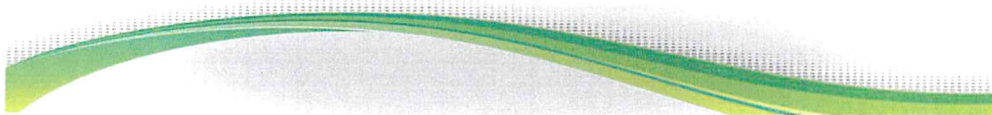




2021 Budget Highlights



On April 21, 2021, Beaver County Council approved the 2021 budget. This is the budget upon which the 2021 tax notices are based.

The 2021 budget meets all requirements of the *Municipal Government Act* – it includes current year operating and capital expenditures, payment of legislated requisitions, and is balanced.

The budget reflects the priorities of Council as identified during budget and strategic planning discussions, and considers what it heard from you – the resident and taxpayer.

It also reflects Council's desire to keep the mill rate increase as low as possible. Council was able to achieve **a reduction in the overall mill rate** in 2021 due to various fiscal restraint measures and a 2% increase in the assessment base.

Refer to the section titled [Understanding the tax rates](#) for a detailed explanation of all mill rates.



Understanding the tax rates

Your property tax bill includes tax (mill) rates for a number of different taxing bodies.

The municipal mill rate is the rate set by County Council to raise funds to provide all the municipal services (details on these services are provided throughout this brochure). In 2021, the municipal mill rate consists of 3 separate mill rates – General Municipal, BESC, and Policing.

General Municipal mill rate

In 2021, the general municipal mill rate did not increase. For small businesses, the mill rate decreased by 25%.

BESC mill rate

The mill rate established to pay the grant to the Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC) for fire protection and emergency management (disaster) services decreased by 29%.

Policing mill rate

2021 is Year 2 of the 5-year phased in program to cost-share RCMP services with the Provincial Government. The 2021 amount of \$191,566 will require a mill rate of 0.1517 (79% increase). By the year 2024, the County will be required to pay \$418,016.

Other mill rates

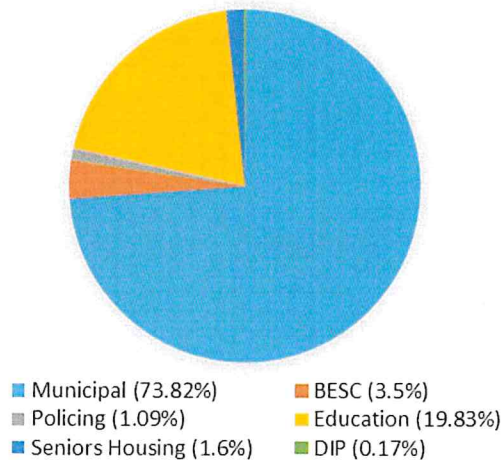
In addition to the taxes raised to pay for municipal services, the total tax bill includes the taxes for seniors housing (Beaver Foundation), education, and assessment of designated industrial properties. The County is required to collect these taxes and then remit the funds directly to the Beaver Foundation and the Provincial Government.

In 2021, the Beaver Foundation mill rate decreased 1.6% over 2020.

The education mill rate decreased by 3.3% for residential and farmland properties and decreased almost 1% for non-residential properties.

The Designated Industrial Properties (i.e. DIP) mill rate, which only affects select industrial properties assessed by the Provincial Government, increased by 0.8% over the 2020 rate.

Allocation of taxes levied



Unfortunately, the pandemic has added to the region's financial strain. The oil and gas sector is still struggling and loss of employment due to COVID-19 have made it difficult for some to pay their taxes.

In 2021, the County has estimated a 15% uncollectible tax rate (\$1,975,000). Without these taxes, the County cannot provide the services projected in the 2021 budget. To maintain the required cash flow, the allowance is funded by the Claystone Waste grant, reserves, and taxes.

What's in the budget for me?

The 2021 budget includes the following projects. Sources of funding for these projects include reserves, grants, user fees, and the tax levy:

Public Works/Road Construction/Maintenance

⇒ Equipment and vehicles	(\$1,865,697)
⇒ 500 miles of gravelling	(\$2,333,365)
⇒ Private dust control only (County-subsidized)	(\$120,000)
⇒ 6 miles of hard-surfacing (soil cement & chip seal) and 3 miles of re-oiling	(\$1,206,714)
⇒ Road surfacing (east end development)	(\$349,567)
⇒ Shoulder pulls (# of miles to be determined)	(\$701,922)
⇒ Bridge replacement - SW of Bruce	(\$600,000)

Land Use Planning and Industrial Parks Projects

⇒ Review of Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw	(\$50,000)
⇒ Servicing Equity Industrial Park	(\$75,000)
⇒ Fencing of Viking grader shed lot	(\$18,000)

Agricultural Services Projects

⇒ 1000 miles of weed control	(\$79,500)
⇒ Roadside mowing in west end	(\$20,105)
⇒ Roadside brushing in east end	(\$116,054)
⇒ Contracted beaver control	(\$40,000)
⇒ Watershed study	(\$100,000)

Campgrounds

⇒ Building repairs at both campgrounds	(\$40,000)
⇒ Black Nugget Lake concession building upgrade	(\$120,000)
⇒ Site improvements at both campgrounds	(\$40,000)

Total capital expenses including road construction in the 2021 budget are \$5,323,126. Funding sources include reserves, grants from the government and Claystone Waste, and taxes.

Where is the money being spent?

The County's 2021 budget is a total of \$27,540,626. The amount spent in various areas (and funding sources) is as follows:

	Expense	Funding Sources			
		Operating	Reserve	Grants	Taxes
Council	290,527				290,527
General Administration	2,741,693	499,150	87,563	573,425	1,581,555
Major Financial Transactions *	2,236,419	261,419	15,801	871,298	1,087,901
Business Incentive Grant	319,017				319,017
Provincial Policing and Peace Officers	538,161	80,400	18,000		439,761
Beaver Emergency Services Commission	849,358		234,205		615,153
Public Works	17,550,731	978,116	5,222,256	3,619,391	7,730,968
Utilities	159,545	86,469	5,000	34,560	33,516
Family & Community Support Services	137,626				137,626
Community Adult Learning	147,338	6,100		141,238	
Planning & Development	212,541	75,916			136,625
Industrial Parks	195,200	2,200	157,122	5,878	30,000
Agricultural Services	961,185	24,600		242,000	694,585
Recreation Grants	429,063		50,000		379,063
Campgrounds	518,511	310,000	152,319		56,192
Culture	253,711	2,500			251,211
Total	\$27,540,626	\$2,326,870	\$5,942,266	\$5,487,790	\$13,783,700

* Major Financial Transactions consist of the Allowance for Uncollectible Taxes (\$1,975,000) and the debenture payment on behalf of the Beaver Foundation (\$261,419). The Beaver Foundation reimburses the County 100% of the amount paid.

More information regarding the 2021 budget may be obtained from the County's website at www.beaver.ab.ca.

How are we going to pay for it?

To fund the budget, the County will access grants (\$5,487,790), reserves (\$5,942,266), and operating revenue (\$2,326,870). The balance (\$13,783,700) will be raised by taxes.

Almost all properties must pay property taxes. There are a few exceptions such as Federal and Provincial lands. On all taxable properties, the following municipal taxes are levied:

Tax Classification	Amount of Taxes
General Municipal	
Residential	2,417,690
Small Business (new in 2021)	256,826
Non-Residential (large businesses)	1,631,321
Farmland	1,885,290
Designated Industrial Property	6,630,238
Machinery and Equipment (non-DIP)	155,616
Beaver Emergency Services Commission	
Residential/Farmland	366,483
Small Business (new in 2021)	9,722
Non-Residential	46,310
Designated Industrial	188,221
Machinery & Equipment	4,417
RCMP Cost-Sharing	
All Classifications	191,566
TOTAL	\$13,783,700

How does the County partner to provide services to residents?

Collaboration with other organizations can be an efficient way for the County to provide services to its residents. The County has a long history of working with its urban neighbours (towns and villages) and other organizations to provide essential as well as quality-of-life services including fire protection and emergency management, family and community support services, and library and recreation services.

The 2021 budget includes \$2,238,752 for grants to various organizations. The County provides some direct funding, but in the case of services that are used by both rural and urban residents, it shares operating costs using a population-based formula.

The County has shared services agreements with each urban municipality to share operating costs. Each agreement specifies the services that are cost-shared (not all are cost-shared). In the 2021 budget, the County will spend in excess of \$1.5 million towards these partnerships.

Capital cost-sharing is determined on a request-by-request basis, other than BESC capital (fire protection), in which case the capital expenses are shared on a population basis.

The pandemic has been especially difficult for the County's valued service providers. Revenue from user fees and fundraisers has been drastically reduced or non-existent, while operating costs (such as utilities) must still be paid.

Due to wise fiscal management by non-profit organizations and urban municipal partners, the recreation and cultural facilities will remain open in 2021 (to the extent allowed by Alberta Health Services).

For recreation and library grants, the cost distribution in 2021 for each of the service areas is:

Urban Partner		Population	
		County	Urban
Tofield	62.38%	3451	2081
Ryley	47.33%	434	483
Holden	74.95% (library)	1047	350
	72.38% (recreation)	917	350
Viking	47.32% (library)	973	1083
	50.46% (recreation)	1103	1083

Town of Tofield and Tofield Ag Society
\$85,897 or \$24.89 per County resident served

Village of Ryley and Beaver Heritage & Ag Society
\$36,991 or \$85.23 per County resident served

Village of Holden and Holden Ag Society
\$39,745 or \$43.34 per County resident served

Town of Viking and Viking Ag Society
\$145,375 or \$131.80 per County resident served



The cost distribution for both the BESC grant and the Beaver Foundation requisition is:

		Population
Beaver County	59.63%	5905
Town of Tofield	21.02%	2081
Village of Ryley	4.88%	483
Village of Holden	3.53%	350
Town of Viking	10.94%	1083

The cost distribution for FCSS (Family and Community Support Services) is:

Tofield Service Area:

		Population	Grant
Tofield	34.97%	2081	\$41,362
Beaver County	65.03%	3870	\$76,920

Viking Service Area:

		Population	Grant
Viking	24.69%	1083	\$13,665
Holden	6.22%	350	\$3,500
Beaver County	69.09%	2035	\$38,856

NEW BEAVER COUNTY APP

Download the Beaver County App, available from your app store for your mobile device. With the Beaver County App, you can book a campground reservation, apply for a fire permit, and report problems that require attention such as road maintenance, damaged culverts, etc.

The App includes an interactive map of up-to-date information on road construction projects, closed roads, road bans, etc.



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Reeve Jim Kallal, Div 2	780-910-0233
Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec, Div 3	780-235-1328
Councillor Barry Bruce, Div 4	587-280-2522
Councillor Dale Pederson, Div 5	780-385-0545

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the County Services Centre remains closed to the public, however staff are still working in the Office.

Some methods of service delivery have been adjusted and we appreciate your patience. You are encouraged to take advantage of various on-line opportunities to conduct business with the County.