
Subject:

FW: 2020 Operating Budget

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 11:22 AM

To: Christine Briggs

Subject: 2020 Operating Budget

Mr. Mayor, I would appreciate if you would consider my comments regarding the 2020 operating budget. We have owned a rental house in Oakwood for the past 11 years. We live in Alberta and work for municipal government. I have been involved with budget preparation for a number of years. Alberta has struggled for the past number of years and found ways to hold the line or at least keep the tax rate to a marginal tax increase. My suggestion is to hold the line on taxes as we face challenging financial times. I am confident that staff are people of value and understand the need to hold the line. In government it is easy to stay in a rut that is the way we have always done things. Looking at the budget there is opportunity to hold the line on hiring, and wage freeze, can more be done with less? How effective is the City utilizing technology, has the City evaluated service levels, must do, should do? What opportunities are there to outsource work? Has the City considered what is the core business? Your Fleet is an example, what is the core business? One example is light duty vehicles can be outsourced, you pay a higher rate however it is done quicker and by updated trained technicians. I see fuel budget has increased, why fuel prices are coming down and stabilizing? Sound budget practices will help to sustain a future for generations. I trust that you will consider holding the line. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards, Grant Heer