



RM of Lac du Bonnet approves 2024 Financial Plan

April 18, 2024: The Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet has adopted the 2024 Financial Plan.

Between Administrative and General Government services, Public Works services, Transportation Services, Protective services, Environment Health services, Public Health and Welfare services, Economic Development services, Fiscal Services, Planning and Development services, Recreation and Cultural Services, and Utility services, the total budget is **\$7,594,025.84.**

The 2024 municipal Mill Rate is **10.647**, a **2.61 per cent increase** from last year.

There have been a few changes since the RM unveiled the draft 2024 Financial Plan last month. Most notably, the proposed project to build a parking lot at the Fernwood Boat Launch will not proceed this year.

The \$70,000 allocated in the draft plan for the project will now be placed in a reserve. The RM will monitor the traffic and parking situation around the boat launch this summer and fall and in 2025, will revisit whether the project is necessary.

“Council heard a lot of passionate perspectives from residents at our recent Public Hearing regarding this project and they raised some legitimate concerns,” Reeve Loren Schinkel said.

“Getting feedback from the public such as we got about Fernwood is exactly why we hold those types of events. We want to do what’s best for the RM in the long term, whether that’s adding a parking lot, not adding a parking lot, or modifying the plans. We’ll use this year to gather data so we can figure out the best way to proceed in 2025.”

Some key items in the 2024 Financial Plan include:

- \$311,647 in grants, funding, and work in kind for community charitable and non-profit organizations and agencies.
- the purchase of a new excavator, loader, and low-bed trailer for the Public Works Department;
- funds to operate Transfer Station #520 six days per week in the summer rather than the current five days per week;

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- funding for increased By-Law enforcement in the summer and at night;
- funds for an expanded dust-control program;
- plans for major water and sewer projects, which will be borne by borrowing;
- a planned expansion of the Administrative Office, which will be borne by borrowing in 2025.

“A budget’s never going to have everything in it that everyone wants, but we believe there are a lot of positives in this one,” Reeve Schinkel said. “It took a lot of work over many months and at the end of the day we have done our best to strike a balance between putting funds toward major strategic projects and purchases, keeping up with inflation and increased costs, and trying to keep life affordable for our residents.”

“We respect your tax dollars and know you feel financial pressures just like we do,” Reeve Schinkel continued. “It’s our job to be stewards of every dollar while also being stewards of the community by keeping it running well and moving forward.”

The 2024 Financial Plan is available to view any time on our website’s Financial Plan & Audited Statement page.