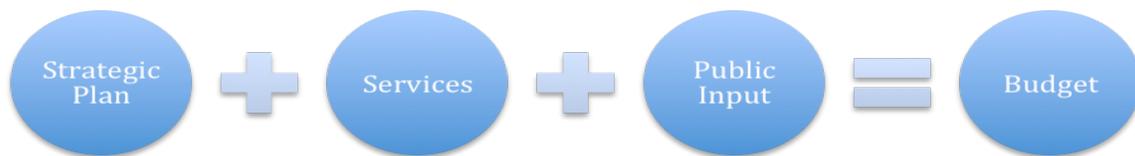


THE BUDGET PROCESS



Strategic Plan

- Council's plan for now and the future that incorporates public input and directs Administration on a path to follow.
- Council will review how the Strategic Plan relates to Services.

Services

- The Services that the Town of Sundre provides to its Sundre and bordering residents and businesses as well as future residents and businesses.
- Council will rank services to determine budgeting priorities

Public Input

- Obtaining input from taxpayers related to budget decisions.
- Council will endorse various types of public input be sought in regards to public service ranking and other budget related items.

Budget

- An instrument that allows Council to guide the economic, social, political and other activities of the community in a certain direction to realize predetermined goals and objectives as outlined in the strategic plan.
- Council will approve a budget process, timeline and ultimately the final budget.
- Council will provide Administration with direction regarding financial matters such as reserve levels, grant usage, debt usage, growth factors including CPI and COLA, and tax rates.

GOAL OF A MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The goal of a municipal budget is to allocate resources to public services and projects, and balance the resources drawn from the community against the demands for services and projects, while keeping municipal taxes within acceptable limits and ensuring that services are sufficient to allow economic growth and social stability (Bland & Rubin 1997:4).

PURPOSE OF A MUNICIPAL BUDGET

A municipal budget achieves the following purposes:

- ***A Planning Process*** - is a financial part of a municipality's plan of operations.
- ***A Management Process*** – serves as a plan of action to achieve a municipality's objectives.
- ***Financial Coordination and Order Process*** – the municipal budget acts as measurable objectives and a method to achieve said objectives.
- ***A Policy-formulating Instrument*** – a municipal budget determines which services should be rendered with available funds.
- ***A Policy Declaration Instrument*** – a municipal budget, in particular capital, debt and reserves, states the financial implications of future spending.
- ***An Instruction Document*** – a municipal budget ensures that the mandate of Council is implemented.
- ***A Source of Financial Information to the Community*** – Once approved by Council, a municipal budget becomes public information as budget decisions impact each and every resident, business and community user.