

COUNCIL REPORT

2024 Tax Rate Bylaw C-8517-2024

| Electoral Division: All | | | File: 0785 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Date: | April 23, 2024 | | |
| Presenter: | Issy Agbonkhese, Manager | | |
| Department: | Financial Services | | |
| Approved by: | ☑ Executive Director / Director | and/or | Chief Administrative Officer |

REPORT SUMMARY

Section 353(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) states that Council must pass a property tax bylaw annually. The property tax bylaw authorizes Council to impose a tax on property in the County to raise revenue for the payment of requisitions and delivery of County services.

Council and Administration set and approve an operating and capital budget annually. Property taxes are the difference between the County's total expenditures and revenues relating to user fees and government transfers.

The 2024 Tax Rate Bylaw C-8517-2024 authorizes Rocky View County to tax properties to fund and balance the approved operating budget.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Bylaw C-8517-2024 (Attachment B, Alternative #1) be given first reading.

THAT Bylaw C-8517-2024 (Attachment B, Alternative #1) be given second reading.

THAT Bylaw C-8517-2024 (Attachment B, Alternative #1) be considered for third reading.

THAT Bylaw C-8517-2024 (Attachment B, Alternative #1) be given third and final reading.

THAT Council approves a budget adjustment of \$6,277,500 to transfer net tax to the Tax Stabilization Reserve, as per Attachment D.

BACKGROUND

Municipal Property Tax

On April 9, 2024, Council approved the 2024 Spring Budget Finalization, which included a 0% property tax increase.

The final assessment roll is used to set the County's tax rates, as shown in Attachment A. Random property samples have been included to demonstrate total tax impacts as outlined in Attachment C (Alternative #1) and Attachment F (Alternative #2). Municipal funds raised from taxes support the general municipal services and emergency services delivered by Rocky View County to its residents.

External Requisitions

Under the MGA section 359(1), Rocky View County collects external requisitions on behalf of external organizations through the property tax system and forwards these amounts to the requisitioning bodies. Requisitions include Alberta Education property tax, Rocky View Foundation, and Designated Industrial Property.

ANALYSIS

Municipal Property Tax

With a 0% tax rate increase, below are the municipal and emergency services taxes to be collected for 2024 compared to amounts collected in 2023.

As a result of higher inflationary increases in the Residential assessment class, the resulting municipal tax burden has shifted. In order to mitigate some of the shift, Administration has prepared two alternatives for Council's consideration.

Administration recommends approval of *ALTERNATIVE #1* as it strikes a balance between reducing the impact on the Residential assessment class, and keeping the Non-Residential tax rate similar to what it was in 2023. Both of these alternatives meet the criteria set out in the *Municipal Tax Ratio Policy C-223*.

ALTERNATIVE #1

Impacts

- Inflationary assessment values shifts \$1.0 million+/- municipal tax to the Residential assessment class
- Increases the Non-Residential tax ratio from 3.0x to 3.25x
- Results in \$6,277,500 net transfer to the Tax Stabilization Reserve
- Non-Residential pays 61% of the total municipal tax

| Municipal Taxes | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | Difference | Percentage |
| Residential | 29,745,000 | 27,528,000 | 2,217,000 | 8.0% |
| Non-Residential | 46,805,000 | 38,849,000 | 7,956,000 | 20.5% |
| Total | 76,550,000 | 66,377,000 | 10,173,000 | |

| Emergency Services Taxes | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | Difference | Percentage |
| Residential | 9,039,000 | 9,224,000 | -185,000 | -2.0% |
| Non-Residential | 14,222,000 | 13,018,000 | 1,204,000 | 9.2% |
| Total | 23,261,000 | 22,242,000 | 1,019,000 | |

| Total Tax Rates | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--|
| 2024 2023 | | | |
| Residential | 2.2740 | 2.4440 | |
| Farm | 5.1165 | 5.4990 | |
| Non-Residential | 7.3904 | 7.3320 | |

ALTERNATIVE #2

Impacts

- Inflationary assessment values shifts \$2.8 million+/- municipal tax to the Residential assessment class
- Non-Residential tax ratio remains at 3.0x
- Results in a \$5,965,700 net transfer to the Tax Stabilization Reserve
- Non-Residential pays 59% of the total municipal tax

| Municipal Taxes | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | Difference | Percentage |
| Residential | 31,066,000 | 27,528,000 | 3,538,000 | 12.8% |
| Non-Residential | 45,172,000 | 38,849,000 | 6,323,000 | 16.3% |
| Total | 76,238,000 | 66,377,000 | 9,861,000 | |

2024 Tax Rate Bylaw C-8517-2024

| Emergency Services Taxes | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | Difference | Percentage |
| Residential | 9,479,000 | 9,224,000 | 255,000 | 2.8% |
| Non-Residential | 13,782,000 | 13,018,000 | 764,000 | 5.9% |
| Total | 23,261,000 | 22,242,000 | 1,019,000 | |

| Total Tax Rates | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--|--|
| 2024 2023 | | | | |
| Residential | 2.3773 | 2.4440 | | |
| Farm | 5.3489 | 5.4990 | | |
| Non-Residential | 7.1318 | 7.3320 | | |

External Requisitions

Bylaw C-8517-2024 includes requisitions for the Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF) and the Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD), which has increased by \$7,770,000 or 14.1% year-over-year. Other external requisitions include the Rocky View Seniors Foundation, with an increase of \$895,980 or 84.6% year-over-year. The Designated Industrial Property amount has increased by \$5,187 or 3.5% year-over-year.

COMMUNICATIONS / ENGAGEMENT

Upon approval of the Bylaw, tax notices for the County, including taxes imposed by Bylaw C-8517-2024, will be mailed to residents on May 17, 2024.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

The related budget adjustments are set out in Attachment D (Alternative #1) and Attachment G (Alternative #2).

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The proposed bylaw supports financial prosperity by ensuring that the County remains financially sustainable for future generations.

2024 Tax Rate Bylaw C-8517-2024

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

THAT Bylaw C-8517-2024 (Attachment E, Alternative #2) be given first reading.

THAT Bylaw C-8517-2024 (Attachment E, Alternative #2) be given second reading.

THAT Bylaw C-8517-2024 (Attachment E, Alternative #2) be considered for third reading.

THAT Bylaw C-8517-2024 (Attachment E, Alternative #2) be given third and final reading.

THAT Council approves a budget adjustment of \$5,965,700 to transfer net tax to the Tax Stabilization Reserve, as per Attachment G.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Final 2024 Assessment Roll Attachment B: 2024 Tax Rate Bylaw C-8517-2024 Alternative #1 Attachment C: 2024 Tax Impacts – Property Samples Alternative #1 Attachment D: Budget Adjustment Alternative #1 Attachment E: 2024 Tax Rate Bylaw C-8517-2024 Alternative #2 Attachment F: 2024 Tax Impacts – Property Samples Alternative #2 Attachment G: Budget Adjustment Alternative #2