

2024 Budget Summary Report



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2024 Budget Summary Report

The 2024 Budget Summary report is a supplement document to the 2024 Budget documents. The main budget document contains detail budget information at the departmental level for the Operating and Capital Budgets.

The 2024 operating budget has been prepared with operating budget information including base service adjustments, inflationary impacts, one-time adjustments, pre-approvals and growth items. The purpose of this document is to provide Council with a summary of major impacts on the 2024 operating budget and to highlight potential budget pressures or challenges through to 2025 and beyond.

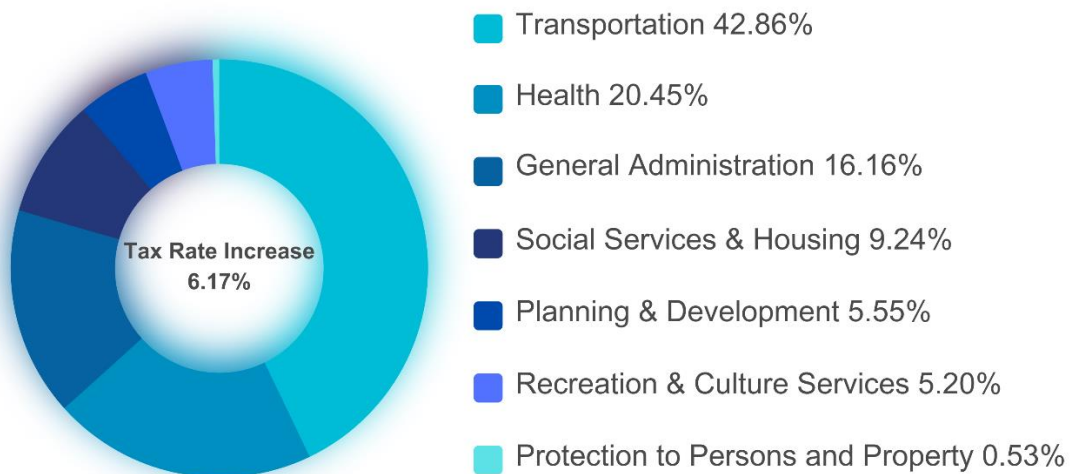
The economic and fiscal impacts from various sources have created significant operating budget pressures in 2024. These impacts have been highlighted in this report. To maintain existing services at the same operational levels as in 2023, County staff have utilized various strategies to try and mitigate these impacts.

As service delivery costs continue to increase each year there is a continued concern that overall County service levels may be impacted to accommodate these increases. For this reason, areas of significant cost increases have been highlighted throughout this document where possible to provide Council with a better understanding of the impact that these costs have on the overall annual tax rate.

A summary of County services, including cost per household and % of tax levy is included in this document. The total levy required to maintain County services in 2024 is \$23,261,958, which represents an \$14.54 impact to a residential rate payer per \$100,000 of assessment.

This represents a 6.17 % tax rate increase as shown below.

Tax Rate Increase Distribution



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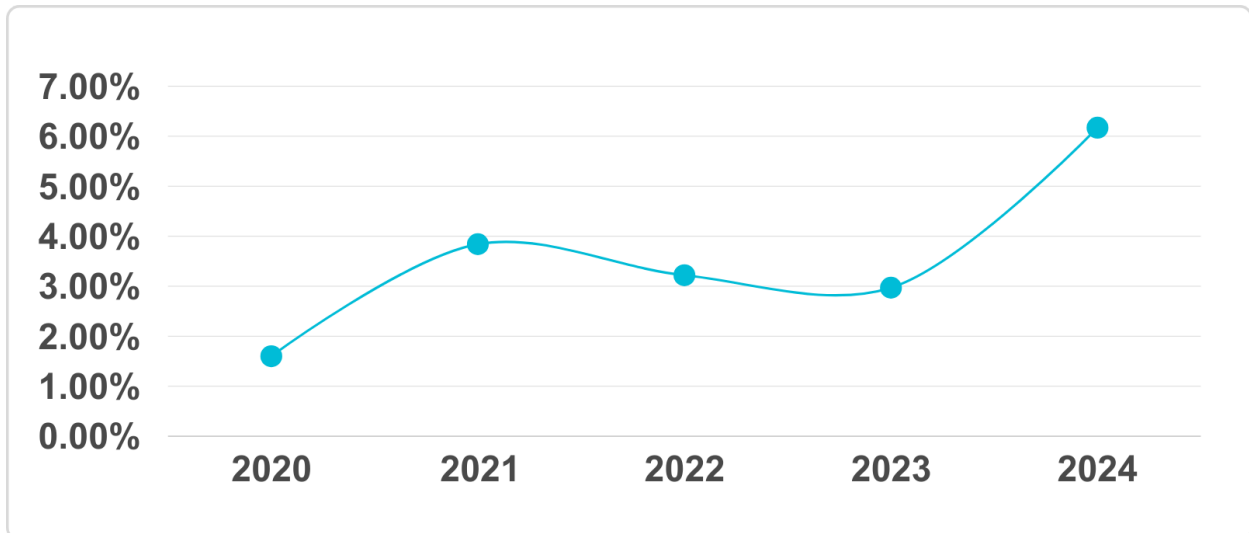
1.0 - Introduction

The 2024 Budget has been prepared by staff based on Council’s identified projects and priorities. The draft budget reflects staff’s understanding of Council’s expectations combined with the departmental planning documents.

Departments were directed to develop the 2024 Budget using four categories: Base Adjustments (including inflation requirements), Preapprovals of Council, “Catch up” or Loss of Funding and Growth. Items required to maintain existing services are defined as base services and have been included in the “Base Budget” column in the operating budget. Growth items are defined as any costs or revenues that have been added above previous years’ service levels and have been included in the “Growth” column.

A number of budget preapprovals have been made by Council prior to bringing the draft 2024 Budget forward for consideration.

The initial draft budget developed by the Senior Management Team in October included a tax rate increase of 10.44%. After further discussion, analysis and review with staff, sustainable reductions were made to bring forward a final 2024 Budget with a total levy increase of \$1,677,387.



2024 Tax Rate Increase - 6.17%

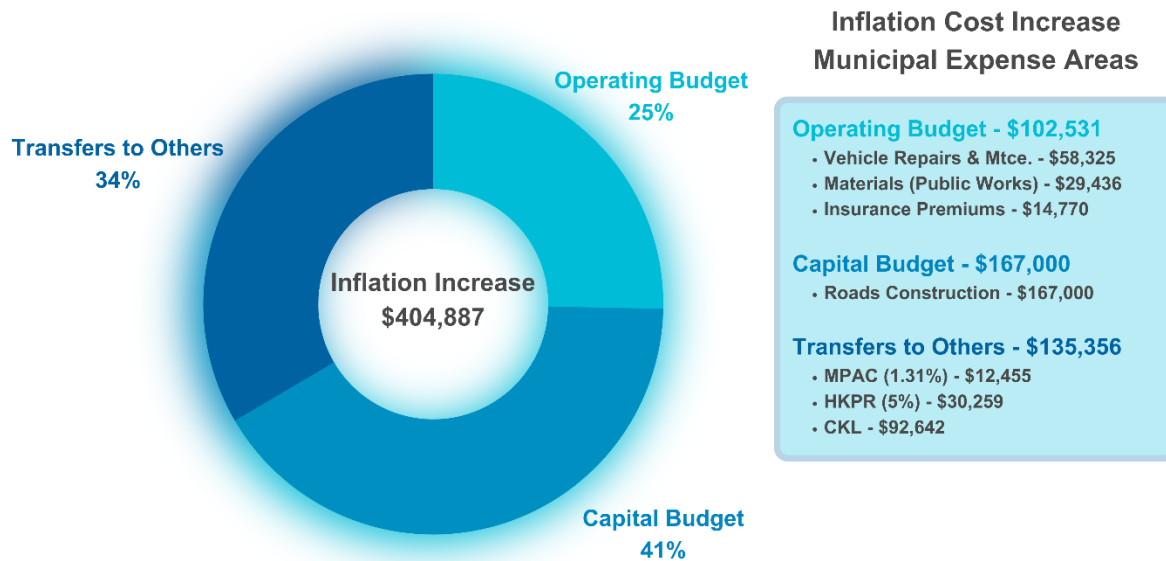
The 2024 tax rate increase of 6.17% equates to a household impact of \$14.54 per \$100,000 of assessment. The tax rate increases are due to a number of factors detailed in the various sections within this report.

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1.1 - Inflation

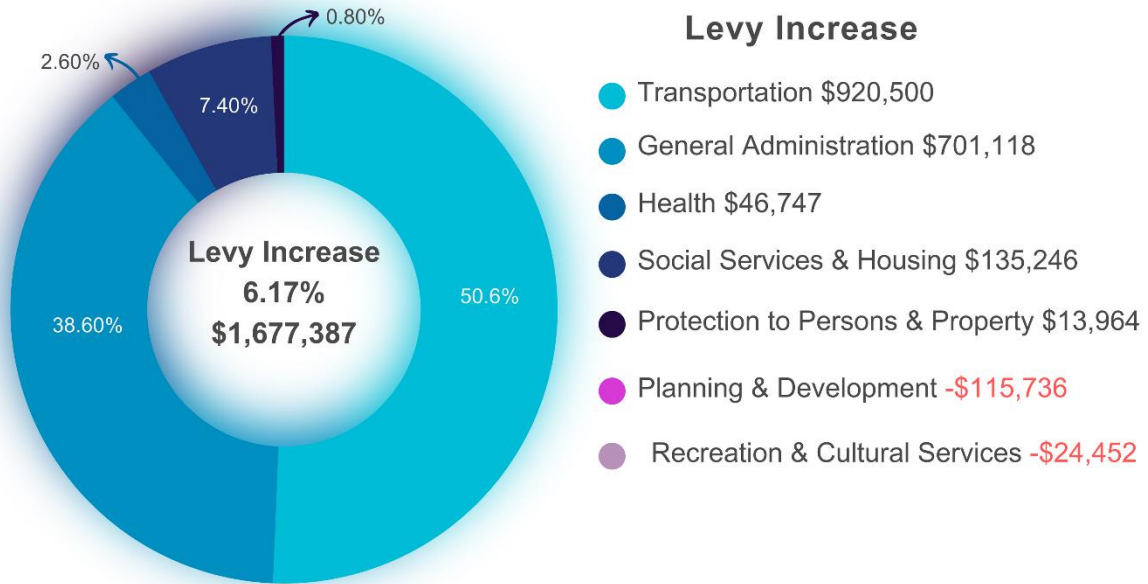
The 2024 Budget was developed using industry standards and best practices for inflationary considerations. The County inflationary increase accounts for the different costs of municipal governance such as operating materials and capital construction. Inflation increases account for \$404,887 of the 2024 levy requirement, this is approximately 24% of the total requested 2024 levy increase. This increase is made up of the following:

- i. *Operating Budget - \$102,531*
 - a) *Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance - \$58,325*
 - b) *Materials (Public Works) - \$29,436*
 - c) *Insurance Premiums - \$14,770*
- ii. *Capital Budget - \$167,000*
 - a) *Roads Construction - \$167,000*
- iii. *Transfers to Others - \$135,356*
 - a) *Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (1.31%) - \$12,455*
 - b) *HKPR District Health Unit (5%) - \$30,259*
 - c) *City of Kawartha Lakes - \$92,642*



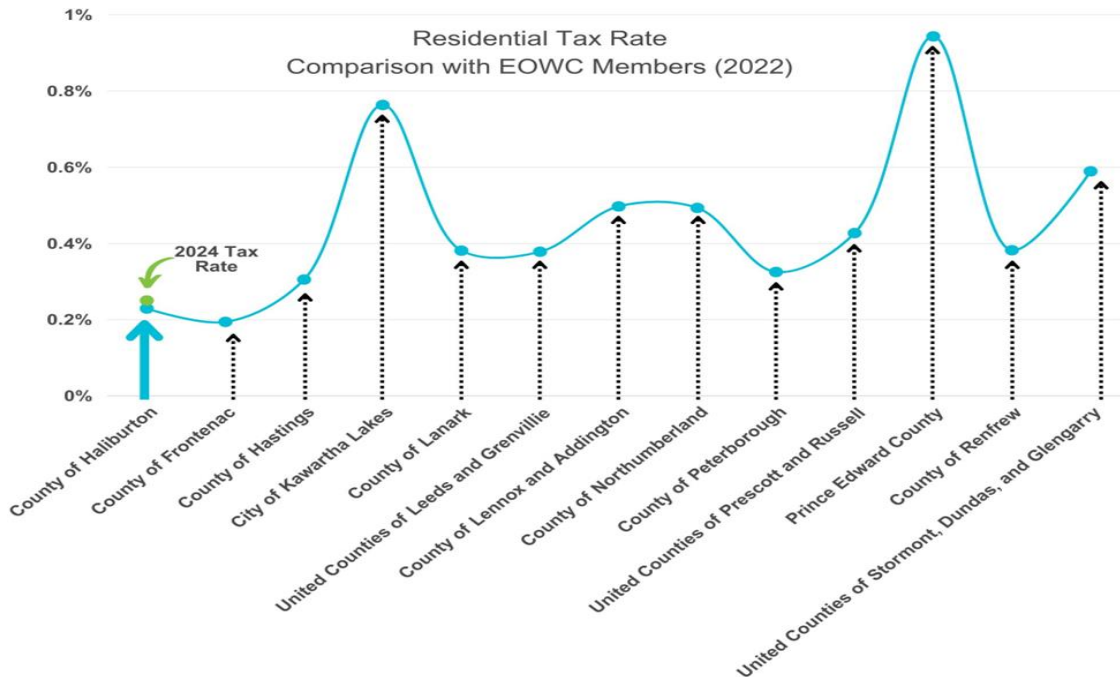
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The chart below provides a breakdown of the County levy increase for 2024.



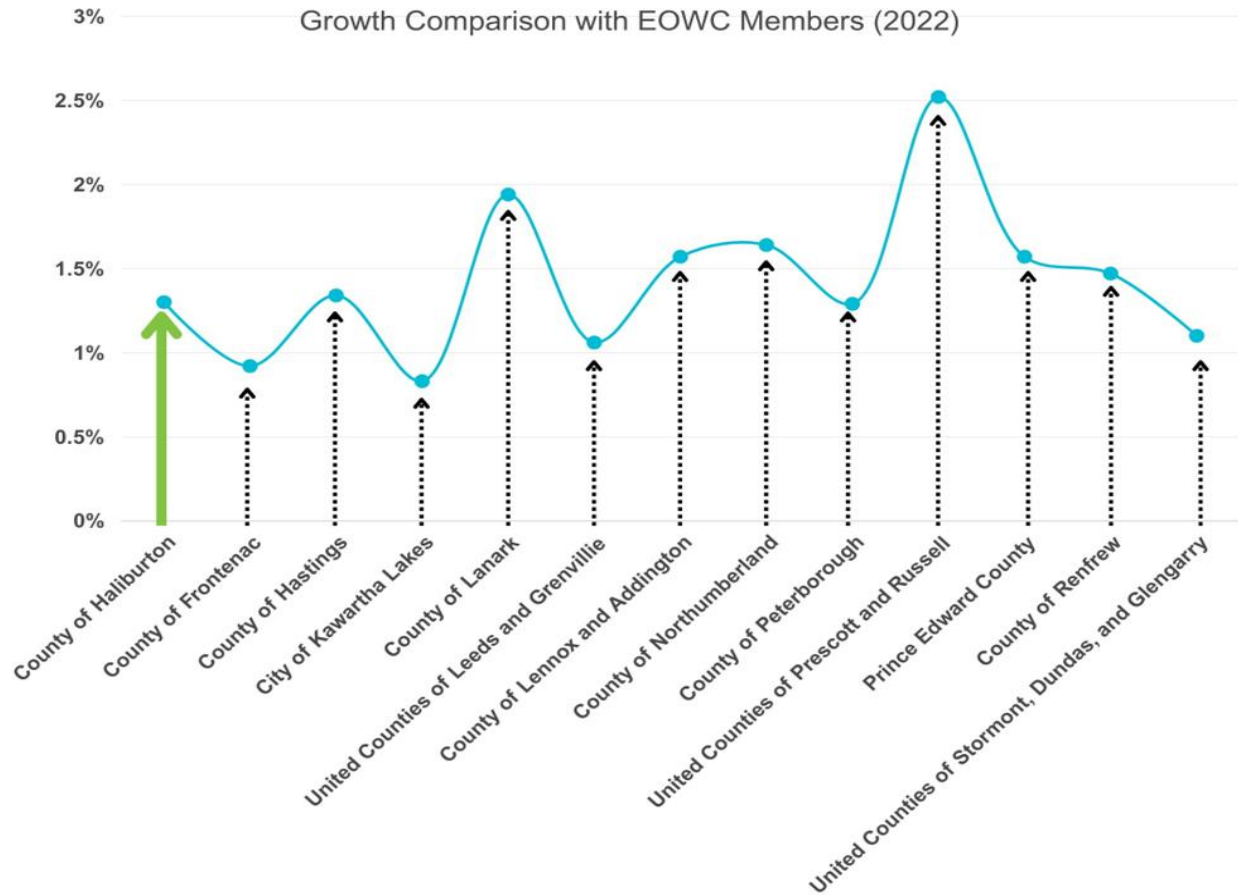
1.2 - Tax Rate Increase and Assessment Comparison

In comparison to other Counties within the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), the County's tax rate continues to be the second lowest tax rate.



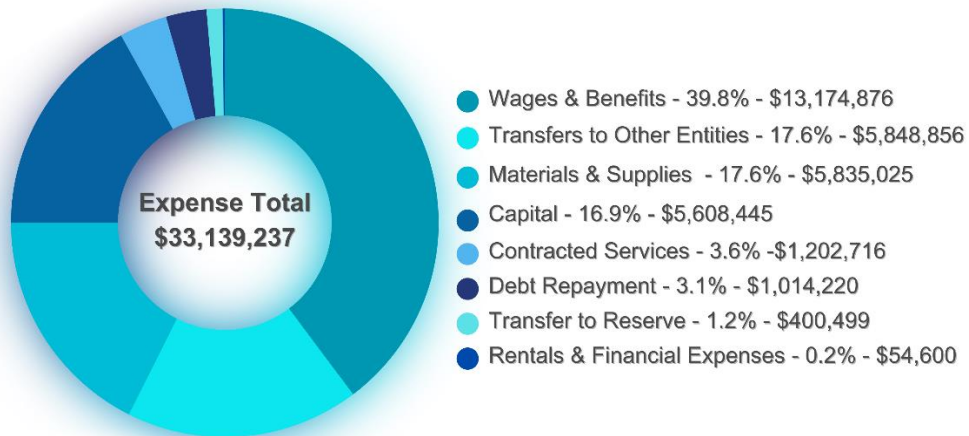
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The 2024 draft budget includes 1.54% assessment growth for 2024. This equates to assessment growth of \$144,710,200.



2.0 – Summary of Expenditures

Major components of the operating budget can be summarized by the following expenditure categories:



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Additional information is provided for categories with significant changes from the prior year in the following sections.

2.1 – Wages and Benefits

Wages and benefit increases represent a 2.4% tax rate increase and are represented by the following groups:

- CUPE 1960 – Inside/Outside Workers
- CUPE 4435 – EMS
- Non-Union /Management Staff

The wage increases in 2024 include a new 4-year collective bargaining agreement with CUPE 4435 and an anticipated settlement with CUPE 1960. Non-Union and Management staff for the County receive the same compensation increases as those of CUPE 1960. Statutory deduction increases with the new CPP second earnings cap of 4% for earnings between \$68,500 and \$73,200, WSIB increase of 0.25% and Manulife benefits increase of 3.9%.

Increases in the 2024 operating budget related to wages and benefits total \$526,922. This figure represents the base budget increase and does not include wages and benefits related to growth.

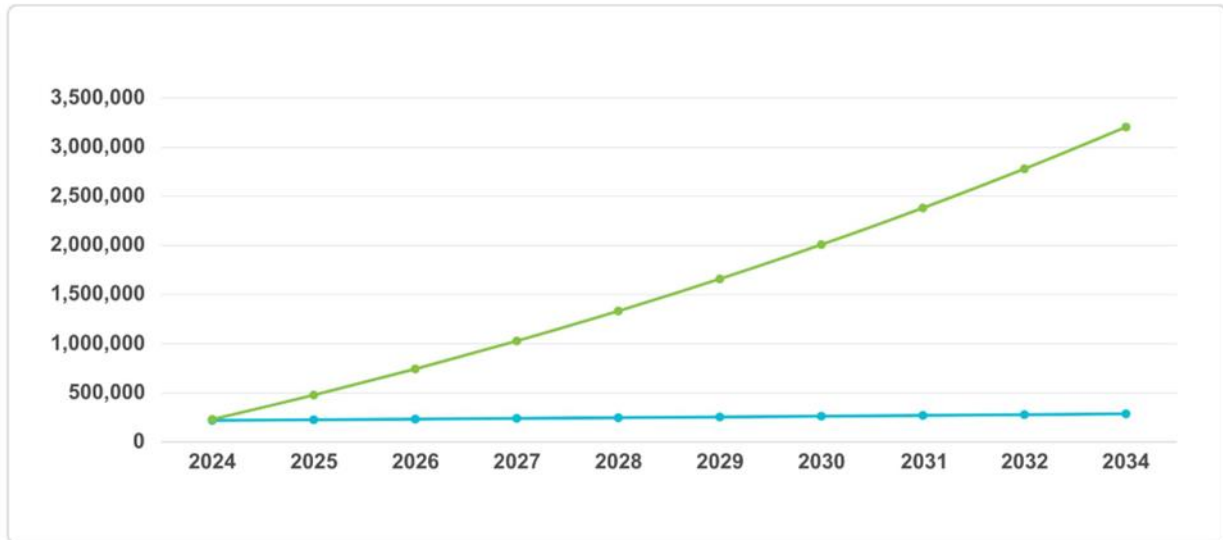
2.2 - Contribution to Capital

The County of Haliburton does not currently collect revenue from the tax base directly for the funding of projects identified as part of the County's 10-year Capital Investment Plan. Contributions to capital are done annually on a project specific basis. Over the next 10-year period, Haliburton's capital demands total \$ 73,128,184. The County currently has a total of \$4,349,000 within the base budget to address these needs. This annual base budget amount with an annual 3% increase over 10 years would equate to approximately \$54,701,255 creating an 'infrastructure gap' of \$18,426,929. The infrastructure gap represents the funding shortfall between the projects included in the capital budget and the County's infrastructure needs over the 10-year timeframe.

To begin to address this shortfall, and to mitigate future significant tax rate increases, beginning in 2024, staff are recommending that Council consider the introduction to a specific tax levy dedicated to building a sustainable capital reserve to address the infrastructure needs of Haliburton County.

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As identified in the chart below, a 1% dedicated levy in 2024 would contribute to a sustainable capital reserve of \$3,205,402 over the next 10 years.



2024 \$220,000 (1% levy) assuming 3% increase year over year
2024 4.5% interest over ten years compounded annually

■ Annual 1% Levy Investment **■ Annual Compounded Total**

The creation of a dedicated contribution to the capital reserve fund will ensure a greater level of flexibility and consistency in medium and long-term fiscal planning for the County.

Beginning in 2025, County staff will look to develop a capital project prioritization model to further assist Council in the decision-making process for the funding of capital projects across the County. The County's Capital Prioritization Model will be used to rank all capital projects. Projects would be ranked based on nine criteria that will provide a score for each capital project:

- Project Category
- Alignment with Corporate Strategic Direction
- Operating Budget Impact
- Risk Assessment
- Cost/Benefit (Payback)
- Service Levels
- Infrastructure Impact
- Community Impact
- Economic Impact

The highest ranked capital projects would be included in the 10-year capital forecast based on available funding. More information on the proposed capital prioritization model will be brought forward for Council's consideration later in 2024.

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The additional 1% dedicated capital levy contribution equates to a household impact of \$2.37 per \$100,000 of assessment.

2.3 - Haliburton County Public Library Operations

The Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) Board is a Board of the County of Haliburton as defined under the *Public Library Board Act*. Under the Act the County is the primary funder of HCPL operations and capital expenditures. Library expenditures, net of revenues, included in the County's 2024 Budget total approximately \$1,210,051. This is a 1.98% decrease over 2023. The library operates 7 library branches across the County and have included in the 2024 Budget an additional branch in Dorset.

2.4 - Program / Supplies / Materials

Program related costs have been reviewed and adjusted by the Departments based on actuals of the prior year and using an inflation factor where appropriate.

2.5 - Equipment

The County currently has a fleet replacement schedule which is managed through the Asset Management Plan. Vehicles are amortized over 5 to 10 years depending on the type of vehicle and are budgeted for replacement at the end of their useful life.

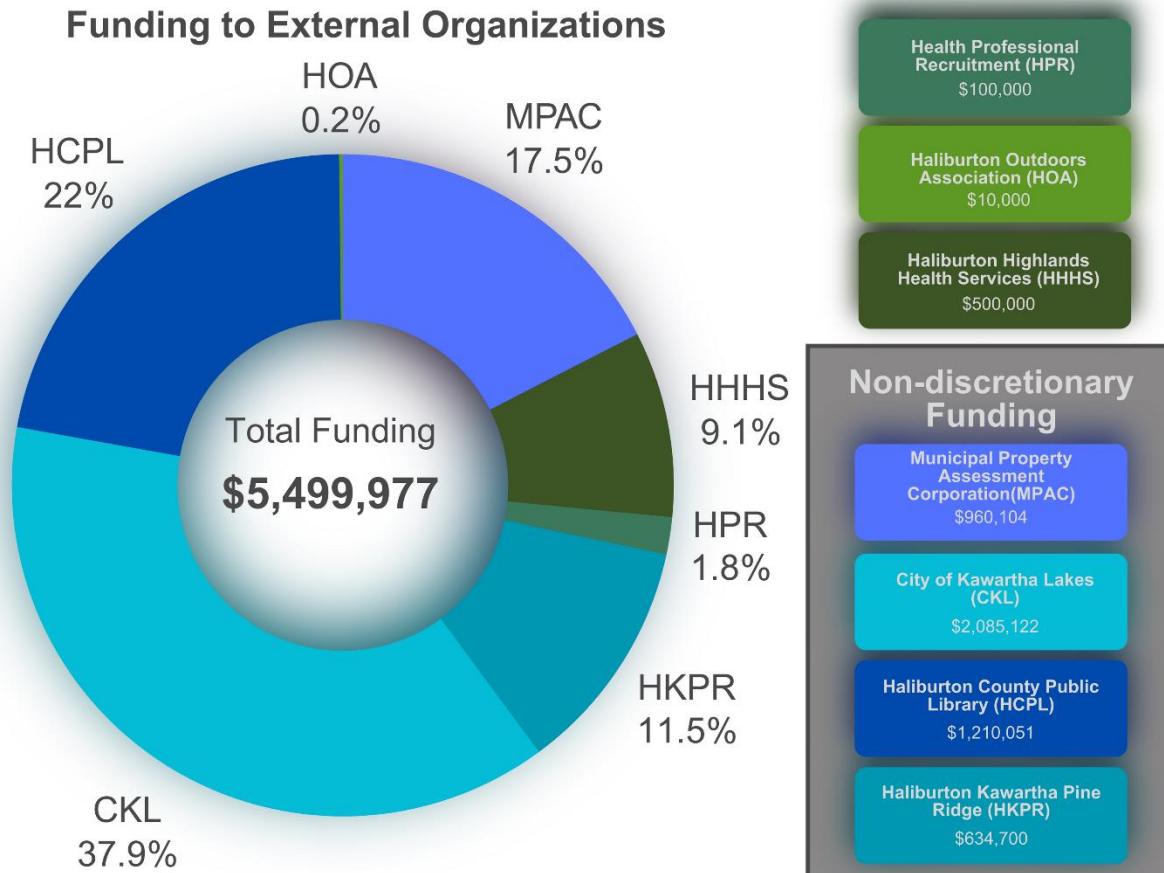
Replacement of equipment such as vehicles and machinery are planned for and incorporated into the annual base budget. Equipment reserves are used when needed to fund the eventual replacement of equipment based on the Department's sustainability cycle. Currently incorporated into the base budget, Public Works has an amount of \$618,000 and Emergency Services an amount of \$255,000 for annual capital vehicle and equipment purchases.

There is \$445,900 included in the 2024 operating budget to cover annual vehicle maintenance and repairs for all departments.

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2.6 – Funding to External Organizations

The County provides approximately \$5,499,977 in funding to the following external organizations:



2.7 - Contract Services

The County spends approximately \$1,213,831 on operating contracted services. Contracted services that fall under this category include legal, accounting and consultant services, roads maintenance contractors, such as roadside mowing or line painting, as well as other contracts related to deliver various programs within the County.

2.8 - Insurance Costs

The County pays an annual premium to cover insurance claims. The County is responsible for covering any claim costs up to the deductible amount of \$100,000. In 2024 the budget includes an annual premium of \$430,555 for the insurance related costs. This represents an increase of \$21,255 (5%) over 2023.

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2.9 - Debt Costs

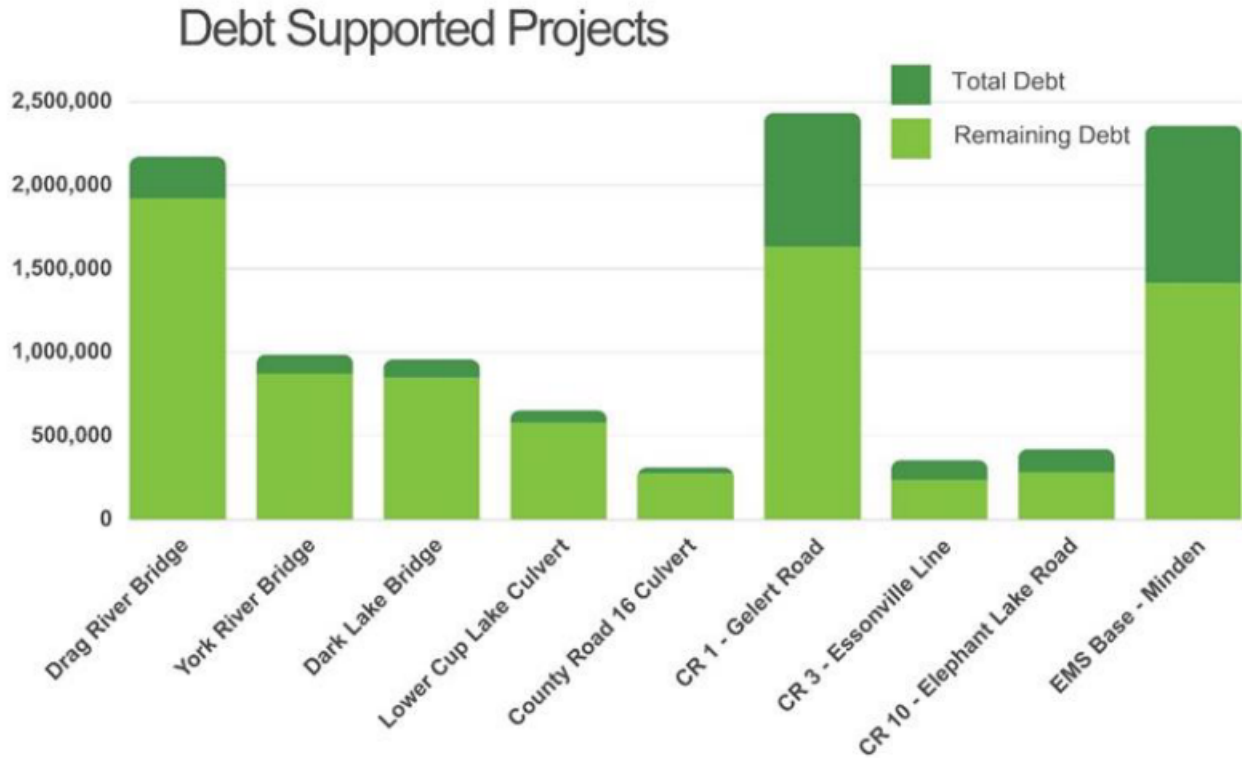
The County's Debt Policy states the County shall only enter into Long-term Debt if the following conditions are met:

- a. Long-term Debt will only be issued for acquisition of tangible capital assets and will not be used to finance operating costs.
- b. Long-term Debt will be managed in a manner consistent with other long-term planning, financial and management objectives, with consideration given to the impact on future taxpayers.
- c. The timing, type and term of Long-term Debt will be determined with a view of minimizing long-term costs to the extent possible.
- d. The term of Long-term Debt will not exceed the useful life of the particular asset, but no greater than 40 years, with the exception of loans for housing where a 50 year term may be acceptable.
- e. A category of Lease and Financing Agreements may be relied upon for non-material or operational leases where the agreements will not result in a Material Impact for the Municipality.

The County's maximum Annual Repayment Limit set within the Debt Policy is 15% of the County's net revenues. Based on the County's 2023 numbers, this equates to \$3,749,168.

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The total debt repayment included in the 2024 operating budget is \$796,100 and is comprised of the following projects:

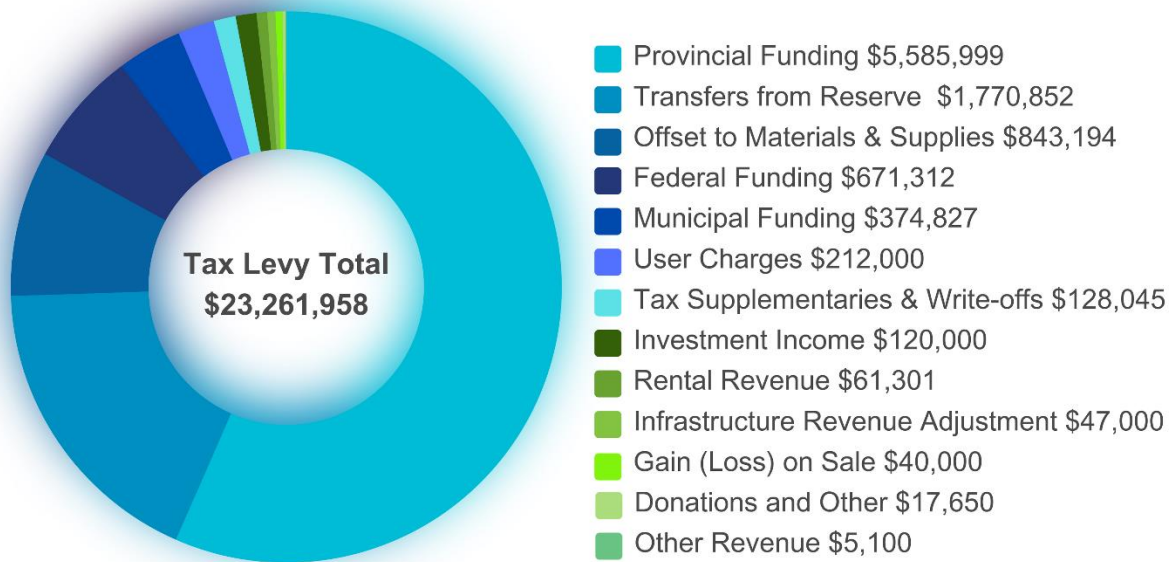


Project	Total Debt	Remaining Debt	Retirement
Drag River Bridge	\$2,171,010	\$1,920,063	August 2, 2032
York River Bridge	\$986,731	\$872,674	August 2, 2032
Dark Lake Bridge	\$957,276	\$846,624	August 2, 2032
Lower Cup Lake Culvert	\$653,081	\$577,591	August 2, 2032
CR 16 Culverts	\$310,289	\$274,423	August 2, 2032
CR1 Gelert Rd.	\$2,433,253	\$1,628,772	October 1, 2030
CR3 Essonville Line	\$355,217	\$355,217	October 1, 2030
CR10 Elephant Lake Rd.	\$420,356	\$420,356	October 1, 2030
EMS Base - Minden	\$2,357,304	\$1,414,382	October 1, 2035

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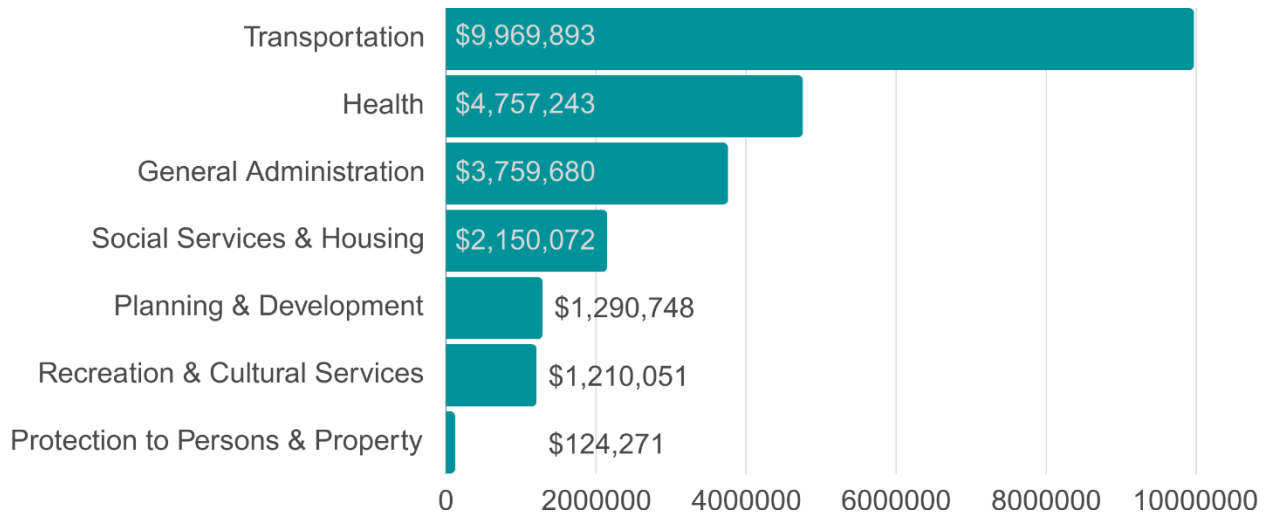
3.0 - Summary of Revenue

Under the Municipal Act, 2001, the County is required to prepare a balanced budget where revenues equal expenses. Total revenue to match the \$33,139,237 in spending is summarized as follows:



3.1 - Property Taxes

Property taxes are the most significant source of funding for the County. Taxation revenue for the County in 2024 will total \$23,261,958. The property tax revenue can be broken down further in the following classifications:

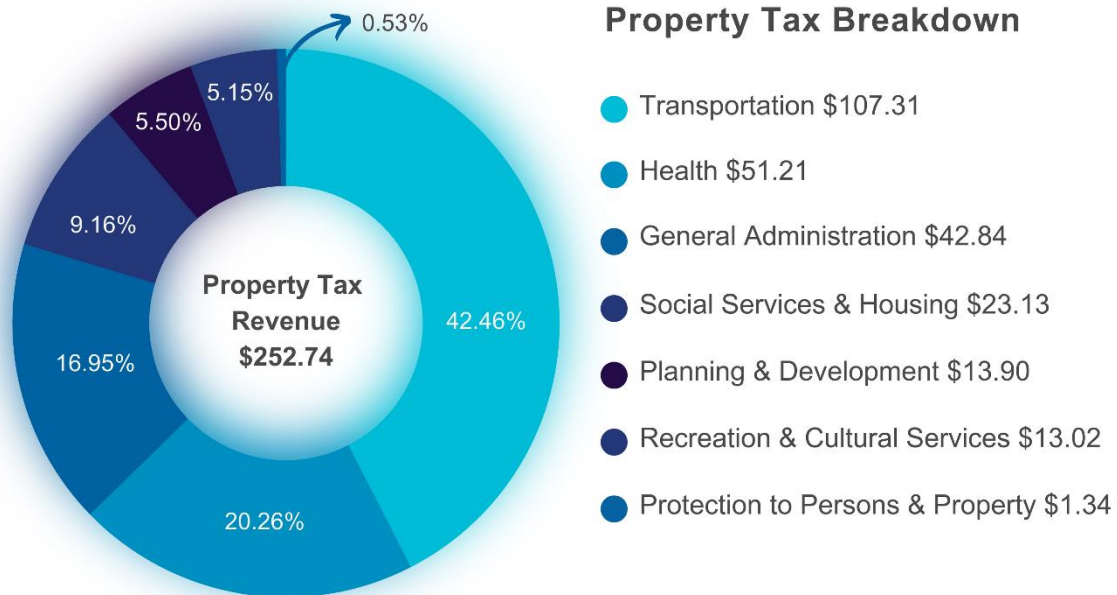


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3.1.1 - Property Tax Breakdown

The billing and collection of taxes for the County – along with that of the school board(s) - is undertaken by the local municipalities. The local municipalities remit tax payments to the County in four payments throughout the year, March 31st, June 30th, September 30th and December 15th.

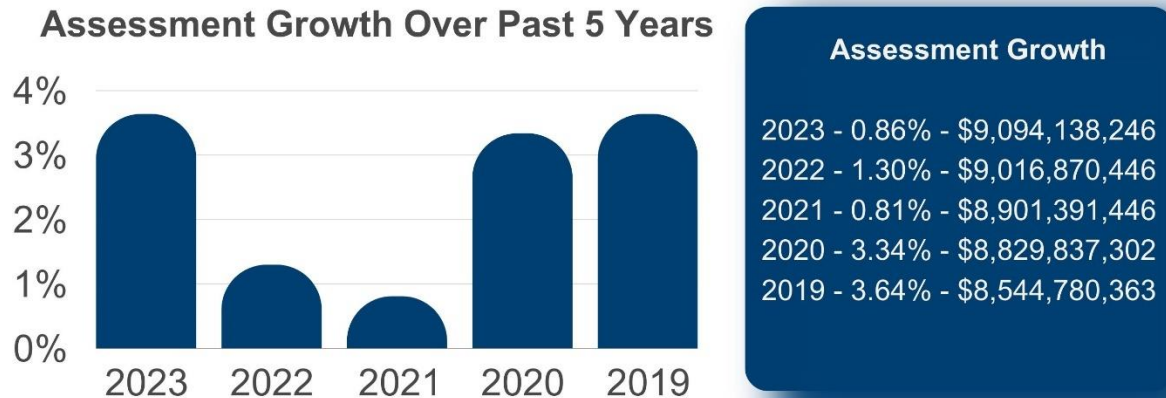
The County’s portion of a \$100,000 annual residential tax bill is represented as follows:



3.1.2 - Assessment Growth

The 2024 Budget includes \$144,710,200 in assessment growth. This is based on analysis of supplementary tax billings issued in 2023 and closed roll assessment information provided by Municipal Property and Assessment Corporation (MPAC) at the end of the year. MPAC determines the valuation of property within the County and additional assessment growth can be related to new development, change in property class information, change in market valuations, and other factors. The average assessment growth (excluding exempt) over the past 5 years (2019-2023) was 1.99%.

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3.2 - Other Revenue

The County has limited sources of revenue beyond the property tax; these sources of revenue include: grants; supplementary tax revenue, user fees and investment income.

3.2.1 - Provincial and Federal Grants

In 2023 the County received a total of \$6,058,881 grant funding from the federal and provincial levels of government. The level of grant funding has increased by \$202,311 from 2023. Even with this slight increase in the overall federal and provincial funding we have received notice of decreases for 2024.

- i. *Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF aka Gas Tax) – increased by \$49,010*
- ii. *Ministry of Health (Land Ambulance) – estimated increase of \$536,720 based on 50% of 2023 budget adjusted for PSAB*
- iii. *Haliburton Highlands Health Services Funding – increased by \$150,030*
- iv. *Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding (OMPF) - decreased by \$22,200*
- v. *Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding (OCIF) - decreased by \$80,368*

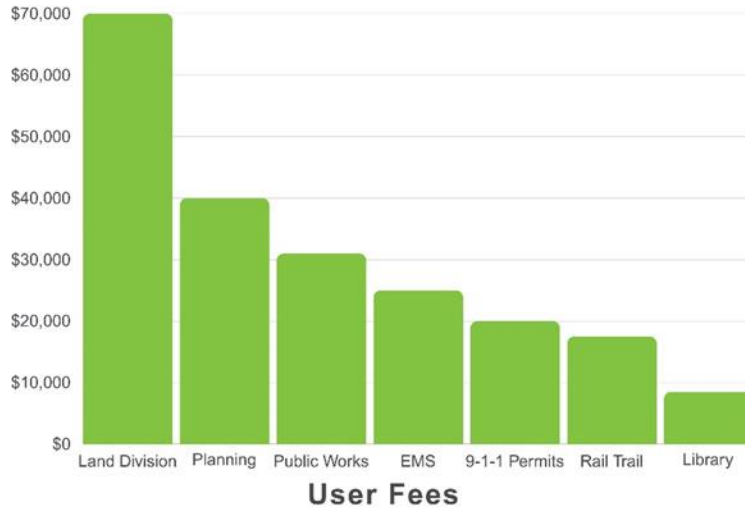
OMPF Funding continues to be phased out, it is anticipated that 2024 will be the final year which will be a loss of \$126,300 in 2025.

OCIF Funding continues to be decreased year over year with the County seeing a 15% decrease in 2023 and 2024, receiving \$630,334 in 2022 to \$455,416 in 2024.

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3.2.2 - User Fees

The County charges user fees for various services that it provides. A breakdown of the user fees is shown below:



A review of user fees is conducted annually as part of the budget process. Inflationary adjustments are made to fees directly linked to specific program costs that operate on a full cost recovery basis. Other fee increases are determined after comparing rates to those charged by other municipalities with similar operations and services.

4.0 - Growth Items

Staff have identified any enhanced service levels, new programs, or funding required due to growth, by placing these items in the growth column in the budget. The total amount included in the 2024 Budget for growth items is \$563,960 which is offset by increased funding of \$864,169.



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4.1 - Revenue Growth

Revenue growth includes all increased funding as outlined in section 3.2.1 along with increased user fees, municipal recoveries and miscellaneous revenues. Total growth revenue included in the 2024 Budget is \$864,169.

4.2 - Operating Expenditure Growth

The Operating Expenditure growth of \$394,135 represents 70% of the total growth expenses for 2024. The following expenditures make up 60% of the Operating Expenditure Growth:

- Legal Fees
- Legislative update to the County's Asset Management Plan
- Corporate Strategic
- Climate Actions Plans
- Insurance deductible
- Trade shows and programming

After a careful review of the County's current staffing levels, gaps have been identified. With some reorganization of current positions staff have been able to include the following 4 positions with a 2024 levy impact of \$38,560 which equates to 10% of the overall Operating Expenditures Growth.

Engineering Technician
(12 months budgeted)

An Engineering Technician position, which was removed for the 2023 budget has been added back into the 2024 Budget as this position will be responsible for supporting capital projects, long term forecasting, managing roads and structures inventory, maintenance and capital requirements and priorities, support the legislated update and ongoing maintenance of the County's Asset Management Plan. The vacancy has negatively impacted the department's operations. The remaining staff having to perform additional duties affecting department program deliverables being delayed or not completed. The position is an integral part of the Engineering Department.

Administrative Assistant
(12 months budgeted)

The Administrative Assistant position to support the CAO, Council, Clerk and Human Resources department. There is a distinct shortage of administrative support across the organization with only Planning, EMS, and Public Works departments having dedicated administrative support services. The lack of support requires directors, managers and technical staff to undertake administrative responsibilities that limits effectiveness workload management for their core areas of responsibility.

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Payroll & Benefit Administrator (12 months budgeted)

Over the past 15 years the Finance Department has seen an increase in full time staff of 34% and an increase in levy of 57% with the same compliment of staff. A dedicated Payroll Benefit Administrator will position the Corporate Services team to implement a seamless staff onboarding procedure, provide a single point of contact for staff for all payroll, benefit and pension requirements. This position will also manage the ongoing increases to the benefit and pension administration along with all claims management. Finance and Human Resources will then be positioned to implement necessary efficiencies, cost saving initiatives and provide the ability for long term forecasting and planning to improve the financial management and sustainability of the County.

Business Solutions and GIS Supervisor (12 months budgeted)

To realize success through the Digital Transformation working group, resourcing is required that will be dedicated to the task of resolving existing business solution issues as well as coordinating closer collaboration among the 5 Partners on new solution implementation. Currently there is no central resource to identify and drive digital collaboration across the 5 partners. This leaves each business unit responsible for solution implementation which creates resourcing challenges during implementation and onwards.

After the County's completion of the recent Paramedic Service Master Plan it was identified that the Paramedic Service is in need of Supervisor positions and an Administrative Assistant. The following have been Included within the draft budget:

Paramedic Supervisor (9 months budgeted)

Front line supervision is the industry standard and it has been identified that the County is the only Eastern service without these positions. With the continued increased call volume, these positions will assist with the increased workload of the Chief and Deputy Chief's and allow for enhanced focus on long-term strategic planning and goals.

This noted supervisor position have a 2024 levy impact of \$120,155. As the Land Ambulance program is 50% funded by the Province we would start to recognize the funding for this position in 2025 with a net cost to the County of \$104,936. This is the expense of one position for a full 12 months offset by 50% funding from 2024's 9 months of expense. This same position net cost in 2026 would be \$87,457 as we would be receiving a full 12 months of 50% funding.

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Community Paramedic Administrative Assistant
(6 months budgeted, fully funded by LTC funding, no levy impact in 2024)

As identified in the recent Paramedic Services Master Plan the lack of administrative support is placing increased workload on the current EMS Administrative Assistant, Paramedics and Management.

The Assistant position is only budgeted for 6 months in 2024 and fully funded by the Community Paramedic Program and therefore has no levy impact in 2024.

It is anticipated that the new Assistant position will eventually be a shared position between the Community Paramedic Program and the Land Ambulance Program. Therefore 2025 would result in a levy impact of \$45,767 within the Land Ambulance budget. Starting in 2026 the position would be funded 50% by Community Paramedicine Long Term Care Funding, 25% Land Ambulance Funding, 25% County Levy, a cost of \$22,884.

4.3 - Capital Expenditure Growth

A total of \$428,511 of capital expenditure growth has been budgeted for 2024. Improvements to Public Works patrol yard buildings and vehicles and equipment for health services make up \$355,303 of growth with the remaining \$73,208 being an update to a fence at the Prentice Street building location and hardware and software purchases. This growth is offset by transfers from reserve in the amount of \$376,290 resulting in a net capital growth expenditure of \$52,221.

4.4 - Transfers to Others Growth

A net budget impact of \$117,604 of growth to transfers to others. The majority of this, \$142,604, is related to the Social Services and Housing transfer to City of Kawartha Lakes.

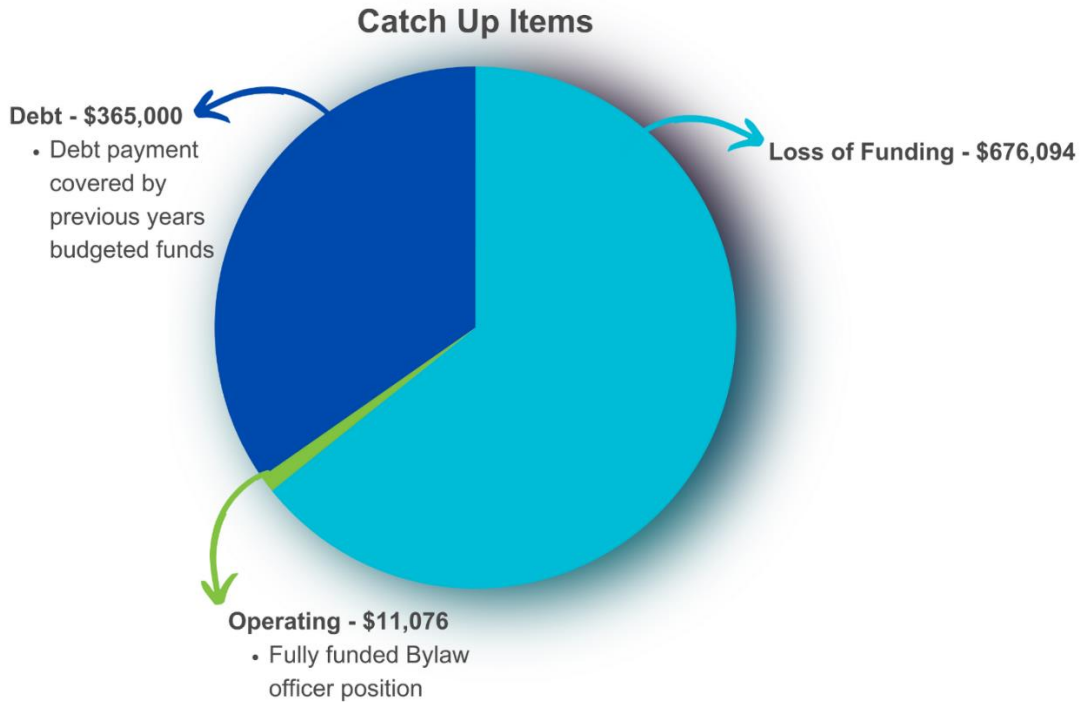
The 2024 draft budget also includes a service decrease in the Health Professional Recruitment Incentive program of \$25,000 as there has been a decrease of enrollment in this program.

5.0 - Catch up or One Time Items

Catch up items are items such as loss of funding, the end result of phasing in of new positions or programs, utilizing reserves to cover annual or operational items.

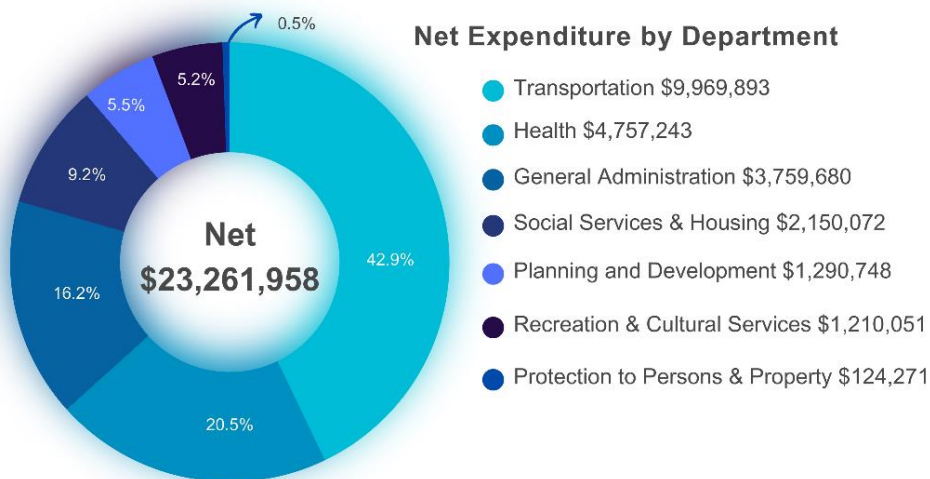
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There is a total of \$1,052,170 included in the draft 2024 Budget for “catch up” or one time items, these include:



6.0 - Department/Service Summary

The County’s budget is prepared on a departmental basis. The net expenditures by department that are funded from the Tax Levy are presented below followed by a summary for each department.



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	Annual Budget			
	010 General Government	020 Protection to Persons and Property	030 Transportation	050 Health
Revenue				
02 Tax Requisition	3,759,679.62	124,271.27	9,969,892.69	4,757,243.05
04 Tax Supplementaries & Write-offs	128,045.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
06 Federal Funding	0.00	0.00	658,432.72	0.00
08 Provincial Funding	136,502.00	0.00	469,147.00	4,860,350.00
10 Municipal Funding	152,602.99	130,054.00	48,000.00	0.00
12 User Charges	0.00	20,000.00	48,500.00	25,000.00
14 Investment Income	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16 Donations and Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
18 Rental Revenue	61,301.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20 Other Revenue	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
24 Gain (Loss) on Sale	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
25 Transfer from Reserve	888,311.98	0.00	122,762.00	195,778.00
26 Interfunctional Revenue Adjustment	47,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28 Offset to Materials & Supplies Expense re Equipment	0.00	0.00	843,194.00	0.00
Revenue Total	5,293,442.59	274,325.27	12,204,928.41	9,838,521.05
Expense				
33 Transfer to Reserve	5,000.00	0.00	300,549.00	0.00
49 Debt Repayment	0.00	0.00	715,300.00	80,800.00
50 Wages and Benefits	2,536,357.09	133,498.96	2,783,558.41	6,753,067.68
52 Materials and Supplies	776,886.93	71,487.51	3,353,365.00	1,190,355.17
54 Contracted Services	145,800.00	69,338.80	624,248.00	24,385.59
58 Interest on Long Term Debt	0.00	0.00	181,020.00	37,100.00
60 Rentals & Financial Expenses	51,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
64 Transfers to Other Entities	1,560,104.17	0.00	0.00	634,700.00
68 Interfunctional Expense Adjustment	(425,334.61)	0.00	(41,150.00)	472,334.61
70 Employee Future Benefits	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense Total	4,674,813.58	274,325.27	7,916,890.41	9,192,743.05
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit) including non-cash Amortization	618,629.01	0.00	4,288,038.00	645,778.00
Less:				
99 FA - CY Purchases	618,629.01	0.00	4,288,038.00	645,778.00
Net Capital Surplus (Deficit) excluding Amortization	618,629.01	0.00	4,288,038.00	645,778.00
Net Operating and Capital Surplus (Deficit)	0.00	0.00	0.00	.00

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	Annual Budget			
	060 Social Services and Housing	070 Recreation and Cultural Services	080 Planning and Development	Total
Revenue				
02 Tax Requisition	2,150,072.00	1,210,050.82	1,290,748.24	23,261,957.69
04 Tax Supplementaries & Write-offs	0.00	0.00	0.00	128,045.00
06 Federal Funding	0.00	12,879.00	0.00	671,311.72
08 Provincial Funding	0.00	120,000.00	0.00	5,585,999.00
10 Municipal Funding	0.00	0.00	44,169.68	374,826.67
12 User Charges	0.00	8,500.00	110,000.00	212,000.00
14 Investment Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00
16 Donations and Other	0.00	17,500.00	0.00	17,650.00
18 Rental Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	61,301.00
20 Other Revenue	0.00	0.00	100.00	5,100.00
24 Gain (Loss) on Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
25 Transfer from Reserve	130,000.00	190,000.00	244,000.00	1,770,851.98
26 Interfunctional Revenue Adjustment	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,000.00
28 Offset to Materials & Supplies Expense re Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	843,194.00
Revenue Total	2,280,072.00	1,558,929.82	1,689,017.92	33,139,237.06
Expense				
33 Transfer to Reserve	94,950.00	6,000.00	0.00	406,499.00
49 Debt Repayment	0.00	0.00	0.00	796,100.00
50 Wages and Benefits	0.00	1,193,484.82	937,544.22	14,337,511.18
52 Materials and Supplies	0.00	227,540.00	442,930.00	6,062,564.61
54 Contracted Services	100,000.00	10,815.00	238,943.70	1,213,531.09
58 Interest on Long Term Debt	0.00	0.00	0.00	218,120.00
60 Rentals & Financial Expenses	0.00	14,090.00	3,600.00	68,690.00
64 Transfers to Other Entities	2,085,122.00	0.00	10,000.00	4,289,926.17
68 Interfunctional Expense Adjustment	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,850.00
70 Employee Future Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
Expense Total	2,280,072.00	1,451,929.82	1,633,017.92	27,423,792.05
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit) including non-cash Amortization	0.00	107,000.00	56,000.00	5,715,445.01
Less:				
99 FA - CY Purchases	0.00	107,000.00	56,000.00	5,715,445.01
Net Capital Surplus (Deficit) excluding Amortization	0.00	107,000.00	56,000.00	5,715,445.01
Net Operating and Capital Surplus (Deficit)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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7.0 - Reserves

Reserves and reserve funds are funds that have been set aside to meet future funding requirements, established by Council, legislation or agreement. Reserves and reserve funds are a critical financial tool for increasing sustainability and flexibility while reducing vulnerability. They provide options to respond to unexpected issues, phase-in funding impacts over time as well as reduce reliance on debt.

With the transfers to and from reserves included within the 2024 draft budget it is anticipated, at this time, that the County will end 2024 with approximately \$6,533,703 in reserves.



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8.0 - 2025 and Beyond

It is important to recognize how the decisions made within the 2024 Budget process impact the following years. Staff have utilized reserves along with phasing in new positions in an effort to reduce the required levy ask in 2024. Known items that should be brought to Council's attention for potential impacts in 2025 include:

- Portion of IT Tech position being funded by Safe Restart Funding (annual contribution since 2021, this will be final year) – additional \$36,000;
- Portion of new IT Supervisor position funded by Safe Restart Funding – additional \$42,000;
- New EMS Supervisor only budgeted for 9 months in 2024 – additional \$40,050;
- Economic Development & Tourism have utilized \$33,000 of their 2023 surplus within their 2024 Budget;
- Social Services budget includes new discretionary benefits of \$30,000, these are being funded by reserves in 2024;
- Procurement Services is purchasing new software being funded by Modernization Funding, will have annual fee of \$6,800.

Further potential levy impacts identified for 2025:

- Loss of OMPF Funding - \$126,300
- New Community Paramedic Assistant only budgeted for 6 months in 2024 - \$45,767
- Structure program - \$1,157,560 - There currently is no sustainable structure budget within the County's base budget and a goal that needs to be worked towards in 2025. There is approximately \$600,000 in the structure reserve to assist with working to build this number back into the base budget. This program used to be fully funded by federal and provincial funding which has drastically decreased since 2019.
- Any operational items Haliburton County Public Library Board are funding from reserve in 2024.

9.0 - Concluding Remarks

In developing the 2024 Budget, economic and fiscal impacts created significant budget pressures, ones that are not just seen by the County of Haliburton. There are higher than normal tax rate increases being reported across the Province. These increases are being driven, in part, by a combination of excessively high inflation rates, decreases in government funding and aging infrastructure.

In response, County staff have reviewed and re-prioritized spending and refocused these efforts in the area of sustainable long-term fiscal planning and management. This renewed focus will in some cases alter previous areas of spending to mitigate the identified fiscal and economic

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impacts while being mindful of the need to recognize the impact of tax rate increases on County residents and businesses.

County Council passed the 2024 budget at their [Special Council meeting](#) on March 6, 2024.