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For Immediate Release

## **News Release**

## 2025 Budget

**Edson, Alberta, May 7, 2025** – Council has approved the 2025 Operating Budget. A \$42.6 million operating budget was approved that has a heavy focus on quality services for the community, infrastructure improvements, and maintaining affordability for our residents.

Every pillar of Council's Strategic Plan is considered as the budget is formed: Creating a Connected Community that is Safe and Inclusive; Fostering a Robust and Adaptable Economy; Responding to a Changing Global Environment; Ensuring Quality Infrastructure; and Providing Effective Leadership and Community Engagement.

"Council is pleased to support this final Operating Budget. It was important to Council to continue to work towards reducing the financial impact on our residents, while continuing to push forward with infrastructure improvements to help reduce the potential for flooding, improve our roadways, and continue with quality services and programming for our community. We understand the immense financial pressure Canadians are dealing with and continue to look for ways to reduce the impact of our budget, while continuing to grow our community."

## -Edson Mayor Kevin Zahara

This budget was especially challenging as both the Education and Evergreens Foundation requisitions, which the Town has no control over, have increased. *Following the release of the 2025 Provincial Budget, the Province has increased the education property tax requisition by 9%. A further increase of 14% is forecasted for 2026. The education taxes are collected on behalf of the Province and are not retained by the Town of Edson.* 

Council approved a 4% tax levy increase on November 13, 2024. However, based on the current property assessments and increased amounts required by the other requisitions, administration has made adjustments to help reduce that amount and offset the overall impact to taxpayers.

Due to accounting changes, year-over-year comparisons are not directly aligned. However, when these accounting adjustments are excluded, the municipal portion of the tax levy reflects an actual increase of \$146,794, or **approximately 1%**, from 2024 to 2025.

For an average residential property assessed at \$350,000 (with no change in individual assessment), this equates to an estimated increase of \$7.87 per month.

2025 Budget information - <u>www.edson.ca/budget</u>. Taxation / Mill Rate information- <u>www.edson.ca/taxes</u>.

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