



RM of Lac du Bonnet unveils proposed 2025 Financial Plan

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April 3, 2025: The Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet has unveiled its proposed 2025 Financial Plan.

“The annual Financial Plan – the budget – is always the largest project the municipality undergoes in any given year,” Reeve Loren Schinkel said. “The process to create this year’s budget started in fall with strategic planning and is the product of a lot of consideration, internal deliberation, and collaboration between Council and staff.”

[View the proposed 2025 Financial Plan here](#)

“It’s our goal to strike a balance between allocating funds toward major strategic projects and purchases while keeping life affordable for our ratepayers,” Reeve Schinkel continued. “That’s always a challenge, especially when costs keep rising and there’s a significant Provincial property assessment increase like there is this year.

The RM is not allowed, as per *The Municipal Act*, to plan for a deficit or plan to end up with a surplus. It is mandated to plan for a balanced budget.

“We have a great respect for our residents’ tax dollars and know they feel financial pressures just like we do,” Reeve Schinkel said. “It’s our job to allocate every dollar carefully to keep our community running well and our many important projects moving forward. We certainly have a lot of exciting things in development, but they all come with costs. Every year, we have to make tough decisions on what to leave in the budget and what to take out, and this year was no different.”

Between General Government Services, Transportation Services, Protective Services, Environment Health Services, Public Health and Welfare Services, Economic Development Services, Fiscal Services, Planning and Development services, and Recreation and Cultural Services, the total budget is **\$8,932,189.55**.

The full proposed 2025 Financial Plan can be viewed any time on our website’s [Financial Plan & Audited Statement](#) page. Paper copies are also available at our Administrative Office.

Council proposing to decrease RM’s Mill Rate by just over 7%

The 2025 municipal Mill Rate will be **9.896**, a **7.054% decrease** from last year.

This year, school taxes (which include the Sunrise School Division Tax Mill Rate and the Provincial Education Mill Rate) equal **56.7% of taxes levied**, an increase from last year when they were **55.6%** of taxes levied. The RM is collecting **\$7,529,106** in school taxes this year.

“As we always remind residents, the majority of taxes collected are actually school taxes. Under Provincial legislation, the RM collects taxes on the school division’s behalf and then remits them to the division. We don’t keep those funds,” Reeve Schinkel said.

Property assessment increasing by 22.205%

The Provincial property assessment increased **by a total of 22.205%** for 2025. The increase is higher than the previous-highest since 2014, when it was 12.2%.

An increase in the property assessment doesn’t mean every property owner in the RM will see an increase, but the majority will. Some properties have received assessment increases greater than 22.205% while others have received assessment increases lower than that.

Property assessments can change for several reasons, including the age of a property, significant improvements made to a property, and market factors such as supply and demand and the average selling price of homes.

“We don’t control the property assessment, and this is obviously a significant increase,” Reeve Schinkel said. “We’ve left no stone unturned in decreasing the Mill Rate as much as possible to ease the pain many of our ratepayers will feel because of their assessment.”

“Of course, those who feel their assessment is too high have the right to submit an appeal to the Board of Revision,” Reeve Schinkel added.

RM investing in key projects and purchases in Public Works, Recreation, and at Lac du Bonnet Regional Airport

Some key Public Works projects in the Financial Plan include a Drifter’s Bend soil stabilization project (the project will be funded by reserves), a Gauer Road excavation and rebuild project, and a slight expansion of the Fernwood Boat Launch parking lot.

On the purchasing side, the Financial Plan includes a new grader to replace the 2018 grader (the purchase will be funded by reserves and the RM received **\$160,000** in trade-in value for the 2018 grader), a new bin truck chassis (funded through the Canada Community Building Fund,) and a mower to replace one that cannot be repaired anymore.

Transportation Services – which covers road maintenance and construction, equipment repairs, snow clearing, mowing, brushing, drainage, culverts, and fuel – is the largest expenditure area at **\$3.031 million** overall.

Funds for long-term projects that would be borne by borrowing (and do not impact the Mill Rate) are the planned expansions of the Administrative and Public Works Offices (first

announced last year), a water project on Maple Creek, and the anticipated water project the RM continues to pursue through the Manitoba Water Services Board. These projects will require public hearings before moving forward.

The Financial Plan includes funds for a number of projects at the Lac du Bonnet Regional Airport. These include the ongoing Airport Master Plan and Airport Business Plan project by Stantec, security improvements that include a new gate and fencing, and runway crack sealing.

In Recreation, the RM has applied for a grant to build a playground at Osprey Park and funds are set aside for the further development of the Laker's property, which is cost shared with the Town. As in past years, the RM will cost-share lifeguard salaries with the Town on a 50/50 basis.

The Financial Plan also includes funds for the addition of a new columbarium at the Riverland Cemetery.

RM investing more than \$1 million into reserves

The RM is investing **\$1,086,388** into reserves this year. That includes **\$400,000** into the Machinery Equipment Replacement Reserve and **\$175,000** into the Road Reconstruction Reserve.

"When we fund purchases and projects through reserves, which we do every budget, it's crucial we reinvest in them," Reeve Schinkel said.

RM to provide more than \$300,000 in grants, funding, and work in kind

The RM will provide **\$309,474.67** in grants, funding, and work-in-kind support to more than 40 community charitable and non-profit organizations and agencies.

"Lac du Bonnet has many great organizations that work hard to serve our region's citizens," Reeve Schinkel said. "They provide essentials for those in need, promote recreation opportunities, provide entertainment, and provide education and access to educational resources."

"These organizations have been resilient over many years to serve our community, and that's why Council takes their requests seriously and remains committed to supporting their good work," Reeve Schinkel continued.

For just a few specific examples, the RM will allocate **\$77,954.82** to the Lac du Bonnet Arena so RM residents can access its services and programs, **\$27,546** to the Community Centre for that same reason, **\$52,376.10** toward the Lac du Bonnet Regional Library's operational expenses, **\$30,525** to the Youth Centre, and of course, **\$5,000** to the Lac du Bonnet Lions Club for their legendary Canada Day fireworks show and festivities.

“Instead of funds, some organizations request in-kind support, such as grass cutting, brushing, or other maintenance done by our Public Works Department,” Reeve Schinkel said. “We’re happy to be in the position to provide those types or services as well.”

How does the RM make its revenue?

The RM receives the majority of its revenue through property taxes. It also receives revenue through trailer fees; metal, fuel, and recycling rebates; building permits; and grants from the Provincial and Federal governments.

Financial Plan Public Hearing taking place Thursday, April 17 at 5 p.m. – plan to attend in person or virtually

The next step is the Financial Plan Public Hearing, where Council will present the proposed 2025 Financial Plan and residents have a formal opportunity to provide feedback. This public and transparent process is mandated by Provincial legislation.

The Financial Plan Public Hearing will take place on **Thursday, April 17 at 5 p.m.** in the RM of Lac du Bonnet Council Chambers. This Public Hearing is open to in-person attendance and anyone wanting to make a representation, ask questions, or speak for or against the budget can do so at this hearing. To register to make a representation, please email rmldb@lacdubonnet.com.

Virtual participation is also available via Zoom. [Click here for a link](#) to the Zoom meeting. The link is also available on our website’s [Meetings, Agendas, & Minutes](#) page.

Consultation with the community is an important component of the RM’s budgetary process. Council strongly encourages residents to attend, whether in person or virtually.

To submit any questions to the Chief Administrative Officer, please email rmldb@lacdubonnet.com or drop off a written submission at the Administrative Office by **Wednesday, April 16**.

The deadline for the RM to submit the Financial Plan to the Province is **May 15**.

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Keep in touch

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