



## Public Budget Meetings Summary

### October 28, 2019

Last night at Council the 2020 proposed budget presentations were discussed. The evening began with a presentation on the Operating and Capital Budget for Community and Protective Services. The presentations focused on educating our community on what types of initiatives we have ongoing for things like recreation, Family and Community Support Services, Protective Services, community initiatives and more.

This fall, shovels went in the ground for an expansion to our current Protective Services building. The expansion will feature things like solar panels, energy efficient lighting and additional space of up to 4000 sq. metres to allow for our growing community. In addition to the previous-funded \$13 million for the project, an additional \$4 million expenditure will be funded through the Municipal Sustainability Funding grant, Debenture funds, and additional payback from the RCMP. Cost of the scope enhancement was partially offset by the recommendation to not hire an additional 2020 RCMP member. The presentation also spoke to the success of the QE2 speed reduction initiative that proved effective in slowing traffic down by an average of 8.8 km/hr on Highway 2 in Leduc. Based on community feedback there is also a reallocation of personnel from traffic safety to the crime reduction unit in Leduc, with a focus on further reducing property crime in our community. In terms of further improvements to safety and security in Leduc, the presentation proposed replacing one ambulance of our fleet in 2020, for which the city has budgeted \$248,000.

Another milestone for Leduc in 2019 was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Leduc Golf Course, which would gift the golf course lands to the City of Leduc, while the golf course would remain in charge of operations. The 2020 budget indicated that negotiations are still underway for the transfer of lands, but the city has budgeted \$3.9 million for upgrades in preparation for a potential signing. If signed, the facility and parking lot would be upgraded and new developments for winter use would be determined, in 2020 and 2021, respectively. The \$800K Windrose Multiway proposal is contingent on the transfer of golf course lands to the city. The majority of the new multiway would be constructed on current Leduc Golf Course property, and funding would be used for the construction of the trail and the perimeter fence.

In terms of community support services, in 2019 the city focused on increasing accessibility to our city services for youth and seniors. This was achieved by offering free afternoon access to the LRC for seniors (year round) and youth targeted at grades 8 and 9's (through the summer months). The youth summer access rendered 945 memberships while the seniors free access brought in more than 1400 new members. Several other initiatives are planned to be undertaken in 2020 by FCSS, such as continued work on the Opioid Framework that is intended to break down the stigma of substance use disorder and opioids in the community.

In 2020 Leduc is anticipating 24 sport tourism events to come to our city, including the Ringette Provincial Championships, Canadian Sledge Hockey Championships, 5km Foam Fest, SPN National Championships, Presidents Cup (Lacrosse), Canadian National Bocce Championships and more. The presentation indicated a \$62,000 grant allocation to these events, which will in turn bring visitors and direct spending to our city.

With the recent Telford Lake Multiway completion, in 2020 Administration recommended an addition of seating nodes and waste receptacles to the trail. The budget also allocated \$400,000 in 2020 to add a granular trail to the Lions Park for increased access to Telford Lake. Councillor Finstad inquired about adding washroom facilities along the path and the conversation was flagged for review at the Public Budget Meeting on November 18, 2019.

Continuing with Leduc recreation, general recreation fees and charges are currently under review. At this time a 2-3 per cent increase has been proposed in 2020 to take inflation into consideration. A new outdoor rink in Southfork is slated for 2020 through a partnership. This partnership would see the developer design and construct the rink, while the city would contribute \$200,000. Councillor Beckett inquired if there would be an operational component for the city for maintaining the rink and the General Manager of Community and Protective Services confirmed that there would be.

In 2019 the city concentrated on increasing our focus on arts, culture and heritage in Leduc. In January, the city took over management and operations of the Maclab Centre for the Performing Arts, and the facility continues to be an important cultural amenity for the community. The city has also committed to working with the Arts Foundry by signing an MOU to assist in finding a facility for arts and culture in Leduc; this work has been budgeted for 2021. Additionally, the Leduc Grain Elevator is an important historical resource in our city, and discussions for grants have been flagged for review at the Public Budget Meeting on November 18, 2019.

Several park and recreation capital projects that were previously planned for 2020 have been pushed back to 2021 and beyond. The reprioritizing of the capital plan was proactively done in response to the city's reduced growth and alignment to fiscal capacity.

Click [here](#) to see the full presentation.

Public Commentary was offered after the presentation; no comments were given. The next public commentary will be offered at Leduc City Council Chambers at the Leduc Civic Centre on Monday, November 4 at 8:15 p.m. Presentations will begin at 7:15 p.m. and include the Operating and Capital Budget for Infrastructure and Planning, which includes things like parks, utility services, roadways, public services and more.

The 2020 Public Budget meetings will occur during our regularly-scheduled Council meetings in October and November, and the proposed budget is set to be approved on December 2, 2019. Click [here](#) to see the full schedule. We hope to see you there.