



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Prepared by: Dale Langlois

Department: Finance

Date of Report: October 25, 2024

Report Number: FIN-26-2024

Subject: Proposed 2025 Budget Release and Highlights

Recommendation

That the report of the Director of Finance dated October 25, 2024 (FIN-26-2024) regarding the proposed 2025 Budget Release and Highlights be received.

Report

The proposed 2025 budget and business plan documents are nearing completion and will be officially released on November 13, 2024. These documents will be presented to Council during the budget deliberation sessions scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2024, with additional sessions on Thursday, December 5, and Friday, December 6, if required.

The proposed 2025 budget will be accessible on the Town's website as well as the community engagement platform, PlaceSpeak. Furthermore, a public open house will be held prior to the budget deliberation sessions at the Vollmer Recreation Centre on November 21, 2024.

Attached as Appendix A is a summary of the significant changes in the proposed 2025 budget, and Appendix B contains the proposed 2025 capital budget.

If approved, the municipal levy will increase by \$4,649,900, which translates to an annual increase of \$209 or \$17.43 per month for the average residential property in the Town of LaSalle.

It is important to note that this increase considers the effects of assessment growth (new construction) within the municipality. However, the province-wide property assessment update originally scheduled for January 1, 2021, has been postponed for the fifth consecutive year. Consequently, property valuations for 2025, including newly

constructed properties, will continue to be based on January 1, 2016 values, thereby applying continued pressure on the municipal tax rate.

While inflation rates are beginning to normalize, the Town is still addressing the impacts of elevated inflation over the past three years. A significant portion of the overall budget is allocated to reserves for funding municipal infrastructure projects. Costs associated with these projects are more accurately reflected in the non-residential construction price index and industrial price index, both of which have seen greater increases than the consumer price index in recent years.

The Town has several long-term goals requiring substantial financial commitments, including the LaSalle Landing waterfront plan, fire master plan, police financial plan, asset management capital funding plan, and the labor master plan. The proposed municipal levy increase of \$4,649,900 will provide the necessary funding to advance these initiatives. However, any reduction in the proposed municipal tax levy could significantly pressure future budgets or necessitate the scaling back / postponement of various projects or result in a service level reduction.

Budget Summary

Municipal Property Taxes	Proposed 2025 Budget	2024 Budget	Change
Municipal General Levy	\$50,468,300	\$45,818,400	\$4,649,900
Municipal Taxes per average residential home	\$3,198	\$2,989	\$209

In addition to the Town of LaSalle municipal taxes, the Town bills, collects and remits annual levies on behalf of the County of Essex and the Province of Ontario (Education). As of the date of this report, neither the County of Essex nor the Province of Ontario have published their respective 2025 tax rates. As such, the following table outlines the proposed Town of LaSalle municipal levy, the Province of Ontario education taxes with no increase (estimate), and two separate estimate scenarios of the County of Essex levy, a 4% increase (scenario A), and a 6% increase (scenario B). The effects of each scenario on the overall property tax bill for the average residential home are outlined within the following table.

Property Taxes on Avg. Property Value	Scenario A	Change	Scenario B	Change	2024 Avg. Bill
Municipal Tax Bill (Proposed)	\$3,198	+\$209	\$3,198	+\$209	\$2,989
County Tax Bill (Estimate)	\$1,547	+\$88	\$1,518	+59	\$1,459
Education Tax Bill (Estimate)	\$413	+\$0	\$413	+\$0	\$413
Total Property Tax per Avg. Residential Home (Estimate)	\$5,158	\$297	\$5,129	\$268	\$4,861

Consultations

Not applicable

Financial Implications

Financial implications are contained within the report and appendices.

Prepared By:



Director of Finance/Treasurer

Dale Langlois, CPA, CA

Link to Strategic Goals

1. Enhancing organizational excellence - Yes
2. Strengthen the community’s engagement with the Town - Yes
3. Grow and diversify the local economy - Yes
4. Build on our high-quality of life - Yes
5. Sustaining strong public services and infrastructure - Yes

Communications

Not applicable

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Proposed 2025 Budget Release and Highlights.docx
Attachments:	- 2025 High level operating budget changes-Appendix A.pdf - 2025 Capital Budget Summary.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 29, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia