

2019 FINANCIAL INDICATOR REPORT

Issue

The 2019 Financial Indicator Report based on Alberta Municipal Affairs data is provided to Council for information.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That a recommendation be forwarded to Council to receive the 2019 Financial Indicator Report as information.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

The 2019 Financial Indicator Graphs are no longer being prepared by Alberta Municipal Affairs.

The new process is to have municipalities create their own reports using data tables provided by the government using the information submitted by municipalities annually, as required under the *Municipal Government Act* through the Financial Information Return (FIR) and Statistical Information Return (SIR), as well as data collected from other public sources.

Many of the same comparative measures have been used as were in the past, along with using the same group of 18 municipalities for the Financial Indicator Graphs ranging in population from 14,451 to 101,482 using data collected from 2014 to 2019 inclusive

The comparative measures included in the Financial Indicator Graphs are useful in assessing financial health, past performance, benchmarking, and establishing organizational goals.

Municipal Taxation

The Financial Indicator report, confirms that Okotoks continues to trend below the group median net municipal equalized property tax rates for the last 6 years. In 2019 the difference between Okotoks and the group median for equalized residential rates was 3.1% lower than the group median and for equalized non-residential rates was lower by 4.8%.

Expenses

The Town's Major Expenditures per Capita by Type (Salaries, Wages and Benefits; Contracted and General Services; Materials, Goods, Supplies and Utilities; Interest and Banking; and Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets) are lower in the majority of expenditures than the group median (see pages 15-19 of the attachment). Salaries, Wages and Benefits continue to trend below the group median for the last six years and are 16.7% lower in 2019. (See page 15 of the attachment).

The Town continues to trend lower than the median on Major Expenditures per capita on Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets and are lower by 25.2% in 2019 (see page 19 of the attachment).

In summary, the Financial Indicator Graphs once again show the Town has a low cost of service, which allows the Town to maintain a low tax environment. In comparison to other municipalities, Okotoks continues to be cost competitive in terms of service provision and remains below the group median on taxation.

Strategic Plan Goals

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Manage Community Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Provide Strong Governance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Provide Quality Community Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> | Healthy and Safe Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Enhance Organizational Excellence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Foster Economic Vitality |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Promote Environmental Excellence |

Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements

n/a

Public Participation Strategy

n/a

Alternatives for Consideration

n/a

CAO COMMENTS

This analysis is helpful for direct comparison of value for money principles important to the public. Okotoks continues to provide good value for money, including lower than average costing and taxation.

Attachment(s)

1. 2019 Financial Indicator report

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