



City of Moose Jaw

COMMUNICATION # CC-2019-0179

TITLE: Budget and City Services Survey Results

TO: City Council

FROM: Communications Manager

DATE: September 13, 2019

PUBLIC: PUBLIC DOCUMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report dated September 13, 2019 from the Communications Manager regarding the Budget and City Services Survey Results be received and filed.

TOPIC AND PURPOSE

The topic of this report is to provide City Council with results of the recent Budget and City Services survey, which engaged local residents. The survey information is provided as part of the City of Moose Jaw's Budget preparation process.

BACKGROUND

The Budget and City Services Survey is part of an overall Budget Policy that was recently adopted by Moose Jaw City Council. The primary guiding principles of the policy include:

- The City will live within our means.
- Only budget for what can be completed in a year.
- Infrastructure that increases productivity, efficiency and effectiveness should be favoured when investing infrastructure dollars.
- The City can borrow from reserves where it makes sense, ie: water meter replacement program, and payback the borrowing over seven to 10 years with interest at institutional investing rates.
- The City should focus on completing one major study at a time.
- Innovation and effective use of funds is a priority.
- Reduce the reliance on outside expertise where possible.
- Centralize functions and refine core services.
- City Administration will carefully scrutinize every budget item prior to submission to City Council.

The Budgeting Policy also sets out a timeline for budget planning and deliberations with a goal of having the budget approved by December 20th of the previous year.

DISCUSSION

- The Budget and City Services survey was released to the public on August 16, 2019 and was open for responses through September 6, 2019.
- 211 respondents completed the survey.
- The survey contained 12 questions, written by the Director of Financial Services and City Manager related to City Finances.
- Questions, and results, are attached to this report in Schedule "A" – Budget Survey.

OPTIONS TO RECOMMENDATION

- Do not receive and file.

PUBLIC AND/OR STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

This was promoted as a public survey which resulted in 211 responses.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The survey was promoted through local media, the City's website and social media channels. Results will be communicated to media and public through a media release plus information released on the City website and social media.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This report supports the long-term strategies of Civic pride and Community wellness and supports the Strategic Goal of Fiscal Management and Accountability.

PRESENTATION

VERBAL: Mr. Craig Hemingway, Communications Manager, will be in attendance to provide a brief overview of the report.

ATTACHMENTS

- i. Schedule "A" – Budget Survey

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Craig Hemingway, Communications Manager
Reviewed by: Tracy Wittke, Assistant City Clerk
Approved by: Jim Puffalt, City Manager
Approved by: Fraser Tolmie, Mayor

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

We thank the public for completing the survey and based upon the survey, most of the respondents agree with Council's direction to:

- maintain services with a modest property tax increase or expand programs where necessary – 82%
- develop a dedicated pavement rehabilitation infrastructure Levy – 54%
- continue to support the current level or increase funding for protective services – 79%

To be completed by the Clerk's Department only.

Presented to Regular Council or Executive Committee on _____.

No. _____ Resolution No. _____

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Budget and City Services Survey Results - CC-2019-0179.docx
Attachments:	- Schedule A Budget Survey.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 16, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Tracy Wittke



Jim Puffalt



Fraser Tolmie