



Town of

Athabasca

Gateway to the Great New North

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Town of Athabasca 2022 Budget

The Town of Athabasca 2022 Budget was presented to the community by chief financial officer Jeff Daley at a Budget Open House meeting in February. The budget was adopted as presented during a regular Council meeting in March. The complete presentation can be viewed on the Town website in the March 15, 2022, [Town Council Agenda Package](#). Here are a few highlights:

The **Operating Budget** accounts for salaries, contracted services, maintenance, supplies and debt serving.

The **Capital Budget** accounts for physical assets over \$5,000, including equipment, the Town fleet, Town facilities, roads, parks, and utility infrastructure.

Operational revenues come from:

- Net municipal taxes (53%)
- User fees and sales of goods and services (32%)
- Government transfers for operating (5%)
- Franchise contracts (7%)
- Rentals (2%) • Other revenues (1%)

Select Highlights from the 2022 Budget:

- Proposed operating expenditures of \$10.269 million: a decrease of 9.1% from 2021
- Proposed operating revenues of \$8.920 million: a decrease of 10.64% from 2021
- Proposed capital expenditures include major infrastructure for road, water, sewer and parks
- Expected decrease in Federal / Provincial grants of 57%; 2022 Capital MSI decrease of \$497,036
- 80% funding grant for a Municipal Energy Manager: Shared agreement between Town, Athabasca County, Village of Boyle
- 2.5% residential / 1.5% non-residential property tax increase:
 - Annual increase of \$63.85 for a residential property assessment of \$300,000
 - Annual increase of \$127.61 for a non-residential property assessment of \$500,000
- Policing costs to rise from \$87,326 (2021) to \$116,350 (2022)
- 2022 & 2023 Capital Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) estimated to be \$339,047: a 40.9% drop from 2021 (\$836,083)



Town of Athabasca Administration Building

Going Green in Athabasca

The Town has been looking for ways to save energy, reduce carbon emissions and save money. The Town's Municipal Energy Manager, Kevin Jacobs, along with municipal staff have been scanning Town facilities for energy efficiency measures for current or future implementation. Here are a few examples:

- Town Office LED lighting upgrade with motion sensors and boiler room piping insulation
- Multiplex LED lighting upgrade (funding through MCCAC REC)
- Athabasca firehall condensing boiler installation, and 2nd floor LED lighting upgrade
- Flips gym LED lighting upgrade (funding through MCCAC REC)
- Potential Athabasca library LED lighting, attic insulation, and radiant heat distribution piping insulation upgrades
- Participation in the Regional Municipal Climate Action Committee
- Establishing a [Clean Energy Improvement Program](#) (CEIP) with the support of Alberta Municipalities
- Application to MCCAC electric vehicle charging program for funding for level-3 & level-2 EV chargers at river front; level-2 charger at Town office, and level-2 chargers at the Multiplex

River Rats Festival

Don't miss Athabasca's premier music venue, the 25th annual Magnificent River Rats Festival, on Athabasca's Riverfront, July 1st & 2nd! Details on the [River Rats website](#).

Featuring an awesome line-up of musical talent, children's activities, Farmers Market and more!

Note: The boat launch will be closed during the festival.

Festival organizers may still be accepting donations from supporters to help with overall expenses. Check out the sponsorship info on the festival website. The Town of Athabasca has donated \$5,000 towards River Rats Festival expenses.

We'll see you on the Riverfront, July 1st & 2nd!

Appreciation BBQ for Healthcare Workers

Please join us on Friday, June 10th on the Athabasca Riverfront, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., for an Appreciation BBQ to show our support for the **healthcare professionals and workers** in our community. They have helped bring us through some very challenging times! **Everyone is welcome.**



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4705 - 49 Avenue, Athabasca, AB T9S 1B7
Tel: 780-675-2063 – Fax: 780-675-4242
E-mail: town@athabasca.ca

Redesign for Cornwall Entrance

A Highway 55 rehabilitation project is scheduled to begin early in June, with portions of the project being planned for locations in Athabasca. The 34th St. intersection leading into the Cornwall subdivision will undergo a significant change.

This is an Alberta Transportation initiative. The contractor for the project is NPA Ltd., and the engineering company is Roads West Engineering. This is not a Town of Athabasca project; however, the Town will be doing concurrent manhole repairs.

In general, the Alberta Transportation project will include:

- Intersection improvements at 34th Street and Hwy 55
- Curb and gutter work from 57th Street to 48th Street on 50th Ave (Hwy 2/Hwy 55)
- Asphalt resurfacing on 50th Ave to 28th Street
- Upgrade to the westbound truck turnout (east edge of town)
- Drainage/ditch work and Crack Treatment on Hwy 55
- Asphalt resurfacing from Town limits to Highway 63
- Asphalt resurfacing the intersection of Hwy 63, Hwy 55, and Hwy 855 by Atmore

Intersection Improvements at 34th St. and Hwy 55

Traffic traveling east and west on Hwy 55, past 34th Street (Health Unit corner), will not be affected by the changes. Traffic turning north on 34th Street (past A&W) will not be affected by the changes. Traffic coming up the hill from the west will still be able to exit right (south), onto 34th Street and into the Cornwall subdivision.

However, traffic coming from the east on Hwy 55 will no longer be able to turn left (south) into Cornwall at 34th Street. Traffic exiting the Cornwall subdivision via 34th Street will only be able to exit right, to the east; the option to turn left, to the west, will no longer exist. Anyone who wants to exit Cornwall and turn left (west) to go down the hill will have to use one of the alternative exits at Canadian Tire or Hunter Motors.

The purpose for the 34th Street change is to improve the overall safety of the intersection.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Breanne Leach, Project Manager, at bleach@roadswest.ca

FireSmart Your Home and Property

FireSmart Canada advises that while wildfires are a natural part of wildland ecosystems, they do present hazards to our homes. The [FireSmart Begins at Home Manual](#) offers insight into both the benefits and the dangers of wildfire and how to mitigate the risks to your home. Here are a few recommendations from the manual:

- Decrease the density of your trees around your home; changes within 10 metres will have the biggest impact. Spacing trees at least three metres apart will help.
- Evergreen trees with cones and needles are highly flammable and should not be within 10 metres of your home.
- Prune all tree branches within two metres of the ground.
- Choose fire-resistant plants for your yard and fire-resistant materials for your home.
- Remove combustible surface materials from around your home.

There is much more that you can do to help protect your home and your neighbourhood. Check out the FireSmart manual today!

Committees of Council

Members of Town Council serve on the following committees. Committee appointments are distributed equally and changes are made periodically, giving each councillor opportunities for a broader experience. This list is also on the Town website.

Municipal Planning Commission: Mayor Balay, Councillors Graling, LeMessurier, Pacholok, Yuill

Subdivision & Development Appeal Board: Councillors Edwards, Prosser (alternate)

Riverfront Design Review Committee: Councillors Graling, LeMessurier

Family & Community Support Services (FCSS): Councillors Edwards, Prosser (alternate)

Greater North Foundation: Councillor LeMessurier

Northern Lights Library System: Councillors Yuill, Prosser (alternate)

Northern Lakes – Community Education: Councillors Graling, Prosser (alternate)

Community Transportation Committee: Councillors Prosser, LeMessurier (alternate)

Library Board: Councillors Yuill, Prosser (alternate)

Tourism and Economic Development: Councillors Yuill, Edwards (alternate)

Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP): Mayor Balay, Councillors Pacholok, Yuill, LeMessurier (alternate)

Multiplex Society: Mayor Balay, Councillors LeMessurier, Pacholok, Prosser (alternate)

Dr. Brown Scholarship Comm.: Councillors Edwards, Graling, Prosser

Community Grant Comm.: Councillors Graling, LeMessurier, Prosser

Aspen Regional Water Services Commission: Mayor Balay, Councillors Pacholok, Yuill (alternate)

Athabasca Regional Waste Services Commission: Councillors Edwards, Pacholok, Mayor Balay (alternate)

Communication Committee: Councillors Graling, Prosser, Yuill (alternate)

Alberta TrailNet Steering Committee: Councillors Edwards, Graling (alternate)

Brick School Committee: Mayor Balay, Councillors Edwards, Yuill

Regional Municipal Climate Action (RMCA): Mayor Balay, Town CAO Ramey (Advisory Member)

Community Futures, Tawatinaw Region: Councillor Prosser

Athabasca Community Opportunities & Protection: Councillors Graling, Prosser

Public Works Committee: Mayor Balay, Councillors Pacholok, Graling

Chamber of Commerce: Councillor Yuill

Athabasca Watershed Council: Councillor Edwards

Muskeg Creek Committee: Councillor LeMessurier

Regional Healthcare Recruitment & Retention Committee: Mayor Balay, Councillor LeMessurier (alternate)