



Budget Engagement 2027-2030

Edmonton

How budget decisions are made

Building a budget is about making choices about services and construction projects that affect over 1.2 million Edmontonians with diverse needs and perspectives.

It takes about a year to build a four-year budget. City Administration is building a recommended budget for 2027-2030 to be presented to City Council in November. Council will deliberate the budget in December, making any changes they think are needed.

Here are some of the things City Administration and Council will be weighing as they make decisions about the 2027-2030 budget this year:

- **Long-term goals:** including The City Plan, which is our plan for becoming a vibrant city of a million more people in the coming decades.
- **Short-term goals:** including Council's priorities for their term, which are economic development, managing the city's growth, quality services and safety.
- **Financial realities:** inflation and the need to serve a growing population affect the cost of delivering the same level of service. But taxpayers have cost pressures too and affordability is important for residents and businesses.
- **Service and construction needs:** that includes understanding service demands compared to what is currently offered, looking at what's most important and strategic for new construction projects, and how to best maintain the bridges, buildings, roads and other infrastructure the City already has.
- **Efficiencies:** the City has set procedures for managing costs before recommending any budget increases. The City has made significant budget reductions over the past decade to free up dollars for new priorities and to limit tax increases. These efforts saved \$1.9 billion since 2015 and the City will continue to look for savings as we build the next four-year budget.
- **What we're required to do:** many of the services the City provides are mandated through provincial legislation or practically necessary. We can adjust how much of



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those services we provide, but we can't stop doing them. Some capital projects are also mandated by the Government of Alberta.

- **Public input:** City services, construction projects, property tax levels and user fees all impact Edmontonians. The input Edmontonians share in engagement sessions and activities will factor into Administration's recommended budget, and will be shared with Council in September as a key input into their decision-making.