

# Council Memo



---

To **City Council**  
Service Area Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
Date Wednesday, October 30, 2024  
Subject **Mayor's Draft 2025 Budget Update**

---

The purpose of this report is to table the Mayor's Draft 2025 Budget Update, inclusive of all City departments. City staff have prepared the draft City budget in alignment with the [mayoral direction](#) issued on February 28, 2024.

New this year, the City is separating the budget adoption process into two phases for the 2025 confirmation: City budget adoption and local boards and shared services (LBSS) agencies budget approval. The LBSS budget process does not trigger the Strong Mayor timelines given the various governing legislation that states that these budgets are to be presented to Council as a whole for approval. LBSS agencies will present their 2025 budget update to Council for approval in January 2025, after the City's budget is formally adopted.

The full budget can be viewed at [www.guelph.ca/budget](http://www.guelph.ca/budget).

## Mayor's Draft 2025 Budget Update

1. An amended 2025 City operating budget inclusive of the following:
  - a. City service budget requirement, net of the proportionate share of assessment growth, totalling an increased net levy requirement in 2025 of \$8,413,894 or 2.59 per cent over 2024, inclusive of the following:
    - i. Base budget increase of \$7,546,432.
    - ii. Operating impacts from capital of \$283,983.
    - iii. Increased growth investments of \$1,625,184.
    - iv. A reduction of service enhancements of \$67,744.
    - v. Service reductions totalling \$3,597,391.
    - vi. An increase to capital financing transfers of \$5,125,397.
    - vii. The City's proportionate share of assessment growth revenue in the amount of \$2,501,967.
  - b. User rates, fees and charges.
  - c. Total transfers to/from Reserve and Reserve Funds in 2025 in accordance with the Reserve and Reserve Fund summary.
2. The Guelph General Hospital levy in the amount of \$750,000 budgeted for the fourth of six years as approved on December 3, 2019.

3. An administrative adjustment for debt funding in the amount of \$1,634,000 between the City budget and Guelph Public Library budget, totalling a net zero impact to the total Guelph tax levy.
4. A 2026-2027 operating budget forecast and the 2028 inflationary budget forecast to be received as information.
5. An amended 2025 City capital budget with a net reduction of \$29,705,817 from the 2025 adopted budget resulting in the gross 2025 expenditure amount of \$197,451,863 with the associated operating budget required upon completion of these projects totalling \$3,923,921, inclusive of funding transfers from capital reserve funds and other sources including partnerships, grants, and debt financing.
6. A 2026-2034 Capital forecast in the gross amount of \$2,128,606,900.
7. Item 4 of the Mayoral direction 2024-B2 directed staff to prepare a memo outlining the costs, proposed funding sources (including sponsorship), and operational impacts of introducing a one-year pilot project for free transit for high school students after 4pm Mon-Fri and on weekends and holidays. Please find this information in Attachment-1 to this memo.

## **Budget Adoption Process**

### **Mayor's Draft Budget**

October 17, 2024: Mayor's Draft Budget Update Released

October 30, 2024: Mayor's Draft Budget Update Presented to City Council

### **Mayor's Proposed Budget**

November 13 – 15, 2024: Mayor's Proposed Budget Released

November 19, 2024: City Council Meeting for Public Delegations on the Mayor's Proposed Budget

### **Amendments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget**

November 27, 2024: City Council Meeting to Amend the Mayor's Proposed Budget

- Amendments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget can be approved by a simple 50% + 1 majority vote of City Council.
- If no amendments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget are approved, then the budget is considered to be adopted.

### **Veto of Amendments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget**

November 28 – December 7, 2024: Mayoral Budget Vetoes

- The Mayor may veto any budget amendment approved by City Council through a Mayoral Decision.
- If no Mayoral vetoes are issued, then the budget is considered to be adopted.

## **Overriding of Mayoral Vetoes**

December 11 or 18, 2024: City Council Meeting to Override Mayoral Vetoes

- City Council can override any Mayoral Veto with a 2/3 super majority vote (nine members in favour, regardless of the number present).
- To add an override motion to a City Council agenda on December 11 or 18, members of City Council must submit a request to the City Clerk supported by seven members of Council.
- If no veto overrides are approved, then the budget is deemed adopted.

## **Attachments**

Attachment-1 Response to Mayoral Direction 2024-B2

### **This memo was approved by:**

Shanna O'Dwyer  
Acting General Manager Finance/City Treasurer  
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
519-822-1260 extension 2300  
shanna.odwyer@guelph.ca

### **This memo was recommended by:**

Tara Baker  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
519-822-1260 extension 2221  
tara.baker@guelph.ca