

2024 BUDGET REPORT



Highlights



9,927
people



4,472
parcels



Average assessment value
of a single family home
\$333,300



21
playgrounds in
Whitecourt



Region offers
420km of groomed
snowmobile trails



50km
of trails in town for
walking, biking, etc.



3,378 people
participated in Family
Support Programs in 2023



over **7,100** Whitecourt
Facebook Followers



Town of Whitecourt
2024 Operating and
Capital Budget totals
\$100,387,234

The Town of Whitecourt recognizes the ongoing support of the Government of Canada and Province of Alberta through the following grant programs: Alberta Children's Services, Alberta Community Partnership Program, Alberta FCSS Grant Program, Alberta Municipal Water Wastewater Partnership, Build Canada Small Communities Fund, Canada Community Building Fund, Canada Summer Jobs Program, Disaster Relief Program, Fire Services Training Program, FRIAA FireSmart Programs, Infrastructure Canada Active Transportation Fund, Infrastructure Canada Investment Program, Local Government Fiscal Framework Program, Municipal Sustainability Initiative, Policing Support Grant, Supporting Psychological Health in First Responders Program and the United Way, Alberta Community Justice, and Canada Community Revitalization Fund.

Alberta

Canada

Council & Administration



From left to right:
Mayor Tom Pickard, Councillor Tara Baker, Councillor Bill McAree, Councillor Braden Lanctot,
Councillor Paul Chauvet, Councillor Derek Schlosser and Councillor Serena Lapointe.

Mayor's Message:

Preparing and adopting the municipal budget involves balancing current economics and its impact to residents; the community's needs and expectations for services; and growth. Council has been mindful of all of these factors throughout the development of the budget, and has allocated funds according to priorities outlined in Whitecourt's strategic plan, and our commitment to maintain services and improve quality of life. Despite being faced with rising inflation costs, reductions in provincial funding, and federal carbon tax increases, Whitecourt continues to have one of the most competitive tax rates in our region.

Whitecourt is and will continue to be a leader in program and service delivery. We are known as a "small town" with "big city" amenities, and it's our commitment to enhancing quality of life that will continue to attract new residents and investment

in our community. One of the biggest capital investments budgeted for this year is the Culture & Events Centre. For 15 years, our community has been researching, discussing and planning for this facility. Similar to what the Allan & Jean Millar Centre has done for our community, the Culture & Events Centre will play an essential role in helping our community connect and learn, enhancing our community's quality of life, and driving economic development and investment attraction.

Whitecourt Town Council actively works to engage the community in the budget process, and this budget was developed with your help and input. I encourage you to contact me or other members of Council at any time to talk about Whitecourt, our goals, achievements and services.

Tom Pickard, Mayor

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Vision: To create a vibrant community with endless opportunities where all aspects of life are enjoyed.



Taxation & Assessment

The 2024 Budget, which totals \$100,387,234 includes many exciting projects and services that will enhance the community's quality of life.

In consideration of current economics in our province and throughout the country, Town Council created a budget that requires a 3.77% municipal tax change.

For every dollar of taxation:

- **\$0.75** is allocated to municipal operations/projects
- **\$0.23** is allocated to schools
- **\$0.02** is allocated to the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation for seniors and affordable housing

There are three parts to the Property Tax:

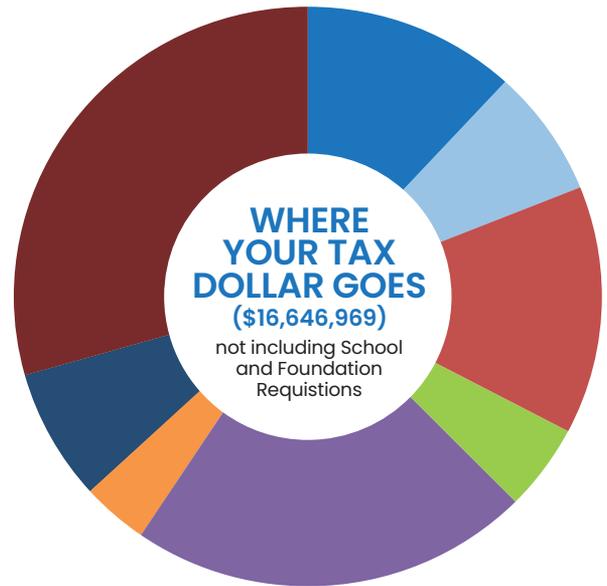
- **General Municipal Mill Rate** – This rate is set by the Town of Whitecourt and this portion of your property taxes is used to fund municipal services and programs.
- **Education Requisition** – This rate is set by the Alberta School Foundation on behalf of the Alberta Government and this portion of your property taxes is directed to the Province to provide educational services.
- **Seniors/Affordable Housing Requisition** – This rate is set by the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation and this portion of your property taxes is directed to operate local seniors and affordable housing facilities.

Tax Rates are calculated using the following formula:

Assessed Property Value x Total Mill Rate/1000 = Total Property Tax

You can expect to receive your Town of Whitecourt Tax Notices in mid-May. If you have questions on your tax notice, feel free to contact the Tax Clerk at 780-778-2273.

PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024.

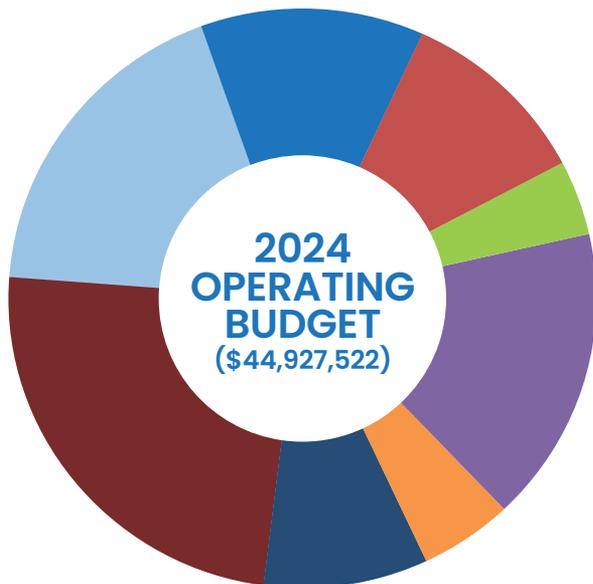


Administration	\$0.12
Legislative & Other General Government	\$0.07
Police, Bylaw & Safety	\$0.14
Fire Protection	\$0.05
Roads, Cemetery, Storm & Fleet Services	\$0.22
Community Support & Transit	\$0.04
Land, Planning & Development	\$0.07
Recreation, Parks & Culture	\$0.29

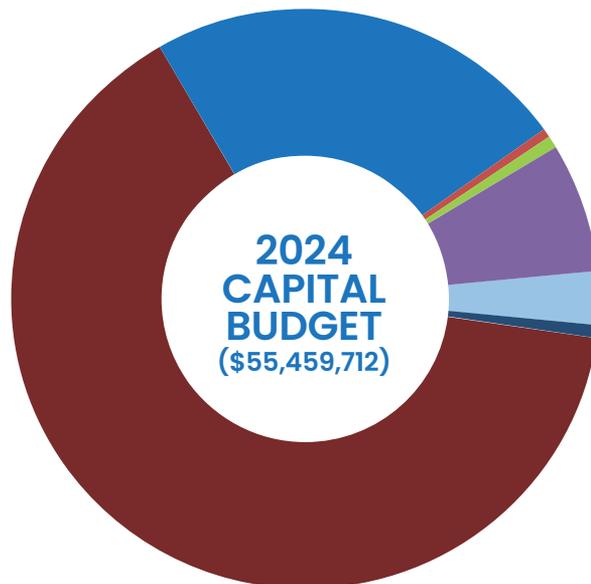


The operating budget reflects the day-to-day costs of delivering programs and services for the next year. These costs are similar to your everyday household expenses, such as mortgage payments, utilities or groceries.

The capital budget includes costs for construction and repair of roads, public buildings, recreation facilities and parks, and other major infrastructure projects. In relation to a household budget, these costs are similar to adding an addition to your home.



Administration	12.0%
Police, Bylaw & Safety	12.5%
Fire Protection	4.6%
Roads, Cemetery, Storm & Fleet Services	16.4%
Community Support & Transit	4.8%
Land, Planning & Development	8.8%
Recreation, Parks & Culture	23.9%
Utilities (Water, Wastewater & Waste)	17.0%



Administration	23.6%
Police, Bylaw & Safety	0.4%
Fire Protection	0.7%
Roads, Cemetery, Storm & Fleet Services	7.2%
Utilities (Water, Wastewater & Waste)	2.9%
Land, Planning & Development	0.7%
Recreation, Parks & Culture	64.5%

2024 TAX RATES:

	Residential	Non-Residential
Municipal Tax Rate	6.6857	11.3502
Education Tax Rate	2.5631	3.6622
Seniors Tax Rate	0.2487	0.2487
Total	9.4975	15.2611
Designated Industrial Property	0.0000	0.0765

If your house is assessed at

\$333,300

you can expect to pay:

\$2,228.34	General Municipal Taxes
\$854.28	Education Requisition
\$82.89	Seniors Requisition
\$3,165.51	2024 Property Tax Total

Infrastructure

REVENUES
\$16,939,901

EXPENDITURES
\$20,612,226

BALANCE FROM
TAXATION
\$3,672,325

\$0.22 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION

Sound infrastructure is not only key to providing essential services, but is also critical to sustaining our community's high quality of life and economic prosperity. As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining and growing our local infrastructure, \$20,612,226 has been budgeted this year for utilities, roads, cemetery, fleet, and open spaces maintenance.

2024 Priorities and Projects:

Capital

- Phase 1 and 2 of the Centennial Park Pathway Improvements Project involves approximately 1,300m of pathway surface and drainage upgrades on the west side of the Park (from Sakwatamau Drive to the 47 Street Park entrance), as well as the installation of root barriers along the edge of the pathway to mitigate future damage. \$1,347,131
- Completion of access and extension into Festival Park, with lighting, lane markings and landscaping. \$1,326,871.
- Street Improvement Program
 - Street overlays; sidewalk and drainage maintenance (funded by the Canada Community Building Fund, Local Government Fiscal Framework, Municipal Sustainability Capital Initiatives Grants and Reserves) \$945,526

Operating

- Continued educational and promotional activities to encourage recycling with the goal of diverting waste from the Landfill.
- Continue to promote the incentive and education program for businesses to reduce the percentage of inorganic and inert materials (ex. grease, oil) from entering the wastewater collection system.
- Continuation of the Free Clean Up Week (May 22-25, 2024) and Take It or Leave It Campaign (May 18-19, 2024).

DID
YOU
KNOW?

- **1,224,151** cubic metres of water was consumed in 2023.
- Over **1.25 million** cubic metres of wastewater was treated in 2023.
- There are over **133** lane kilometres of paved road in Whitecourt.

PHASE 1 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CENTENNIAL PARK PATHWAY SCHEDULED TO START SPRING 2024

Over the next three years, Whitecourt will be completing an extensive rehabilitation project on the paved pathways in Centennial Park. The project will begin on the west side of the Park (between Sakwatamau Drive and the 47 Street Park entrance).

The Centennial Park pathway, which was originally paved in 2010, is the largest single component the Whitecourt trail system. It connects the Hilltop residential area with a number of recreational features, including the Forest Interpretive Centre, Allan & Jean Millar Centre, and Whitecourt Mountain Bike Park. Over the course of three phases, the project will undertake:

- Rehabilitation of 5km of paved surface;
- Drainage improvements;
- Widening of the pathway to 3m to meet the multi-use trail standard.

All three phases are anticipated to be completed by 2026, and the entire project is valued at \$1.9 million. Whitecourt has secured \$1.1 million in funding through Infrastructure Canada's Active Transportation Fund.

E- Construction has been awarded the contract to complete the project.



Economic Development & Planning



REVENUES
\$3,092,989

EXPENDITURES
\$4,309,456

BALANCE FROM
TAXATION
\$1,216,467

\$0.07 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION

Whitecourt's economic development and planning team supports local start-ups and entrepreneurs; attracts new businesses and visitors; guides development in the community; and, raises the profile of our community on a national and international level. Whitecourt's economic health is fundamental to the success of all other initiatives in our community and, as reflected in the 2024 budget, Council continues to prioritize these efforts.

- The value of permits issued in 2023 was over **\$13 million**.
- Whitecourt currently has **728** local businesses.
- **231** business visits were completed to engage local businesses, welcome new ones, and support employers' workforce needs.

DID
YOU
KNOW?

2024 Priorities and Projects:

Operating

- Complete the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review, along with review of the North Flats Area Structure Plan.
- Complete the Joint Use and Planning Agreements with school boards that will outline the long term planning and use of school sites in Whitecourt, as well as the reciprocal use and maintenance of school and municipal facilities (i.e. play fields).
- Initiate the Off-Site Levy Bylaw review (conducted every 5 years).
- Continue the Tourism Enhancement, Tourism Product Development, Whitecourt Launch, Sports Hosting and Vitalization Grant Programs.
- Continue to promote and market our community to prospective investors to encourage development and growth, and the overall retention of businesses within our region.



Community Safety

REVENUES
\$5,205,761

EXPENDITURES
\$8,306,560

BALANCE FROM
TAXATION
\$3,100,799

\$0.19 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION

A high quality of life is created when a community is inclusive, healthy and safe. It is a priority to keep our community safe, and Whitecourt is proud of the protective services provided to our residents. Members of the local RCMP, Whitecourt Fire Department and Municipal Enforcement provide high quality and integrated services to our community.

2024 Priorities and Projects:

Capital

- Replacement of fire command and municipal enforcement vehicles. \$157,000
- Completion of interpretive signage at the Athabasca River Erosion Project. \$16,000

Operating

- Undertake FireSmart vegetation management activities.
- Continued fire prevention and education.
- Continued training for our Fire Department, including: 1006 Level 1 and 2 vehicle extrication, Advanced First Aid re-certifications, Critical Incident Stress Management & Peer Training, Live Fire Instruction, and UTV/ATV training.
- Continue to focus on crime prevention, emphasizing Citizens on Patrol and programs such as Block Party Program, Community Crosswalk Grant Program, RISK Program, and fraud prevention.
- Complete implementation of new electronic ticketing software for municipal enforcement.
- Complete Municipal Health & Safety Plan review and update.



- The Whitecourt Fire Department responded to **395** calls in 2023.
- The Whitecourt Fire Department logged **14,442** member hours in 2023, a 36% increase from the previous year.
- Whitecourt Municipal Enforcement logged **162** calls for service in 2023, and 1,772 activities were logged.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

BE PREPARED

Similar to other municipalities across the province, the Town of Whitecourt is preparing for an early wildfire season in 2024.

What are we doing to prepare?

- Conducting a full-scale emergency exercise with Whitecourt staff and community stakeholder involvement.
- Continuing with FireSmart vegetation management activities to mitigate the wildfire risk in the community.
- Continuing public education and awareness initiatives to property owners on FireSmart principles and best practices.
- Continuing to liaise with Alberta Wildfire representatives and regional stakeholders in the region.

Are you and your family prepared for an emergency?

It is critical that the public be prepared for emergencies in order to handle the challenges that our community may face in the event of an emergency.

- Every family should have an emergency kit that includes water, food, blankets, medications, a radio, and any other specific family needs. For further information, visit the Whitecourt website.

How will Whitecourt communicate with the public in the event of an emergency?

- www.whitecourt.ca is your number one source for up-to-date information.
- Follow [@townofwhitecourt](https://www.facebook.com/townofwhitecourt) on Facebook and Instagram.
- Download the **Alberta Emergency Alert app**.
- Listen to local radio stations for updates and information during an emergency.
- Download the **"Loop for Municipalities 2"** App and turn on notifications.

Community Support Services



REVENUES
\$1,560,942

EXPENDITURES
\$2,168,763

BALANCE FROM
TAXATION
\$607,821

\$0.04 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION

We believe the most valuable resource in Whitecourt is the people. Services and programs offered in our community contribute to and support the overall health of all members of your family. Whether it's providing transportation to and from appointments, hosting wellness information sessions, or offering events that allow you to reconnect with friends – we are committed to building a health community.

2024 Priorities and Projects:

Operating

- Continuation of the agreement with the Province to provide diversion services for school aged children and families from Valleyview to Onoway through the Family Support Program.
- Continuation of Whitecourt Transit service with half-hour pickups during morning and afternoon peak times.
- Continuation of Dial-A-Bus service on weekdays for individuals that meet program criteria, and administration of the Transportation Grant Program available to seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Continuation of seniors programming and support.
- Continuation of the Doors Open program, a youth afterschool program for grades 6-12 and expand the program to include PD Day excursions.
- Support to the Youth Advisory Committee which acts as a liaison between Town Council and Whitecourt youth to ensure needs of this demographic are met. There are 10 youth members on this committee.
- Enhance volunteer week by adding a Board Training workshop.
- Host a Youth Week to recognize teens, and provide additional activities for teens in the community.



DID
YOU
KNOW?

- **1,930** people were served by the Whitecourt Food Bank in 2023.
- **35,468** Whitecourt Public Transit rides were taken in 2023.

Recreation, Parks and Culture

REVENUES
\$41,655,264

EXPENDITURES
\$46,492,268

BALANCE FROM
TAXATION
\$4,837,004

\$0.29 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION

High quality recreation facilities are essential to making communities great places to live – and invest in. Not only do the leisure and cultural facilities and programs offered in Whitecourt provide opportunities for community members to stay active, they also attract businesses and industries to locate in the region, and motivate workers and families to stay or relocate here. The Town of Whitecourt will continue to invest in and provide leadership for recreational and cultural development within our community.

2024 Priorities and Projects:

Capital

- Begin construction in the summer of 2024 on the Culture & Events Centre. \$35,021,798
- Complete roof maintenance at the McLeod Arena in JDA Place. \$210,000
- Purchase pool controller and repair spray features at the Pembina Gas Infrastructure Aquatic Centre. \$97,000
- Replacement of Wedow Park and Graham Acres playgrounds. \$133,000
- Resurfacing and improvements to the basketball courts at JDA Place. \$40,000
- Complete landscaping of the Jumbo Jumper feature in Festival Park. \$16,000
- Partner with the Whitecourt Mountain Bike Association to improve access to the Park. \$100,000
- Replacement, repair and maintenance of items at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre as per the life cycle plan (include HVAC units, score clock, stereo system, tables and chairs, telephones). \$679,849

Operating

- Continued support for the Whitecourt Woodlands Performing Arts Society, and continued partnership with the Society to host cultural events, concerts, and festivals such as Party In The Park.
- Continued support for the Communities in Bloom Committee.
- Operating grant to the Whitecourt & District Public Library.
- Continued operating support to Eastlink Park.
- Continued operating support to the Mountain Bike Park.
- Support the Whitecourt Community Foundation in increasing community contributions to the Whitecourt Community Fund. The fund was established to build and strengthen Whitecourt and the area community. The fund provides grants today and into the future to local charities aimed at improving the quality of life of residents. It will support a wide selection of charitable efforts as the fund grows.



DID
YOU
KNOW?

- In 2023, there were **1,099** registrants for swim classes.
- In 2023, the Allan & Jean Millar Centre logged **184,422** scanned visits.
- In 2023, the Allan & Jean Millar Centre recorded **\$589,253** in membership revenue.



CULTURE & EVENTS CENTRE

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The Culture & Events Centre, valued at \$48,406,364, will revitalize the downtown and enhance arts and culture opportunities for our region. The project is budgeted for in the 2024 Budget; however, construction is still subject to the tender process.

The facility will include:

- Arts, Culture & Convention Centre
- Library
- Town Administration Office

Pending approval, construction is slated to start this summer with a 2-year construction period.

Follow [@CultureandEventsCentre](#) on Facebook.

**SCAN
QR CODE**

To checkout
the website





KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

CONTACT US

TOWN OF WHITECOURT

5004 52 Avenue, Box 509
Whitecourt AB T7S 1N6

Phone: 780-778-2273

Emergency After Hours: 866-477-1221

Email: administration@whitecourt.ca



← DOWNLOAD OUR NEW APP →

Stay up to date with news and events from across the community, view trail maps, and receive important emergency notifications all through our brand new app!

Find us on Instagram at:

- [townofwhitecourt](#)
- [youthofwhitecourt](#)
- [tourismwhitecourt](#)
- [allanjeanmillarcentre](#)
- [whitecourtfire](#)

Find us on Facebook at:

- www.facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt
- www.facebook.com/MillarCentre
- www.facebook.com/WhitecourtFireDepartment
- [www.facebook.com/WhitecourtAreaFamily Support Program](http://www.facebook.com/WhitecourtAreaFamilySupportProgram)
- www.facebook.com/TourismWhitecourt
- www.facebook.com/WhitecourtEcDev