

Municipality of West Grey

Budget Request

Request: _____

Department: _____

Year: 2025 Included in draft budget Proposed addition to budget

Description
Budget Request Form
Nature of request:
Economic Development Officer – permanent full-time (effective September 2025)
Justification: Economic development not only helps create jobs and increase commercial and industrial tax revenue, but it also improves the economic well-being and quality of life for a community. Specific roles of an Economic Development Officer within a community include: retaining businesses and providing resources to help them expand; securing new investment; assessing the need for workforce development strategies and facilitating training opportunities and connection between residents and local businesses in need of skilled workers; supporting strategies for economic resiliency; and facilitating relationship among stakeholders. The Economic Development Officer will play a critical role in acting as a business concierge , by assisting developers and businesses interested in investing in West Grey through the processes of government (at all levels) and acting as an advocate and champion for finding a path forward for long-term, sustainable investment and development. Most economic development work happens at the local level, but long-term success requires partnerships across all levels of government, particularly to obtain resources and support for programs and initiatives. Increased business investment in a community provides additional tax revenue, that supports municipalities to better fund essential local infrastructure and priorities, and further serves business in the community who want to employ people, pay taxes and improve quality of life.
Consequences of not funding:
West Grey is seeing consistent and steady residential growth, and it is critical that the Municipality develops and implement strategies and tactics that help shape a shared vision for the future, which includes ensuring a balance between residential development and commercial and industrial development. Economic development produces significant return-on-investment over the long-term. Without a dedicated staff resource to support economic development, investment/development opportunities will be lost; developers will continue to struggle with navigating the complexity of municipal and provincial requirements, and West Grey is likely to be overlooked as a place to do business, resulting in loss of future industrial and commercial tax revenue.
Alignment with council priority of strategic plan

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Pillar: Build a better future Goal: Invest in business Strategy: Appoint a dedicated Economic Development Officer to spearhead business retention and attraction efforts. Note: the job description has not been graded within the municipal pay grid framework; annual salary is estimated at a band 11, and includes an estimate for benefits and OMERS contributions.						
	2025 Mandatory	2025 One-time	2025 Growth	2025 Service level	2026 One-time	2026 Service level
Capital Expenditure						
Operating Expenditure						
Funding Source						
Tax Levy				\$30,580		\$91,740
Reserves						
Grant						
Fees						
Other						