



**2026 BUDGET**

The logo consists of a white line-art illustration of a bridge spanning across a body of water, with stylized mountains in the background. Below the illustration, the text "2026 BUDGET" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a dark teal background.

# Town of Sidney

Financial Plan

2026 – 2030

Introduced on February 17, 2026

# Legislative Overview

The Community Charter requires that municipalities adopt a five-year financial plan each year.



Each Plan covers a rolling 5-year period; provides authority to spend money and collect revenues to support operations.

Until new Fin. Plan is adopted, old one remains in effect.



The Financial Plan establishes the basis upon which Property Tax and Utility rates are calculated.

# Budget Process Timing

## February 17<sup>th</sup> – Budget Introduction

- Presentation of summary budget information.
- Will clearly outline the starting point for deliberations.
- Budget package distributed to Council, and available to public.

## March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Special Council Meeting – Initial Deliberations

- Opportunity to discuss and clarify various parts of the budget.
- Opportunity for in-depth discussion prior to final deliberations.
- Opportunity for public input.
- Additional staff reports will be part of agenda.

## March 16<sup>th</sup> – Special Council Meeting – Final Deliberations

- Updated presentation for benefit of Council and the public.
- Direction from the previous meetings to be incorporated.
- Goal is for Council to approve the Financial Plan.
  - If additional meeting(s) required, will be scheduled.

# Tonight's goal:



To introduce the Draft 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan to Council and the public.



To provide an overview of the major budgetary impacts.



To outline the major Capital projects and Supplemental Requests that are coming forward for approval.



To add context to the review of budget documentation.

# Setting the context: recent history

- 2020 tax reductions due to COVID
  - We cut our revenues, but left our services intact
    - And we've added more since then.
  - We made up for lost revenues by borrowing from our Surplus.
  - We must eventually bring our tax revenues back up to the previous level
    - AND we have to account for all new tax impacts.

# Setting the context: recent history

## Canada-BC Safe Restart Grant helped to replenish our Surplus

- Also made it easier for us to maintain the 10% tax reduction for businesses as our starting point for 2021.
- This helped bridge the gap between Commercial/Residential tax rates.

## Safe Restart helped us transition back to a sustainable revenue level

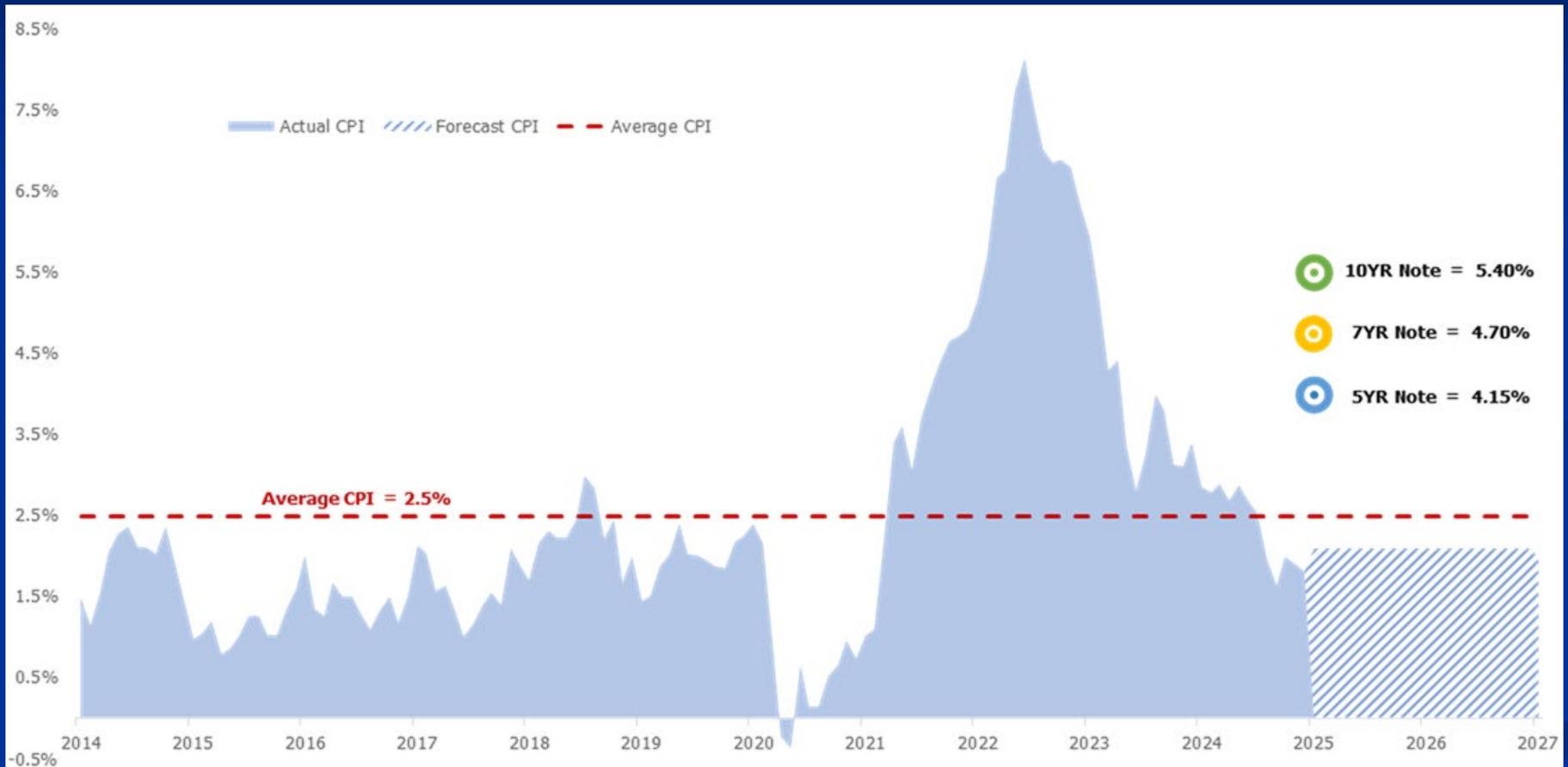
- Last small portion was used in 2024
- Fully on our own since 2025
- Phase-back will require more time.

# Setting the context: recent history

## ■ Inflation!

- The 2023 inflation rate of 6.96% was the highest I've ever worked with for a budget.
- It was lower in 2024, but still high at 3.71%.
- The rate is stabilizing, at 2.5% and 2.3% last 2 years.
- And that's CPI; not the best measure of our costs.
- It is the cumulative effect that is reducing our ability to keep tax increases to a minimum.
- Everything costs more; we are not immune to that reality.

# Inflation impacts



Source: FactSet, Raymond James

# Setting the context: recent history

- Expanding areas of responsibility:
  - Under ongoing pressure to respond to service needs previously outside our mandate
    - Affordable housing
    - Homelessness
    - Climate change
    - Accessibility improvements
    - Economic Development
    - Reconciliation
    - Police Dispatch
    - Emergency Management
    - Medical first response...
  - All while grappling with our traditional responsibilities, like infrastructure replacement and expanding recreational opportunities.

# So What's the Tax Increase?

- The Draft Financial Plan starts out with a general tax increase of 12.4% for 2026
  - Several new budget items are included in the 12.4%
  - These are subject to Council approval.
- We will cover what is included in the above figures.
- We will identify some of the areas to focus on, and decisions to be made, over the upcoming meetings.

# So What's the Tax Increase?

- We begin this budget process with a realistic look at the level of tax increase we need to pay for everything we want to do.
  - That doesn't mean we have to end up at that level.
    - Several Supplementals to consider; they may not all be approved.
    - Some initiatives may be deferred.
  - **Very little latitude for more funding from Surplus.**
    - **Given the status of our Surplus, we want to be careful about kicking the issue down the road.**

# 2026 Tax Impacts – Why Are We Here?

- A situation 5 years in the making:
  - Tax reductions in 2020 due to Covid
    - Then ongoing concern over impacts
  - Extraordinarily high inflation
  - Ongoing need to increase services
    - Especially Protective Services (RCMP & Fire/First Responder)
  - Canada-BC Safe Restart Grant – a blessing and a curse.

# 2026 Tax Impacts – Why Are We Here?

- Property tax revenues were reduced by \$576K in 2020
  - BUT: expenditure levels stayed at “normal” level required to fund services.
  - We knew then that we’d have to make up lost tax revenue over time.
  - Safe Restart Grant – received in 2020 after tax reductions.
    - That gave us more time to phase back to full revenue level.
    - But it also gave us the luxury of deferring tax increases.
    - Cumulative Safe Restart funds used to make up for lost taxes: \$2.1M.
      - This equates to a tax impact of 15.36%.

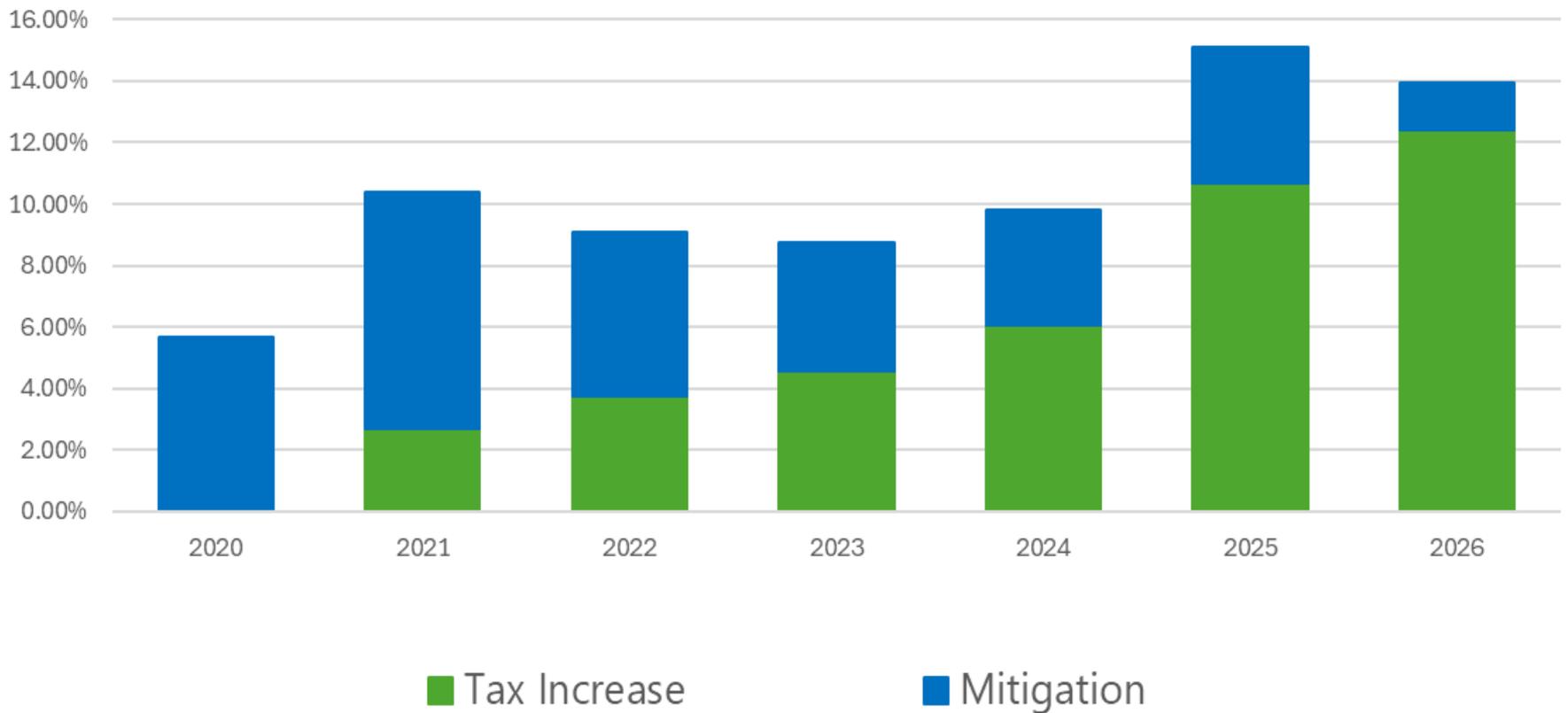
# 2026 Tax Impacts – Why Are We Here?

- Expenditure levels kept increasing to fund existing (inflation) and new (internal and external demands) services.
  - Each year, we require some tax revenue growth to keep up with costs.
  - Every time we fund part of this gap with something other than taxes, we contribute to a deferred tax increase
    - Eventually these deferred taxes need to be made up.
- On the revenue side, tax increases were minimized
  - Used “mitigation measures” instead
    - Safe Restart (now all used up)
    - Surplus (has now fallen below minimum policy levels).
  - The tax increases that we’ve been putting off are now due.

# 2026 Tax Impacts – Why Are We Here?

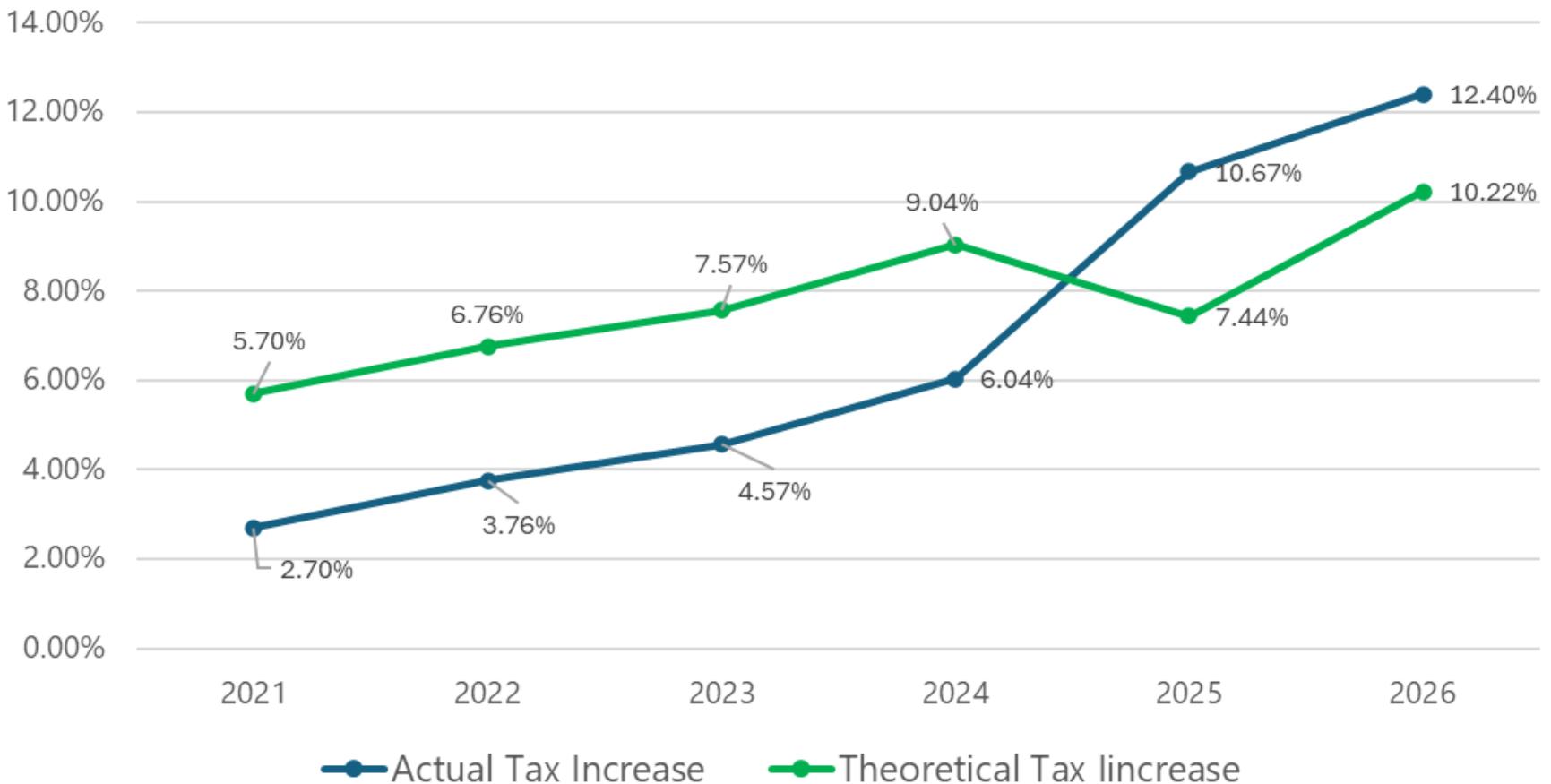
Mitigation Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Safe Restart	\$ 550,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 126,991	\$ -
Additional Surplus	127,181	250,000	200,000	186,000	395,000	651,500
	677,181	900,000	650,000	536,000	521,991	651,500
Tax Equivalent	5.66%	7.67%	5.33%	4.17%	3.77%	4.41%
Safe Restart only	4.60%	5.54%	3.69%	2.72%	0.92%	0.00%
Actual Tax Increase	0.00%	2.70%	3.76%	4.57%	6.04%	10.67%
Required Tax Increase	5.66%	10.37%	9.09%	8.74%	9.81%	15.08%

# 2026 Tax Impacts – Why Are We Here?



# 2026 Tax Impacts – Why Are We Here?

If we had added 3% tax increase per year: 2021-2024:



# Major Components of Budget (Glossary)

## Water, Sewer and General “Funds”

- Each funded independently
  - Water & Sewer through Parcel Tax and User Fee
- Each has an Operating and Capital component
- Key features will be highlighted.

# Major Components of Budget (Glossary)

## Capital Budgets

- Renewal of existing infrastructure or other existing Town assets
- New items or projects
- Presented in terms of ongoing programs, new items, or carryforwards
- All funding sources identified
  - Level of annual tax funding somewhat consistent
  - Tax funded items receive the most attention, as these impact tax increase.

# Major Components of Budget (Glossary)

## Supplemental Requests (Operating)

- These are changes to existing services; new or additional
- Often one-time studies or minor operating items
- Can also be major, ongoing items such as Firefighter Hiring Plan
- Sometimes these result from external requests
  - e.g. Community support
- Tend to be some of these every year
  - Change in total cost from previous year identified as tax impact
- Most significant items backed up by more detailed reports at 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

# Major Components of Budget (Glossary)

## Service Levels

- The “Base Budget” is developed to maintain existing levels of service to taxpayers
  - i.e. what does it cost to provide the services that have been previously approved by Council, and expected by the public?
- Staff use collective experience, along with the latest external information, to determine cost of delivering Council approved service levels.
- We don’t budget for “worst case”, only “most likely case” based on experience
- Various departmental budgets are developed on this basis
  - We look at “bottom line” for each function
  - Individual line items are only a best guess as to the mix of labour, contract and materials required to get the job done for the year
- Not always an increase; we look for efficiencies where possible.

# Major Components of Budget (Glossary)

## Reserves

- We are allowed to set aside funds in Reserves, for specific purposes
  - Reserve funds may then be used only for their intended purposes
- Asset Replacement:
  - Roads, Drainage, Water, Sewer Infrastructure
  - Vehicle Replacement (including Fire Dept.)
  - Computer Equipment
  - Ferry Terminal
- Less Defined:
  - General Capital
- Other:
  - Land Sale, Amenities, Climate Action
  - Growing Communities Fund.

# Major Components of Budget (Glossary)

## Reserves (cont'd)

- What is the required balance we should have in each reserve?
  - Depends on our plans, and funding strategies
  - Some are easy to establish:
    - Vehicles, Computers
  - Others require more investigation:
    - Infrastructure
    - Asset Management Plan in its final phases.
  
- Reserve balances will be cyclical
  - Some years we put more money in than we use
  - Other years we take more out, to finance the intended projects.
  
- Limited reserves for Buildings and Waterfront Infrastructure
  - Building up these Reserves (if desired direction) will take time.
    - Short-term needs sometimes derail our efforts.
  - Long-term financial planning may include a conscious plan to borrow for some types of assets (e.g. Buildings).

# Reserves

	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>2026 Contribution</b>	<b>2026 Use</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Infrastructure Reserve	5,566,824	2,456,355	(6,473,442)	1,549,737
Vehicle Replacement	(175,228)	285,000	(675,000)	(565,228)
Fire Vehicles	(179,642)	200,000	-	20,358
Computer Replacement	512,809	115,000	(251,000)	376,809
Ferry Terminal	1,723,411	207,500	(20,000)	1,910,911
Agreements	133,371	25,000	(20,000)	138,371
Parkland Acquisition	242,873	-	-	242,873
Off Street Parking	439,997	-	(215,000)	224,997
Alternative Transportation	67,678	-	(21,500)	46,178
Climate Action	93,941	-	(40,311)	53,630
General Capital	473,522	150,000	(442,776)	180,746
Amenities	1,189,252	-	(188,375)	1,000,877
Land Sale Proceeds	87,176	-	(91,200)	(4,024)
Growing Communities Fund	1,224,427	-	(1,224,400)	27
Canada Community-Building Fund	1,763,912	625,000	(1,611,445)	777,467
	<b>13,164,323</b>	<b>4,063,855</b>	<b>(11,274,449)</b>	<b>5,953,729</b>

# Debt (Borrowing)

- It is important to note that any debt held by the Town is for the purposes of capital acquisition and construction, and bears no relation to the type of debt associated with senior governments.
  - Senior governments incur deficits, resulting in debt to finance their operations as a whole.
  - Sidney is only allowed to incur debt for capital purposes, and must maintain a running surplus from operations.
- Rules around borrowing clearly identified in Charter.
- The Town has relatively low levels of debt.
  - More can be incurred if required, subject to public process
  - Not being encouraged, but certainly not discouraged either
    - May (perhaps should) form part of our long-term capital funding strategies.
- Short-term borrowing (up to 5 years) also used
  - May access up to \$600K (\$50 per resident) assent free.

# Budget Development

- Origin of new budget items?
  - Council requests
  - Community requests
  - Best judgment of trained, experienced staff to:
    - Maintain what we have
    - Make a purchase to reduce ongoing operating costs
    - Add new features or amenities.
  - Our staff take their roles very seriously and bring forward ambitious plans each year to address service expectations.

# Water Utility

Includes:

- Bulk Water Purchase, operation and maintenance of distribution system, Water infrastructure renewal and Capital projects.
  
- Funded with Water Parcel Tax and User Fees.
  - Infrastructure Levy/Parcel Tax: increase to \$95/year
  - Fixed Charge: increase to \$25.00 per quarter per unit
  - Consumption Charge: increase to \$6.86 / 1,000 Gallons.

# Water Utility

- Reason for increase:
  - Higher transfer to Infrastructure Reserve for asset renewal.
    - Match Reserve transfer to Infrastructure Levy
    - Increase both to required level
      - Recent cost pressures mean an increase this year
    - In line with one of the goals of the rate review
  - Increase in CRD bulk water rate (7%).

# Water Utility

- New Water rate structure and rates implemented in 2021
  - Provides sufficient revenues to ensure financial sustainability
  - Stable revenues to match our cost structure
  - Better matching of fees paid to benefits received.
  - Working as intended!

# Sewer Utility

Includes:

- Sidney's share of operating the Unified Treatment Plant, operation and maintenance of collection system, Sewer infrastructure renewal and Sidney's Sewer Capital Projects.
- Funded with Sewer Parcel Tax and User Fees.
  - ~~Parcel Tax: \$65/\$130 per year~~
  - New unified rate of \$100 being proposed.
  - User Fees: either general rate increase, OR new structure.
    - Report on impacts coming to next Council meeting.

# Sewer Utility

- Reason for increase:
  - Cost increase for the joint treatment plant.
    - SPWWC manages the sub-regional function for the Town.
  - Higher cost related to system repair/maintenance.
  - Exhausted surplus as source of funding to minimize increases.
  
- Review of Sewer Rate structure nearly complete
  - Report and recommendations on next Council agenda.

# General Operating Fund

The General Operating Fund provides for all municipal functions except for sewer and water.

Programs areas:

- Legislative and General Government (Administration, Finance, IT, Driver Services)
- Protective Services (Police, Fire, Emergency Programs, Building Inspections/Bylaw Enforcement)
- Engineering & Works (Roads, Storm Drains, Docks & Ports)
- Waste Services
- Environmental Services
- Municipal Planning

# General Operating Fund

- Parks
- Cultural
  - Library
  - Seniors Centre
  - Museum Services (Historical and Shaw Centre)
- Fiscal Services
  - Reserve Transfers
  - Debt Repayment
  - Community Support (incl. Grants-in-aid, E.D.)

# General Operating

## Significant Items - 2026

- Supplemental Requests: net increase of \$896,000
  - Plus full-year impact of 2025 items: \$55,300.
  
- RCMP Costs:
  - Contract (\$178K)
  - Dispatch (\$430K) – included in Supplementals.
  
- Reserve contributions: adding \$156,800
  - plus additional \$107,800 in Water/Sewer.
  
- Personnel costs:
  - 2 collective agreements expired
    - Negotiations still underway.
  - Increase in WorkSafe BC rate: \$150,000.

# General Operating

## Significant Items - 2026

- Reductions in offsetting revenues:
  - Surplus funding:
    - Still using in 2025/26, but capacity limited
    - Using \$401,500 less for 2026
    - Below minimum policy levels.
  
- Additional revenue through growth in tax base
  - First offset before applying general tax increase
  - \$400K in 2023
    - Nil last year, and \$180K for this year.

# General Operating

## Significant Items - 2026

- Reserve Funds & Infrastructure Replacement
  - Inflationary climate taking a toll on our balances
  - Certain reserve contributions need to be enhanced
  - May need to borrow if certain vital projects cannot wait.
  
- Active Transportation Plan
  - Directed to spend avg. of \$1 million per year on implementation
  - Limited internal funding to pay for this level of investment
  - Reliant on grants (uncertain) or borrowing if we wish to continue.

# General Operating

## Departmental Budget Highlights

### Legislative Services and General Government

- Net increase of \$228,642 over 2025 (8.2%)
  - Total net budget: \$3.01M
  - \$72,400 for Supplementals
    - Mostly Civic Sites project
  - Election cost increases
  - Salary adjustments
  - Software licencing – but with offsetting savings.

# General Operating

## Departmental Budget Highlights

### Protective Services – RCMP

- Net increase of \$669,300 from 2025
  - RCMP Contract increase is \$178,000
- Dispatch costs downloaded in 2025
  - Funded from Surplus last year
  - \$430K tax impact this year.
- Supplemental request for additional part-time staffing
  - Net impact after N.S. share: \$48K.

# General Operating

## Departmental Budget Highlights

### Protective Services – Fire & Emergency Services

- Net increase over 2025: \$310,400
- Mostly due to Supplementals.
  - End of initial IAFF contract; increases projected - \$170,000
  - Full year cost of 2025 Supplementals - \$55,000
  - Vehicle O&M due to increased use - \$21,850.

# General Operating

## Departmental Budget Highlights

### Building Inspection/Bylaw Enforcement

- Net increase from 2025: \$79,830.
  - Supplementals: P/T Bylaw Enforcement - \$30,000
    - P/T Building Admin - \$7,500
  - Expecting Building Permit revenue to bounce back.

### Development Services

- Net increase from 2025: \$53,700.
  - Supplementals: \$17,500
  - Provincial grants for housing policy impacts.

# General Operating

## Departmental Budget Highlights

### Engineering and Public Works

- Net increase of \$211,600 (7.9%)
  - Net budget of \$2.85M
  - \$132K in Supplementals
    - Beacon Wharf Inspection - \$50,000.
    - Bevan Ave. Traffic Study - \$35,000

### Environmental Services

- Net increase of \$8,550
  - Provincial grant funding covers most of this function.

# General Operating

## Departmental Budget Highlights

### Parks & Cultural Services

- Net increase of \$49,200 (2.3%)
  - Net budget of \$2.2M
  - Supplementals - \$40,000
  - Stable budget following “catch up” last year to absorb new demands
  - Additional playground equipment, park space, green spaces, downtown landscaping
  - Events, long growing/maintenance season.

# General Operating

## Departmental Budget Highlights

### Fiscal Services

- Net increase from 2025: \$281,800 (gross).
- Reserve transfers: \$156,800
  - Capital Works contribution reinstated
  - Some offset in other functions.
- Debt servicing: \$70,400
  - Works Yard short-term borrowing (Supplemental).
- Community Support: \$33,600; mostly Supplemental.

# General Operating

## Supplementals

- Supplemental Items – one-time or ongoing additions to existing service levels.
  - i.e. Studies, new staffing, new programs or services, higher levels of service on existing programs, etc.
- All of the following Supplemental requests have been included in the budgets being brought forward in the Draft Financial Plan.
- Brief descriptions of all items included in the distributed materials.
  - More detail to follow in staff reports at next meeting.

# General Operating

## Supplementals

- RCMP Dispatch - \$430,540
- Fire Department personnel additions/adjustments- \$170,000
- Engineering Services - \$132,000
- Corporate and Admin - \$72,400
- Parks & Community Celebrations - \$49,700
- Others - \$175,000.

Total 2026 impact of Supplemental Items: \$1,029,757.

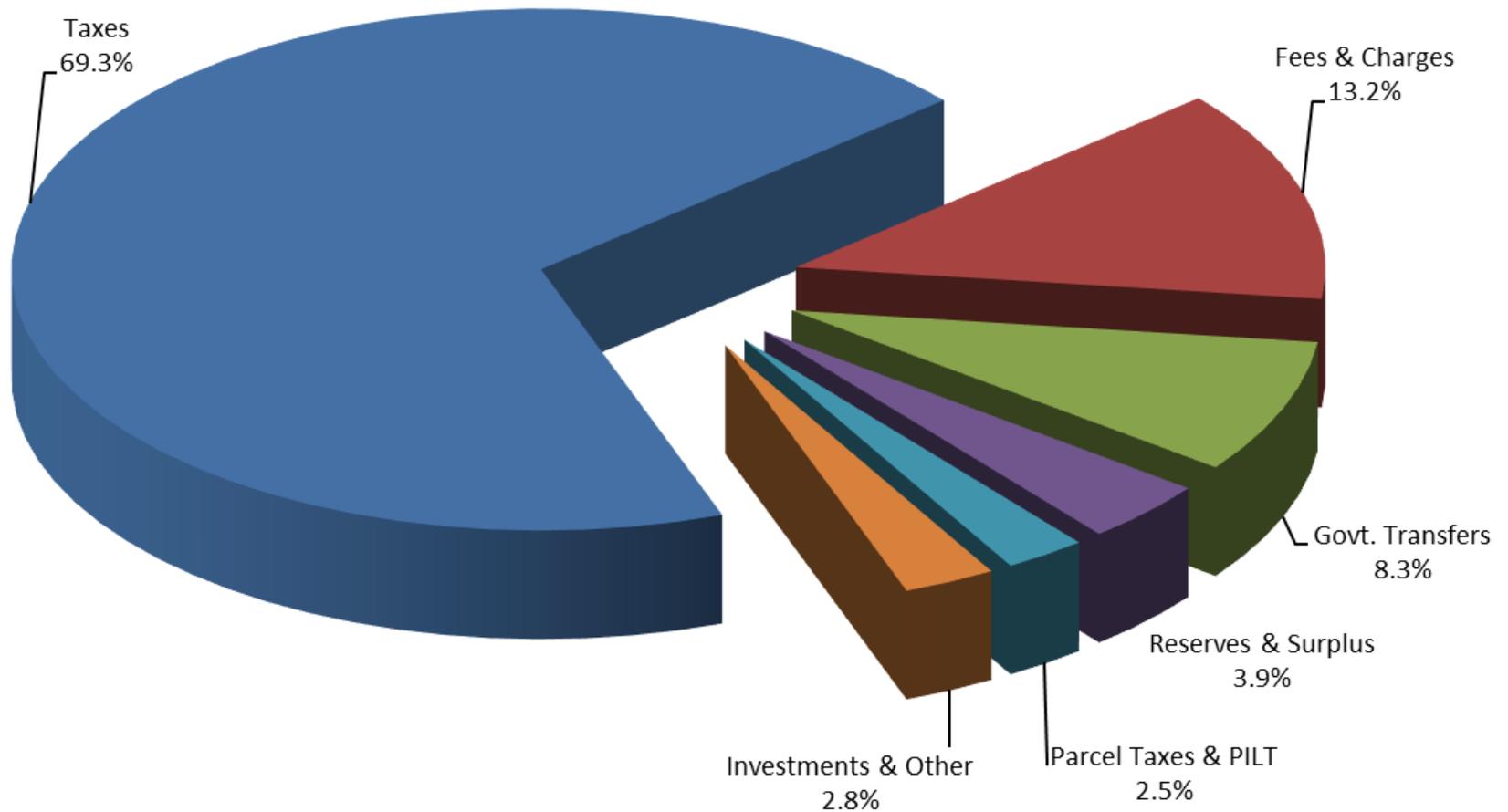
Net impact after one-time 2025: \$895,882.

# General Operating

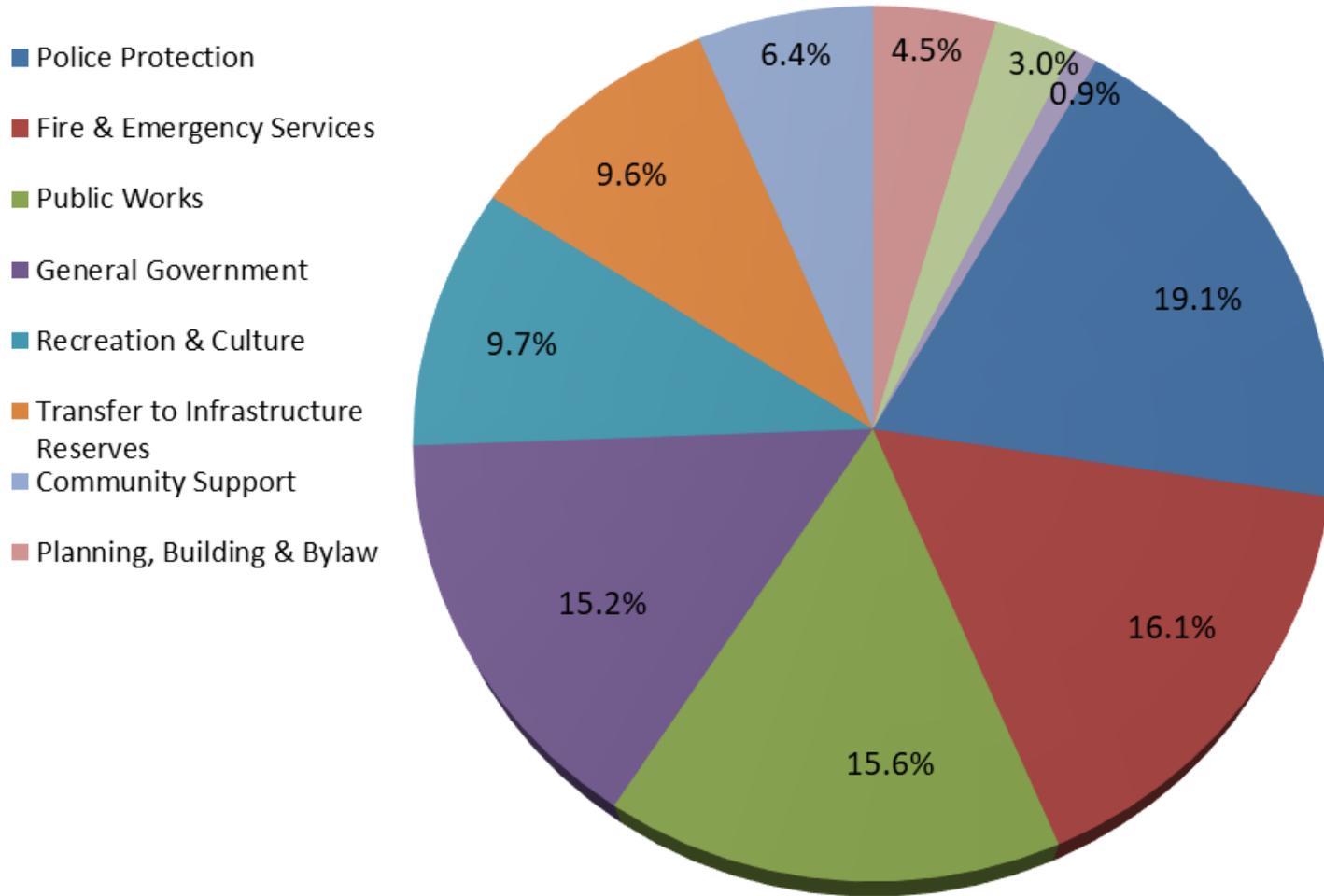
## Supplementals

- Also several items that are non-Tax funded
  - E.g. grant-funded environmental and Planning initiatives
  - Water utility projects
  - Increase in transfer to Water & Sewer Infrastructure Reserves.
- Also several large items in years 2 to 5 (2027-30)
  - E.g. RCMP Major Crime Unit, Fire personnel, various Study updates.
- Future year Supplementals will be revisited
  - To be confirmed next year, or later
  - Waiting for more complete information on some items
    - E.g. RCMP Major Crime Unit.

# General Operating Revenues



# Tax Funded Expenditures



# Capital Budget

## Total Capital for 2026: \$13.6M

- \$10.1M in Replacement Plan projects
  - Infrastructure Plans - \$9.2M
  - Other replacement plans - \$0.9M
- \$368K in Recurring Programs
  - e.g. Street Lighting, Underground Wiring, Small Equipment
- \$3.1M in one-time projects
  - ATP projects, Park improvements, etc.
- Does not include several projects that will be carried over from 2025.

# Capital Budget

## Capital Funding Sources

- \$13.6M Capital program funded as follows:
  - Reserves - \$9.2M
  - Canada Community-Building Fund (Gas Tax) - \$1.6M
  - Grants - \$1.3M
  - Borrowing - \$957K
  - Funds carried forward from previous years - \$264K
  - Taxes and User Fees - \$205K
  - North Saanich - \$37K
  - Other - \$32.5K

# Capital Budget

## Property Tax funding for Capital

- Level of Tax funding for 2025 Capital: \$184,328.
  - \$58,648 more than last year.
- Average annual funding in 2009 financial plan: \$500K.
  - Our new “normal” seems to be in \$150K-\$200K range
  - There is now more reliance on reserve funding
  - CCBF and Amenity funds also help to reduce tax reliance
  - Land Sale funds from sale of Fire Hall almost used up
  - **BUT: we are running out of these temporary reserves.**

# Capital Budget

## Significant Projects

- Infrastructure Replacement
  - \$21.75M over next 5 years
    - *More than we can afford!*
- Other Asset Replacement Plans
  - \$4.5M over next 5 years – Vehicles, Computer Equipment, etc.
- Active Transportation Plan
- Ferry Terminal – upon assurance of return
- Several Park improvements
- Civic Sites **NOT** included.

# So how do we fund it all?

## Surplus

- Town is required to have an ongoing Surplus from prior years' operations
  - Does not mean that we can't have a deficit in a given year.
- We have a long-standing policy that outlines what our minimum balances should be:
  - Based on percentage of previous year's revenues
  - 25% for Taxes, 15% for Utilities
- We use a certain amount of Surplus to balance the budget each year (\$570K for 2025 – plus Dispatch)
  - This prevents “over-taxing” for current operations
  - *Normal* expectation is that departments given sufficient funds to carry out mandate, but that some savings will occur.

# So how do we fund it all?

## Surplus

- Council considered a report on the status of Surplus in early 2025
  - Confirmed staff recommendation to keep using for next 2 years, then develop multi-year plan for replenishment thereafter.
- Surplus has been heavily relied upon to reduce tax impacts over the past few years
  - The ability to do this is diminishing
- Without Surplus and Safe Restart funds, and with ongoing cost impacts, remaining fallback is tax increases
  - Other option is to do LESS.

# So how do we fund it all?

## Safe Restart Grants

- Large, one-time grant from Federal & Provincial Govt's to assist with COVID-19 costs and recovery.
- Allowed Town to replenish reserves we used to balance budget in 2020 after tax cuts.
- Allowed Town to carry business tax reductions forward for another year.
- Allowed Town to gradually transition back to full revenues.

# So how do we fund it all?

## Safe Restart Grants

- Our focus for use of the funds was to reduce tax impacts for residents and businesses in 2020.
- Remaining funds earmarked for transitioning back to full revenues, while accommodating ongoing impacts.
- 2024 saw the last small remainder of funds used up.
- Must now complete the transition to full tax funding!
  - This can't be done in only a year or two!
  - Especially with new cost impacts coming into play.

# So how do we fund it all?

## Property Taxation

- Once all other funding sources considered, budget must be balanced through sufficient property tax funding
- Tax “increase” is partially mitigated by “new” revenues through growth
  - General increase is then applied (evenly).
- General changes in Assessments are factored out when setting rates
  - This keeps our revenues predictable.
- Different rates paid by various classes of property.

# So how do we fund it all?

## Property Tax Distribution Policy

- In 2022, Council approved a new policy to reduce the gap between Residential and Commercial tax rates.
- 10-year phase in approved
  - 2026 is year 4.
- General tax increase was slightly larger for Residential than for Commercial over first 2 years.
- 2025 saw a natural gap reduction between classes
  - This continues into 2026
  - Practice from here on will be to keep rates under current target.

# So how do we fund it all?

## General Revenue

- Increase in Property Taxes required: \$2,208,243
  - Was \$1.58M last year.
  
- Allocated as follows:
  - \$180,000 in taxes from new construction
    - Was nil last year.
  - \$2,028,243 in general tax increase
    - Roughly 12.4%.

# Property Tax Impacts

Town of Sidney - 2026 Financial Plan		Required Tax Revenue	% Tax Increase
<b>2025 Taxes</b>		<b>16,358,172</b>	
<b>Add: Changes to core budget</b>			
Miscellaneous Operational increases	216,329		
Contractual Personnel increases	360,000		
Increase in WorkSafeBC rate	150,000		
RCMP Contract	178,000		
Increase in Reserve transfers	156,800		
Increase in Tax funded Capital	58,648		
Increase in Debt servicing	38,244	1,158,021	<b>7.08%</b>
<b>Add: Incremental items</b>			
Full year impact of 2025 additions	55,300		
Supplementals - one time	264,253		
Supplementals - continuous	765,504		
Less: 2025 one-time Supplementals	(133,875)	951,182	<b>5.81%</b>
<b>Offsets:</b>			
Decrease in Surplus funding	99,040		
2026 Tax Base growth (non-market) revenue	(180,000)	(80,960)	<b>-0.49%</b>
<b>2026 Property tax increase to existing taxpayers</b>		<b>2,028,243</b>	<b>12.40%</b>

Note: 1% increase in taxes = \$163,582 in additional revenue.

Each 1% tax increase represents approximately \$1.65 per month for the average residence.

# Impact on Tax Bill

Example: financial impact of 12.4% property tax increase for “average” home assessed at \$926,700 (2025: \$913,800).

	2025				2026		
	Annual	Monthly	Daily		Annual	Monthly	Daily
Municipal Taxes	1,989	166	5.45	Municipal Taxes	2,235	186	6.12
Water Parcel Tax	75	6	0.21	Water Parcel Tax	95	8	0.26
Sewer Parcel Tax	130	11	0.36	Sewer Parcel Tax	100	8	0.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,194</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>6.01</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,430</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>6.66</b>
				<b>Increase</b>	<b>\$236</b>	<b>19.68</b>	<b>0.65</b>
				<b>Actual % increase on municipal charges</b>			<b>10.76%</b>

# Quarterly Utility Bill

- SFD Account with Full Garbage Service, Water & Sewer billed at 6,500 gallons (average).

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Chg</u>
Garbage	\$64.00	\$63.00	\$1.00
Water	\$69.59	\$66.17	\$3.43
Sewer	TBD	\$69.55	TBD
Total	\$133.59	\$198.72	\$4.43

- Commercial Account with Basic Garbage Service, Water & Sewer billed at 7,000 gallons (average).

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Chg</u>
Garbage	\$106.50	\$104.50	\$2.00
Water	\$73.02	\$69.37	\$3.65
Sewer	TBD	\$74.90	TBD
Total	\$179.52	\$248.77	\$5.65

# 5-Year Projection

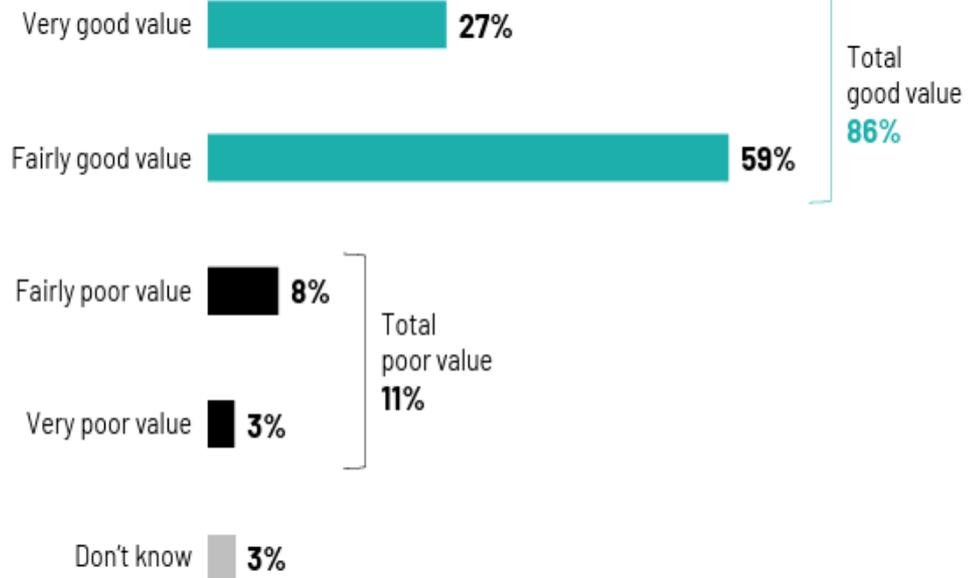
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
New Revenue Required	\$ 2,208,243	\$ 1,449,913	\$ 938,917	\$ 772,577	\$ 606,243
Tax Base Growth	<u>(180,000)</u>	<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>(200,000)</u>
General Tax Increase	<u>\$ 2,028,243</u>	<u>\$ 1,249,913</u>	<u>\$ 738,917</u>	<u>\$ 572,577</u>	<u>\$ 406,243</u>
% increase	12.4%	6.73%	3.69%	2.73%	1.87%

- Tax Base growth offsets some of the increases.
- Any changes in year 1 will impact future years.
- Year 2 (2027) often overstated; **but not last 2 years!**
- Last 2-3 years of plan tend to be understated.

# Citizen Satisfaction Survey

## Value for Taxes

- Perceptions of overall value for taxes are positive, with 86% of residents saying they receive good value for their tax dollars (27% 'very good value', 59% 'fairly good value').
- Total good value is higher among:
  - Women (91% versus 81% of men)
  - Those who are 65+ years of age (93% versus 71% of 18-44 years, 85% of 45-64 years)
  - Those who have lived in Sidney for 10 years or less (89% versus 82% of 21+ years, 86% of 11-20 years)
  - Homeowners (88% versus 77% of renters)
  - Those living in households without children under the age of 18 (88% versus 78% of those with children at home)

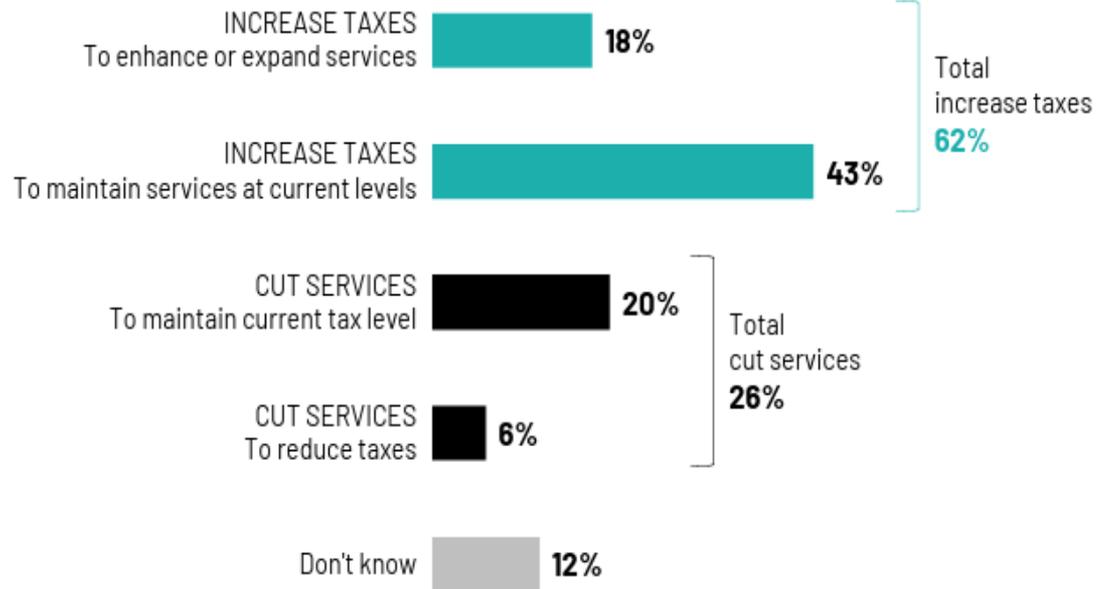


Base: All respondents (n=1156)  
Q9. Thinking about all the programs and services you receive from the Town of Sidney, would you say that overall you get good value or poor value for your tax dollars?  
Select one response.

# Citizen Satisfaction Survey

## Balancing Taxation and Service Delivery Levels

- Overall, residents say they would prefer the Town increase taxes (62%) than cut services (26%).
- Total increase taxes is higher among:
  - Women (66% versus 57% of men)
  - Those who are 65+ years of age (71% versus 49% of 18-44 years, 55% of 45-64 years)
  - Those who have lived in Sidney for 20 years or less (includes 66% of 10 years or less and 62% of 11-20 years versus 51% of 21+ years)



Base: All respondents (n=1156)

Q10. Municipal property taxes are the primary way to pay for services provided by the Town of Sidney. Due to the increased cost of maintaining current service levels and infrastructure, the Town must balance taxation and service delivery levels. To deal with this situation, which one of the following four options would you most like the Town of Sidney to pursue? Select one response.

# Budget Process Timing

## Goals of Second Meeting (March 3<sup>rd</sup>):

- To provide additional details on new or complex budget items, through staff reports.
- To provide Council with opportunity to ask questions, make recommendations on adding/removing items from the budget, etc.
  - Staff will ensure Council is prompted where appropriate, at various parts of the budget review.
- To provide taxpayers an opportunity to comment on what is or is not included in the draft budget
  - Although we hear from them on an ongoing basis, this is a chance to see if we got it right.

# Budget Process Timing

## March 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting:

- Public will have opportunity to comment at beginning of meeting
- Staff will provide a summary presentation, with additional details and information.
- Detailed staff report further describing key projects and issues
  - Will be informed by questions received at and after first meeting.
- Will focus on individual items impacting tax increase:
  - New Capital projects, Supplemental Requests.
- Results of March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be built into a second draft of financial plan, to be considered on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

# Financial Plan 2026-2030

Staff are available to answer questions  
between now and the next budget meeting.

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250-655-5410

