

# 2024 IN REVIEW



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

As we wrap up 2024, it's a great time to reflect on the progress and the challenges that shaped Beaver County this year. Guided by our four-year Corporate Business Plan, we've made tremendous progress. Of the 57 projects outlined, 70% are complete, and another 21% are well underway. These milestones are a testament to the dedication of our staff and the vision of Council.

This year, we focused on making life better for residents by enhancing services. From bolstering public works and agriculture to streamlining our processes and driving economic development, we've kept community needs at the heart of what we do. We've also deepened our connection with you through public engagement, ensuring your input helps guide our decisions.

Of course, we've faced challenges too. Inflation continues to increase the cost of doing business, and we're working hard to balance the needs of our diverse community. These challenges remind us why it's so important to keep building for a stronger, more sustainable future.

I want to sincerely thank our incredible staff for their hard work, Council for their leadership, and all of you for your ongoing support and input. Together, we're shaping a community we can all be proud of. Here's to an exciting 2025!

Sincerely,  
*Kay Spiess*

## COUNCIL ADVOCACY

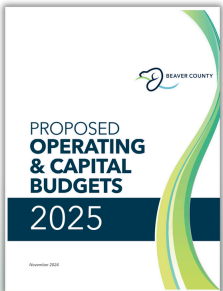
While Administration drives progress on the Corporate Business Plan, Council has been advocating for Beaver County at regional and provincial levels. In 2024, their efforts focused on:

- **Infrastructure & Transportation:** Road improvements (Highways 870, 834, and 854), bridge funding, and wastewater upgrades like the Kinsella lift station.
- **Emergency Services & Safety:** Securing funding for rural emergency services and addressing RCMP staffing shortages.
- **Healthcare & Social Services:** Tackling rural healthcare staffing shortages, recruiting nurse practitioners, and enhancing mental health resources.
- **Agriculture & Education:** Stable funding for agricultural programs, wetland restoration projects, rural school support, and library funding.
- **Economic Development & Utilities:** Advocating for fair assessment models, sustainable utility costs, and infrastructure grants to drive business growth.

To strengthen these efforts, Council has engaged a lobby group to amplify the County's voice on these critical issues.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

The County operates under the guidance of its Vision, Strategic Goals, and Corporate Business Plan - all established by Council.



2025 Budget  
Binder



Corporate Plan

Head to [www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca) and look for the Government Menu. Or scan this QR code:



## Mailing list

Get news, meeting highlights, the road construction schedule, the Chronicle, and more - direct to your inbox! Sign up by scanning the QR Code!



# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

The highlights below showcase how Beaver County has worked to enhance life in our community. From visible services like snow removal, road repairs, development support, and recreation programs to behind-the-scenes efforts like strategic budgeting, technology upgrades, and staff training, every initiative plays a role in keeping the County running smoothly and efficiently.

These efforts highlight our focus on addressing residents' everyday needs while preparing for long-term growth and sustainability.

This information has been taken from our **2025 Budget Binder**, for more in-depth information find the binder on our website ([www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca)) in the **Financials** section, under the **Government** Menu.



COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER PROGRAM RE-ESTABLISHED

Maintain **1,628** MILES OF ROAD

OPERATION OF **TWO** CAMPGROUNDS

**\$500k+**  
FUNDING PROVIDED FOR AG SOCIETIES, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND COMMUNITY HALLS.

**3** PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS  
2 In Person  
1 Online

**8** GRANTS RECEIVED AND ADMINISTERED

**16** DRAINAGE LICENSES

**500** MILES OF GRAVEL APPLIED

HEALTH & SAFETY AUDIT

Herbicide application on **2000** miles of County roadsides

PARTICIPATE ANNUALLY IN LOCAL PARADES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

**32** COUNCIL AND GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ROADSIDE MOWING **1400** + MILES

**252** SAFETY CODES PERMITS ISSUED BY CONTRACTED SERVICE.

Maintenance and repairs of approx. **150** units  
FLEET MANAGEMENT

**83** DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS PROCESSED

INTERMUNICIPAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS MEETINGS **87**  
**3** HR TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING SESSIONS

WEED AND PEST MANAGEMENT

**5,000** ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TRANSACTIONS

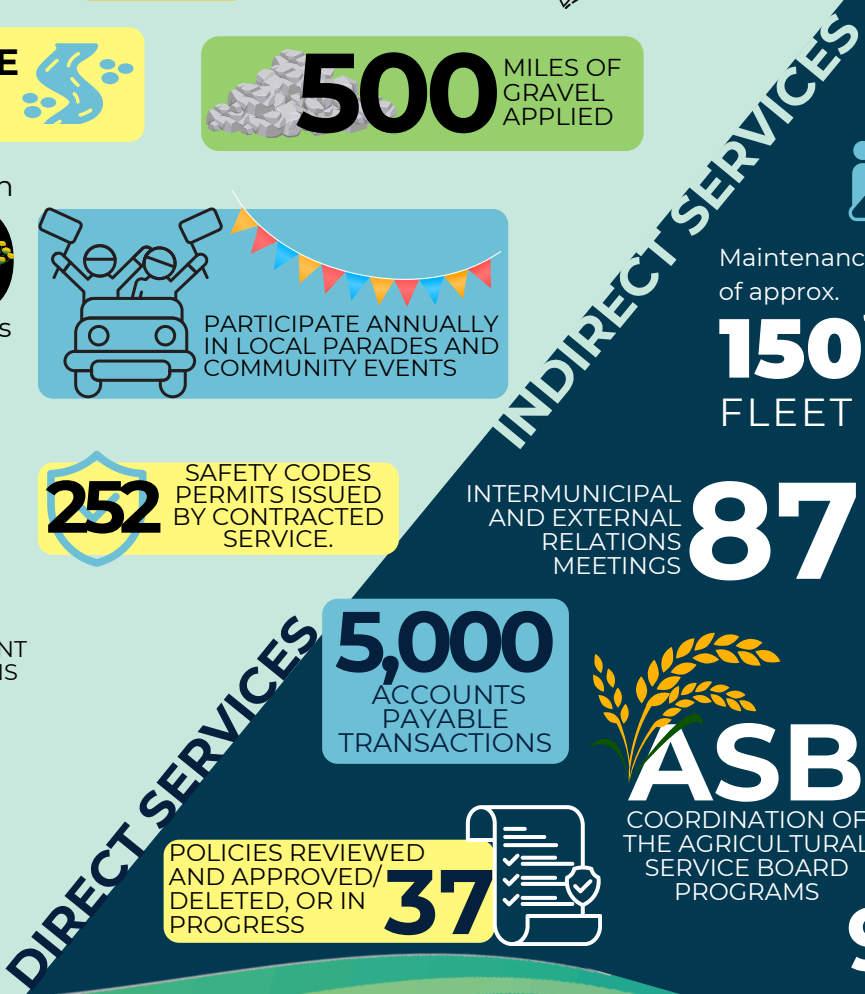
**ASB**  
COORDINATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD PROGRAMS

NEW OR ACTIVE BYLAWS REVIEWED/UPDATED **14**

POLICIES REVIEWED AND APPROVED/DELETED, OR IN PROGRESS **37**

**4** PUBLIC HEARINGS

**97%** TAX COLLECTION RATE



## THE BRIGHT SIDE OF 2024...

Beaver County has made great progress in key service areas that enhance quality of life for residents:

- **CPO Program:** *The return of the Community Peace Officer program reinforces safety and bylaw enforcement with a visible presence in our communities.*
- **Gravel Haul Program:** *Bringing the hauling program in house to increase quality control, health and safety liabilities and reduce costs.*
- **Roadside Mowing:** *Prioritizing roadside mowing to enhance quality control, safety, and reduce costs.*
- **Cementing Projects:** *Ongoing cementing projects stabilize infrastructure, cut future maintenance costs, and strengthen high-traffic areas.*



## WHERE WE'RE FEELING THE PINCH...

While progress is being made, a few challenges require thoughtful solutions:

- **Water:**
  - **Water for Growth:** *Access to water remains a hurdle for supporting growth. We're exploring our options to improve availability for residents and businesses.*
  - **Surface Water and Illegal Drainage:** *Managing surface water and illegal drainage is critical for property owners and the environment. Enhanced monitoring and education efforts are underway.*
- **Aging Infrastructure:**
  - **143 Bridge Structures:** *With many of the County's bridge structures requiring maintenance, we're implementing an in-house inspection program to streamline repairs and save costs.*
  - **Campground Planning:** *Long-term upgrades for County campgrounds are in development to ensure these spaces remain valuable community assets.*
- **Neighbour-to-Neighbour Disputes:** *Mediation services are now available through a new partnership to help resolve resident disputes amicably.*

## ANNUAL PRIORITIES

At the beginning of 2024, Council set clear priorities for Administration to tackle. Many of these align with our four-year Corporate Business Plan, while others address emerging needs within the County.

### Highlights include:

- ✓ **Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan Amendment Project:** Completed in December 2024.
- ✓ **Equity Industrial Park Area Structure Plan:** Completed.
- ✓ **Public Engagement:** Completed.
- **Community Standards Bylaw:** Scheduled for Council review in early spring.
- **Campground and Road Strategies:** Scheduled for Council review in early spring.
- **Policy and Bylaw Reviews:** 98 policies completed across 2023-2024. Bylaw review initiated in 2024.
- **Multi-year Projects in Progress:** Economic development, ERP implementation, water viability, surface water management, and recreation shared services.



Council will set annual priorities for 2025 at the start of the year, providing clear direction for Administration's focus and initiatives throughout the year.

# 2025 BUDGET LOOKING AHEAD...

The 2025 Budget was approved by Council at the December 18, 2024, Council Meeting.

The Interim Operating Budget has total expenditures of \$22,891,634. The Final Operating Budget will be presented to Council, in the spring of 2025.

The 2025 Capital Budget was approved with total expenditures of \$11,292,198.

Infrastructure accounts for 93% of the Capital Budget, with the remaining 7% split between Agriculture, Recreation, and Financial Services.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR TAX BILL

The Interim Operating Budget requires \$14.9 Mil from the tax levy, and the Capital Budget needs \$1.5 Mil. This may change when Property Assessment is finalized in the Spring, but for now we are estimating a total of \$16.5 Mil from taxes. What does this look like for the average household?

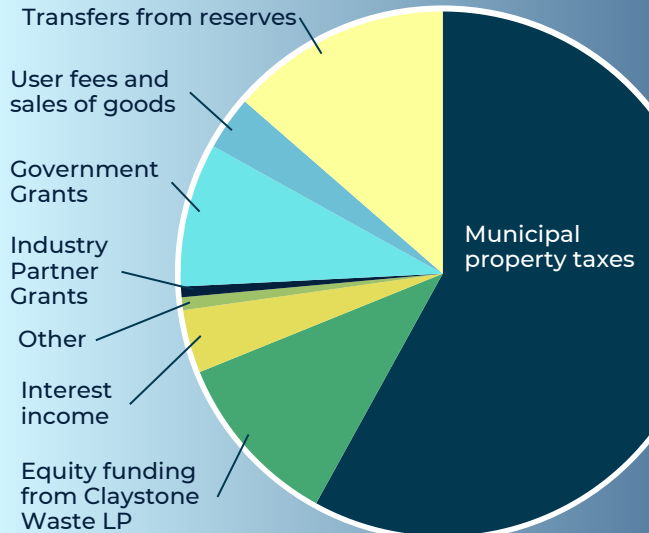


A residential property with an average assessment of \$360,540 will pay about \$161/month in municipal taxes, including Beaver Emergency Services Commission and policing.



Farmland with an average assessment of \$21,000 will pay about \$32/month in municipal taxes, including Beaver Emergency Services Commission and policing.

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

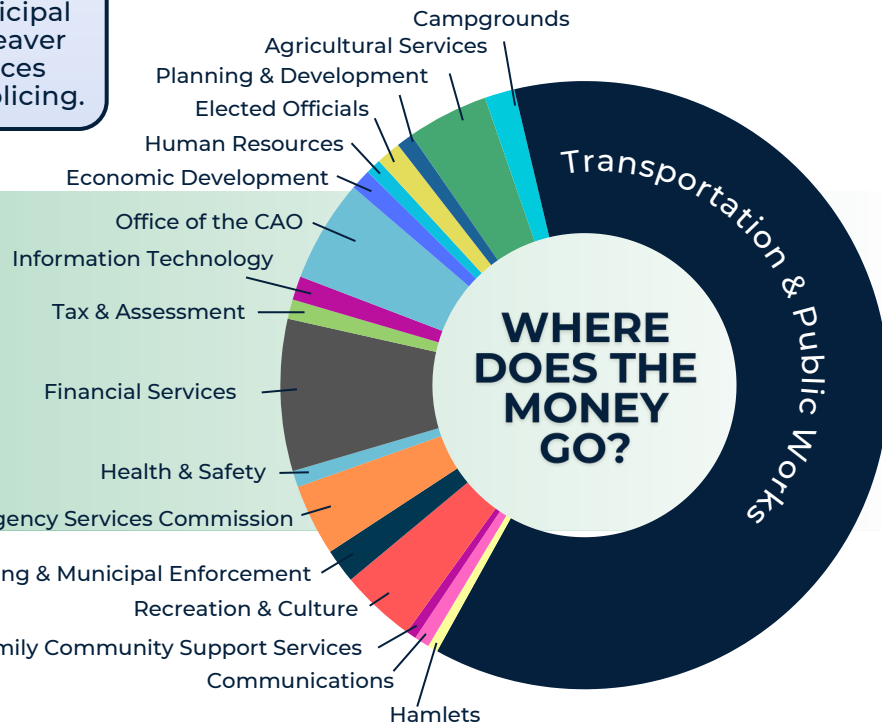


### Property Tax Calculator

You can now estimate taxes for individual properties using the Property Tax Calculator on the website.

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Operating expenses are essential to delivering programs and services throughout Beaver County, with the majority of the budget allocated to transportation and public works. As a large county with over 2,620 KM's of roads to maintain, these services are critical to keeping our community connected.



Find us online...  
beaver.ab.ca



BEAVER COUNTY