

Top 10 Things You Need to Know About the City Budget

#1 Budgets help build a better life for Edmontonians

The budget is the City's plan for where we will get money (revenues) and how we will spend it (expenditures). It maps out how tax dollars and other funding will be invested to provide the services Edmontonians count on as well as to build and maintain roads, bridges, recreation centres and other important City facilities.

#2 Budgets are built in four-year cycles

The next cycle runs from 2023–2026. The budget is reviewed and adjusted each year, as needed. The budgeting process is driven by achieving the goals and priorities as voiced by Council and Edmontonians through ConnectEdmonton, extensive public engagement on The City Plan and the Corporate Business Plan.

#3 There are four budgets

The budget has two main parts: the operating budget and the capital budget. There are also separate budgets for public utilities: Waste Services and the Blatchford Utility.

#4 We MUST balance the budget

The City can't budget for a deficit or use debt to pay for our operations. It's the law in Alberta.

#5 The average household pays under \$8/day

Based on the 2022 assessed housing values and operating budget, the average Edmonton household, with an assessed value of approximately \$402,000, pays under \$8 a day. Imagine life without roads, parks, police and fire services, libraries, summer pools and winter skating, snow clearing and repair crews. Now imagine your household could buy a pass, for under \$8 a day, that would give those things to everyone who lives with you. That pass would also help support recreation facilities and attractions, transit, the City's local partners in everything from sports to social work, and dozens of other things you rely on. That's the work that less than \$8 a day gets done!

#6 We have some of the lowest tax increases in Canada

Over the past 5 years, Edmonton's average tax increase has been 1.8%. This is lower than the average rate of inflation over that same time period, which is closer to 3%. In 2022, Edmonton's 1.9% tax increase was among the lowest in Canada, compared to 3.87% in Calgary and 3% in Ottawa.

#7 We're building a lot over the next four years

The next four-year budget has over \$4 billion in already-approved capital projects, including transformational projects that will expand our LRT network and Yellowhead Trail, as well as two new recreation centres and an expansion at the Valley Zoo.

#8 We also have a lot to maintain

The City has over 9.1 million assets, with a total replacement value of over \$31.6 billion. Our capital budget carries the cost to maintain:

- 11,403 lane km of roads/alleys
- 5,881 km of sidewalks
- 688 km of trails
- 94 light rail vehicles
- 976 buildings

#9 We're always looking for efficiencies

The City has applied a continuous improvement process to find efficiencies in our budgets since 2014. We have made significant budget reductions in recent years to free up dollars for new priorities. If we want to make further budget reductions in 2023–2026, we will need to look at reducing service levels, cutting services, or increasing user fees and fines.

#10 The tax money you pay the City vs Province vs Federal Government

For a typical Edmonton household, for each dollar paid in taxes and fees to the government sector, approximately 65 cents is paid to the federal government, 26 cents to the Province, and just under 9 cents to the City.

