

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

December 11, 2019
Issue #7

Edmonton

Budget Deliberations Day 1, Adjustments and Municipal Revenue

Day 1 recap: What was discussed at Council?

Today, Council began budget deliberations with discussion of capital budget adjustments – possible savings around new construction and renewal of existing facilities and roads, and the impact to Edmontonians if these changes are made. Council also discussed the implications of possible cuts to the Edmonton Police Services budget and had a robust debate about whether the West LRT should be reconsidered in light of economic constraints in the city. Council voted to proceed with current West LRT plans but still have many capital and operating decisions to make in the coming days.

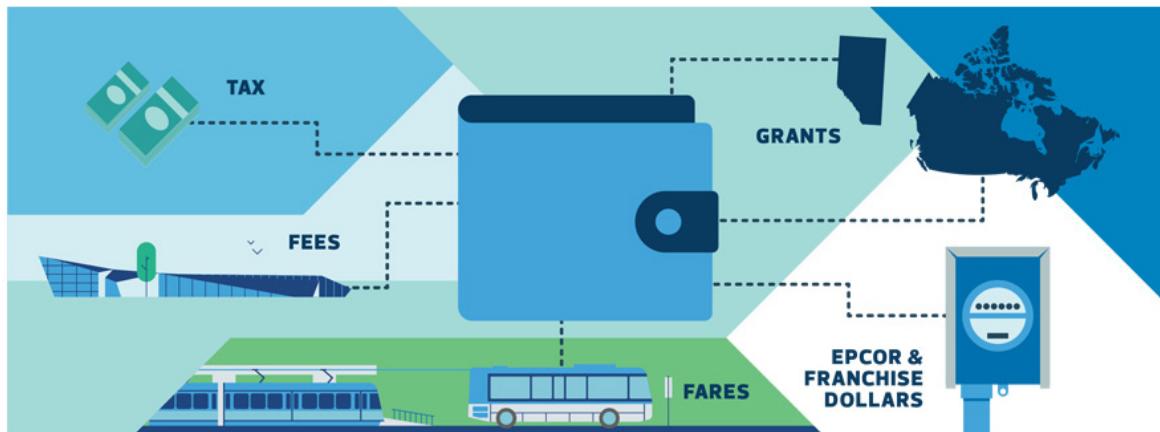
Budget adjustments

The City is in a “budget cycle” of 2019-2022 – the current budgets cover all four of those years. This allows for better planning. However, multi-year budgets need adjustments. Twice a year, Administration brings forward the Supplemental Operating Budget Adjustment (SOBA) and Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustment (SCBA). Through these reports, Council can make changes without revisiting the four-year budgets as a whole.

Other sources of revenue

Alberta's Municipal Government Act limits municipal taxation powers and so there are only a few ways the City of Edmonton can raise money: grants from other orders of government, property taxes, investment income, user fees and franchise fees.

Where City dollars come from



Franchise fees Utility operators provide gas, power and wastewater services to Edmontonians. The City charges these operators franchise fees for related costs and land access.

Investment The City has an investment fund, created after the sale of EdTel. This fund provides the city with a consistent source of revenue. Without income from this and other investments, taxes might be higher.

User fees are charged for some City services to partially recover costs from direct users of the service. Examples include recreation facility admissions, transit fares, City parking fees or fees for building and other permits.

Property taxes make up over 50 per cent of operating revenues. Learn more in [Budget At A Glance #6](#).

What's next?

Council will continue to look at capital and operating budget adjustments tomorrow.