 Budget focuses on **maintaining existing services** that residents rely on the City to provide every day, while **advancing key projects** that are in line with Council's Strategic Plan, and planning for **critical infrastructure upgrades** that are required to continue providing the core services we rely on.

After taking into account projected revenues, the remaining shortfall stands at **$704,528** which is a gap that needs to be closed to bring forward a balanced budget as required by legislation.

Did you know: Unlike other levels of government, municipalities are required to present a balanced budget each year, and can't run a deficit or surplus.

Preliminary shortfall for 2025 - $704,528

Major revenue increases & cost drivers

- Increased revenue
  - New construction $134,000
  - Grant for 0.5 FTE in planning (included in wages below) $60,000
  - Elk Valley Property Tax Sharing Agreement $106,000
  - Total **$300,000**
- Increased expenses
  - Wages & Benefits $491,499
  - Deferred tax increase due use of COVID grant in 2024 $296,816
  - Reserve Contributions $ 95,939
  - Computer Licensing & Support $ 67,481
  - Road patching $ 35,000
  - Other (Utilities, operating supplies etc.) $ 17,793
  - Total **$1,004,528**

2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 2025 Capital Plan includes approximately $12.7 million in new projects, and $5 million in carry forward projects underway or to be completed in 2025/26



Completing essential flood protection works with the Mountview Dike & Coal Creek Bin Wall rehabilitation. **$1.7 million (grant funded)**



Progressing through detailed design for the new Fire Hall and advancing to a borrowing referendum to secure required funds for construction. **$1.6 million**



As part of our Annual Roads Program, we'll be rehabilitating Cedar Avenue between Hwy. 3 and Bossio Rd., and designing the 2026 roads project **$1.4 million**



Implementing changes to the Housing Needs Report, beginning the Official Community Plan (OCP) update, and completing a Utility Capacity Analysis to support future growth and development. **$265,000**



Decommissioning the Community Centre **$200,000** and contributing to the construction of the Elk Valley Field House Society's proposed facility **$525,000 (RMI funded)** that will provide valuable indoor recreation and gathering space to the community.



Reviewing and modernizing key fees and charges, including building fees, Business Licences, and Development Cost Charge and Amenity Cost Charges to identify development driven infrastructure investment.

2025 CAPITAL PLAN HIGHLIGHTS



Supporting the development of a new grant-funded childcare centre, and affordable housing units on City-owned land next to the Aquatic Centre, and the redevelopment of the City's old Fire Hall site on 3rd Ave. to a mixed-use facility with commercial space and affordable housing units.



Upgrades to our fleet to replace existing equipment needed to maintain our service delivery including purchasing a new sweeper, grader, loader and Zamboni. **$2.4 million**



Key projects to enhance communications and engagement including: creating a framework for consistent public consultation **$30,000,** a website assessment **$15,000,** to prepare for a new modern and accessible website, and the addition of an e-newsletter. **$10,000**



Investing in emergency preparedness with an updated Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan **$32,000 (grant funded)** and Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) and climate related review of emergency plans. **$85,000 (grant funded)**



Advancing key technology optimization and digital transformation projects to support modern service delivery. **$271,500**



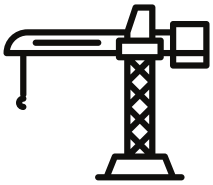
Comprehensive facility assessments will be completed to help plan for future investment **$300,000** and we'll be investing in upgrades at municipally owned facilities including required maintenance at the Aquatic Centre and Max Turyk and our leased facilities. **$783,000**



Finalizing and advancing recommendations from an Accessibility Plan, guided by the Elk Valley Accessibility Committee, to enhance accessibility of municipal services and facilities. **$15,000**

INVESTING IN OUR CRITICAL INFRASTUCTURE

In the **2025 Capital Plan** the City of Fernie has money budgeted for the planning stages for significant upgrades to critical City infrastructure that are imperative to complete in the coming years to continue supplying essential services to our community.



Fire Hall Replacement Project

Fernie Fire Rescue is operating out of a temporary location until a suitable permanent facility can be designed and constructed. Site selection and the pre-planning work is complete, and there is money budgeted in 2025 for detailed design, and a borrowing referendum.

Wastewater Treatment System

Significant renewal of the existing wastewater treatment system is required to ensure compliance with regulations. In 2025 funds are allocated to continued system assessment and treatment and outfall design, as well as lagoon air system maintenance, and replacement of the controller at the Riverside Life Station.

Water System Improvements

Formalizing the long-term viability of our drinking water supply continues with Fairy Creek Source upgrades, investigation of an alternate groundwater source, and a water source options analysis. New outdoor water use restrictions were implemented in 2024, and an application for a fully-funded water metering program has been submitted.

C & L Right of Way

This is a required realignment, and replacement of distribution mains on an unstable slope. In 2025, the City is investing in updated costing, and pursuing grant funding to make the required realignment.

WHAT DOES THE 2025 BUDGET MEAN FOR ME?

If approved, this year's budget would result in a **7.46% tax increase** for residential properties in Fernie.

What does that mean for me?
for the average home in Fernie assessed at $925,235 the 7.46% increase equates to an additional $212.03 for the City portion of the tax bill.

DID YOU KNOW?

City taxes only make up half of the property tax bill homeowners receive each spring, The City also collects taxes on behalf of other public authorities including the RDEK and the School District.

Assessed Value vs. Property Tax?

An increase on your property assessment doesn't necessarily mean you'll be paying more in property taxes this year. How does it work?



2024 assessed value: **$907,932**
(average value of a SF home in Fernie)
2024 tax rate: $3.130 per $1,000 of assessed value
2024 tax collected: **$2,842.49**

2025 tax rate increase: **7.46%**
2025 assessed value: **$925,235**
(average value of a SF home in Fernie)
2025 tax rate: $3.3.01 per $1,000 of assessed value
2025 tax collected: **$3,054.32**

** 2025 numbers are not final, pending revised report from BC Assessment

CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESERVES

The City of Fernie contributes annually to reserves. These funds are intended to be available to fund the renewal of the City's municipal infrastructure and help minimize year-over-year spikes in taxation.



Description	2025 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL (estimate)
Transfer to Stormwater Reserve	150,000	150,000
Transfer to Stabilization Reserve	-	
Transfer to Affordable Housing Reserve	-	
Transfer to Streets Reserve	700,000	700,000
Transfer to Facility Renovation Reserve	500,000	500,000
Transfer to Mobile Equipment Reserve	1,196,816	900,000
Transfer to Courthouse Maintenance	25,000	25,000
Transfer to Equipment Reserve	-	-
Transfer to Federal Gas Tax Reserve	346,035	305,909
Transfer to Snow Removal Reserve	-	-
Transfer to RMI Reserve	537,033	427,063
Transfer to Capital Reserve	314,189	516,816
Transfer to Cemetery Care Trust	2,500	2,500
Transfer to Parkland Dedication Reserve	-	-
TOTAL Transfers to Reserves	**3,771,573**	**3,527,288**

DID YOU KNOW?

Contribution amounts are guided by the 2018 Asset Management Investment Plan.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

The City of Fernie will contribute $714,000 this year in discretionary funds toward arts, culture and community development in two streams: one for facility expenses (building maintenance, insurance, etc.) and one for day-to-day operations.

	2025 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL (estimate)	2024 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET
DISCRETIONARY FUNDS: GRANTS	14,400	6,986	14,400	14,400
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: GRANTS	108,760	109,212	106,627	104,536
FERNIE HERITAGE LIBRARY: GRANTS	265,187	250,176	250,176	258,000
FERNIE ARTS COUNCIL: GRANTS	40,835	40,835	40,835	40,835
EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS: GRANTS	3,000	4,000	3,000	3,000
FERNIE & DIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY :MUSEUM	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000
BEAR AWARE PROGRAM: GRANTS	10,000	-	6,300	6,300
ACCESS GUARDIAN PROGRAM	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250
SENIORS DROP IN CENTRE	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000
	532,431	501,459	511,588	518,321
Chamber of Commerce - Visitor Information Centre				
Funding Agreement	108,760	109,212	106,627	104,536
Facility Operating Expense	42,169	30,078	40,111	36,409
TOTAL	**150,929**	**139,291**	**146,738**	**140,945**
Senior Citizens Club of Fernie & District				
Funding Agreement	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000
Facility Operating Expense	35,241	34,037	33,486	29,025
Total Senior Citizen Club	**62,241**	**61,037**	**60,486**	**56,025**
Fernie Heritage Library				
Funding Agreement	265,187	250,176	250,176	258,000
Facility Operating expense	67,550	37,155	63,392	58,163
Total Heritage Library	**332,736**	**287,331**	**313,568**	**316,163**
Fernie and District Arts Council - Arts Station				
Funding Agreement	40,835	40,835	40,835	40,835
Facility Operating expense	56,330	39,947	53,367	47,922
Total Arts Council/Arts Station	**97,165**	**80,782**	**94,202**	**88,757**
Fernie & District Historical Society: Museum				
Funding Agreement	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000
Facility Operating expense	18,929	11,623	15,361	17,757
Total Museum	**70,929**	**63,622**	**67,361**	**69,757**
Total of above	**$ 714,000**	**$ 632,063**	**$ 682,355**	**$ 671,647**



HAVE YOUR SAY ON BUDGET 2025



We want your feedback!

Survey Closes February 23 , 2025

- Go to letstalk.fernie.ca/budget2025 and fill out the feedback survey
- Send an email to letstalk@fernie.ca with the subject line "2025 Budget"
- Mail to: City Hall, 501 3rd Avenue, Box 190, Fernie, BC V0B 1M0