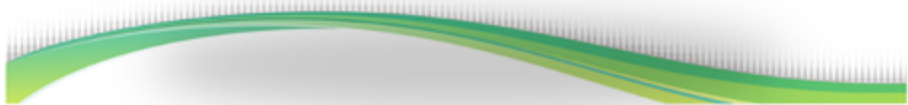




# **2022 Budget Highlights**



On April 20, 2022, Beaver County Council approved the 2022 budget. This is the budget upon which the 2022 tax notices are based.

The 2022 budget meets all requirements of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* – it includes current year operating expenditures, capital expenditures, payment of legislated requisitions, and is balanced.

The budget reflects the priorities of Council as identified during budget and strategic planning discussions. It also considers what was expressed by you – the resident and taxpayer. Many of the recommendations made in the Corporate Governance Review conducted last year are being implemented as a way to more efficiently provide services to residents and landowners.

There is an increase in the municipal mill rate when compared to 2021. Council made this decision to prepare for the significant loss of tax revenue that is anticipated in the future years. A more in-depth look at this change is provided in the section - [Explanation of Municipal Tax Increase](#).



## ***Understanding the tax rates***

Your property tax bill includes 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. In 2022, the municipal mill rate consists of 3 separate mill rates – General Municipal, Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC), and Policing.

### General municipal mill rate

In 2022, the general municipal mill rate increased 2.773% for all classes of property.

### BESC mill rate

The mill rate established to pay the grant to BESC for fire protection and emergency management services increased by 15%.

### Policing mill rate

2022 is Year 3 of the 5-year phased in program to cost-share RCMP services with the Provincial Government. The 2022 amount of \$261,110 will require a mill rate increase of 34%. By the year 2024, the County will be required to pay \$418,016.

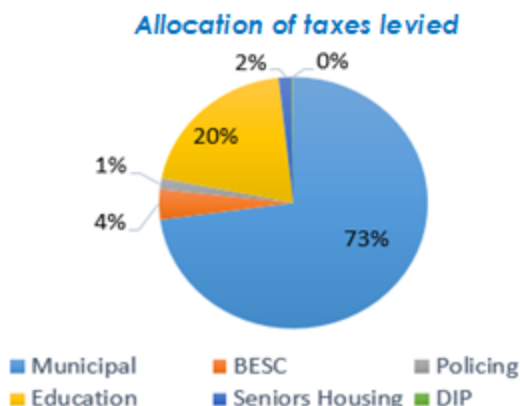
### Other mill rates

In addition to the taxes raised to pay for municipal services, the total tax bill includes the taxes for seniors housing (Beaver Foundation), education (Alberta School Foundation Fund), and assessment of Designated Industrial Properties (DIP). The County is required to collect these taxes and then remit the funds directly to the Beaver Foundation and the Provincial Government.

In 2022, the Beaver Foundation mill rate increased 4% over 2021.

The School Foundation mill rate increased by 2% for residential and farmland properties and increased almost 7% for non-residential properties.

The Designated Industrial Properties mill rate, which only affects select industrial properties assessed by the Provincial Government, is the same as it was in 2021.



#### **Explanation of municipal tax increase**

In 2020, the Alberta Government began a review of the assessment model for regulated oil and gas properties. For the time being, the current assessment for these properties is frozen but it is expected that the new model will go into effect in 2026. As a result of this new model we are projecting a significant loss of revenue from these sources (approximately \$900,000).

Instead of waiting for this review to be complete and responding with a substantial mill rate increase of approximately 16% at that time, Council decided that it was prudent to begin saving for this change now. A 2.773% mill rate increase to municipal taxes for the next four years will mitigate the burden to tax payers and avoid the significant mill rate increase in 2026.

## What's in the budget for me?

The 2022 budget includes the following projects and major expenditures.

	Dollars \$
<b>Public Works/Road Construction/Maintenance</b>	
⇒ Equipment and vehicles	3,716,196
⇒ 500 miles of gravelling	2,340,224
⇒ Dust control	175,000
⇒ 6 miles of hard-surfacing & 6 miles of resurfacing	1,718,597
⇒ Shoulder pulls (20 miles)	600,000
⇒ Bridge replacement - South of Viking	600,000
<b>Land Use Planning and Industrial Parks Projects</b>	
⇒ Review of Municipal Development Plan and and Land Use Bylaw	50,000
⇒ Servicing Equity Industrial Park	45,200
⇒ Fencing of Viking grader shed lot	18,000
<b>Agricultural Services Projects</b>	
⇒ 1,000 miles of weed control	79,500
⇒ Roadside mowing in west end	29,736
⇒ Roadside brushing in east end	80,058
⇒ Contracted beaver control	40,000
⇒ Watershed study	50,000
<b>Campgrounds</b>	
⇒ Black Nugget Lake septic system	200,000
⇒ Site improvements at both campgrounds	150,000
<b>Grants</b>	
⇒ <u>Tofield</u> Arena Repairs	500,000
⇒ Seed Cleaning Plant	30,000
⇒ Holden Rural Academy	30,000
⇒ Community Support Requests	75,000
⇒ Recurring Support Grants*	31,855

\* Victim Services, Seniors Fair, Cloverlodge Stampede Assoc., Coal Creek, Kalyra Country, Kinsella Bullarama, STARS, Tofield & Viking Christmas Hampers, Tofield Bull Bash, Viking Bull Bash

**Where is the money being spent?**

The County's 2022 budget is a total of \$29,802,677. The amount spent in various areas, along with the source of funding, is as follows:

	Expense	Funding Sources			
		Operating	Reserve	Grants	Taxes
Council	388,369				388,369
General Administration	3,130,320	520,176	162,140	459,747	1,988,257
Major Financial Transactions *	361,419	261,419			100,000
Business Incentive Grant	161,059				161,059
Provincial Policing and Peace Officers	739,355	105,400	52,000		581,955
Beaver Emergency Services Commission	859,815		136,860		722,955
Public Works- Administration	547,655	44,816	53,000		449,839
Public Works- Grader Operators	4,956,631	547,000	892,859	166,841	3,349,931
Public Works- Road Construction	2,918,597			2,485,140	433,457
Public Works- Road Maintenance	11,603,982	416,400	5,992,006	706,043	4,489,533
Utilities	150,019	86,469	5,000	17,000	41,550
Family & Community Support Services	137,626				137,626
Community Adult Learning	147,472			147,472	
Planning & Development	341,398	127,901	82,789	32,971	97,737
Industrial Parks	104,500	2,200	68,200		34,100
Agricultural Services	1,374,844	94,100	275,000	193,907	811,837
Recreation Grants	978,183		135,806	364,194	478,183
Campgrounds	644,849	350,000	100,000	250,000	-55,151
Culture	256,584	2,500			254,084
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,802,677</b>	<b>\$2,558,381</b>	<b>\$7,955,660</b>	<b>\$4,823,315</b>	<b>\$14,465,321</b>

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

## How are we going to pay for it?

The County will access grants of \$4,823,315, reserves of \$7,955,660, and operating revenue \$2,558,381, with the balance of \$14,465,321 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:

<b>Tax Classification</b>	<b>Amount of Taxes</b>
<b>General Municipal</b>	
Residential	2,560,331
Small Business	286,187
Non-Residential	1,730,484
Farmland	1,941,824
Designated Industrial Property	6,800,507
Machinery and Equipment (non-DIP)	161,923
<b>Beaver Emergency Services Commission</b>	
Residential/Farmland	434,050
Small Business	12,149
Non-Residential	55,096
Designated Industrial Property	216,505
Machinery & Equipment (non-DIP)	5,155
<b>RCMP Cost-Sharing</b>	
All Classifications	261,110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,465,321</b>

## ***How does the County partner to provide services to residents?***

Collaboration with other organizations is an efficient way for the County to provide services to its residents. The County has a long history of working with its urban neighbours 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 2022 budget includes \$2,522,620 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 of the libraries and recreation facilities. Each agreement specifies the services that are cost-shared. In the 2022 budget, the County will spend in excess of \$1.1 million towards these partnerships.

Capital cost-sharing is determined on a request-by-request basis, other than BESC capital.

The County is cautiously optimistic that the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic are behind us and we expect that community organizations will once again be able to provide the events and services that Beaver County residents have come to expect. While this means costs of these organizations will likely increase, it also means that they will be receiving the revenue that these events generate.



For recreation and library grants, the grant is paid on the percentage of County vs Urban residents in the area. The tables below show the County's population percentage and the dollar amount that is budgeted for each type of grant.

**Recreation:**

Urban Partner	County Share	Grant	\$ Per Resident
Tofield	62.38%	\$86,459	\$25.05
Ryley	47.33%	\$49,374	\$113.76
Holden	72.38%	\$41,538	\$45.30
Viking	50.46%	\$172,006	\$155.94

**Libraries:**

Urban Partner	County Share	Grant	\$ Per Resident
Tofield	62.38%	\$107,388	\$51.60
Ryley	47.33%	\$25,084	\$51.93
Holden	74.95%	\$15,591	\$44.55
Viking	47.32%	\$32,563	\$30.07



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

**BESC**

	County Share	Grant
Beaver County	59.63%	\$859,815

**Beaver Foundation**

	County Share	Grant
Beaver County	59.63%	\$280,938

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

**Tofield Service Area:**

	County Share	Grant
Beaver County	65.03%	\$76,920

**Viking Service Area:**

	County Share	Grant
Beaver County	69.09%	\$38,856

***More Information***

More information regarding the 2022 Budget may be obtained from the County's website at [www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca).

**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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