



Questionnaire

2021 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLAN

February 12, 2021
- February 21, 2021

The Township of Langley is reviewing the Draft 2021 – 2025 Five-Year Financial Plan with emphasis on the 2021 Budget. Your input is valuable. This year you can provide feedback until February 21, 2021.

Complete this questionnaire. Using any of the following methods, return your completed questionnaire by February 21, 2021 to the attention of Finance Division, Township of Langley:

Drop Box: 20338 – 65 Avenue, Langley BC

Fax: 604.533.6130

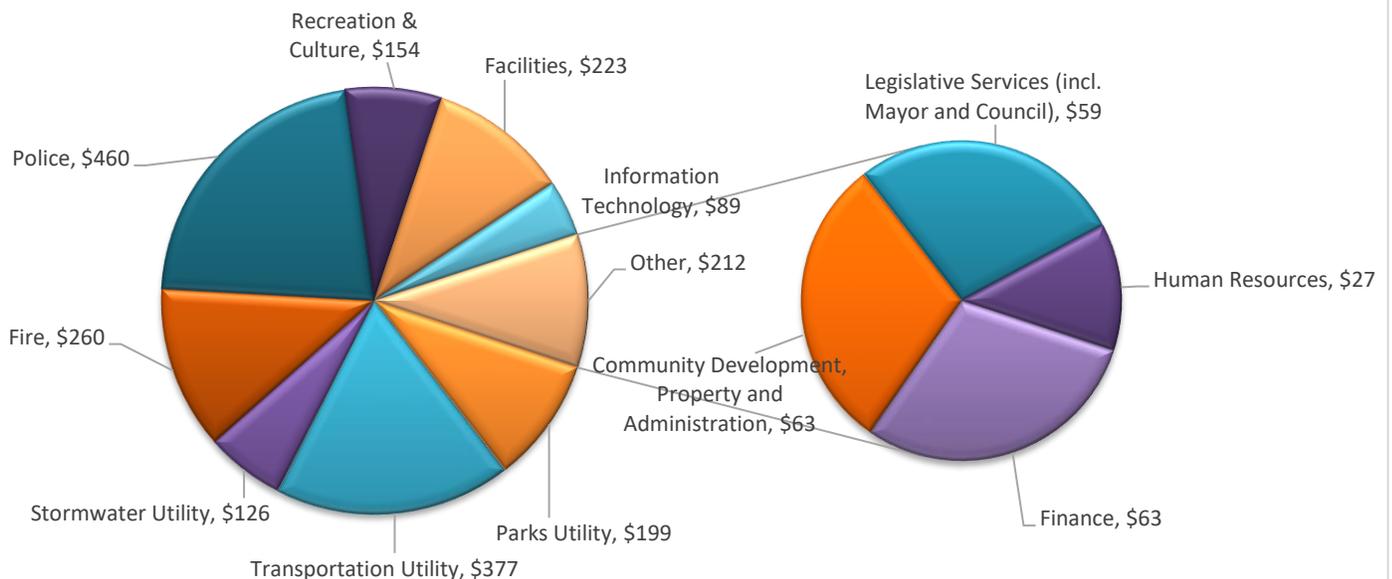
Email: budget@tol.ca

As part of the 2021 budget public consultation process, the Township of Langley invites you to help us understand your priorities and feedback on various civic services.

Section A below shows what service and support functions are paid for, in part, through your tax dollars. Water, Sanitary Sewer and Solid Waste (Garbage) are three functions supported by user fees from households subscribing to the service as indicated in Section B below.

A Services Supported by Property Taxes

Where Your Township of Langley Dollars Go



Council is contemplating a 3.99% property tax increase in the Draft 2021 Budget which includes a 3.48% base property tax increase and four additional service enhancements.

The draft base property tax increase addresses a number of significant financial realities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that includes a \$5.7 million decrease to Recreation and Culture revenues. The base increase also includes \$2.2 million in increases for Protective Services, reduced use of reserves in the amount of \$1.7 million, \$1.3 million in decreases to interest revenue and \$0.91 million of operating costs to support new and contributed capital required to maintain existing service levels. Given all these extraordinary financial pressures, the Township is leveraging a one-time Provincial Restart Grant in the amount of \$7.6 million to arrive at the proposed base property tax increase of 3.48%.

Below are four (4) budget service enhancements for consideration with the property tax impact noted beside each item based on residential property valued at \$968,824. If all service enhancements are approved, the resultant annual property tax for each representative house would total \$2,186 (\$2175 base + \$11 in additional items).

Information for property valued at \$968,824	Annual Tax Increase (%)	Annual Tax Increase (\$)	Annual Total (\$)
Base Property Tax Increase	3.48%	\$73	\$2,175
1. Protective Services (RCMP)	+ 0.13%	\$3	-
2. Tree Protection – Parks	+ 0.06%	\$1	-
3. Support Services – General Government	+ 0.07%	\$2	-
4. Asset Maintenance (Road Paving)	+ 0.25%	\$5	-

B Services Supported by User Pay Fees

Amounts per household using Township services	Annual Fee Increase (%)	Annual Fee Increase (\$)	Annual Total (\$)
Water Service	+ 4.35%	\$ 24.28	\$ 582.50
Sewer Service	+ 1.48%	\$ 7.21	\$ 494.49
Solid Waste	0.00%	\$0.00	\$ 330.00

Using the information provided in Section A and B above, please complete the following survey questions that have been organized into these three categories:

1. Services Supported by Property Taxes – Proposed Property Tax Increase

This section asks if you would support or not support the proposed core property tax increase and tax increases for each of the four decision items listed above in Section A.

2. Services Supported by User Pay Fees and Proposed User Fee Increases

This section asks if you would support or not support the proposed user fee increases for the three user pay service functions.

3. Top of Mind Issues

This section asks some top of mind questions. This section asks for your input on important issues facing your community.

1 Services Supported by Property Taxes – Proposed Property Tax Increases

Property Taxes	Thinking about all the programs and services you receive from the Township of Langley, what overall value do you feel you receive for your tax dollars?
<input type="checkbox"/> Very good value <input type="checkbox"/> Good value <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Poor value <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor value <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion	

Universal Services Proposed base property tax increase for 2021 is 3.48%. The increase for a residential property assessed at \$968,824: Annual = \$73.13 Monthly = \$6.09	Universal Services include Parks, Transportation Utility, Stormwater Utility, Fire, Police, Facilities, Recreation and Culture, and General Government. The 2021 proposed base property tax increase of 3.48% will provide funding for non-discretionary expenditure increases for salaries and wages, RCMP contracts, recreation services, utility contracts, service and maintenance contracts, and other operating costs. Please indicate your support for the proposed base property tax increase.
<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion	

Protective Services includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCMP • 4 Members • Starting Oct 1st • +0.13% in 2021 • +0.39% in 2022 The increase for a residential property assessed at \$968,824: Annual = \$2.67 Monthly = \$0.22	Council is considering adding four new RCMP Members starting October 1, 2021, at a prorated cost of \$176,867, a 2021 property tax increase of 0.13%. In 2022, a further nine months will be added at an additional 0.39%. There is an ongoing demand for Regular Members in the Township of Langley due to population growth. If increases in police strength does not keep pace with the increase in population, response time to calls could be impacted and caseload per officer increased. An increase in caseload ultimately results in less time on the road and a possible increase in costly overtime. Please indicate your support for the proposed tax increase.
<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion	

Tree Protection - Parks The increase for a residential property assessed at \$968,824: Annual = \$1.31 Monthly = \$0.11	Through Council adoption of Langley Tree Protection Bylaw 2019 No 5478, regulations for tree cutting, pruning and removal were introduced to assist in protecting the Township's tree canopy while providing residents with a process to request removal of trees on private property. The volume of applications to permit works under the Bylaw have been significant, resulting in the need for additional staff to administer, issue and inspect works approved through the permitting process. Council is considering a request for the addition of two regular full time staff
---	--

starting July 1, 2021 to supplement the existing staff complement: a Support Clerk and an Arborist. The 2021 prorated cost of \$86,523 will result in a property tax increase of 0.06%. In 2022, a further six months will be added at an additional 0.06%.

Please indicate your support for the proposed tax increase.

Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose No opinion

Support Services - General Government:

The increase for a residential property assessed at \$968,824:

Annual = \$1.43
Monthly = \$0.12

Council is considering adding a Development Engineering Technologist and a Digital Media Specialist both starting on July 1, 2021. The 2021 prorated cost of \$94,949 will result in a property tax increase of 0.07%. In 2022, a further six months will be added at an additional 0.07%.

The Development Engineering Technologist position will allow for customer service improvements given the increasing complexity and volume of development applications.

The Township's communications and engagement with citizens needs to evolve to meet the demands and expectations of our citizens in today's digitally connected world. The COVID-19 pandemic has further increased those needs and expectations. The position of Digital Media Specialist will enhance service by providing citizens with more information and public engagement opportunities using tools that are at their fingertips and convenient for them.

Please indicate your support for the proposed tax increase.

Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose No opinion

Asset Maintenance

The increase for a residential property assessed at \$968,824:

• **Road Paving**

Annual = \$5.25
Monthly = \$0.44

Council is considering increasing the annual funding envelope for Road Paving by \$347,400 with a corresponding property tax increase of 0.25%.

The industry standard is to use the Average Cracked Area (ACA) to determine pavement condition ratings. Based on the assessment completed in 2015 for arterial and collector roads, the request to increase the base in 2021 will bring the funding envelope closer to the \$4.5M per year that was calculated in 2015 to ensure the pavement condition ratings for our arterial and collector roads are maintained. Prior to this addition, the paving program was at \$3M per year, which excludes major road networks and local roads.

Please indicate your support for the proposed tax increase.

Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose No opinion

2 Services Supported by Proposed User Pay Fees Increases

<p>WATER UTILITY</p> <p>The increase for a residential property subscribing to the service:</p> <p>Annual = \$24.28 Monthly = \$2.02</p>	<p>The Township of Langley's water infrastructure includes over 537 km of water main, 2,913 fire hydrants, 21,729 service connections, reservoirs, pump stations, and a major water treatment facility. The Engineering Division is responsible for safe and efficient supply, distribution, and delivery of clean potable water to the community.</p> <p>The 2021 proposed property user fee increase of 4.35% will provide funding for non-discretionary expenditure increases for salaries and wages, utility contracts, service and maintenance contracts, debt repayment, and operating costs for water infrastructure.</p>
<p>Please indicate the water system you use on your property.</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Township Water System</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Private Well System</p>
<p>Please indicate your support for the proposed utility user fee increase.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion</p>	

<p>SEWER UTILITY</p> <p>The increase for a residential property subscribing to the service:</p> <p>Annual = \$7.21 Monthly = \$0.60</p>	<p>The Engineering Division is responsible for ensuring the efficient operation of the municipal sanitary sewerage system. This includes the collection and conveyance of discharge from homes and businesses to the regional facilities for treatment. The Township's municipal sanitary sewerage system consists of over 354 km of sewer pipes, over 16,000 service connections, and 33 pump stations.</p> <p>The 2021 proposed property user fee increase of 1.48% will provide funding for non-discretionary expenditure increases for salaries and wages, utility contracts, service and maintenance contracts, debt repayment, and operating costs for the sewer infrastructure.</p>
<p>Please indicate the sewer system you use on your property.</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Township Sewer System</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Private Septic System</p>
<p>Please indicate your support for the proposed utility user fee increase.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly support <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion</p>	

**SOLID WASTE UTILITY
(Garbage Collection)**

The increase for a residential property subscribing to the service:

Annual = \$0.00
Monthly = \$0.00

The Solid Waste section of Engineering is responsible for collection services related to garbage, yard trimmings, recyclables, and managing an annual hazardous waste collection program, which includes sustainable community initiatives aimed at public education, intended to encourage reduction of waste volumes and thereby reducing the impact to the environment.

The Solid Waste (garbage collection) Utility includes household base rates and cart rates (based on size).

- A representative single family pays \$330 annually.
- A multi-family pays \$250 annually.

A status quo budget is being recommended for the utility, with no rate changes for 2021.

Please indicate the solid waste system you use on your property.



Township Solid Waste

Private Solid Waste

Please indicate your support for the proposed utility user fee increase.

Strongly support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly oppose No opinion

3 Top of Mind Issues

In your view, as a resident of the Township of Langley, what are the three (3) most important issues facing your community that you feel should receive the greatest attention from your local leaders? (Please select only 3)

- Crime
- Economy
- Environment / Climate
- Growth
- Municipal Government services
- Municipal Government spending
- Parks
- Social
- Taxation
- Transportation
- Recreation, and Cultural Facilities
- Affordable Housing
- Other: _____
- None
- No opinion

Comments

Required Information

Name: _____

Phone/Email (optional): _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Note: All feedback will be summarized and provided to Township Mayor and Council as part of the overall public input received during the budget process. We appreciate your interest in engaging in this annual budget consultation process and we value your contributions.

The Township of Langley appreciates your input. Thank you for providing your comments.

Any personal information collected on this form will be managed in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Direct enquiries, questions, or concerns regarding the collection, use, disclosure, or safeguarding of personal information associated with this form to: Supervisor, Information, Privacy, and Records Management, Township of Langley, 20338 – 65 Avenue, Langley, BC V2Y 3J1 foi@tol.ca 604.532.7396

Township of Langley | 20338 – 65 Avenue, Langley, BC V2Y 3J1 | budget@tol.ca | tol.ca