



TOWN OF HINTON

2026

BUDGET REPORT

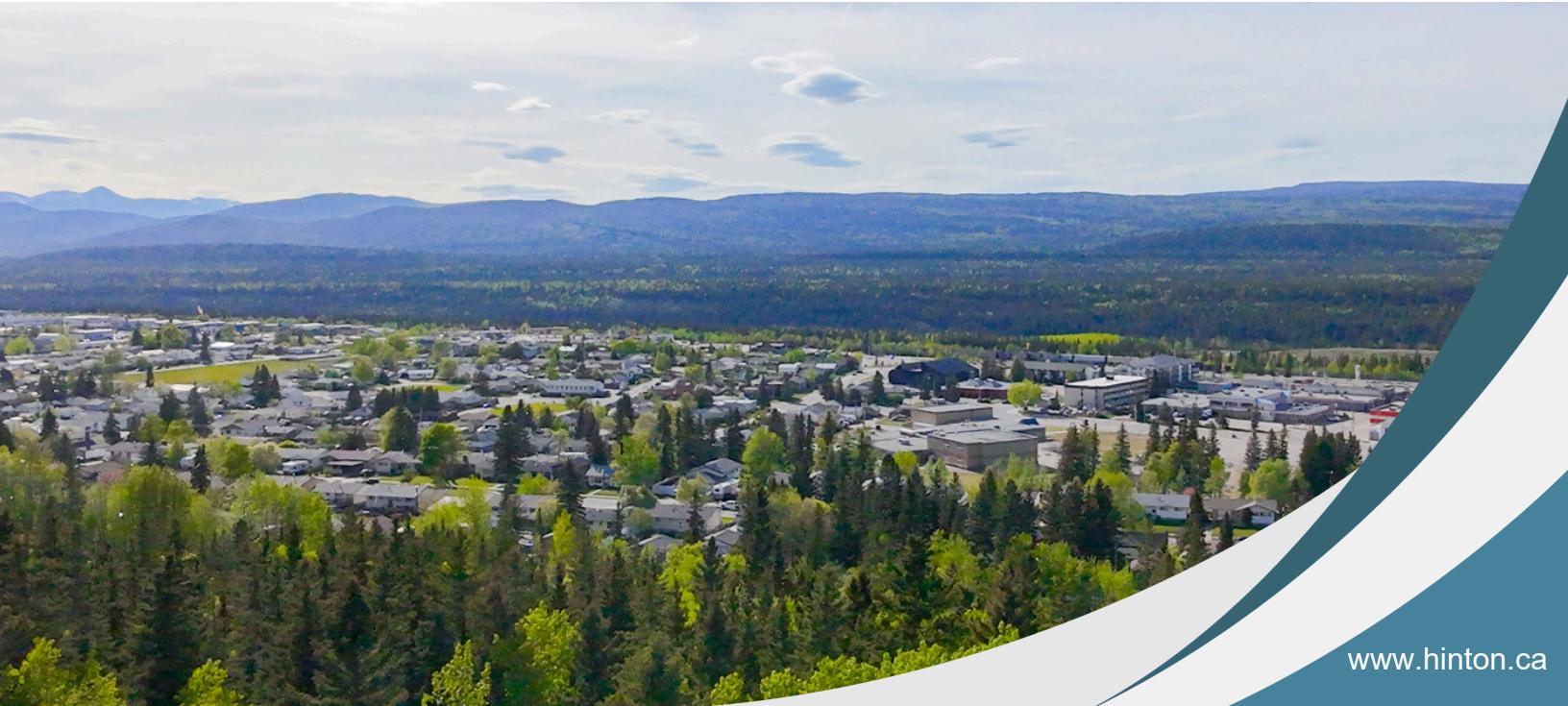


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TOTAL BUDGET \$51.8M
OPERATING \$37M
CAPITAL \$14.8M



TOWN OF HINTON PRIORITIES

“ This is a practical budget with little spending on new programs or staff. Instead, it focuses on essentials like firefighter training, fire hydrant repairs, replacing aging vehicles including a garbage truck, and building up reserves (savings) for the future. ”

Mayor Brian LaBerge

THE 2026 BUDGET WAS BASED ON 2022 - 2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

(Economic Development
Community Services
Organizational Effectiveness
Infrastructure)

In spring 2026, Hinton's new Mayor and Council (elected in October 2025) will decide the Town's priorities for 2026-2029. Council will consider:

- Town finances and operations
- Resident feedback
- Results of the 2025 Recreation Centre Modernization plebiscite
- Regional economic situation, and more.

Council will develop a long term vision, goals, and an action plan. Budgets from 2027 to 2029 will reflect their decisions.



GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Government of Canada, Province of Alberta, and Town of Hinton all have different responsibilities. Here's what they do.

 GOVERNMENT OF CANADA	 PROVINCE OF ALBERTA	 TOWN OF HINTON
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Airports• Borders and passports• Canada Child Benefit• Employment Insurance• Fisheries, oceans and national parks• International travel, support for Canadians abroad• Mortgages• National RCMP• National Defence, Veteran's Affairs• Postal service• Student loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employer and employee supports• Highways• Hospitals• Justice• Landlord and tenant supports• Post-secondary education• Safety enforcement• Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bylaw enforcement• Community support services• Development and building permits• Fire Rescue• Local road maintenance and improvement• Parks, trails, playgrounds• Transit• Utilities (water, sewer, garbage)

This means the **Town of Hinton is not responsible for:**

- The condition of Highway 16
- Health care, such as doctor availability and hospital access
- Schools and education
- Housing availability, cost of housing, rental rates
- Landlord properties and tenant discussions
- Parks and recreation amenities beyond municipal boundaries

HINTON'S FINANCES COMPARED TO SIMILAR COMMUNITIES

▼ **Lower taxes**

A \$400,000 residential property in Hinton paid \$2,240 in taxes (2025) versus an average of \$3,264 elsewhere. A \$700,000 non-residential property in Hinton paid \$6,650 in taxes (2025) versus an average of \$11,130 elsewhere.

▼ **50% lower savings**

Hinton has only saved half of what other communities have saved.

▼ **15% less revenue**

Hinton collects \$5.3M less revenue (taxes, utilities and user fees) per year.

▼ **9% less spending**

Hinton spends \$2.5M less per year. But has \$147M in assets that are near the end of their life.

▼ **58% lower debt**

Hinton carries 8% debt, significantly lower than similar communities.

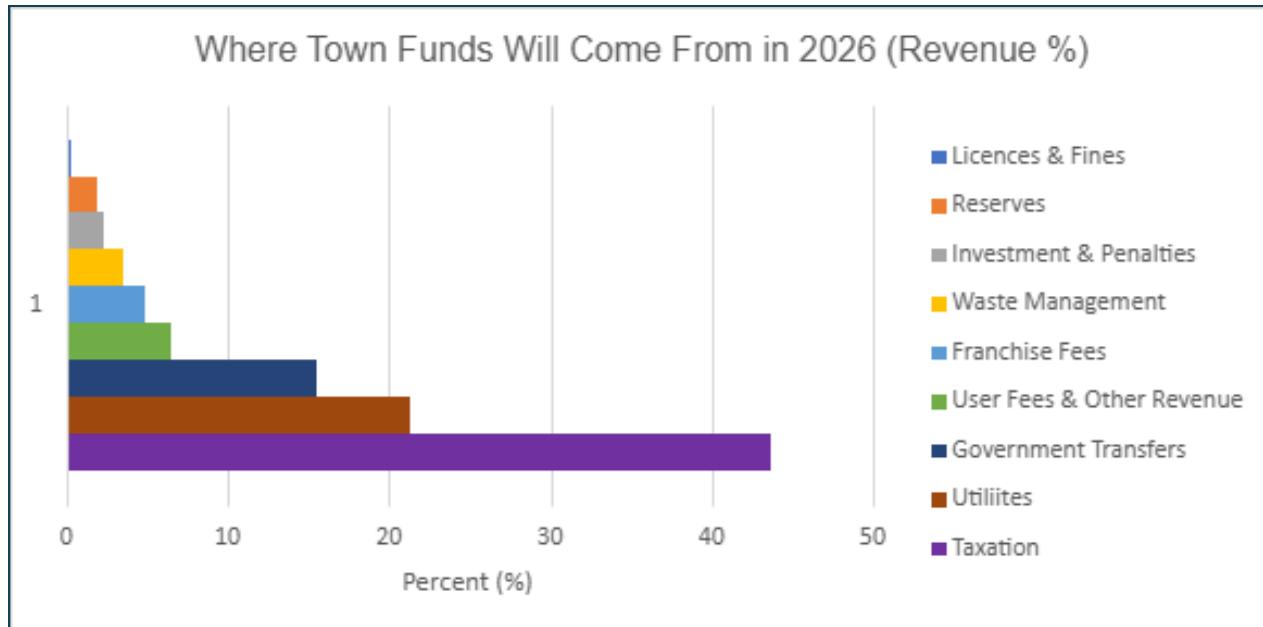
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Hinton's taxes, revenues, and debt need to increase to fund big projects and maintain services.

FUNDING SOURCES

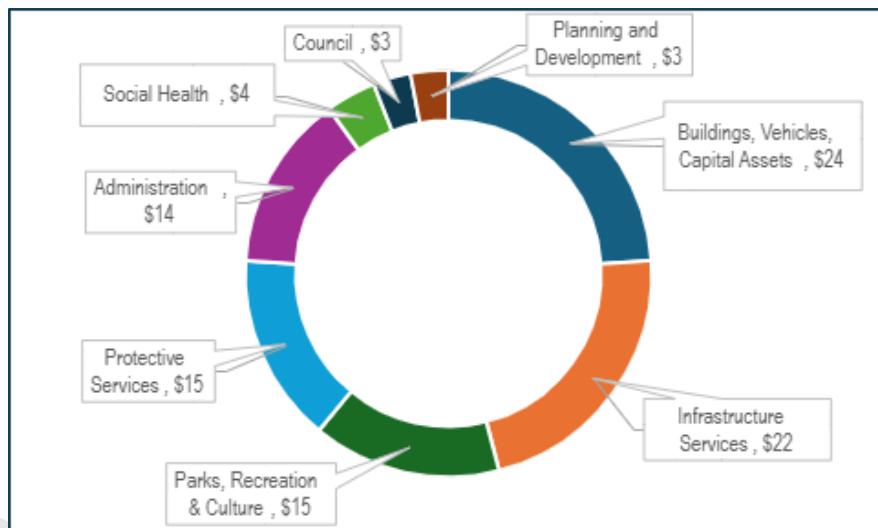
WHERE DO TOWN OF HINTON FUNDS COME FROM?

Hinton's main funding sources include municipal property taxes, user fees, provincial and federal grants, and cost sharing agreements with regional municipalities.



WHAT DO PROPERTY TAXES PAY FOR?

Property taxes support municipal services. Every \$100 of taxes is allocated as follows.



PROPERTY TAXES

2026 MUNICIPAL TAX RATES



Increase of \$23 per month
or \$276 per year

\$400,000 Residential house



Increase of \$68 per month
or \$820 per year

\$700,000 Non-residential

Note: The Town of Hinton also collects taxes on behalf of the Province of Alberta and The Evergreens Foundation. So, *the total property taxes that home-owners pay include a provincial tax and funds that support independent housing*. These taxes are not determined by Hinton's Town Council. Council only determines the municipal property tax rate.

In 2026, the Alberta government is increasing provincial property taxes by 14% to cover the cost of K-12 school operations.



\$51.8M BUDGET

Council approved a three-year Operating Budget (2026-2029) and a five-year Capital Budget (2026-2030) as required by the Municipal Government Act. Multi-year budgets support forward-thinking decisions and ensure that complex multi-year projects can be completed.

\$37M OPERATING BUDGET

The 2026 Operating Budget pays for essential Town services. It includes:

- \$1.7M savings for Recreation Centre Modernization
- \$2.2M for new initiatives (see pages 10-12)

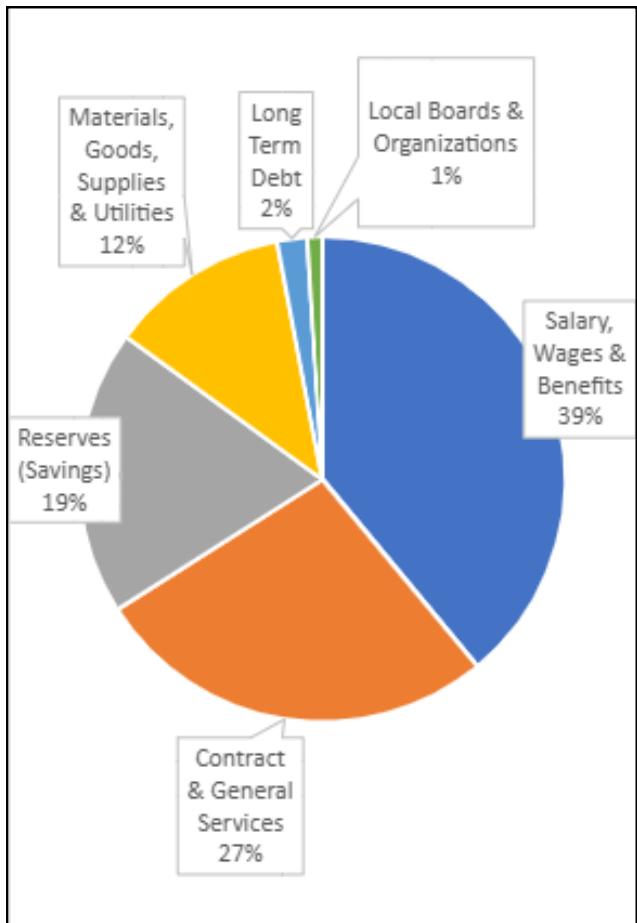


\$14.8M CAPITAL BUDGET

The Capital Budget pays for one-off purchases such as garbage trucks, fire-fighting equipment, and road upgrades. It includes:

- \$12.3M worth of projects carried forward from 2025
- \$2.5M for new capital projects

HOW TOWN FUNDS ARE SPENT



- Contract and general services
(ex. RCMP; legal services; road maintenance)
- Debt
- Local boards and organizations
- Materials, supplies, and utilities
- Salary, wages, and benefits
- Savings





OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

The \$37M Operating Budget includes \$2.2M for the following new initiatives.

ENHANCED SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS



Community Futures West Yellowhead Support

\$10,000

Business incubation and coaching for local entrepreneurs.



Firefighter Training Program

\$38,800

Funding firefighter training that meets National Fire Protection Association standards.



Recreation Centre Modernization

\$1.45M

New savings for future recreation centre modernization activities. Council will decide whether to Maintain, Expand, or Build New during strategic planning in 2026.



Spray Patching

\$80,000

Increased funds for spray patching and crack sealing Town roads, to extend their life and prevent larger problems.

MAINTAINING WATER AND SEWER SERVICES



Town Utility Increase

\$134,060

Increased funds to pay higher water and sewer utility costs at Town-owned facilities.



Wastewater Project Engineering

\$75,000

Engineering for the waste water mechanical screening project.



Water Project Engineering

\$75,000

Engineering for the Water Treatment Plant project.

OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES



ENSURING TOWN SUSTAINABILITY



Collective Bargaining

\$35,000

Hiring a contractor to help negotiate a new agreement for union staff.



Diesel Exhaust Monitoring

\$7,500

Assessing diesel exhaust particulates from Town equipment.



Encampment Remediation

\$15,000

Hiring a contractor to remediate illegal camps on municipal lands.



Facility Fire Safety Upgrades

\$35,000

Upgrading or replacing building fire safety systems.



Fleet Reserve Contribution Increase

\$158,345

Annual increase to the Fleet Reserve to ensure Town vehicles can be replaced when needed.



West Area Structure Plan

\$150,000

Reviewing and updating West Area Structure Plan Bylaw No.1117 (2017) to help guide residential development.

\$520,175 TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

Arts Society of Hinton	Operates The Guild where artists foster a creative environment committed to learning and community entertainment.	\$68,000
Foothills Recreation Management Association	Manages regional campgrounds, public recreation areas, and trail systems.	\$20,000
High School Scholarships	\$1,000 to each; Harry Collinge High School, Father Gerard Redmond Community Catholic School.	\$2,000
Hinton Destination Marketing Organization (DMO)	Operates Hinton Visitor Centre and promotes tourism around Hinton.	\$25,000
Hinton Disc Golf Society	Maintains the Hinton Disc Golf Course.	\$5,000 operating plus \$5,150 capital
Hinton Food Bank	Provides emergency food services to Hinton citizens.	\$15,000
Hinton Healthcare Foundation	Assists in stabilizing health care and attracting and retaining health care providers.	\$250,000
Hinton Historical Society	Operates the Northern Rockies Museum of Culture & Heritage.	\$65,000
Hinton Mountain Bike Association	Maintains the Hinton Bike Park.	\$22,000 operating plus \$7,000 capital
Hinton Youth Advisory Council (HYAC)	Provides youth with mentorship and a platform for input into municipal processes.	\$8,000
Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS)	Provides emergency critical care, anywhere, by air, ground, and virtually.	\$20,000
Wild Mountain Music Festival	Summer destination for music lovers and a community attraction.	\$6,825 cash plus \$1,200 in-kind

2026 - 2029 OPERATING BUDGET

	Budget 2026	Plan 2027	Plan 2028	Plan 2029
Taxation	\$22,504,269	\$24,868,061	\$25,192,839	\$25,410,088
Requisitions	\$6,333,147	\$6,333,147	\$6,333,147	\$6,333,148
Municipal Taxes	\$16,171,122	\$18,534,914	\$18,859,692	\$19,076,940
User fees & Goods	\$1,891,877	\$1,578,829	\$1,573,520	\$1,583,137
Fines	\$99,996	\$129,994	\$129,994	\$130,318
Franchise Fees	\$1,804,257	\$1,974,232	\$1,974,232	\$1,979,167
Investment Income	\$667,415	\$531,565	\$531,565	\$532,886
Rentals	\$540,580	\$530,438	\$531,035	\$532,808
Development Levies	\$10,001	\$10,001	\$10,001	\$10,024
Penalties & Costs on Taxes	\$187,751	\$187,751	\$187,751	\$188,220
Waste Management	\$1,321,789	\$1,321,789	\$1,321,789	\$1,324,993
Utilities	\$7,880,980	\$7,880,980	\$7,880,980	\$7,900,681
Grants, Regional Cost Share	\$5,746,269	\$4,483,605	\$4,453,682	\$4,463,591
Transfers from Reserves	\$705,310	\$26,705	\$26,705	\$26,772
Municipal Revenue	\$37,027,347	\$37,190,802	\$37,480,946	\$37,749,537
Salary, Wages & Benefits	\$14,482,429	\$13,964,793	\$14,137,531	\$14,174,642
Contracted & General Services	\$9,402,565	\$9,176,775	\$9,233,375	\$9,353,249
Materials, Supplies & Utilities	\$4,455,400	\$4,467,905	\$4,527,830	\$4,591,662
One-Time Operational Projects	\$452,575	\$52,195	\$-	\$-
Transfers to local boards/agencies	\$548,627	\$318,795	\$318,795	\$319,593
Long-Term Debt Interest	\$130,059	\$111,727	\$111,727	\$112,006
Long-Term Debt Principal	\$490,182	\$340,109	\$334,671	\$335,503
Bank Charges & Short-term Interest	\$30,633	\$30,538	\$30,543	\$30,620
Transfers to Reserves	\$7,034,877	\$8,727,965	\$8,786,474	\$8,832,262
Municipal Expense	\$37,027,347	\$37,190,802	\$37,480,946	\$37,749,537

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The \$14.8M Capital Budget includes the following initiatives.

ENSURING ROAD SAFETY



Asphalt Apron Repairs

\$353,380 (dependent on cost share agreement)

Repairing asphalt roads and the approaches to Willow Creek Road, the sawmill entrance, and Robb Road from the cemetery to Mountain Street.



Happy Creek Culvert Replacement

\$3.5M

The Town of Hinton portion of replacing the Happy Creek culvert beneath Highway 16 and associated access roads.



Kelley Road Consultation

\$25,000

An engineering survey and potential solutions to prevent a washout on Kelley Road.



Tamarack Rehabilitation

\$910,000

Engineering design and re-construction of Tamarack Drive.



Tiny Homes - Additional Sidewalk

\$15,000

Constructing a sidewalk to connect the Tiny Home units with their parking lot.

SUPPORTING RECREATION



Ammonia Plant Contingency

\$200,000

Decommissioning the old Arena Ice Plant when the new one is installed in 2026.



Boardwalk Rehabilitation

\$1M (grant dependent)

Reconstruct damaged and failing boardwalk sections.



Bradwell Playground Replacement

\$173,893

Dismantling the old playground and installing a new one.



Skate Park Resurfacing

\$180,450

Additional funds to address concrete erosion and resurface the Skate Park.



CAPITAL PROJECTS

LONG TERM TOWN SUSTAINABILITY



Building Management System

\$225,000

Replacing computer systems that control mechanical and electrical systems at the Government Centre and Hinton Centre.



Fire Hydrant Replacement

\$315,000

Part of a four-year project repairing or replacing inoperable fire hydrants.



Fleet Replacement

\$866,250

Replacing Town vehicles used for garbage collection, maintenance, and community programs.



Public Transit

\$133,933 (grant dependent)

Part of a four-year transit system upgrade which includes purchasing buses, upgrading signage and bus shelters, and adding warming shelters.



Stave Line & Backup Power

\$3M

Part of a three-year project replacing a wooden stave line (underground pipe) plus upgrades and backup generators for water and wastewater treatment.



Wastewater Mechanical Separation System

\$3,925,000

Part of a four-year project installing a primary mechanical separation system to treat municipal sewage.



Wayfinding Signage & Pole Maintenance

\$50,000

Part of a two-year project replacing and maintaining wooden posts that accent Hinton signs and buildings.

CAPITAL BUDGET

CAPITAL BUDGET	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
<i>Project Name / Description</i>					
Boardwalk Rehabilitation (grant dependent)	\$1,000,000				
Happy Creek Culvert Replacement	\$3,500,000				
Tamarack Rehabilitation	\$910,000				
Stave Line and Backup Power Generation	\$3,000,000	\$965,000			
Wastewater Mechanical Separation System	\$3,925,000	\$3,925,000	\$3,925,000		
Wayfinding Signage & Pole Maintenance	\$50,000	\$50,000			
Subtotal Carry-forward Projects	\$12,385,000	\$4,940,000	\$3,925,000		
Skate Park Resurfacing	\$180,450				
Building Management System	\$225,000				
Tiny Homes Additional Sidewalk	\$15,000				
Kelley Road Consultation	\$25,000				
Public Transit (grant dependant)	\$133,933	\$92,565	\$92,556		
Ammonia Plant Contingency	\$200,000				
Bradwell Playground Replacement	\$173,893				
Fire Hydrant Replacement	\$315,000	\$315,000	\$315,000	\$315,000	
Fleet Replacement	\$886,252	\$1,619,358	\$147,398	\$110,079	\$1,289,106
Asphalt Apron Repairs (cost share)	\$353,380				
Mascot Replacement	\$-	\$10,000			
2026 Subtotal	\$2,507,908	\$2,036,923	\$554,954	\$425,079	\$1,289,106
TOTAL BUDGET BY YEAR	\$14,892,908	\$6,976,923	\$4,479,954	\$425,079	\$1,289,106

CAPITAL FUNDING SOURCES

HOW WILL THE TOWN PAY FOR 2026-2029 CAPITAL PROJECTS?

Grants

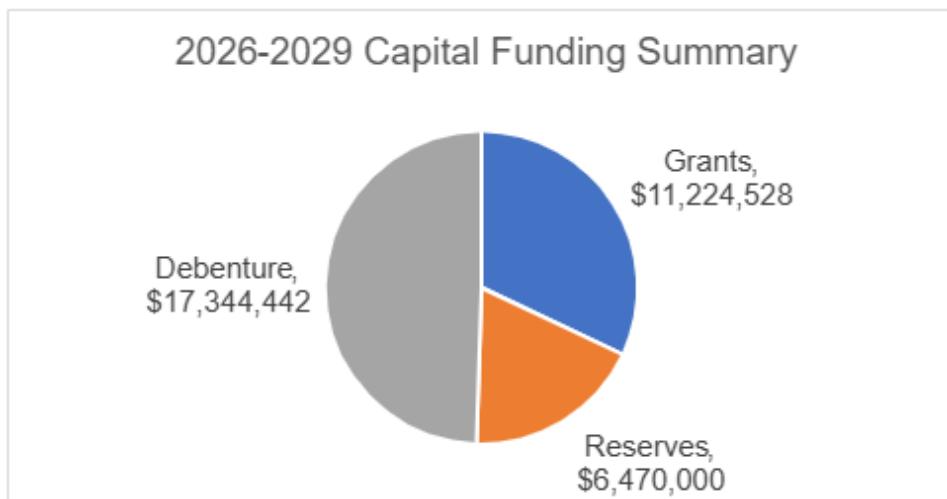
These are given to the municipality by governments or other organizations. Generally, Town staff must apply for individual grants for specific projects.

Reserves

Municipal reserves are like savings accounts. Funds are set aside by the Town for future expenses, emergencies, and budget shortfalls.

Debenture

This is a type of debt borrowing used to pay for municipal projects. The Municipal Government Act has strict requirements for municipalities that want to borrow funds and borrowing must be authorized by a Town bylaw.



*The amount of any debenture depends on the grant funds received by the Town. More grant funds mean a lower debenture.

WHAT'S NEXT?

SPRING 2026

- Small budget adjustments may occur to reflect unforeseen economic changes.
- The municipal property tax rate is set.
- Council completes strategic planning for 2026-2029 to provide direction for future budgets.
- Administration staff follow the budget to complete capital and operating projects.

JUNE 2026

- Property owners receive tax invoices that reflect the 2026 municipal tax rate.

LEARN MORE



Ask questions via Hinton Listens:
www.hinton.ca/HintonListens



Sign up for email notifications:
www.hinton.ca/NotifyMe



Learn more at:
www.hinton.ca/Budget2026

