Strathmore

2027 Budget Process: What to Expect

Municipal budgets are important, foundational plans for the coming year. They are based on priorities set by Council in the strategic plan.

How annual budgets are developed

Municipal budgets are a household budget on a larger scale. The budget covers all the essential services residents use every day, from using the Sports Centre or the library to driving on roads, having garbage or compost picked up, or drinking clean water and so much more.

Each one goes through a four-step process:

Plan (July - Sept)
Staff review needs and priorities

→

Propose (Oct)
Staff prepares a draft budget

→

Review (Nov)
Council reviews and listens to the community

→

Approve (Dec 2)
Council approves the final budget

Where do property taxes go?
(approximate breakdown)



How does the Town pay for services?
(rounded numbers from the 2026 budget. 2027 percentages will vary.)

- 40% property taxes
- 30% utility fees (sewers / water)
- 15% user fees and sale of goods
- 15% garbage, permits, grants and other sources

What services does the Town provide?
The Town's budget pays for services that make Strathmore a great place to live:

- Safe roads and sidewalks
- Library, parks and recreation programs
- Fire and emergency services
- Clean, welcoming public spaces
- Planning for growth

Understanding operating vs. capital vs. reserves

Every municipal budget balances current costs with planning for future costs. These are broken down into different buckets:

1. Operating budget	Pays for everyday services like snow clearing, recreation services and staff.
2. Capital budget:	Pays for big projects likes building or replacing roads, water pipes, fire trucks.
3. Reserves	Money saved to help pay for future projects or unexpected costs.

How they work together: The Town pays for today's services, plans for big projects and saves money for future needs.

Strathmore

The Proposed 2027 Budget

The Town's budget balances the needs of the community, maintains the services residents rely on, and continues to strengthen the Town's long-term financial position

Proposed budget impacts for 2027

Each year's budget needs to account for inflation, changing needs and priorities and impacts. In 2027, some of the changes include:

- Investments into the reserve fund for needed projects for roads and other infrastructure
- Increases in user charges tied to water supply costs
- Anticipated RCMP contract increase
- Staffing adjustments

To meet these changes, as of November 4, 2026, the proposed budget presented to Council is:

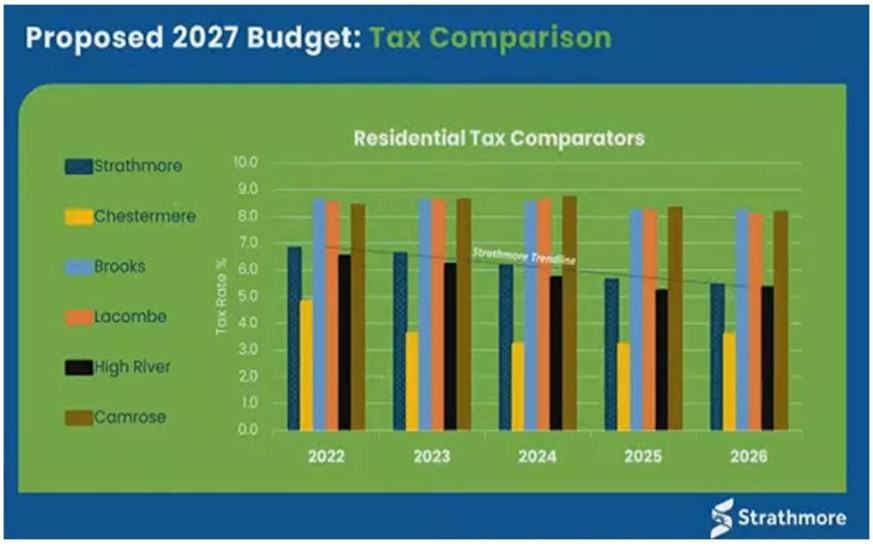
- 6.9% increase to the municipal portion of property taxes
- 8.4% increase to the provincial education portion *(this may change based on recent provincial announcements)*

This results in a blended increase overall of 7.3%.

What does it mean? If approved, the cost to a homeowner living in a standard single detached home would be roughly $295/year or $24.60/month more than in 2026.

How does the Town's tax rate compare to others?

When looking at the past five years, Strathmore's residential tax rate is trending closer to the middle of other municipalities in our surrounding area. Administration has consistently looked for cost savings over the last few years and the increase in the 2027 budget continues to reflect that level of scrutiny, in order to deliver the current service levels, regardless of the increase in budget.



Learn more and give us your feedback by visiting: www.strathmore.ca/budgetinfo or by emailing: lsadmin@strathmore.ca