



2025 DRAFT Operating Budget

Presentation to Council Nov. 25th, 2024

Background Information & Assumptions

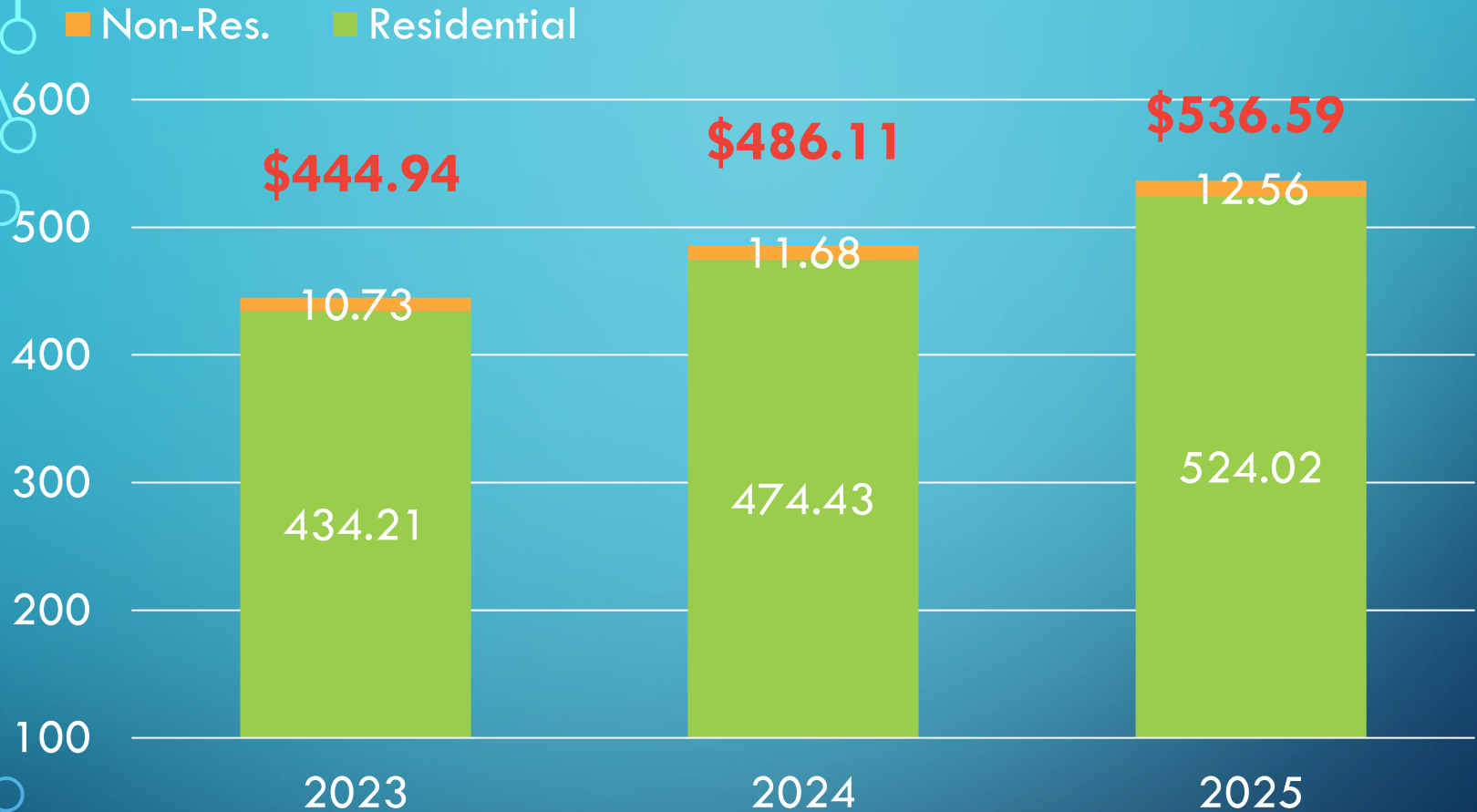
2025 Operating Budget

Next Steps

2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Higher Assessment Base largely covers cost increases
- Avg. 0.28¢ tax increase
- Fire Depts: New firetruck for BVFD, additional funds for all Departments to replace expiring equipment
- Norton Works: Increased allowance for aging equipment & garage heat pump
- Solid Waste hauling and tipping fees reduced for recyclables, but off-set by RSC Corporate Allocation
- Investments in Strategic Plan Initiatives:
Unightly Premises enforcement, Recreation

ASSESSMENT BASE (\$ MILLIONS)



Growth for Valley Waters: **10.38%** (\$50.5 M)

(New construction 1.83%, re-assessment 8.55%)

Compare to Provincial assessment base growth: **8.8%**

TAX BASE

Tax Base = Residential Assessments \$524.02 M
+ Non-Residential Assessments x 1.7 \$21.36 M
Total Valley Waters 2025 Tax Base: \$ 545.38M

Compare to 2024 Tax Base: \$ 494.29M

Yr. over Yr. Tax Base Increase: \$ 51.09M

	Norton (V)	Springfield	Norton (LD)	Kars	Upham	Wickham
Tax Base	115,757,670	210,919,850	50,694,910	84,490,220	17,386,730	66,130,210
% Increase	11.9%	9.5%	5.5%	10.6%	9.3%	10.4%

REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION SERVICES

- New mandates introduced 2023 = additional costs
 - A portion of our Community Funding Grant now re-directed to RSC's (\$20,251 for 2025). Compare to our total RSC Costs: **\$651,598**.
The difference must be funded through municipal taxes.

Planning	\$156,358
Solid Waste	\$345,872
Tourism Promotion	\$1,016
Economic Development	\$73
Community Development	\$17,752
Transportation Services	\$7,311
Public Safety	\$1,273
Recreation & Culture	\$121,943
TOTAL	\$651,598

COMMUNITY FUNDING GRANT (CFG):

CORE FUNDING + EQUALIZATION

Allows municipalities to provide comparable service at comparable tax rates (formula in Community Funding Act)

Equalization \$ being reduced annually (started in 2023),
Will be phased out entirely over 5 years.
Funds re-directed to RSC for newly mandated services.

2025 CFG = \$190,634
compared to \$211,836 in 2024 and \$232,087 in 2023.

CFG grant amount being re-directed to the

RSC for 2025 = \$21,202

TOTAL RSC costs of \$651,598

PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

• Non-tax Revenue:	\$ 315,280 (note*)
• Total Expenses:	\$4,573,698
• NET Budget:	\$4,258,418
• less: Community Funding Grant:	<u>\$ 190,634</u>
• Tax Warrant Required:	\$4,067,783

* **Non-tax revenue:** Sales of services to local government (Fire, Road Maintenance) Building Rentals, Building Permits

DRAFT 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

Police Protection (RCMP)	\$1,261,746	28%
Roads / Transporta'n (98% is Norton Local Costs) DTI road levy paid to Province by former LSD's not incl.	\$662,197	14%
Fire Protection	\$615,188	13%
Solid Waste	\$563,113	12%
General Government	\$503,032	11%
Recreation & Culture	\$391,071	9%
Fiscal Services (Borrowing, Leasing, Banking)	\$231,413	5%
Planning & Development Services	\$177,435	4%
Property Assessment Cost from the Province	\$105,316	2%
EMO, Animal Control, Regional Safety	\$58,187	1%
Medical Scholarship	\$ 5,000	0.1%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$4,573,698	100%

2025 TAX RATES VS. 2024

	Norton	Springfield	Norton (LD)	KARS	Upham	Wickham
2025 Local + Shared Rate (without roads)	\$0.6990	\$0.6457	\$0.6031	\$0.6031	\$0.7788	\$0.6136
Norton Road Cost	\$0.4667					
2025 DTI Road Levy		\$0.4115	\$0.4115	\$0.4115	\$0.4115	\$0.4115
2025 Tax Rate / \$100 Assessment	\$1.1657	\$1.0572	\$1.0146	\$1.0146	\$1.1903	\$1.0251
Compare to 2024 Tax Rate	\$1.1623	\$1.0513	\$0.9944	\$1.0146	\$1.1891	\$1.0924
\$ Change from 2024	\$0.0034	\$0.0059	\$0.0202	\$0.0000	\$0.0012	-\$0.0673

Avg. Tax Rate Increase: \$0.0028

IMPACT OF \$0.0028 CENT INCREASE

Assessed Value of Home	Value with 10.38% Assess't Increase	Total 2025 Tax Bill	Tax \$ for 10.38% Assess't Increase	Tax \$ for \$0.0028 Tax Increase	Total Property Tax Bill Increase
\$150,000	\$165,570	\$1,750	\$165	\$4	\$169
\$200,000	\$220,760	\$2,333	\$219	\$6	\$225
\$300,000	\$331,140	\$3,450	\$329	\$9	\$338
\$500,000	\$555,900	\$5,875	\$591	\$14	\$605

ASSUMPTIONS: EXTERNAL RATE INCREASES

Projected 2025 Inflation: 2.5% (*source: Bank of Canada*)

RCMP: 3.5%

DTI Revenue / Expense (Norton): 6.3%

Dept. ELG Fire Protection Cost (Net): 5.02%

Fire Dispatch Fees (SJPD): 0.64%

Insurance Premiums: 5%

Employee Health Plan Premiums: 5.37% (*vs. 7.5 % for NB*)

NBPower Rate: 9.21% in April

WHAT ELSE HAS CHANGED?

WorkSafe Rate Reduction in 2025 **(range 13% – 40%)**

Negotiated lower rate for Fire Dept. Medical Insurance **(-10%)**

Tipping & Hauling Fees Decrease: **(Est. -10%)** (Circular Materials)

New BVFD Debenture Payments: \$93,975/yr. (estimate)

BVFD Lease on 2015 Firetruck Paid Off: (\$34,000)

Wickham Fire Truck Lease Paid Off: (\$31,001)

Added Internet at Belyea's Cove Community Hall

ASSUME:

No change to # Building Permits

Average winter weather (equipment, fuel, wages)

RSC Budget Won't Change from DRAFT (1.2% Increase)

VALLEY WATERS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strong & Vibrant Communities: health care, housing, seniors, childcare, public safety

Recreation, Culture, Way of Life: recreation for all ages, Cultural celebration, build a sense of community

Economic Prosperity: tourism, support small business, retain youth

Infrastructure Management: Asset manage't, rural internet/cell service, rec. facilities

Responsible Government: fiscal responsibility, strong by-laws, unsightly premises, public communications, solid admin. foundation

PROPOSED STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Incr. Community Room rent rate to \$75, but eliminate fee for all NPO's

Increase Community Centre Contributions 2.5%

Med Student Scholarship: \$4K (plus \$1K previous recruitment amount)

Replace Accounting software: \$4K

Marketing / Communications: \$5K

By-Law Enforcement Contract (Unsightly Premises): \$35K

Works Dept. Equipment Increase: \$25,000; Heat Pump \$15,000

Replace Expiring Fire Medical Equip't: \$60K (\$25K+\$25K+\$10K)

Project / Asset Management: \$65K + benefits

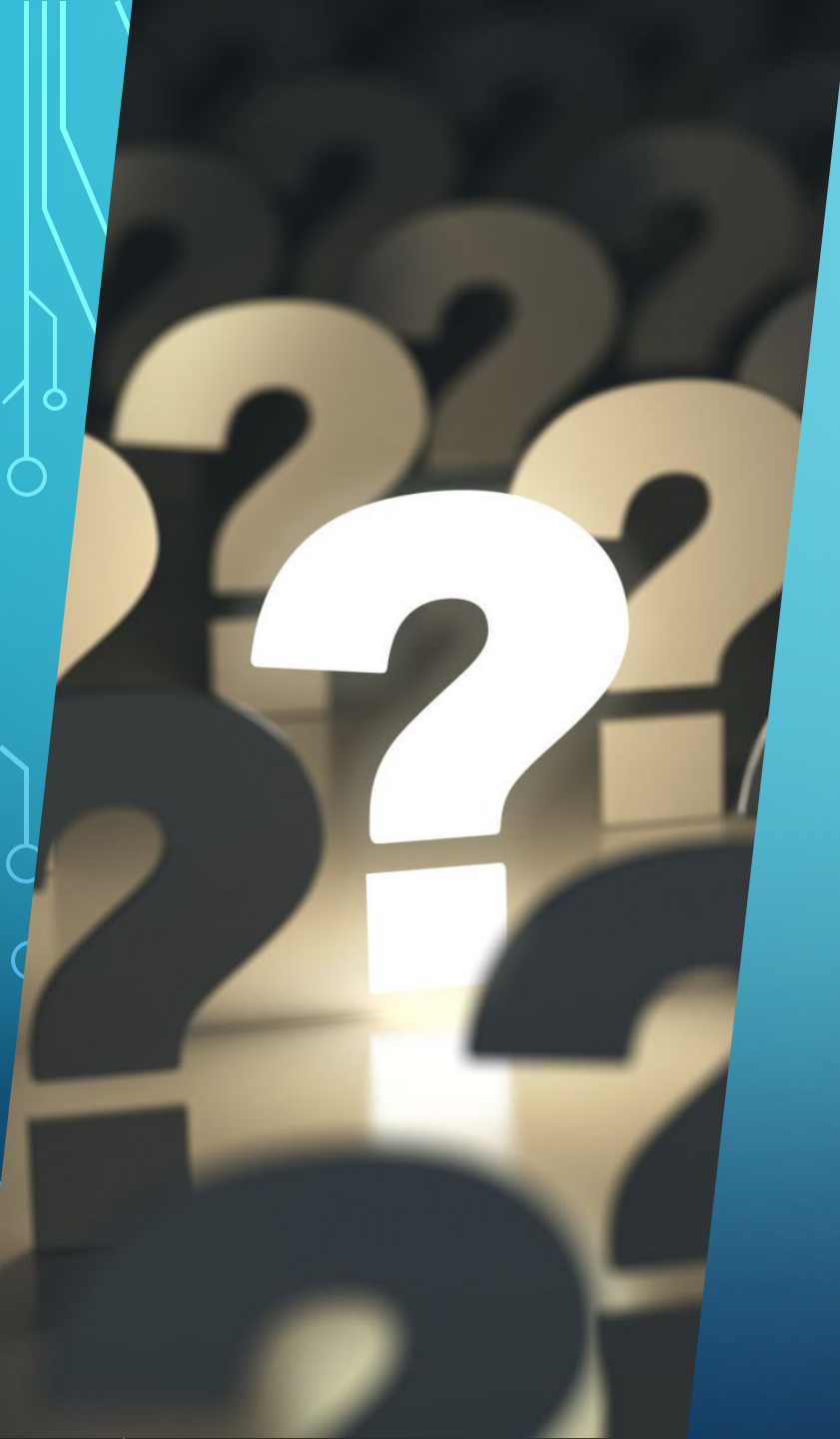
Add to Fund for Strategic Plan Initiatives: \$60K

Norton sub-unit investment toward recreation: \$100K

2025 BUDGET – NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Council Resolution Required to Approve 2025 General Operating and Utility Budgets
- ▶ Submission to Province
- ▶ Implement Business Plan and Strategic Plan within budget
- ▶ Continue to monitor, regular reports to Responsible Government Committee and Council





QUESTIONS?

