

## 2025-2029 Financial Plan Bylaw – First Three Readings

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

*That “2025-2029 Financial Plan Bylaw, 2025, No. 4401” be given first three readings.*

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION**

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Committee of Council:

*That Committee of Council:*

- 1. Approve the capital plan as presented on December 5<sup>th</sup>, as updated, for inclusion in the 2025-2029 Financial Plan Bylaw;*
- 2. Approve the operating budget as presented on December 17<sup>th</sup>, as updated, for inclusion in the 2025-2029 Financial Plan Bylaw; and*
- 3. Direct staff to prepare the 2025-2029 Financial Plan Bylaw, 2025 Tax Rate Bylaw and 2025 Solid Waste Rate Bylaw for Council approval.*

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report presents the 2025-2029 Financial Plan Bylaw for Council approval. The Financial Plan, which includes the current year's budget and taxes, sets out the planned services and initiatives for the next five years and the corresponding funding for those services. The 2025-2029 Financial Plan addresses the Council's priorities of getting the basics right while supporting community safety, City infrastructure, and current and future needs.

### **BACKGROUND**

Section 165 of the *Community Charter* requires that the City annually adopt a Five-Year Financial Plan, which sets out the planned services and initiatives and their corresponding funding.

The City split development of the 2025-2029 Financial Plan into multiple phases, with the Committee of Council approving the capital projects budget (funded through reserves and surplus) on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and the draft operating budget (funded through taxation, levies and other revenues), on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

In early January, the City mailed the 2025 Budget at a Glance brochure to every home and business in Port Coquitlam to obtain feedback on the draft operating budget. Public consultation for the draft operating budget concluded on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The City received 943 responses which were considered by the Committee of Council on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The input was considered when finalizing the 2025 financial plan and to help guide establishment of infrastructure policies and capital program priorities. The public input will also be considered as part of the 2026 financial planning process.

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### **DISCUSSION**

For the average home, the budget includes an increase of 2.87 percent for City services and a 1.43 percent increase for rising RCMP costs, resulting in a total increase of 4.30 percent (\$95.83 for the average household).

Development of the proposed 2025 budget was affected by a variety of factors, including:

- Increased costs based on regional or provincial contract negotiations, including CUPE representing civic workers and IAFF representing firefighters;
- Rising costs from the RCMP contract and Public Safety Building due to inflation and the federally negotiated collective agreement;
- Increased costs from external service providers such as Fraser Valley Regional Library and Metro Vancouver water, sewer and waste services. The largest portion of this increase is due to the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant cost overruns being felt throughout the lower mainland; and
- Inflation and escalating costs for supplies.

In addition to maintaining current service levels and setting aside funds for replacing and renewing infrastructure, the 2025 budget will fund enhanced services such as:

- Improved waste services: introduction of curbside glass collection for single-family homes that pay a solid waste levy on their tax bill,
- Increased support for cybersecurity and technology to deliver service.

The annual budget also funds a variety of capital improvements, including investments in flood protection as well as renewal of core infrastructure, such as upgrades of pump stations, improved drainage and culverts in flood-prone areas.

Section 165 of the *Community Charter* requires the municipality to set out in their financial plan, objectives and policies in relation to:

- the proportion of total revenue that is proposed to come from funding sources;
- the distribution of property taxes amongst the various property classes; and
- the use of permissive tax exemptions.

These policies remain unchanged from the prior year and are included under "Schedule C" of the Financial Plan Bylaw.

### **Next Steps**

In accordance with Section 197 of the *Community Charter*, once the City's financial plan is adopted, property tax and solid waste rates are calculated to raise the revenue approved by Council. A separate report will bring forward the appropriate bylaws for adoption prior to the deadline of May 15, 2025, to enable the City to levy this revenue.


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### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Property taxes and levies for the average Port Coquitlam home (assessed at \$1,108,776) will increase by the following amounts in 2025:

Category	% Change
Property Tax	2.87%
<i>RCMP</i>	1.43%
Total Property Tax	<b>4.30%</b>
Water	7.18%
Sewer	30.98%
Solid Waste	4.71%

### **OPTIONS** (✓ = Staff Recommendation)

	#	Description
	1	Give first three readings to the 2025-2029 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 4401.
	2	Refer the Bylaw back to staff for any further amendments (to be specified).

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 - Bylaw 4401

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