



Staff Report T2025-01

Committee 2025-01-13

Council 2025-01-27

Amendments

Submitted To: Committee of the Whole | Council
Submitted By: Jennifer Graham, Treasurer
Prepared By: Jennifer Graham, Treasurer
Subject: 2025 Budget Draft Four

Recommendation

THAT Staff Report T2025-01, **2025 Budget Draft Four**, be received;
AND THAT a By-Law to approve the 2025 budget be drafted for consideration at the next meeting.

Amendments

None.

1. Executive Summary

The 2025 Budget Draft Four outlines the financial plan for the upcoming year, focusing on enhancing community services and infrastructure while maintaining fiscal responsibility. The budget process began with the presentation of Draft One on November 13, 2024, followed by community engagement sessions and subsequent drafts that incorporated feedback and adjustments.

Key highlights of the 2025 Budget Draft Four include:

- **Community Contributions:** Funding allocations for the Collingwood Business Improvement Area (\$25,000), Georgian Bay Accelerator (\$130,000), and Georgian Triangle Humane Society (\$31,500 annually for ten years) have been included,

- **Tax Levy Progression:** The tax levy has been adjusted through the drafts, with Draft Four proposing a combined general and capital levy of **\$42,953,775**, translating to a **3.18%** tax rate increase. Combined with County and Educational taxes, this results in a **Blended Tax Rate of 1.243%**, an increase of 2.89% over the previous year.

2. Analysis

Background

The 2025 Draft Budget process began with the presentation of [Draft One](#) on November 13, 2024, followed by a successful community engagement session, “Coffee with Council,” on November 20, 2024. Feedback from the workshop was instrumental in shaping [Draft Two](#), presented on December 2, 2024, which reflected adjustments to resource requests, funding strategies, and tax rate impacts. Significant adjustments were made, and [Draft Three](#) was presented on December 16th, 2024. During the meeting Council directed staff to include further community funding into Draft Four:

- Collingwood Business Improvement Area - \$25,000 for a one-year contribution to the downtown maintenance staff conversion from part time to full time,
- Georgian Bay Accelerator - \$130,000 annual contribution,
- Georgian Triangle Humane Society - \$31,500 annual contribution for capital fundraising. The request is for a ten (10) year annual commitment of the same amount.

These adjustments, totaling \$186,500, have resulted in a modest increase in tax levy and rate compared to Draft Three.

Tax Levy Progression (combined General and Capital):

- **Draft One:** \$45,349,529 (8.94% tax rate increase)
- **Draft Two:** \$44,526,271 (6.96% tax rate increase)
- **Draft Three:** \$42,767,275 (2.73% tax rate increase)
- **Draft Four:** **\$42,953,775 (3.18% tax rate increase)**

Combined with the County of Simcoe (3.62% tax increase) and Educational (0% tax increase) taxes, Draft Four translates to a Blended Tax Rate of 1.243%, which is an increase of 2.89% over the approved 2024 Blended Rate and equates to an additional \$114 of taxes for the median assessed home.

During the budget process, staff presented several resource requests for Council's consideration. A summary of the requests and decisions made for inclusion or removal is as follows:

Resource Requests included in Draft Four

- Geotechnical investigation of inactive landfills - \$80,000
- Sanitary and Water Servicing Master Plan - \$0 (funded through reserves)
- DAP Implementation - \$25,000
- Affordable Housing Initiatives - \$350,000
- Climate Change Action Studies and Plans - \$0 (grant dependant and remainder funded through reserves)
- Pool Operator - \$59,348
- Education Programmer move to FT from PT - \$20,888
- Delegation visit to Katano Japan - \$15,000
- Events and Programming Support (Seasonal and Part-time) - \$11,411
- Truck Driver/Labourer moved to Full Time - \$49,105
- Excess Fill Disposal - \$150,000
- Increase Hours to Transit and Transit Plus (net of cancellation of accessible taxi contract) - \$145,515
- Physician Recruitment - \$16,000
- Accessibility Coordinator - \$95,000
- Transfer to Land Acquisition Reserve - \$100,000
- Payroll Software - \$25,000
- Fleet and Facilities Service Review - \$65,000
- Benefits Enhancement for Non-Union groups - \$115,000
- HR Support (Seasonal) - \$25,000

- HRIS Implementation - \$50,000

Resource Requests Excluded from Draft Four

- Visionary Projects Transfer to Reserves - \$375,000
- Town Council Governance and Structure Review - \$55,000
- Digital Communications Student (Seasonal) - \$13,000
- Customer Service Representative – PT to FT - \$25,000
- Pay Policy Review - \$375,000

Conclusion

The 2025 Draft Budget demonstrates a commitment to balancing community needs with financial prudence. The reductions in the tax levy and rate are a result of careful review, stakeholder input, and alignment with Council’s strategic directions. Staff will continue to provide support in finalizing the budget to ensure it serves as a roadmap for success in 2025 and beyond.

3. Input from Other Sources

Direction received at the December 16th, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting

4. Applicable Policy or Legislation

Municipal Act

5. Considerations

2024-2028 Community Based Strategic Plan: Progress towards achieving CBSP Goal

Sustainable Connected Vibrant Responsible

Services adjusted if any [Choose an item.](#)

Climate Change / Sustainability: [Choose an item.](#)

Communication / Engagement: [Choose an item.](#)

Accessibility / Equity, Diversity, Inclusion: [Choose an item.](#)

Registered Lobbyist(s) relating to content: [\[add content and meeting dates\]](#)

Next steps and future action required following endorsement:

By-Law published to approve and adopt 2025 Budget

6. Appendices and Other Resources

Appendix A: 2025 Budget Draft Four

7. Approval

Prepared By:

Jennifer Graham, CPA CA Treasurer

Reviewed By:

[Name, Title]

CAO Comments:

Endorsed by CAO Skinner on January 9, 2025 to proceed to COW.