



Budget Engagement 2027-2030

Edmonton

Top 10 Things You Need to Know About the City Budget

#1 Budgets help build a better life for Edmontonians.

The budget is the City's plan for where we will get money (revenues) and how we will spend it (expenditures). It maps out how tax dollars and other funding will be invested to provide the services Edmontonians count on as well as to build and maintain roads, bridges, attractions, recreation centres and other City facilities.

#2 The City budgets in four-year cycles.

This long view makes it easier to plan stable services and move plans forward to build and maintain infrastructure like bridges and recreation centres. The budget is reviewed and adjusted each year, as needed. The next cycle runs from 2027-2030.

#3 There are six budgets.

The 2027-2030 budget has two main parts: the operating budget and the capital budget. There are also separate budgets for public utilities—Waste Services, Blatchford Renewal Energy and Downtown District Energy—and a climate budget.

#4 The climate budget is different.

It's not a financial plan like the rest of the 2027-2030 budget. Instead, it tracks progress on Edmonton's climate mitigation and adaptation goals and shows the climate impacts of budget decisions.

#5 The City MUST balance the operating budget.

The City can't budget for a deficit or use debt to pay for our operations. It's the law in Alberta. The City usually manages within 1% of its budget each year, mostly with a small surplus that is then transferred to a reserve for when we need it. If there is a deficit, the City offsets it with funds from the reserve.

#6 The City only uses debt for capital projects.

The City uses debt strategically to help fund some of its capital projects. Building and maintaining the City's infrastructure is expensive, costing billions of dollars. In order to fund these projects without the use of debt, the City would need to save up tax dollars for decades before starting project work, which would mean taxing Edmontonians who would never get to use the facility, road or LRT they paid for. Debt allows the City to spread the cost out more fairly, to all users over the life of that infrastructure.



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#7 The City is building a lot over the next four years.

The next four-year budget will have over \$2.4 billion in already-approved capital projects, including \$1.8 billion in growth projects like fire halls, the Yellowhead freeway conversion, the Coliseum demolition and LRT expansion projects. It also includes \$610 million in renewal projects like LRT train replacements, the High Level Bridge rehabilitation and neighbourhood renewal.

#8 There is a lot of infrastructure to maintain.

The City has over 79 million assets worth over \$39 billion. As Edmonton grows, it's a big challenge to maintain all these assets, especially since that number is growing and those assets are aging. The capital budget must consider how to keep current infrastructure working. That includes:

- 11,547 km of roads and alleys
- 5,773 km of sidewalks
- 871 km of trails
- 94 Light Rail Vehicles (trains)
- 1,006 buildings

#9 The City is always looking for efficiencies.

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 have saved \$1.9 billion since 2015. The City will look for further savings and efficiencies as it builds the next four-year budget, but it will take additional strategies to balance the budget, like looking at reducing the number of services provided, reducing service levels, or increasing user fees and property taxes.

#10 What you pay the City vs. Province vs. Federal Government.

According to the City's analysis of the most recent Statistics Canada data, for each dollar paid in taxes and fees to the government sector in 2023, a typical Edmonton household paid about 67 cents to the federal government, 25 cents to the provincial government, and 8 cents to the City.