



ST. J@HN'S

Media Release

December 15, 2025

City of St. John's Releases Budget 2026

Today, the City of St. John's released the details of Budget 2026. To maintain programs and services and address growing operating and capital costs, the City of St. John's 2026 budget is balanced at \$365,997,790, reflecting a 4.8% increase over 2025.

"Council's priority for the 2026 Budget is to maintain fiscal discipline while ensuring every dollar is invested wisely to sustain and enhance the programs and services our community values," said Deputy Mayor Ron Ellsworth, lead for Finance. "As a result, there are no cuts to programs or services, and the mill rates will remain unchanged for 2026."

The residential mill rate will remain at 9.1 and the commercial mill rate will remain at 29.5. Water tax will marginally increase by \$10 per unit annually for residential properties and 1.4% for commercial. All revenue from the water tax directly funds the provision of the service.

A distribution of how tax dollars are spent is available in the Value for Tax Dollar factsheet. Highlights of new investments in Budget 2026 include:

- An investment of nearly \$22 million for new capital projects, which supports important initiatives like road rehabilitation, housing related programs, sidewalk repairs, traffic safety improvements, technology investments, facility repairs, and capital grants to community groups. A list of projects will be announced in the new year.
- An investment of \$5.3 million to support the replacement of snow clearing equipment as part of the City's asset management plan, ensuring the reliability of equipment to provide this essential service.
- An increase in the operating grant for Metrobus and the Para-Transit System by approximately \$1 million to support service improvements and increased costs for maintenance and parts.
- An additional \$728,000 has been allocated to the St. John's Regional Fire
 Department to support occupational health and safety, fleet maintenance and
 protective clothing, bringing the total investment to nearly \$29 million.

The City also announced a further reduction to the operating grant to St. John's Sports and Entertainment for 2026 by \$214,000, due to a rise in concerts, events, and meetings across both the Mary Brown's Centre and St. John's Convention Centre.

As identified in the City's strategic plan, Our City, Our Future, The City of St. John's has a strategic direction to be a sustainable City. Ensuring a balanced and responsible annual budget helps us achieve this priority.

Media Contact:

Jackie O'Brien 709-576-8491; 709-330-6957

jobrien@stjohns.ca

Budget Speech 2026 Councillor Ron Ellsworth December 15, 2025 Check Against Delivery



Your Worship and Members of Council, I am pleased to present our budget for the fiscal year 2026.

As a council, it is our responsibility to make budget decisions that allow us to offer high quality municipal services and programs, while ensuring we are using tax dollars wisely.

This Budget reflects our commitment to being a sustainable and effective City, managing our resources responsibly, while also planning for the future.

Fiscal Update

To maintain the level of service we know our residents appreciate, we have balanced the budget for 2026 at \$365,997,790, reflecting a 4.8% increase over 2025.

While we are experiencing budget growth, there is no increase to the mill rate. The residential mill rate remains steady at 9.1, and the commercial at 29.5.

Water taxes will increase slightly by \$10 per unit annually for residential properties and 1.4% for commercial users. All revenue from the water tax directly funds the provision of the service, and helps cover increases in costs for electricity, repairs and maintenance and capital investment.

The increase in Budget 2026 expenditures is being offset by a rise in property tax assessments, which were released earlier this year. Assessments reflect changes in market value—not a change in City taxation—and keeping the mill rate stable helps limit additional increases for residents. This rise in property assessments is not unique to St. John's, as market values have risen across the region and within cities across the country.

There are no increases to recreation fees, however there are some changes to service fees.

Municipal Compliance Letter requests are increasing from \$150 to \$200. These sorts of requests are typically submitted by law firms on behalf of property owners or perspective buyers of a property. The form would include information on zoning, the number of units, outstanding permits or charges attached to a specific property.

Tipping fees at Robin Hood Bay will also increase from \$92.50/MT to \$94.50 MT, as approved by the Eastern Regional Service Board to offset inflation. There are no other changes to fees in this budget.

We continue to be faced with rising costs to deliver services, whether it is computer software licensing, postage or utilities, these pressures our residents are feeling are also a reality for the City.

As we look to the future, we must be creative in finding cost-saving solutions that protect programs and services while ensuring we continue to deliver what residents rely on every day.

St. John's is growing, but our ability to raise revenue hasn't kept up—we rely almost entirely on property and water taxes, which is not sustainable.

Municipalities invest heavily in infrastructure, housing, and economic growth, yet the revenue returns primarily benefit other levels of government. Events, construction, job creation, and tourism contribute significantly to HST and income tax, but municipalities do not receive a share of the revenue.

We encourage the new Provincial Government to consider HST sharing with municipalities that do not receive operating grants, as well as increasing multi-year capital funding, which has not grown with inflation.

We continue to invest in essential projects, but these projects underline the growing gap between municipal responsibilities and available resources.

A modern fiscal partnership — one that shares both responsibility and revenue — is key to ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

Investment into Critical Services

Environmental services, like ensuring clean drinking water, reliable sewer systems, and responsible waste collection, continue to be our largest expenditure. We have maintained our investment in these services at just over \$91 million, which is approximately 25% of our budget. These are crucial services which we will continue to invest in for the health and well-being of our community.

Transportation services are the second largest area of investment in our budget, with an investment of nearly \$82 million into public transit, snow clearing, and the upkeep of roads, sidewalks, traffic calming, traffic signals, and crosswalks to keep people moving safely.

This includes an investment of \$5.3 million to support the replacement of snow clearing equipment as part of the City's asset management plan, ensuring the reliability of the equipment required to provide this essential service.

In 2026, the City will also increase the operating grant for Metrobus and the Para-Transit System by approximately \$1 million. This funding will support service improvements to several routes for winter and spring of 2026, as well as increasing the frequency on several routes from hourly to 30 minutes in fall 2026. It will also offset a slight decrease in ridership and increases in costs related to bus maintenance and parts. Metrobus continues to be an important service to many residents, and we are forecasting 4.9 million rides next year. This funding will ensure the continued development of the service and increase convenience for riders.

We continue to invest in important services protecting our community, such as the St. John's Regional Fire Department. This year, over \$728,000 has been added to the budget, bringing the total investment to nearly \$29 million for fire protection. This increase will support additional resources for occupational health and safety and fleet maintenance, as well as protective clothing and uniforms that help keep our firefighters safe on the job.

Future Focused Investments

Of course, we continue to make critical investments into our capital infrastructure. Capital projects cover a wide range of services including road rehabilitation, housing projects, sidewalk repairs, traffic safety initiatives, technology investments, facility repairs, and capital grants to community groups.

Budget 2026 includes a total anticipated capital project spend of over \$58 million.

Nearly \$22 million is budgeted for new capital projects, with over \$36 million for debt service in relation to cost-shared capital projects. A list of newly funded projects will be announced in the new year.

This increase of approximately \$4.5 million over last year is made possible by an increase in funding from the Canada Community Building Fund, formerly known as the Gas Tax Rebate, which increased by 82% to over \$6 million.

Supporting Housing Growth

I also want to take a minute to recognize the important work the City is doing to support housing, as access to safe and affordable housing remains one of the most important issues facing our residents.

For 2026 the City has maintained its spending for the 476 units of non-profit housing it owns and operates. Our focus the past few years has been on creating the conditions that promote the development of more housing.

Through incentives, partnerships, regulatory reform, and targeted grants, we are creating the conditions for more housing supply, more affordable options, and more choice for residents.

Much of this work is made possible by the Housing Accelerator Fund. From reforming our development regulations to support more density, to neighborhood planning and pre-approved housing designs, there are various initiatives in this project plan that support the development of housing.

As part of HAF, we launched the Multi-Unit Purpose-Built Rental Incentive Program which offers fee exemptions of up to \$100,000 to developers building rental housing.

We also had great success with our grant program, which is now closed, to support homeowners in building subsidiary units, tiny homes or backyard suites. Due to popularity of the program, additional funding was allocated for projects bringing the total to \$2.6 million, which will support 100 residential projects.

We look forward to rolling out additional items as part of our HAF plan in 2026.

Building Economic Sustainability & Connection

Outside of providing critical infrastructure and protective services, it is also important that we continue creating opportunities for residents to connect, stay active, and engage in community initiatives that support overall well-being. In 2026, we will continue to invest in recreation programs, parks and open spaces, cultural activities and event spaces — allocating approximately \$32 million.

St. John's Sports and Entertainment has had an exceptional year, bringing concerts, conferences, and major events to the Mary Brown's Centre and Convention Centre — and of course the exciting return of hockey with the Newfoundland Regiment. We're anticipating another strong year in 2026, which will allow us to reduce the City's operating grant by approximately \$214,000.

SJSEL continues to show considerable growth in both activity and economic impact for our city and region. In 2024 and 2025, SJSEL generated over \$76 million in economic impact with \$59 million of that being generated by the St. John's Convention Centre. Economic impact is derived from the booking of hotel rooms, food and beverage spending at restaurants and bars, transportation and the many other service industry benefits.

The 2026 operating grant is \$5.2 million, which is \$1 million less than 2024. As we look forward, 2026 is set to be one of the strongest years yet for St. John's Sports & Entertainment with highlights including the Montana's Brier, and a record-breaking calendar of events at St. John's Convention Centre. This demonstrates that SJSEL is doing more with less while continuing to invest in its facilities.

Congratulations to SJSEL for everything achieved this year. We are excited for what's ahead.

Tourism is a key driver of our economy, and as we build momentum, we are also focused on strengthening long-term business growth and value-added employment in our region. Advantage St. John's has demonstrated exceptional leadership in this area, and we are increasing our investment in regional economic development to \$867,000.

Workforce Enhancements for a Growing City

As our City continues to grow and modernize, it is important that we have the right resources in place to provide quality services and programs.

In budget 2026, there are a number of staffing changes and reallocations, with full time equivalent positions rising by 12.32.

We are pleased to introduce additional resources for inclusion services to meet the increasing demand for these supports and improve access to programs.

We have also introduced additional resources for occupational health and safety, which will support additional safety initiatives that protect our employees.

With the addition of a transportation engineer, we can advance accessibility and traffic safety initiatives.

Plus, we have additional resources to support recreation, parks and other essential services.

Conclusion

To conclude, I want to thank our managers and staff for their continued dedication to delivering services efficiently and effectively. As an organization committed to continuous improvement and our long-term strategic priorities, I am proud of the work being done each day to strengthen quality of life in St. John's and support the City's vision for the future.

I believe Budget 2026 reflects these efforts and reinforces Council's commitment to delivering the best possible programs and services for residents and businesses, helping make St. John's an even better place to live, work, and play.

With that, Your Worship, I respectfully table the 2026 Budget and accompanying tax resolutions for Council's consideration and approval.



Value for Tax Dollar Distribution of Taxes for City Services

Please note that percentages have been rounded.



Environmental Services | \$91,154,322

Ensures clean drinking water, reliable sewer systems, and responsible waste collection and diversion across the city.



Transportation Services | \$81,729,353

Funds public transit, snow clearing, and the upkeep of roads, sidewalks, traffic signals, and crosswalks to keep people moving safely.



Capital Projects | \$58,005,204

Investments into major upgrades to roads, facilities, water and sewer infrastructure and long-term capital improvements.



Administration & Support Services | \$39,626,396

Includes support services and tools needed to operate the City, such as the Access Centre, occupational health and safety, human resources, information technology and more.



Protective Services | \$36,575,939

Supports services that keep residents, animals and property safe, such as the St. John's Regional Fire Department, Inspection Services, Parking Enforcement, and Animal Care and Adoption.



Parks, Recreation & Culture | \$32,077,018

Includes maintenance for parks, trails, and recreation centres and the delivery of programs and cultural activities that support community well-being.



Planning, Development & Engineering | \$9,424,447

Supports city planning, land development services, and engineering for municipal construction and facilities, ensuring neighbourhoods, infrastructure, and public spaces grow safely, sustainably, and in line with community needs.



Housing | \$7,349,375

Operating costs for 476 residential non-profit rental units and supports for affordable housing initiatives.



Other Fiscal | \$6,366,985

Includes necessary financial obligations and real estate related expenses not captured in other categories.



Tourism, Events & Economic Development | \$3,685,752

Supports events, tourism promotion, and business development that strengthen the local economy and attract visitors.



Total | **\$365,997,790**

2026 Budget Tables

2025 Budget is presented for comparative purposes and, where applicable, has been restated to reflect realignment of Departments, Divisions, and Programs.

Table 1: 2025-2026 Revenue Change					
	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change \$	Change %	
Taxation:					
41112 Residential Realty ¹	122,907,018	114,300,352	8,606,666	7.5%	
41118 Commercial Realty ²	85,403,000	82,530,716	2,872,284	3.5%	
41940 Accommodation Tax ³	4,000,000	3,400,000	600,000	17.6%	
41991 Utility Tax ⁴	7,300,000	7,000,000	300,000	4.3%	
44410 Water Tax ⁵	39,585,700	38,646,300	939,400	2.4%	
Taxation: Total	259,195,718	245,877,368	13,318,350	5.4%	
Grants In Lieu Of Taxes:					
42100 Govt. Of Canada	4,950,000	4,950,000	-	0.0%	
42200 Govt. Canada Agencies	950,000	950,000	-	0.0%	
42300 Water Tax Grant	3,415,759	3,366,963	48,796	1.4%	
Grants In Lieu Of Taxes: Total	9,315,759	9,266,963	48,796	0.5%	
Sales Goods & Services:					
44100 General Government ⁶	4,642,670	4,235,713	406,957	9.6%	
44300 Transportation	1,696,000	1,681,000	15,000	0.9%	
44400 Environmental Health ⁷	24,609,290	23,957,707	651,582	2.7%	
44435 Tipping Fees ⁸	16,814,783	15,687,473	1,127,310	7.2%	
44700 Recreation	2,656,064	2,567,495	88,569	3.4%	
44900 Other General ⁹	1,091,806	229,472	862,334	375.8%	
Sales Goods & Services: Total	51,510,612	48,358,860	3,151,753	6.5%	

- 1. Increase in residential realty revenue due to growth in the residential roll.
- 2. Increase in commercial realty revenue due to growth in the commercial roll.
- 3. Increase in forecasted accommodation tax (tourism & marketing levy) receipts.
- 4. Increase in forecasted utility company revenue on which this tax is assessed.
- 5. Increase in water tax revenue to fund increases to water system expenditures.
- 6. Increase in recovery of management and administration costs provided to regional fire, water & wastewater treatment, regional landfill, and non-profit housing.
- 7. Increase in regional, industrial & commercial water sales.
- 8. Increase in tipping fee at the Robin Hood Bay regional landfill facility.
- 9. Increase in proceeds from the sale of capital assets.

Table 1: 2025-2026 Revenue Change (continued)				
	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change \$	Change %
Other Revenue Own Sources:				
45120 Business Licenses	201,310	176,950	24,360	13.8%
45170 Construction Permits ¹⁰	2,696,220	2,536,220	160,000	6.3%
45200 Fines	2,275,500	2,267,500	8,000	0.4%
45300 Rents & Concessions	3,384,534	3,384,534	-	0.0%
45500 Investment Interest	2,925,365	2,925,365	-	0.0%
45600 Interest Tax Arrears ¹¹	2,360,000	2,005,868	354,132	17.7%
Other Revenue Own Sources: Total	13,842,929	13,296,437	546,492	4.1%
Grants Other Governments:				
47100 Other Grants	218,248	233,248	(15,000)	-6.4%
47107 CMHC Mortgage Subsidy	7,405	7,405	-	0.0%
47110 Canada Community Building Fund (Gas Tax) ¹²	6,056,789	3,328,147	2,728,642	82.0%
47530 Recovery Debt Charges ¹³	22,930,346	23,915,156	(984,810)	-4.1%
47550 Real Program Grants	57,500	57,500	-	0.0%
47555 NPH Subsidy	972,963	972,963	-	0.0%
Grants Other Governments: Total	30,243,250	28,514,418	1,728,832	6.1%
Other Transfers:				
49201 Assessments/Transfers ¹⁴	1,889,522	3,837,835	(1,948,313)	-50.8%
Other Transfers: Total	1,889,522	3,837,835	(1,948,313)	-50.8%
Grand Total	365,997,790	349,151,881	16,845,909	4.8%

^{10.} Increase to fee for the issuance of compliance letters from \$150 to \$200.

^{11.} Increase in estimated interest charged on unpaid property taxes.

^{12.} Increase in Federal Canada Community Building Fund (formerly Gax Tax) funding for capital projects.

^{13.} Decrease in debt charges recovered from external sources relating to capital projects due to maturity of debt.

^{14.} Decrease in transfers from various reserves to offset one-time expenditures.

Table 2: 2025-2026 Expenditure Change				
	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change \$	Change %
General Government:				
General Administrative:				
1111 Mayor & Councilors	905,504	885,289	20,215	2.3%
1115 Civic Events & Receptions	103,420	103,420	-	0.0%
1212 Administration - Admin Services	783,788	753,197	30,591	4.1%
1213 Human Resources	1,114,478	1,094,019	20,459	1.9%
1214 Benefits Administration	303,657	308,781	(5,124)	-1.7%
1215 City Manager's Office	445,397	431,568	13,829	3.2%
1216 Employee Wellness ¹	573,456	495,732	77,724	15.7%
1217 Organizational Development	326,642	325,518	1,125	0.3%
1218 HR Advisory Services	1,383,265	1,373,112	10,153	0.7%
1220 Legal Services	2,268,977	2,212,451	56,526	2.6%
1221 Admin - Finance & Corp. Services	680,360	668,743	11,617	1.7%
1222 Financial Services	1,043,512	1,013,761	29,750	2.9%
1223 Budgetary Services	580,634	570,121	10,514	1.8%
1225 Performance & Strategy	487,262	470,074	17,188	3.7%
1226 Occupational Health & Safety ²	838,193	663,438	174,755	26.3%
1231 Assessment	2,312,241	2,320,748	(8,507)	-0.4%
1241 Revenue Accounting	1,190,140	1,179,674	10,466	0.9%
1250 Property Management	2,500,801	2,471,338	29,463	1.2%
1251 Office Services ³	519,285	455,629	63,655	14.0%
1252 Maint. City Hall	1,090,329	1,064,299	26,030	2.4%
1254 Maint. City Hall Annex	185,401	183,249	2,152	1.2%
1257 Maint. Railway Coastal Building	88,535	88,535	-	0.0%
1258 Maint. 245 Freshwater Rd	282,286	274,914	7,372	2.7%
1259 Maint. Conway Bldg.	52,584	52,584	-	0.0%
1260 Archives Building	45,509	44,709	800	1.8%
1261 Purchasing ⁴	867,913	959,352	(91,439)	-9.5%
1262 Materials Management	844,751	826,441	18,311	2.2%
1269 Internal Audit	523,376	534,102	(10,726)	-2.0%
1270 Corporate Communications	1,119,474	1,084,852	34,621	3.2%
1272 Information Services ⁵	8,057,712	6,714,562	1,343,150	20.0%
1274 Service Centre	1,537,372	1,494,361	43,011	2.9%
1318 Land Information Systems ⁶	1,413,348	1,287,356	125,992	9.8%
1995 Municipal General Elections ⁷	-	350,000	(350,000)	-100.0%
General Administrative: Total	34,469,602	32,755,929	1,713,672	5.2%

^{1.} Increase in the cost of employee medical examinations.

^{2.} Addition of 1.00 Safety Coordinator to support and enhance safety initiatives across City departments.

^{3.} Increase in postage rates.

^{4.} Reduction of 1.00 FTE to offset FTE increase in program 1226 Occupational Health & Safety.

^{5.} Increase in the cost of software licenses and computer maintenance.

^{6.} Addition of 1.00 Planning Technician to support intake process for development applications.

^{7.} Reduction in expenditures associated with the 2025 municipal election.

Table 2: 2025-2026 Expenditu	re Change	(continued	l)	
	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change \$	Change %
Pensions & Benefits:				
1290 Pensions & Employee Benefits	2,933,188	2,855,109	78,079	2.7%
1297 Sick and Severance Liabilities	1,250,000	1,250,000	-	0.0%
Pensions & Benefits: Total	4,183,188	4,105,109	78,079	1.9%
Engineering:				
1311 Admin - Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services	572,191	558,646	13,544	2.4%
1313 Development Control	1,312,544	1,283,643	28,902	2.3%
1314 Surveying	643,532	642,861	671	0.1%
1315 Transportation Engineering ⁸	2,482,533	2,247,509	235,024	10.5%
1316 Admin Support - Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services	1,016,686	1,016,985	(298)	0.0%
1319 Engineering	1,442,583	1,390,922	51,661	3.7%
1320 Facilities Engineering	715,119	699,816	15,302	2.2%
Engineering: Total	8,185,189	7,840,382	344,807	4.4%
Other General Government:				
1931 Risk Management & Insurance	973,606	982,567	(8,960)	-0.9%
Other General Government: Total	973,606	982,567	(8,960)	-0.9%
General Government: Total	47,811,585	45,683,987	2,127,598	4.7%
Protective Services:				
Fire & Traffic:				
2141 Parking Enforcement ⁹	2,149,775	2,008,727	141,048	7.0%
2142 Crossing Guard Program	124,471	121,500	2,971	2.4%
2491 Fire Protection ¹⁰	28,980,993	28,252,919	728,074	2.6%
Fire & Traffic: Total	31,255,239	30,383,146	872,093	2.9%
Protective Inspections:				
2921 Admin - Regulatory Services	871,725	883,516	(11,791)	-1.3%
2922 Building Inspection	1,773,530	1,731,346	42,184	2.4%
2923 Electrical Inspection	615,938	596,804	19,134	3.2%
2924 Plumbing Inspection	270,179	264,147	6,032	2.3%
2929 Taxi & By-law Inspection	203,513	188,443	15,070	8.0%
Protective Inspections: Total	3,734,886	3,664,257	70,629	1.9%

^{8.} Addition of 1.00 Transportation System Engineer to advance various traffic safety, efficiency, and accessibility initiatives.

^{9.} Additional Parking Enforcement Officer hours as well as increases to overtime and contracted vehicle removal costs.

^{10.} Addition of 2.00 FTE's to support fleet maintenance and occupational health and safety initiatives. Increases to fleet replacement reserve contributions and the cost of protective clothing and uniforms.

Table 2: 2025-2026 Expenditure Change (continued)				
	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change \$	Change %
Other Protective Services:				
2931 Humane Services	1,478,650	1,453,119	25,530	1.8%
2932 Animal Control Facility	107,164	106,063	1,101	1.0%
Other Protective Services: Total	1,585,813	1,559,182	26,631	1.7%
Protective Services: Total	36,575,939	35,606,585	969,353	2.7%

Transportation Services:				
Roads Department:				
3011 Admin - Public Works	1,728,822	1,646,570	82,252	5.0%
3211 Admin - Streets & Parks	1,990,052	1,984,116	5,936	0.3%
3221 Maint. Of Roads	12,399,204	12,470,045	(70,841)	-0.6%
3231 Snow Clearing ¹¹	33,186,937	26,345,088	6,841,849	26.0%
3241 Public Works Depot Maint.	1,480,173	1,472,850	7,323	0.5%
3242 Maint. Of Asphalt Recycling	9,518	10,018	(500)	- 5.0%
3252 Maint. of Traffic Signs & Lights	2,253,309	2,209,044	44,265	2.0%
3262 Street Cleaning By Hand	304,425	284,425	20,000	7.0%
Roads Department: Total	53,352,440	46,422,156	6,930,284	14.9%
Other Transportation Services:				
3521 Parking Meters ¹²	1,412,818	1,144,609	268,209	23.4%
3561 Street Lighting	4,683,858	4,683,858	-	0.0%
3591 Metrobus & Para-Transit System ¹³	22,280,236	21,227,087	1,053,149	5.0%
Other Transportation Services: Total	28,376,913	27,055,555	1,321,359	4.9%
Transportation Services: Total	81,729,353	73,477,711	8,251,643	11.2%

^{11.} An investment of over \$5 million to support the replacement of equipment as part of the City's asset management plan. Increases to the cost and usage of road salt. First full season of additional staffing and equipment for sidewalk snow clearing, as approved in the 2025 budget.

^{12.} Increases in credit and debit card transaction costs as well as parking app processing fees.

^{13.} Slight decrease in ridership, in addition to increases in the cost of bus maintenance and parts. Weekday service improvements to several routes for winter and spring of 2026. Improving frequency on several routes from 60 to 30 minutes for fall of 2026.

Table 2: 2025-2026 Expenditure Change (continued)				
	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change \$	Change %
Environmental Health:				
Water Department:				
4111 Admin - Environmental Services	2,542,940	2,601,263	(58,324)	-2.2%
4120 City Share of Regional Water 14	5,435,661	6,357,630	(921,969)	-14.5%
4121 Petty Harbour Long Pond Water Treatment Plant ¹⁵	1,174,485	1,074,461	100,024	9.3%
4122 Winsor Lake Treatment Plant	13,116,595	13,020,307	96,288	0.7%
4123 Regional Water System 16	15,499,975	15,300,459	199,516	1.3%
4131 Water & Waste Water	13,108,861	12,411,688	697,173	5.6%
Distribution ¹⁷	13, 100,001	12,411,000	097,173	3.0 70
Water Department: Total	50,878,518	50,765,809	112,709	0.2%
Sewer Department:				
4225 Waste Water Treatment Facility 18	10,203,490	11,306,056	(1,102,566)	-9.8%
Sewer Department: Total	10,203,490	11,306,056	(1,102,566)	-9.8%
Sanitary Department:				
3123 Robin Hood Bay Equipment	1,183,282	1,180,544	2,738	0.2%
4321 Garbage Collection ¹⁹	11,806,380	12,126,783	(320,403)	-2.6%
4322 Waste Diversion Public	298,489	278,760	19,729	7.1%
4331 Garbage Disposal ²⁰	9,271,219	9,026,872	244,346	2.7%
4332 Bldg. Maint. Robin Hood Bay	359,762	356,949	2,813	0.8%
4333 Material Recovery Facility	1,853,782	1,853,782	-	0.0%
4334 RHB Residential Drop Off Facility ²¹	1,299,400	977,377	322,024	32.9%
4335 Eastern Waste Management	4,000,000	4,000,000	-	0.0%
Sanitary Department: Total	30,072,314	29,801,067	271,247	0.9%
Environmental Health: Total	91,154,322	91,872,932	(718,610)	-0.8%

^{14.} Reduction in the projected quantity of drinking water purchased from the Bay Bulls Big Pond regional water treatment facility.

^{15.} Increase in the cost of electricity.

^{16.} Addition of 1.00 Treatment Plant Maintenance Operator to support maintenance and process controls at the Bay Bulls Big Pond regional water treatment facility.

^{17. 1.67} additional FTEs for hydrant flushing. Increases in cost of contracted repairs, sewer cleaning, valves, pipes and fittings.

^{18.} Reduction in debt service costs due to maturity of debt borrowed to fund previously completed capital projects.

^{19.} Reduction in leasing of waste collection vehicles in accordance with fleet replacement strategy.

^{20.} Increases in contracted waste removal and security services.

^{21.} Increase in contracted bin transportation services at the Robin Hood Bay Residential Drop Off facility.

Table 2: 2025-2026 Expenditu	re Change	(continued)	
	Budget	Budget	Change	Change
	2026	2025	\$	%
Environmental Development:				
Planning:				
6113 Planning & Development ²²	1,242,258	1,010,933	231,325	22.9%
Planning: Total	1,242,258	1,010,933	231,325	22.9%
Community Development:				
6211 Admin - Community Services	598,039	542,050	55,989	10.3%
6212 Events & Services ²³	1,056,269	936,675	119,595	12.8%
Community Development: Total	1,654,308	1,478,724	175,584	11.9%
Housing & Real Estate:				
6341 Real Estate	18,002	18,502	(500)	-2.7%
6342 Rental Housing Projects	299,000	299,000	-	0.0%
6343 Tourism Marketing Levy	E 172 002	E 022 002	150,000	2.00/
Expenditures ²⁴	5,173,983	5,023,983	150,000	3.0%
6360 Non-Profit Housing Units	5,629,986	5,574,986	55,000	1.0%
6391 Admin - Non-Profit Housing	708,917	718,594	(9,678)	-1.3%
6392 Non-Profit Housing Maint.	711,472	708,670	2,801	0.4%
Housing & Real Estate: Total	12,541,359	12,343,736	197,623	1.6%
Tourism & Economic Development:				
6612 Tourism Development	343,476	336,509	6,967	2.1%
6616 Economic Development	468,260	449,138	19,122	4.3%
6624 Maint. Gentara Bldg.	321,548	321,548	-	0.0%
6625 Quidi Vidi Visitor Centre	30,859	30,059	800	2.7%
6626 Advantage St. John's ²⁵	867,302	703,000	164,302	23.4%
Tourism & Economic Development: Total	2,031,444	1,840,253	191,190	10.4%
Environmental Development: Total	17,469,369	16,673,647	795,722	4.8%

^{22.} Increases in planning consultants and heritage grants expenditures.

^{23.} Increases in costs associated with the Downtown Pedestrian Mall as well as increase to performer fees for special events (e.g. Canada Day, New Years Eve).

^{24.} Increase in debt service costs relating to previously completed capital projects at the Mary Brown's Centre and Convention Centre.

^{25.} Increase in City's grant to Advantage St. John's to promote regional economic development due to 2026 being the first full operating year.

Table 2: 2025-2026 Expenditure Change (continued)					
Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change \$	Change %		
1,193,235	1,006,194	187,041	18.6%		
7,197,746	6,871,004	326,743	4.8%		
784,734	925,409	(140,675)	-15.2%		
110,776	109,976	800	0.7%		
763,024	751,741	11,283	1.5%		
263,028	263,725	(698)	-0.3%		
46,876	47,416	(540)	-1.1%		
307,203	301,604	5,599	1.9%		
1,198,430	1,073,757	124,673	11.6%		
63,169	61,169	2,000	3.3%		
45,743	45,743	-	0.0%		
62,672	61,372	1,300	2.1%		
786,322	775,943	10,379	1.3%		
41,200	38,200	3,000	7.9%		
78,462	74,662	3,800	5.1%		
108,499	105,499	3,000	2.8%		
13,051,120	12,513,414	537,706	4.3%		
1,220,965	1,153,544	67,421	5.8%		
1,075,566	1,190,334	(114,768)	-9.6%		
1,005,997	959,010	46,987	4.9%		
144,953	127,837	17,116	13.4%		
1,152,585	1,143,758	8,828	0.8%		
1,194,667	1,166,777	27,891	2.4%		
919,723	878,925	40,798	4.6%		
191,250	191,250	-	0.0%		
	1,193,235 7,197,746 784,734 110,776 763,024 263,028 46,876 307,203 1,198,430 63,169 45,743 62,672 786,322 41,200 78,462 108,499 13,051,120 1,220,965 1,075,566 1,005,997 144,953 1,152,585 1,194,667 919,723	Budget 2026Budget 20251,193,2351,006,1947,197,7466,871,004784,734925,409110,776109,976763,024751,741263,028263,72546,87647,416307,203301,6041,198,4301,073,75763,16961,16945,74345,74362,67261,372786,322775,94341,20038,20078,46274,662108,499105,49913,051,12012,513,4141,220,9651,153,5441,075,5661,190,3341,005,997959,010144,9531,27,8371,152,5851,143,7581,194,6671,166,777919,723878,925	Budget 2026 Budget 2025 Change \$ 1,193,235 1,006,194 187,041 7,197,746 6,871,004 326,743 784,734 925,409 (140,675) 110,776 109,976 800 763,024 751,741 11,283 263,028 263,725 (698) 46,876 47,416 (540) 307,203 301,604 5,599 1,198,430 1,073,757 124,673 63,169 61,169 2,000 45,743 45,743 - 62,672 61,372 1,300 786,322 775,943 10,379 41,200 38,200 3,000 78,462 74,662 3,800 108,499 105,499 3,000 13,051,120 12,513,414 537,706 1,220,965 1,153,544 67,421 1,075,566 1,190,334 (114,768) 1,05,997 959,010 46,987 144,953 127,837 1		

^{26. 1.00} additional Parks Foreperson for maintenance of City parks.

^{27.} Reduction in temporary staffing hired for the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

^{28.} Increase in contracted grooming of City trails.

^{29.} Personnel cost adjustments due to movement of staff and reclassification of positions.

Table 2: 2025-2026 Expenditur	e Change	(continued)	
	Budget	Budget	Change	Change
22	2026	2025	\$	%
7333 Seniors Outreach ³⁰	429,899	244,102	185,797	76.1%
7334 Operation of Bannerman Park	75,798	80,210	(4,412)	-5.5%
7336 Shea Heights Community Centre	314,090	299,437	14,654	4.9%
7337 Southlands Community Centre	344,054	328,611	15,443	4.7%
7338 Kilbride Community Centre	396,138	344,961	51,177	14.8%
7339 Kenmount Terrace Community Centre	344,404	328,961	15,443	4.7%
7340 Paul Reynolds Centre Operations	873,677	858,848	14,829	1.7%
7342 Paul Reynolds Centre - Pool and Fitness Programs ³¹	1,289,008	1,181,936	107,071	9.1%
7346 Building Safer Communities Fund	-	203	(203)	-100.0%
Recreation: Total	10,972,775	10,478,703	494,072	4.7%
Other Recreational & Cultural Services:				
7445 St. John's Sports & Entertainment ³²	5,698,037	5,912,759	(214,722)	-3.6%
7551 Grants & Subsidies	1,656,900	1,666,900	(10,000)	-0.6%
7553 Local Immigration Partnership Strategy	56,273	40,790	15,483	38.0%
7910 Cultural Development	225,734	197,265	28,468	14.4%
7911 Municipal Archives	416,180	402,157	14,023	3.5%
Other Recreational & Cultural	0.052.422	0.240.072		2.00/
Services: Total	8,053,123	8,219,872	(166,748)	-2.0%
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services: Total	32,077,018	31,211,989	865,030	2.8%

^{30.} Personnel cost adjustments due to movement of staff and reclassification of positions.

^{31.} Additional staffing for aquatics and fitness programs at the Paul Reynolds Community Centre.

^{32.} Decrease in 2026 operating grant due to anticipated increase to revenues relating to concerts, events, and meeting bookings across both the Mary Brown's Centre and St. John's Convention Centre.

Table 2: 2025-2026 Expenditure Change (continued)				
	Budget	Budget	Change	Change
	2026	2025	\$	%
Fiscal & Transfers:				
Debt Charges:				
8111 Short Term Debt	25,000	25,000	-	0.0%
8131 Debenture Debt ³³	36,431,357	36,021,109	410,248	1.1%
8191 Other Debt Charges	100,000	100,000	-	0.0%
Debt Charges: Total	36,556,357	36,146,109	410,248	1.1%
Other Transfers:				
8211 Prov. For Allowances	1,050,000	1,050,000	-	0.0%
8990 Capital Expenditures ³⁴	21,573,846	17,428,921	4,144,925	23.8%
Other Transfers: Total	22,623,846	18,478,921	4,144,925	22.4%
Transfers to Other Departments:				
Payroll Costs:				
1295 Employer Payroll Costs ³⁵	16,325,653	15,944,077	381,576	2.4%
Employer Payroll Costs Transferred to	(16,325,653)	(15,944,077)	(381,576)	2.4%
Other Departments ³⁶	(10,0=0,000)	(10,011,011)	(,)	
Payroll Costs: Total	-	-	-	0.0%
Mechanical:				
3111 Admin - Fleet Services 37	2,057,770	1,846,899	210,871	11.4%
3121 Maint. Heavy Equipment ³⁸	12,099,590	11,776,442	323,148	2.7%
3129 Recovery Fleet Rental ³⁹	(14,157,360)	(13,623,341)	(534,019)	3.9%
Mechanical: Total	-	-	-	0.0%
Fiscal & Transfers: Total	59,180,204	54,625,030	4,555,174	8.3%
Grand Total	365,997,790	349,151,881	16,845,909	4.8%

^{33.} Increase in annual principal and interest payments on City borrowing to fund cost-shared capital projects.

^{34.} Net increase in capital spending relating to the Federally funded Canada Community Building Fund, as well as capital investment in water and wastewater infrastructure.

^{35.} Increase in mandatory employer payroll costs for current City employees.

^{36.} Allocation of employer payroll costs to various programs.

^{37.} Reallocation of AVL data communication budgets from various departments to Fleet Services. Increase in cost of vehicle insurance.

^{38.} Increase in the cost of parts used to maintain the City's fleet of vehicles and equipment.

^{39.} Increase in the allocation of Fleet Services costs to various programs.

Table 3: 2025-2026 FTE Change

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) is a unit of measurement representing a number of hours worked by a single full-time employee. 1.00 FTE may represent one full-time employee, or several part-time employees working the equivalent number of total hours.

	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change
General Government:			
General Administrative:			
1111 Mayor & Councilors	11.00	11.00	-
1212 Administration - Admin Services ¹	5.00	7.00	(2.00)
1213 Human Resources	8.00	8.00	-
1214 Benefits Administration	2.00	2.00	-
1215 City Manager's Office	2.00	2.00	-
1216 Employee Wellness ²	2.00	1.00	1.00
1217 Organizational Development	1.00	1.00	-
1218 HR Advisory Services	8.00	8.00	-
1220 Legal Services ³	12.00	10.00	2.00
1221 Admin - Finance & Corporate Services	1.00	1.00	-
1222 Financial Services	9.00	9.00	-
1223 Budgetary Services	4.00	4.00	-
1225 Performance & Strategy	3.00	3.00	-
1226 Occupational Health & Safety ⁴	5.25	4.25	1.00
1231 Assessment	18.00	18.00	-
1241 Revenue Accounting	11.16	11.16	-
1250 Property Management	20.60	20.60	-
1251 Office Services	1.27	1.27	-
1261 Purchasing ⁵	7.00	8.00	(1.00)
1262 Materials Management	8.00	8.00	-
1269 Internal Audit	3.00	3.00	-
1270 Corporate Communications	7.00	7.00	-
1272 Information Services	22.00	22.00	-
1274 Service Centre	13.00	13.00	-
1318 Land Information Systems ⁶	11.19	10.19	1.00
General Administrative: Total	195.47	193.47	2.00

^{1.} Transfer of 2.00 FTEs to 1220 Legal Services.

^{2.} Transfer of 1.00 FTE from 2491 Fire Protection. Position is shared between the City and the Regional Fire Dept. Cost is recovered through a Management & Administration Fee charged to the Regional Fire Dept.

^{3.} Transfer of 2.00 FTEs from 1212 Administration - Admin Services.

^{4.} Addition of 1.00 Safety Coordinator to support and enhance safety initiatives across City departments.

^{5.} Reduction of 1.00 FTE to offset FTE increase in program 1226 Occupational Health & Safety.

^{6.} Addition of 1.00 Planning Technician to support enhancements to the development application intake process.

Table 3: 2025-2026 FTE Change (continued)			
	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change
Pensions & Benefits:			
1290 Pensions & Employee Benefits	12.00	12.00	
Pensions & Benefits: Total	12.00	12.00	-
Engineering:			
1311 Admin - Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services	2.00	2.00	-
1313 Development Control ⁷	6.00	8.00	(2.00)
1314 Surveying	5.33	5.33	-
1315 Transportation Engineering ⁸	12.00	11.00	1.00
1316 Admin Support - Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services	12.00	12.00	-
1319 Engineering	10.08	10.08	-
1320 Facilities Engineering	4.00	4.00	-
Engineering: Total	51.41	52.41	(1.00)
Other General Government			
1931 Risk Management & Insurance	1.00	1.00	
Other General Government Total	1.00	1.00	- 1 00
General Government: Total	259.88	258.88	1.00
Protective Services:			
Fire & Traffic:			
2141 Parking Enforcement ⁹	14.03	13.48	0.55
2142 Crossing Guard Program	3.13	3.13	-
2491 Fire Protection 10	226.54	225.54	1.00
Fire & Traffic: Total	243.70	242.15	1.55
Protective Inspections:			-
2921 Admin - Regulatory Services	5.00	5.00	-
2922 Building Inspection	14.00	14.00	-
2923 Electrical Inspection	5.00	5.00	-
2924 Plumbing Inspection	2.33	2.33	-
2929 Taxi & By-law Inspection	2.00	2.00	-
Protective Inspections: Total	28.33	28.33	
Other Protective Services:			
2931 Humane Services ¹¹	11.65	11.50	0.15
Other Protective Services: Total	11.65	11.50	0.15
Protective Services: Total	283.68	281.98	1.70

^{7.} Transfer of 2.00 FTEs to 6113 Planning & Development.

^{8.} Addition of 1.00 Transportation System Engineer to advance various traffic safety, efficiency, and accessibility initiatives.

^{9.} Additional Parking Enforcement Officer hours to enhance safety and coverage of restricted parking areas.

^{10.} Addition of 2.00 FTEs to support fleet management and OH&S. 1.00 shared FTE transferred to 1216 Employee Wellness. Cost recovered by Management & Administration Fee charged to the Regional Fire Dept.

^{11.} Additional hours for placement of work-term student.

Table 3: 2025-2026 FTE Change (continued)			
	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change
Transportation Services:			
Roads Department:			
3011 Admin - Public Works	8.50	8.50	-
3211 Admin - Streets & Parks ¹²	12.44	11.63	0.81
3221 Maint. Of Roads	30.19	30.19	-
3231 Snow Clearing ¹³	85.07	83.45	1.62
3252 Maint. of Traffic Signs & Lights	14.52	14.52	-
Roads Department: Total	150.72	148.29	2.43
Other Transportation Services:			
3521 Parking Meters	1.00	1.00	-
Other Transportation Services: Total	1.00	1.00	-
Transportation Services: Total	151.72	149.29	2.43
Environmental Health:			
Water Department:			
4111 Admin - Environmental Services ¹⁴	16.61	16.29	0.32
4122 Winsor Lake Treatment Plant 15	13.93	12.93	1.00
4123 Regional Water System ¹⁶	18.65	17.65	1.00
4131 Water & Waste Water Distribution ¹⁷	64.34	62.67	1.67
Water Department: Total	113.53	109.54	3.99
Sewer Department:			
4225 Waste Water Treatment Facility	11.53	11.53	-
Sewer Department: Total	11.53	11.53	-
Sanitary Department:			
4321 Garbage Collection	33.83	33.83	-
4322 Waste Diversion Public Awareness	2.85	2.85	-
4331 Garbage Disposal	17.77	17.77	-
4332 Bldg. Maint. Robin Hood Bay	1.45	1.45	-
4334 RHB Residential Drop Off Facility	1.00	1.00	-
Sanitary Department: Total	56.90	56.90	-
Environmental Health: Total	181.96	177.97	3.99

^{12.} Additional Foreperson hours for sidewalk snow clearing. First full season, as approved in the 2025 budget.

^{13.} Additional Operator hours for sidewalk snow clearing. First full season, as approved in the 2025 budget.

^{14.} Reclassification of hours between Foreperson and GPS Technician job classes.

^{15.} Addition of 1.00 Laboratory Technologist to support water quality testing and process controls.

^{16.} Addition of 1.00 Treatment Plant Maintenance Operator to support maintenance and process controls at the Bay Bulls Big Pond regional water treatment facility.

^{17. 1.67} Environmental Service Operator FTEs for hydrant flushing.

Table 3: 2025-2026 FTE Chan	ge	(continued)
-----------------------------	----	-------------

	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change
Environmental Development:			
Planning:			
6113 Planning & Development ¹⁸	6.00	4.00	2.00
Planning: Total	6.00	4.00	2.00
Community Development:			
6211 Admin - Community Services ¹⁹	2.25	2.00	0.25
6212 Events & Services	5.23	5.23	-
Community Development: Total	7.48	7.23	0.25
Housing & Real Estate:			
6391 Admin - Non-Profit Housing	6.00	6.00	-
6392 Non-Profit Housing Maint.	7.00	7.00	-
Housing & Real Estate: Total	13.00	13.00	-
Tourism & Economic Development:			
6612 Tourism Development	2.16	2.16	-
6616 Economic Development	4.00	4.00	-
Tourism & Economic Development: Total	6.16	6.16	=
Environmental Development: Total	32.64	30.39	2.25

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services:			
Parks Division:			
7111 Administration Parks ²⁰	8.10	7.10	1.00
7121 Municipal Parks Maint.	50.06	50.06	-
7123 Active Sports Facilities Maint. 21	5.38	7.07	(1.69)
7130 Mews Centre Maint.	3.00	3.00	-
7135 Snow Clearing Steps	10.98	10.98	-
7140 Mtce. Paul Reynolds Community Centre	1.00	1.00	-
Parks Division: Total	78.52	79.21	(0.69)

^{18.} Transfer of 2.00 FTEs from 1313 Development Control.

^{19.} Reduction of 0.75 FTE relating to the 2025 Canada Summer Games. Addition of 1.00 Director of Community Services.

^{20. 1.00} additional Parks Foreperson for maintenance at City parks.

^{21.} Reduction in temporary staffing hired for the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

Table 3: 2025-2026 FTE Change	۱ د	(continued)
rabic of 2020-2020 i it offatige		(Continuca)

	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services:			
Recreation:			
7305 Healthy Communities & Inclusion 22	15.23	12.69	2.54
7311 Community Development ²³	11.11	13.79	(2.68)
7321 Family, Children & Youth ²³	17.27	17.58	(0.31)
7322 Operation of Bowring Park Pool ²³	3.51	3.30	0.21
7324 Admin - Rec Facilities	10.00	10.00	-
7325 H.G.R. Mews Centre Operations	12.20	12.20	-
7329 H.G.R. Mews Centre Program & Services ²³	12.61	12.77	(0.16)
7333 Seniors Outreach ²⁴	4.78	2.97	1.81
7334 Operation of Bannerman Park Pool ²³	1.79	2.02	(0.23)
7336 Shea Heights Community Centre	5.33	5.33	-
7337 Southlands Community Centre	6.09	6.09	-
7338 Kilbride Community Centre ²³	5.94	5.83	0.11
7339 Kenmount Terrace Community Centre	6.09	6.09	-
7340 Paul Reynolds Centre Operations	9.65	9.65	-
7342 Paul Reynolds Centre - Pool and Fitness Programs 23	19.40	18.06	1.34
Recreation: Total	141.00	138.37	2.63
Other Recreational & Cultural Services:			
7553 Local Immigration Partnership Strategy	0.20	0.20	-
7910 Cultural Development	1.00	1.00	-
7911 Municipal Archives	4.00	4.00	-
Other Recreational & Cultural Services: Total	5.20	5.20	=
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services: Total	224.72	222.78	1.94

^{22.} Reallocation of hours from other Community Development programs due to increased demand for inclusion services, plus an additional 1,500 Inclusion Councilor hours.

^{23.} Adjustment of staffing hours to reflect anticipated program offerings.

^{24.} Reallocation of hours from other Community Development programs due to increased demand for seniors programming.

Table 3: 2025-2026 FTE Change (continued)			
	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Change
Transfers to Other Departments:			
Mechanical:			
3111 Admin - Fleet Services	9.00	9.00	-
3121 Maint. Heavy Equipment ²⁵	39.01	40.00	(0.99)
3123 Robin Hood Bay Equipment	1.11	1.11	-
Mechanical: Total	49.12	50.11	(0.99)
Transfers to Other Departments: Total	49.12	50.11	(0.99)
	4 400 50	4 4 7 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	40.00
Grand Total	1,183.72	1,171.40	12.32
25. Transfer of FTE to 1261 Purchasing.			