

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes
Minutes
Budget Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2025
9:00 A.M.
Council Chambers
City Hall
26 Francis Street, Lindsay, Ontario K9V 5R8

Members:
Deputy Mayor Charlie McDonald
Councillor Tracy Richardson
Councillor Dan Joyce
Councillor Pat Warren

1. Call to Order

The Budget Committee Meeting of October 8, 2025 will continue on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to complete the review of the Draft 2026 Tax Supported Budgets for the City of Kawartha Lakes should additional time be required.

Chair Deputy Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Budget Committee members T. Richardson, D. Joyce, and P. Warren were in attendance.

CAO R. Taylor, Director of Corporate Services S. Beukeboom, Director of Engineering and Corporate Assets J. Rojas, Manager of Corporate Assets A. Found, Director of Community Services J. Johnson, Director of Development Services L. Barrie, Paramedics Chief S. Johnston, Fire Chief T. Jones, Manager of Fleet and Transit R. Porter, Supervisor of Budget and Financial Planning J. Hood, and Executive Assistant to Mayor and Council C. Ellison were also in attendance in Chambers. City Solicitor R. Carlson, Library CEO J. Anderson and Executive Assistant to Engineering and Corporate Assets L. Peimann attended via Zoom.

The meeting recessed at 11:08 a.m. and resumed on Thursday, October 9th at 9:00 a.m.

2. Administrative Business

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

The Chair noted that item 4.1.1 would be discussed on Thursday to allow for further information to be presented.

BC2025-44

Moved By Councillor Richardson

Seconded By Councillor Joyce

That the Agenda for the Budget Committee Meeting of Wednesday, October 8, 2025, be adopted as amended.

Carried

2.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest disclosed.

2.3 Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meeting

BC2025-45**Moved By** Councillor Warren**Seconded By** Councillor Joyce

That the Minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting of Monday, October 6, 2025, be received and adopted.

Carried**3. Deputations**

There were no deputations.

4. New Business**4.1 BC2025-08.4.1****Overview of the Current State of the Draft 2026 Budgets**

Jessica Hood, Supervisor of Budget and Financial Planning

Supervisor Hood provided an overview of the current state of the Proposed Operating Budget. She noted that a number of realignments of certain budget items have been moved to Corporate Items, rather than being distributed across divisional budgets, including some of the reserve transfers and transfers to External Agencies and Community Donations, as well as cell phone costs. Corporate Items was noted as one of several budget areas that falls under Administration costs (others include the Mayor and Council budget, the CAO Departmental budget and Corporate Services). She also provided some comparison data from Peterborough County and Chatham-Kent regarding revenue streams, noting that the City relies less on tax revenues than Peterborough County and more on grant funding.

In terms of changes to the Operating Budget, she noted that since the Proposed Budget was presented in mid-September, there have already been over \$400K in savings found, but that there are still more refinements to be made. A Budget Strategy was presented to achieve what was in the Long-Term Financial Plan, which is 5% + 2% Capital Levy. The strategy includes refining forecasting on grants, interest income, consulting and material expenses and new growth assessments. The largest improvements would be found through 'innovation and efficiency'. She also noted that this strategy does not address some of the area-rated services which remain out of alignment with the current mandate: the Police Services increase of 10.16% and the Transit increase of 24.92%; the OPP 2026 rates are also unknown at this time.

Director Beukeboom also provided some supplementary information to address some of the questions that had been asked in previous meetings, but were unanswered at the time. The discussion centered on wage growth and comparisons with other municipalities. The Director noted that because variance reporting is not standardized, it is difficult to get true comparative data, but that this is something the City would look to better understand in future.

BC2025-46**Moved By** Councillor Warren**Seconded By** Councillor Richardson

That the 2026 Operating Budget Update presentation and Supplementary Information be received.

Carried

Note Item 4.1.1 **Review of the Draft Water-Wastewater Budget** is moved to the end of the agenda.

4.1.2 BC2025-08.4.1.2

Review of the Draft 2026 Special Projects Budget

Sara Beukeboom, Director of Corporate Services

Adam Found, Manager of Corporate Assets

Manager Found updated the Committee with a strategy to reduce the proposed 2026 draw on the Special Projects Reserve by approximately \$936K as per the earlier resolution made by the Committee to reduce the draw on that reserve to \$4M or less. To achieve this, the following changes would be made to the Draft 2026 Special Projects Budget:

- The second installment for the Stormwater Master Plan would be deferred to 2027, reducing the Special Projects Reserve draw by \$125K (which is the amount ineligible for recovery by Development Charges); and
- The Airport Capital Plan will be included in the contract with the firm that will operate the Airport, reducing the Special Projects Reserve draw by \$139K; and
- The Solid Waste Capital Needs Assessment would be deferred to 2027, reducing the reducing the Special Projects Reserve draw by \$206K; and

- The Source-Separated Organics Plan would be deferred to 2027, but will come forth as an Advanced Approval project next year, reducing the Special Projects Reserve draw by \$283K; and
- The Integrated Waste Management Strategy Implementation Plan would be deferred to 2027, a reduction of \$82K to the Special Projects Reserve draw; and
- The growth-unrelated share of the Kawartha Lakes Police Services Strategic Plan would be re-assigned to the Area Rate Stabilization Reserve (where it should originally have been placed) reducing the Special Projects Reserve draw by \$51.5K; and
- The Economic Development Manufacturing Asset Map and Action Plan would be deferred to 2027, with its Economic Development Reserve funding reallocated to the Downtown Revitalization Project, reducing the Special Projects Reserve draw by \$50,000.

BC2025-47**Moved By** Councillor Richardson**Seconded By** Councillor Joyce

That the 2026 Proposed Special Projects Budget be recommended to the Mayor as amended through the staff proposal.

Carried

The Chair continued to a discussion of item 4.1.4, the **Review of the Draft 2026 Tax-Supported Capital Budget**.

4.1.4 BC2025-08.4.1.4**Review of the Draft 2026 Tax-Supported Capital Budget**

Juan Rojas, Director of Engineering and Corporate Assets

Adam Found, Manager of Corporate Assets

Manager Found spoke to the Proposed 2026 Tax-Supported Capital Budget and noted that there were two projects that were omitted from the draft budget provided to the Committee, both from the Multiyear Capital Projects program. The first is Omemee Service Centre and Coronation Hall Envelope project, which is a multi-year project over 2025 and 2026 whose second installment of \$460K should have been included for 2026, but is fully debentured and thus will not impact the 2026 tax levy. The second is the Ambulance and Equipment

acquisition project, which is a multiyear project over 2025 and 2026 who second installment of \$435K should have been included in 2026, but is fully funded by Development Charges and thus will not impact the 2026 tax levy.

Manager Found noted a third and final amendment, that being reassignment of the \$65K expenditure for the By-Law Enforcement SUV from the Public Works Fleet Reserve to the Short-Term Rental Reserve, recognizing the vehicle will be dedicated to enforcement of the By-Law relating to the rental of short-term accommodations. To the extent this revision results in a corresponding reduction in the transfer to Public Works Fleet Reserve, as provided for by the Draft 2026 Tax-Supported Operating Budget, this will reduce pressure on the 2026 levy.

The Committee was not prepared to make a motion at this time and moved to a discussion of item 4.1.3, the **Review of the Draft 2026 Operating Budget**.

4.1.3 BC2025-08.4.1.3

Review of the Draft 2026 Operating Budget

Sara Beukeboom, Director of Corporate Services

Director Beukeboom took the Committee through the Budget Strategy again and explained that staff would be refining the transfer to Special Projects reserve line, looking to reduce that amount even further. Staff will also be going back to review ways to reduce the total budget to be in line with the 5% that is in the Long-Term Financial Plan, but she noted that the Committee could still direct staff to find further efficiencies.

The Director reiterated that the Police Services cost is not within the targeted increases and that it remains an additional pressure on the budget. She recommended that the Police Services Board be contacted to request a reduction, or that the Committee or Mayor may wish to consider a separate levy again as the City did for 2025. The OPP costs remain unknown currently, but would likely be known by deliberations at the end of November and would be addressed through the Mayor at that time.

BC2025-48

Moved By Councillor Joyce

Seconded By Councillor Richardson

That the Budget Strategy proposed by staff be amended to reflect an increase on the Innovation and Efficiency line of \$1,875,000, to a total \$5,875,000 in order to achieve a 3.75% increase.

Carried

BC2025-49

Moved By Councillor Richardson

Seconded By Councillor Joyce

That the **2026 Tax-Supported Capital Budget** be recommended to the Mayor as amended by staff.

Carried

BC2025-50

Moved By Councillor Joyce

Seconded By Councillor Richardson

That the **Draft 2026 Operating Budget** be recommended to the Mayor as amended through the Budget Strategy to achieve a 3.75% increase.

Carried

The Meeting recessed until Thursday, October 9, 2026. The Chair reconvened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the remaining item on the agenda.

4.1.1 BC2025-08.4.1.1

Review of the Draft 2026 Water and Wastewater Budget

Juan Rojas, Director of Engineering and Corporate Assets

Adam Found, Manager of Corporate Assets

Director Beukeboom gave an overview of the Water-Wastewater Operations Budget. This budget is specific to the users of the systems and always balances to 0. She noted that this budget supports 21 Water systems and 7 Wastewater systems across the City. There is a Water-Wastewater rate study coming forth to Council from the City's consultants regarding the long-term plan for rates, but the understanding is that the recommendation coming from that plan is a 4% increase (up from 3%).

Manager Found provided a brief summary of the Water-Wastewater Capital Budget, which was presented on Monday, October 6 and had not changed.

BC2025-51

Moved By Councillor Joyce

Seconded By Councillor Richardson

That the Draft 2026 Water-Wastewater Budget be recommended to the Mayor as printed.

Carried

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment

The Chair thanked staff and the committee for the work on the budgets to-date. He referenced the various pressures the City is facing, including inflationary costs, mandatory training requirements, and as-yet unknown pressures from the Ice Storm and Wildfires, and congratulated everyone for achieving a recommendation of 3.75% Operating increase and a 2% Capital levy, which will continue to address the City's infrastructure needs.

BC2025-52

Moved By Councillor Warren

Seconded By Councillor Richardson

That the Meeting adjourn on Thursday October 9th at 9:21 a.m.

Carried