

# 2025 BUDGET REPORT





# Highlights



**9,927**  
people



**4,505**  
private dwellings



Taxable Assessment value  
**\$1,968,227,880**



Average assessment value  
of a single family home  
**\$344,500**



**197,622** scanned visits  
at the Allan & Jean Millar  
Centre in 2024



Whitecourt Transit  
provided service to **33,644**  
passengers in 2024



**2,099** participants  
registered in swimming lessons  
and aquatic courses in 2024



over **7,600**  
Whitecourt  
Facebook Followers



Town of Whitecourt  
2025 Operating and  
Capital Budget totals  
**\$107,924,486**

The Town of Whitecourt recognizes the ongoing support of the Government of Canada and Province of Alberta through the following grant programs: Alberta Community Partnership Program, Alberta Drought and Flood Protection Program, Alberta Municipal Water Wastewater Partnership, Build Canada Small Communities Fund, Canada Community Building Fund, Canada Public Transit Fund, Canada Summer Jobs Program, CAREERS Youth Internship Incentive Program, Disaster Recovery Program, Emergency Management Preparedness Program, Fire Services Training Program, FRIAA Community Fireguard Programs, FRIAA FireSmart Programs, FRIAA Forest Resource Improvement Program, FRIP Infrastructure, Canada Active Transportation Fund, Rural Transit Solutions Fund, Infrastructure Canada Investment Program, Local Government Fiscal Framework Program, Municipal Climate Change Action Centre Partnership for Community Energy Conservation Program, Municipal Climate Change Action Centre Partnership for Municipal Energy Manager Program, Policing Support Grant, Supporting Psychological Health in First Responders Program, Small Community Opportunity Grant, Rural Health Workforce Attraction and Retention Grant, Alberta Children and Family Services, Alberta Justice, Alberta Seniors, Community and Social Services, Recovery Alberta, and Canada Heritage-Celebrate Canada Funding.

Alberta

Canada

# Council & Administration



From left to right:  
Councillor Serena Lapointe, Councillor Braden Lanctot, Councillor Bill McAree, Mayor Tom Pickard,  
Councillor Paul Chauvet, Councillor Derek Schlosser and Councillor Tara Baker.

## Mayor's Message:

Guided by feedback from the community, the 2025 budget aligns with the strategic plan and sets our community up for continued growth. Valued at over \$107.9 million, the 2025 budget was developed with local families in mind to help minimize the impact of rising costs and takes into consideration economic uncertainties felt across the country at this time.

Similar to households and businesses, inflation and rising costs have impacted Town operations. Since the interim budget was approved in December 2024, Whitecourt Town Council has made reductions, and lowered the tax increase from 3.77% to 3.53%.

It is important to note that not all of what you pay in property taxes goes to the Town of Whitecourt. A portion of your taxes is collected on behalf of the Alberta Government for education, and another portion is collected on behalf of the Lac Ste. Anne

Foundation for seniors and affordable housing in our region. This year, the Government of Alberta has raised the education requisition in Whitecourt by 9.53%. To help explain this change, an information sheet will be mailed out with the combined tax and assessment notice to all property owners so they know how this decision by the Province impacts the property tax amount.

Whitecourt Town Council receives feedback from the community on the budget everyday through meetings and conversations – feedback is ongoing. Whitecourt Town Council appreciates and values this openness, and residents are encouraged to continue to reach out to talk about local issues and ideas throughout the year.

**Tom Pickard, Mayor**

## 2025 Election:

### Are you registered to vote?

Visit [www.voterlink.ab.ca](http://www.voterlink.ab.ca) to register to vote in the October 2025 Municipal Election.

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the website



[www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca)



# Taxation & Assessment

The 2025 Budget, which totals \$107,924,486 includes exciting projects and services that will enhance the community's quality of life.

With current economics in our province and throughout the country, Town Council created a budget that requires a 3.53% overall tax change.

For every dollar of taxation:

- **\$0.74** is allocated to municipal operations/projects
- **\$0.24** is allocated to schools
- **\$0.02** is allocated to the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation for seniors and affordable housing

## There are three parts to the Property Tax:

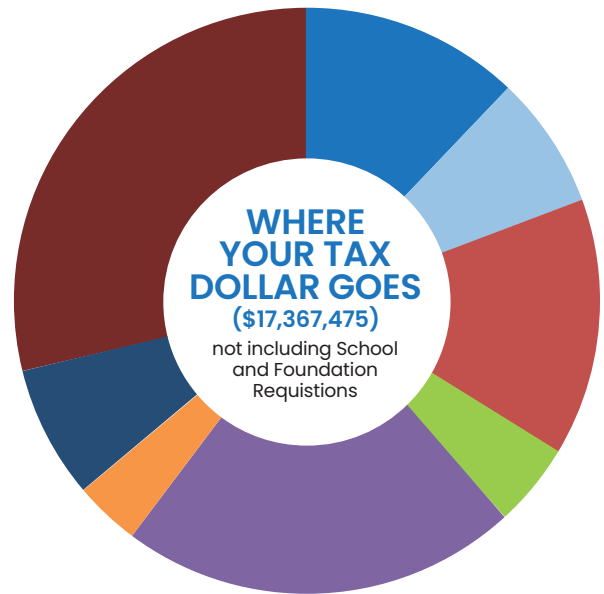
- **General Municipal Mill Rate** – This rate is set by the Town of Whitecourt and this portion of your property taxes is used to fund municipal services and programs.
- **Education Requisition** – This rate is set by the Alberta School Foundation on behalf of the Alberta Government and this portion of your property taxes is directed to the Province to provide educational services.
- **Seniors/Affordable Housing Requisition** – This rate is set by the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation and this portion of your property taxes is directed to operate local seniors and affordable housing facilities.

## Tax Rates are calculated using the following formula:

Assessed Property Value x Total Mill Rate/1000 = Total Property Tax

You can expect to receive your Town of Whitecourt Tax Notices in mid-May. If you have questions on your tax notice, feel free to contact the Tax Clerk at 780-778-2273.

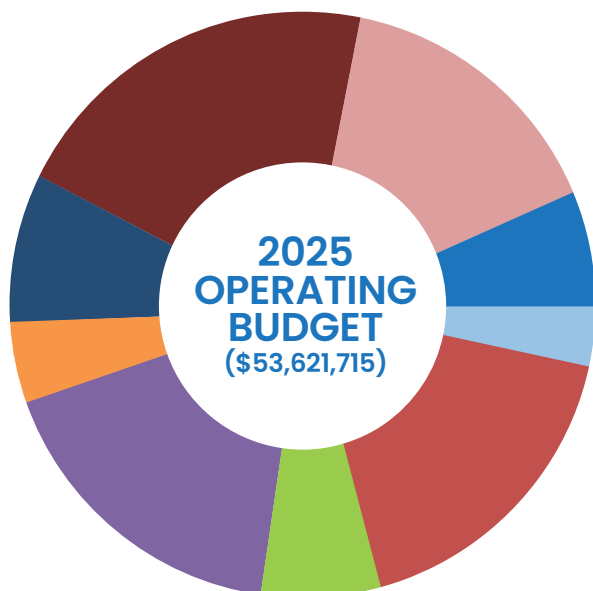
**PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025**



Administration	12.0%
Legislative & Other General Government	7.5%
Police, Municipal Enforcement & Emergency Management	14.1%
Fire Protection	4.6%
Roads, Storm & Fleet Services	22.0%
Community Support & Transit	3.7%
Land Sales, Planning & Development	7.3%
Recreation, Parks & Culture	28.8%

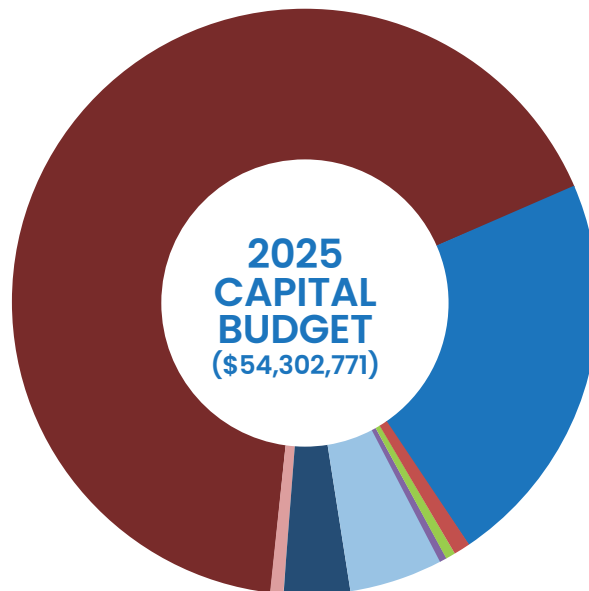


The operating budget reflects the day-to-day costs of delivering programs and services for the next year. These costs are similar to your everyday household expenses, such as mortgage payments, utilities or groceries.



Administration	6.4%
Legislative & Other General Government	3.2%
Police, Municipal Enforcement & Emergency Management	17.4%
Fire Protection	6.7%
Roads, Storm & Fleet Services	17.5%
Community Support & Transit	4.3%
Land, Planning & Development	8.2%
Recreation, Parks & Culture	20.9%
Utilities (Water, Wastewater & Waste)	15.4%

The capital budget includes costs for construction and repair of roads, public buildings, recreation facilities and parks, and other major infrastructure projects. In relation to a household budget, these costs are similar to adding an addition to your home.



Administration	22.1%
Legislative & Other General Government	0.8%
Police, Municipal Enforcement & Emergency Management	0.5%
Fire Protection	0.4%
Roads, Storm & Fleet Services	5.2%
Utilities (Water, Wastewater & Waste)	3.6%
Land, Planning & Development	0.8%
Recreation, Parks & Culture	66.6%

## 2025 TAX RATES:

	Residential	Non-Residential
Municipal Tax Rate	6.7245	11.4228
Education Tax Rate	2.6809	3.9581
Seniors Tax Rate	0.2369	0.2369
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.6423</b>	<b>15.6178</b>
Designated Industrial Property	0.0000	0.0701

If your house is assessed at

**\$344,500**

you can expect to pay:

\$2,316.59	General Municipal Taxes
\$923.57	Education Requisition
\$81.61	Seniors Requisition
<b>\$3,321.77</b>	<b>2025 Property Tax Total</b>

# Infrastructure

REVENUES  
\$20,342,869

EXPENDITURES  
\$24,184,181

BALANCE FROM  
TAXATION  
\$3,841,312

## \$0.22 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION

Sound infrastructure is not only key to providing essential services, but is also critical to sustaining our community's high quality of life and economic prosperity. As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining and growing our local infrastructure, \$24 million has been budgeted this year for utilities, roads, cemetery, fleet, and open spaces maintenance.

## 2025 Priorities and Projects:

### Capital

- Phase 2&3 of the Centennial Park Pathway Improvements Project involves pathway surface, and drainage upgrades on the southeast side of the Park, as well as the installation of signage along the length of the trail system \$396,192
- Complete Blue Ridge Road Culvert inlet design and repair \$618,031
- Phase 1 of the Highway 43 Vitalization Planting Project in west Whitecourt between 53 Avenue and Riverboat Park Road. \$280,000
- Annual Street Improvement and Overlay Program at various locations \$1,418,005
- Projects as funded by the Rural Transit Solutions Fund \$1,954,730
  - Traffic signal upgrades at the intersection of 47 Avenue and 50 Street;
  - Traffic signal upgrades at the intersection of 49 Avenue and 51 Street;
  - Additional bus stops and new shelters; and,
  - New thermoplastic road marking to support intersection improvements.

### Operating

- Hosting of a Public Works awareness event in the spring to share information on responsibilities of the Department, and to help the community understand the diversity of services.
- Continued educational and promotional activities to encourage recycling with the goal of diverting waste from the Whitecourt Regional Landfill.
- Continue to promote the incentive and education program for businesses to reduce the percentage of inorganic materials (ex. grease, oil) from entering the wastewater collection system.
- Continuation of the Free Clean Up Week (May 21-24, 2025) and Take It or Leave It Campaign (May 17-18, 2025).

## TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN IS UNDERWAY

### What is a Transportation Master Plan?

A Transportation Master Plan outlines a municipality's vision for its transportation network, and provides a strategy for the development of the municipal roadway systems to serve the future expansion of the community.

### Why is it important?

The purpose of a Transportation Master Plan is to ensure that the local transportation infrastructure is planned efficiently and effectively to service the long-term growth of the community. It provides direction for the development and maintenance of the transportation network, informs the municipality's long-term infrastructure and financial plans, and assists the municipality in making critical land use and site planning decisions.

- The Plan will support Whitecourt's health and economic growth by planning for safe, reliable, and efficient movement of goods and people.
- The Plan will guide decisions and investments in our roads, and future transportation infrastructure.

### Work Program Overview:

- Existing Transportation Network Analysis – Underway
- Future Transportation Network Analysis – Summer 2025
- Key Focus Area Reviews – Summer 2025
- Cost Estimates and Implementation Recommendations – Fall 2025

DID  
YOU  
KNOW?

Did you know we have over 600 businesses featured on the Whitecourt Business Directory? Do you want to showcase your business on our website and app? Sign up today by emailing [ecdev@whitecourt.ca](mailto:ecdev@whitecourt.ca).



# Economic Development & Planning



**REVENUES**  
\$3,519,748

**EXPENDITURES**  
\$4,785,604

**BALANCE FROM  
TAXATION**  
\$1,265,856

## **\$0.07 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION**

Whitecourt's economic development and planning team supports local start-ups and entrepreneurs; attracts new businesses and visitors; guides development in the community; and, raises the profile of our community on a national and international level. Whitecourt's economic health is fundamental to the success of all other initiatives in our community and, as reflected in the 2025 budget, Council continues to prioritize these efforts.



## **2025 Priorities and Projects:**

### **Operating**

- Complete the Off-Site Levy Bylaw Review (conducted every 5 years).
- Complete the Transportation Master Plan that will provide a strategy for the orderly, timely, and economical development of roadway systems in Whitecourt to serve the future growth of the community.
- Continue the Tourism Enhancement, Tourism Product Development, Whitecourt Launch, Sports Hosting, and Vitalization Grant Programs.
- Continue to promote Whitecourt as a prime location for business and investment, fostering growth and development through targeted investment initiatives.
- Conduct a Business Market Analysis Attraction & Retention Strategy. This comprehensive market analysis of the local business environment will identify consumer spending, service leakage, gaps in the market, and opportunities for business retention, expansion, and attraction.

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?**

Did you know the Recreation Fee Assistance Program provides a subsidy to qualifying Whitecourt and Woodlands County residents on their Allan & Jean Millar Centre membership? For more information, visit the Allan & Jean Millar Centre.

# Community Safety

REVENUES  
\$10,139,262

EXPENDITURES  
\$13,385,371

BALANCE FROM  
TAXATION  
\$3,246,109

## \$0.19 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION

A high quality of life is created when a community is inclusive, healthy and safe. It is a priority to keep our community safe, and Whitecourt is proud of the protective services provided to our residents. Members of the local RCMP, Whitecourt Fire Department and Municipal Enforcement provide high quality and integrated services to our community.

## 2025 Priorities and Projects:

### Capital

- Disaster Recovery Projects to repair damage from 2023 flood (drainage pathways, spurs) \$3,215,683
- Completion of the Community Fireguard on the eastern boundary \$1,534,180
- Completion of interpretive signage at the Athabasca River Erosion Project \$16,000
- Flood mitigation projects to protect critical infrastructure \$1,289,055

### Operating

- Undertake FireSmart vegetation management activities.
- Continue fire prevention and education.
- Continue enhanced training for our Fire Department, including: 1006 Level 1 and 2 vehicle extrication/heavy rescue; 1002 Ariel Operator; 1002 Pump Operator; Live Fire Instructor; and, Ice/Water Rescue.
- Continue to focus on Crime Prevention, emphasizing Citizens on Patrol and program such as Block Party Program, Community Crosswalk Grant Program, RISK Program, and fraud prevention.
- Continue to build capacity in the Town's Incident Management Team by offering ICS 100 to ICS 300 training.



## SENIORS PROGRAMMING

More and more, we are hearing that our residents are not only wanting to raise their children here, but they also want to retire here. It is this family focus that contributes to the vibrancy of our community, and why Whitecourt has made providing services and programs to the seniors demographic a priority.

The Town of Whitecourt has been awarded grant funding for a 29-month term from the United Way, through Healthy Aging Alberta, to provide non-medical home support for seniors in Whitecourt and area. As many seniors in Whitecourt are choosing to live independently in their current homes, this will help to increase seniors' capacity to age safely in place and improve the wellbeing of older adults in our community. Services will include in-home, non-medical supports, including housekeeping, meal preparation, grocery shopping, and yard maintenance.

This program will compliment Whitecourt's Social Prescribing Program that is already in place that helps to bridge the gap between medical and social care services to seniors in Whitecourt. To access either program, clients will need a referral from a health care provider.

For more information on the programs please contact the FCSS Program Coordinator at **780-778-3637 ext. 417.**

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To checkout  
the website



DID  
YOU  
KNOW?

Did you know all dogs and cats must have a visible identification tag on their collar or harness that includes the pet owner's phone number? For more information, search "Bylaws" on [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca).



# Community Support Services



REVENUES  
\$1,698,514

EXPENDITURES  
\$2,335,560

BALANCE FROM  
TAXATION  
\$637,046

## \$0.04 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION

We believe the most valuable resource in Whitecourt is the people. Services and programs offered in our community contribute to and support the overall health of all members of your family. Whether it's providing transportation to and from appointments, hosting wellness information sessions, or offering events that allow you to reconnect with friends – we are committed to building a health community.

## 2025 Priorities and Projects:

### Operating

- Continuation of the agreement with the Province to provide diversion and universal services for school-aged children and families from Valleyview to Onoway through the Family Support Program.
- Continuation of Whitecourt Transit service with half-hour pickups during morning and afternoon peak times.
- Continuation of Dial-A-Bus service on weekdays for individuals that meet program criteria, and administration of the Transportation Grant Program available to seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- Continuation of seniors programming and support.
- Continuation of the Doors Open program, a youth afterschool program for grades 6-12 and PD Day excursions.
- Continuation of Doors Open for grades 4-6 once a month.
- Host the 2nd annual Teen Week to recognize teens, and provide additional activities for teens in the community.
- Support to the Youth Advisory Committee which acts as a liaison between Town Council and Whitecourt youth to ensure needs of this demographic are met. There are 10 youth members that serve on this Committee.



DID  
YOU  
KNOW?

In 2024, Whitecourt launched an online volunteer hub. [www.volunteerwhitecourt.ca](http://www.volunteerwhitecourt.ca) is an online volunteer recruitment site that helps local organizations find volunteers, and helps volunteers find meaningful opportunities to lend their time. The site also provides resources to volunteer organizations, including links to funding and training opportunities.



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To checkout the website

[www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca)

# Recreation, Parks and Culture

**REVENUES**  
\$41,283,057

**EXPENDITURES**  
\$46,280,125

**BALANCE FROM  
TAXATION**  
\$4,997,068

## \$0.29 OF EACH TAX DOLLAR IS ALLOCATED TO THIS FUNCTION

High quality recreation facilities are essential to making communities great places to live – and invest in. Not only do the leisure and cultural facilities and programs offered in Whitecourt provide opportunities for community members to stay active, they also attract businesses and industries to locate in the region, and motivate workers and families to stay or relocate here. The Town of Whitecourt will continue to invest in and provide leadership for recreational and cultural development within our community.

## 2025 Priorities and Projects:

### Capital

- Construction of the Culture & Events Centre \$43,188,525
  - Arts, Culture & Convention Centre
  - Library
  - Town Administration Office
- Surveillance system enhancements at Carlan Community Resource Centre, JDA Place, Allan & Jean Millar Centre, and Festival Park \$164,000
- Boiler replacement at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre \$335,262
- Partner with the Whitecourt Mountain Bike Association to improve access to the park (up to) \$300,000
- Allan & Jean Millar Centre Complete Projects Fieldhouse Air Conditioning \$250,000

### Operating

- Continued support for the Whitecourt Woodlands Performing Arts Society, and continued partnership with the Society to host cultural events, concerts, and festivals; such as Party In The Park.
- Continued support for the Communities in Bloom Committee.
- Operating grant to the Whitecourt & District Public Library.
- Continued operating support to Eastlink Park.
- Continued operating support to the Whitecourt Mountain Bike Park.
- Support to the Whitecourt Community Foundation, increasing community contributions to the Whitecourt Community Fund. The Fund was established to build and strengthen the Whitecourt and area community. The goal of the Fund is to provide grants today and into the future to local charities aimed at improving the quality of life of residents. It will support a wide selection of charitable efforts as the fund grows.



**DID  
YOU  
KNOW?**

Download our mobile app and explore Whitecourt's outdoor spaces using our new trail map features.

- Sort trails by level of difficulty.
- Track your progress live.
- Find nearby points of interest, such as parking areas, playgrounds and parks.



**SCAN QR CODE** →

To checkout the website





## A CENTRE THAT WILL GROW OUR REGION!

Construction of the Culture & Events Centre is underway, and is expected to be complete in the fall of 2026. This state of the art facility will be the center for the growth and enrichment of our region; will expand programming opportunities and experiences; will attract new industry; and, will be venue of celebration.

### The Culture & Events Centre includes:

- An Arts, Culture & Convention Centre
- New Library
- Town Administration Office

Whitecourt has numerous recreational facilities and opportunities that the community can enjoy, and the new Culture & Events Centre will fill an important service gap

that will elevate the cultural vibrancy of Whitecourt and our region. The Centre will not only become the premier facility for performing arts, but will also provide space for increased physical and visual arts programming, expanded educational programming, and larger scale social events.

### Join us!

Your invited to be part of this project through sponsorship! Showcase your commitment to the community and play a key role in shaping Whitecourt's future. For information on how you can become a sponsor email [chelseagrande@whitecourt.ca](mailto:chelseagrande@whitecourt.ca) or call **780-778-2273**.

Follow **@CultureandEventsCentre** on Facebook or visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca).



WWW.WHITECOURT.CA



## KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

### CONTACT US

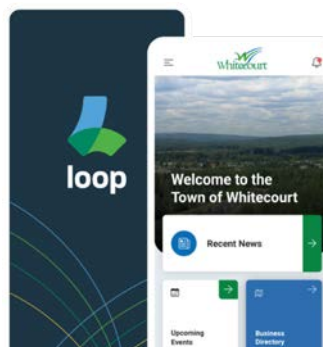
#### TOWN OF WHITECOURT


5004 52 Avenue, Box 509  
Whitecourt AB T7S 1N6

Phone: 780-778-2273

Emergency After Hours: 866-477-1221

Email: [administration@whitecourt.ca](mailto:administration@whitecourt.ca)



 **DOWNLOAD OUR NEW APP**   
Stay up to date with news and events from across the community, view trail maps, and receive important emergency notifications all through our brand new app!

#### Find us on Instagram at:

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- [youthofwhitecourt](#)
- [tourismwhitecourt](#)
- [allanjeanmillarcentre](#)

#### Find us on Facebook at:

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- [www.facebook.com/MillarCentre](https://www.facebook.com/MillarCentre)
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