



Committee Report

To: Warden Janice Jackson
Members of the Corporate Services Committee

From: Edward Henley
Director of Corporate Services

Date: October 21, 2021

Re: 2022 Budget Approval in Principle

Staff Recommendation:

That the 2022 budget be approved as presented, including the adjustments noted herein, at a net increase of 4.80% with any adjustments due to variances in estimated new tax base growth to be assigned to transfers to reserves for transit and/or roads and bridges infrastructure; and

That a by-law be prepared for Council adoption establishing the levy and corresponding tax rates and tax ratios.

Background:

Real Estate Clerk position:

The 2021-2025 Budget and Forecast approved by Council last year showed this position as a contract position to end in June 2022.

The 2022-2026 Budget and Forecast presented the position as a permanent full-time employee. During the October 14, 2021 budget deliberations, Committee provided commentary on this position and requested that staff review the budgeted item. Subsequent to deliberation by staff, the amended budget has revised the budgeting to show this position as a contract position extended until December 2022.

Transit:

Staff will initially conduct a Transit Planning Study which will include a detailed Needs Analysis and collect and analyze data. The initial plan is to assemble a Working Group with selected members of the community to advance the planning. Initially the study will be approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000 however we are budgeting \$250,000 in total for additional studies or other related expenses for later in 2022 to further the project.

This project is currently funded as \$50,000 in the 2022-2026 budget. The additional \$200,000 of funds are as follows:

- Reduce the Grey Transit funding from \$100,000 to \$50,000
- Apply for \$50,000 in grant funding from Infrastructure Canada Rural Transit Solutions Fund

- \$100,000 redirected from the unspent Support the Bruce: Business Sustainability loan program that have not been requested as loans by the business community
 - Currently \$230,000 remains in the loan program started in 2020 and originally the program was to end in 2020 and was extended twice after that.

Staff will review an opportunity to apply some Development Charges revenues towards this project.

Subsequent budget amendments:

The budget submitted by the Senior Management Team was finalized September 14. Subsequent to that date there were 7 items that staff identified to be included. These have been added resulting in less than \$200 change to the levy dollars as follows:

Item	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Proposed Levy Total	55,999,576	61,172,904	64,387,794	67,207,540	70,531,212
Paramedics - Sauble Beach Station Rent	0	35,412	35,412	35,412	35,412
Museum - Additional Insurance	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250
Human Services - Insurance Increase	28,788	28,788	28,788	28,788	28,788
CAO - Escribe Closed Captioning	13,800	13,800	13,800	13,800	13,800
LTC- Exterior Cladding Loan Payments	(21,000)	(21,000)	(21,000)	(21,000)	(21,000)
P&D - Administrative Adjustments	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
P&D - Business Sustainability Loans	(40,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)
Revised Levy Total	55,999,414	61,208,154	64,423,044	67,242,790	70,566,462

- **Paramedic Services**
 - Sauble Beach Paramedic Station Rent
 - \$35,412 to be funded from Paramedic Services Reserve for 2022 and added to future budgets to be funded from levy
- **Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre**
 - Additional Insurance
 - \$11,250 additional annual cost to insure the donated Weinstein collection
- **Human Services**
 - Increase to Insurance
 - \$28,788 increase to Social Housing insurance, which is above the assumed inflationary increase, due to recently received premium reflecting the hardening insurance industry

- **CAO's Department**
 - Add eScribe Closed Captioning
 - \$13,800 additional annual cost to provide closed captioning accessibility to Council and Committee meetings
- **Long-Term Care and Seniors Services**
 - Reduce Exterior Cladding Loan payments
 - \$21,000 reduction to the estimated loan payments due to a reduced loan amount. Originally budgeted for a \$2,000,000 loan, the revised loan amount will be just above \$1,600,000. The final loan amount will be determined when the interest rate is finalized.
- **Planning and Economic Development**
 - Administrative Adjustments
 - \$7,000 added to salaries and staff expenses to offset a grid movement and facilitate adobe licenses to meet accessibility requirements
 - Support the Bruce: Business Sustainability loans
 - \$40,000 in additional revenues to recognize loan repayments which were previously not budgeted

Changes due to Growth Variances:

Staff will present a final budget report after the property tax growth has been calculated and any variances above what has been projected in the budget will be assigned to transfers to reserves for transit and/or roads and bridges infrastructure.

Additional Information on Reserve Transactions

In the October 14th budget review, members of the Corporate Services Committee requested additional information with regards to the proposed uses of county reserves. In the attached Appendix is a detailed listing of all reserves transactions in the 2022 budget, identifying the reserve utilized, purpose, and amount for each transaction.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

The financial and staffing considerations are noted above. There are no legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Senior Management Team met to review the updates and support the recommendation.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

None identified.

Approved for Submission:

Sandra Datars Bere
Chief Administrative Officer