

Media Release
November 30, 2023

Investing in Today. Empowering Tomorrow. Council approves 5.53 per cent budget increase

Following two online community consultations and three Budget Deliberation meetings, on Thursday, November 30, Chatham-Kent Council passed its first multi-year municipal budget.

The budget increase of 5.53% for 2024 includes significant investments in Chatham-Kent's Police Services and Municipal infrastructure with 1.14% and 3.11% of the 2024 budget increase being allocated to these services, respectively. The remaining budget increase provides investments in affordable housing, increased service levels for libraries, splash pads, and sustainable investments in municipal services. This 2024 increase means a four-year average increase of 7.17%, extending until 2027.

The budget being allocated to Police Services will allow for the addition of 43 new personnel over the next four years, bringing Chatham-Kent closer to the provincial average of officers per person.

The overall budget increase represents a tax impact of approximately \$185 on an average home assessment (January 1, 2016 value) of \$176,200.

Budget Committee Chair Councillor Brock McGregor said, "I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone involved in our first multi-year budget. This new process sets Chatham-Kent Council and administration up for future success and helps us achieve our strategic priorities for the next four years and beyond. I would also like to thank the community members that took the time to participate in the engagement sessions this year. We value our residents' input and ideas and we strive to represent those to the best of our ability through our financial choices."

Prior to the draft budget being completed, the municipality launched two budget surveys to seek input from residents on areas of focus that were of importance to the public. The surveys had a total of 595 responses, providing both Council and administration with residents' ideas and opinions. After the recommendations were presented to Council by municipal administration on November 15, administration also held two online consultations to gather input from citizens on the recommendations.

Mayor Darrin Canniff said, “Administration and Council have put in a tremendous effort, fighting against inflation and provincial downloading, to keep this budget increase relatively low in comparison to some of our surrounding communities. This increase will help put more police officers on the streets, help maintain and improve our extensive infrastructure, and help address the need for affordable housing in our community.”

For more information on the 2024-2027 Municipality of Chatham-Kent Multi-Year Budget, please visit the municipal webpage [Our Municipal Budgets](#).

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