

Utilities 2021

4300 – Solid Waste Services

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The County owns and operates nine solid waste transfer stations and provides residential garbage collection in select communities. The transfer stations collect approved waste from County residents and transports the material to the West Dried Meat Lake Landfill located in Camrose County. The transfer stations use a combination of roll off bins and transtors which dump into a specialized compaction trailer. Recycling efforts include collection of tires, oil, metal, and paper. Burning is permitted at some transfer station sites but is restricted to clean organic waste.

FINANCIAL

Revenues for this department primarily come from tax support with minimal collection of revenue (tipping fees) for oversize loads and white metal items. Costs for residential garbage collection is fully recovered by monthly service fees to those specific customers. Expenses include all those costs necessary to undertake the work including County forces, transport, third party contracting, and tipping fees charged by the West Dried Meat Lake Landfill.

	Budget 2020	Budget 2021	Year over Year Variance
Total Expenses	\$1,302,082	\$1,346,790	3.4%
Total Revenues	\$194,140	\$238,848	23.0%
Net Tax Support	-\$1,107,942	-\$1,107,942	-- %

The zero % variance from 2020 reflects small reductions to seasonal labour and a slight projected increase in tipping fees to maintain an equal amount of tax support required for 2021.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Key objectives include continual upgrades and upkeep of the transfer station sites. This involves efforts to clean and organize the sites so that they function and appear in a more professional manner. The site attendants will be given more support in 2021 which will address operating and maintenance issues with the facilities and to handle waste efficiently. Other objectives include repairs and upgrades to the transfer station attendant's office shacks.

Capital upgrades will be performed by Public Works and includes the installation of a retaining wall at the Gwynne transfer station, upgrades to the Mulhurst transfer station site, and installation of a tire collection area at the East Millet transfer station.

For 2021, the County will research and develop a plan to implement weigh scales at our busiest transfer stations. The weigh scales are to implement a system to fairly charge the customer based on the type and mass of the waste.

CHALLENGES

Inflationary pressures both internal and external, increase the cost of the service. Theft and illegal dumping is a big problem and efforts are underway to improve the security at all the sites. This includes investing in fencing and gates and possibly alarm systems. Researching and implementing a viable recycling program for all recyclables - is a major challenge.