

2018 INTERIM BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- **Establishing Town Community Peace Officer services**

In order to address the safety concerns of our community and assist our local RCMP detachment, Council has decided to establish a Town Community Peace Officer service. This approach will provide a high-visibility protective officer specifically dedicated to Drayton Valley while being cost effective compared to other enforcement options.

The initial startup and first year operational funding will be derived from the Automated Traffic Enforcement reserves, resulting in no net burden on the Town's tax base.

- **User fee approach**

Council has approved a continuation of a general user fee approach to achieve, to the extent practical, maximum recovery from those user groups that use and benefit from Town recreational services.

User fees have increased at a gradual and steady rate in order to minimize the cost to Town and County taxpayers while still providing recreational opportunities that are reasonably priced.

- **Building reserves for water & sewer infrastructure**

Council is accelerating implementation of a full cost utility rate structure from ten years to three years. In doing so, long term capital replacement and rehabilitation needs will be met while ensuring the continuance of this vital service for all utility customers.

- **Cost recovery operation of the Early Childhood Development Centre**

Council will undertake a deliberate, three-year rate increase approach to achieve cost neutral operations at the Early Childhood Development Centre while still preserving affordable child care in the community.

Recognizing the importance of high-quality, affordable child care to our residents from both social and economic perspectives, the Town will be providing user rebates to town residents equivalent to the rate increases over the next three years.

- **General tax approach**

After careful consideration of the needs and expectations of the community, Council has passed an interim budget with the intention of holding the general tax rate increase at **zero**. The final decision will be made in the spring following a review of the provincial budget, Brazeau Foundation's requisition, the Alberta School Foundation Fund requisition, and the establishment of Brazeau County's tax rates.