

Public Works 2021

3203 – PW Funded Projects OPS Budget

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

This department deals with capital projects of various road and infrastructure projects. This includes funding of engineering studies for future capital upgrades, bridge replacements, road and stormwater upgrades, special projects and gravelling in Division 7 as part of the Clearwater County revenue sharing agreement.

FINANCIAL

Revenues for this department come from grants, Clearwater revenue agreement, transfers from reserves and annual tax support. Total projected revenue for 2021 is \$20,558,829 with \$17,271,519 coming from grants such as ACRP, FGT, STIP, MSP, MSI and DRP.

Expenses include significant capital projects such as the G3 Resource Road (paving and intersection treatment), several bridge replacements and repairs, the beginning of Hamlet Infrastructure improvements in Winfield, Gwynne and Mulhurst, DRP recovery projects (2019 West Flood), road and bridge upgrades to Range Road 11 (Norris Beach Rd) and the SE Stormwater Flood Mitigation, a collaborative effort between the County and Ermineskin Cree Nation (ECN).

	Budget 2020	Budget 2021	Year over Year Variance
Total Expenses	\$8,985,047	\$20,558,829	228.8%
Total Revenues	\$8,250,047	\$19,823,829	240.3%
Net Tax Support	-\$735,000	-\$735,000	-- %

The - % variance from 2020 reflects efforts to maintain a zero percent increase in tax support. This is achieved by maximizing available grant funding, contributions from outside sources (SV IDP, ECN) and withdrawal from reserves.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The key objective for this department is planning. Planning initially starts with Strategic Planning sessions and identification of key initiatives and concepts followed by development of strategies and framework, commissioning of engineering studies, establishing project scope and expected costs, and determining new sources of revenues.

CHALLENGES

As grant monies are a major contributor to this department, challenges remain in identifying available sources and seeking out other “less attainable” sources. Certain grants are well established and allocated to the County provided the County has eligible projects that meet grant criteria. These include MSI and FGT. Other grants may be available, but to obtain them, the County is required to apply on a project by project basis with no guarantee of success. These include STIP, ACRP and DRP.