

## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Council  
**Report From:** Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer  
**Meeting Date:** January 14, 2025  
**Subject:** 2025 Budget

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### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of staff report '2025 Budget', Council receives the report for information purposes.

### Highlights:

- The 2025 West Grey budget maintains existing service levels, advocates for rural health care, plans for growth and commits funding for infrastructure.
- Estimated blended total tax increase (including municipal, county and education) is 8.6 percent.

### Climate and Environmental Implications:

None.

### Previous Report/Authority:

None.

### Analysis:

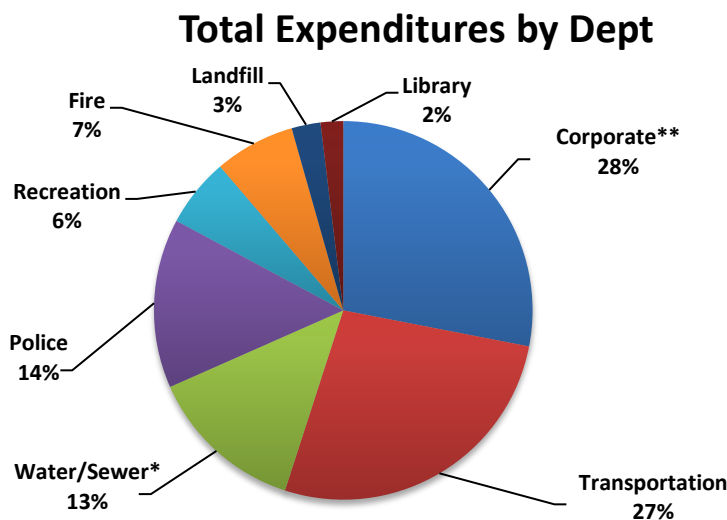
Council deliberated the 2025 budget during special council meetings held October 22, November 12, and December 10, 2024. The budget outlines the Municipality's commitment to balance the costs of providing services while ensuring long-term fiscal responsibility. The 2025 budget will focus on maintaining existing service levels, continuing to advocate for rural health care in our municipality, focus on strategic priorities, plan for growth and remain committed to funding our infrastructure.

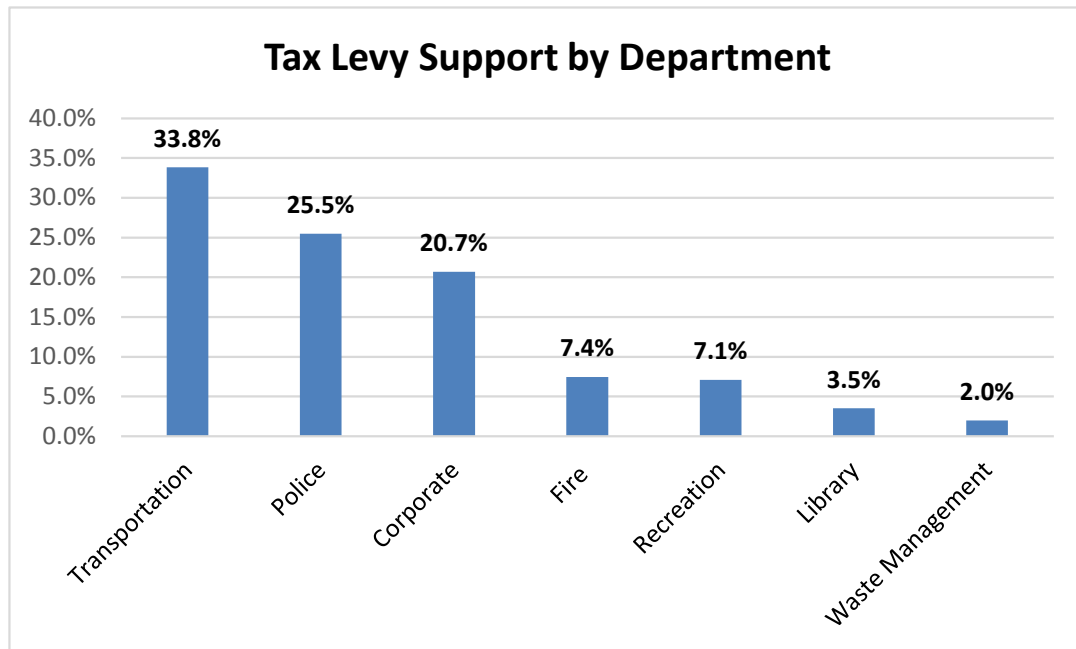
The BMA Municipal Study for 2024 ranks West Grey local taxes for the average residential home as “low” in comparison to other municipalities with populations less than 15,000. Within Grey County, West Grey property taxes rank 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest out the nine lower tier municipalities. When you consider the property tax burden as a percentage of average household income, West Grey ranks as the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest out of the nine Grey County municipalities and is considered in the “mid” range.

The 2025 operating budget represents a tax levy increase of 9.9 percent and incorporates various inflationary pressures, such as contracts, wages and benefits, insurance, legal, financing charges, etc. The 2025 capital budget represents a 1.5 percent tax levy increase. The capital budget includes completion of the new police station, a new pumper fire truck for the Durham station, replacement of Bridge 44 on the Northline in Glenelg, diesel exhaust removal systems for the Neustadt and Ayton fire stations and a new plow truck for the Bentinck public works depot.

### Total Expenditures by Department

	2025	2024
Corporate	28.1%	26.3%
Transportation	26.9%	24.1%
Police	14.5%	17.4%
Water/Sewer*	13.4%	15.6%
Recreation	5.9%	6.1%
Fire	6.9%	4.7%
Waste Management	2.5%	4.0%
Library	1.9%	2.0%

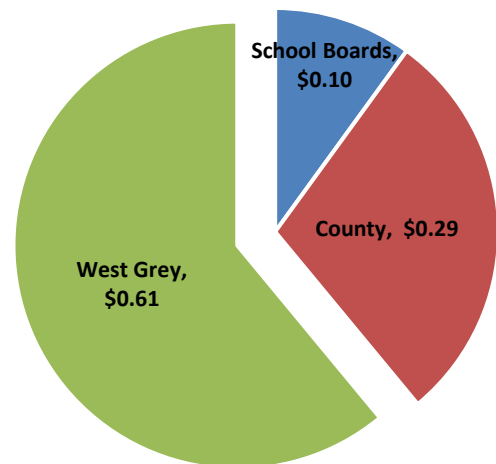




West Grey uses that \$0.61 as follows:

Transportation	\$0.21
Police	\$0.16
Council/Admin/Corporate	\$0.11
Fire	\$0.04
Recreation	\$0.04
Other Protection	\$0.02
Library	\$0.02
Waste Management	<u>\$0.01</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>\$0.61</b></u>

### For every \$1 in residential taxes



### Financial Implications:

The 2025 West Grey budget represents a tax levy increase of 9.9 percent operating and 1.5 capital for a total local increase of 11.4 percent. When combined with the estimated upper tier (Grey County) and the education tax rates the total tax increase is projected to be 8.6 percent. Based on an average residential assessment of \$250,000 this would result in an estimated increase of approximately \$25 per month, or just under \$300 for the year.

On a per \$100,000 of residential assessment the increase is estimated to be \$10 per month or \$120 for the year.

**Communication Plan:**

Information will be provided on the website and in the property tax insert.

**Consultation:**

All departments.

**Attachments:**

None.

**Recommended by:**

Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer

**Submission approved by:**

Michele Harris, Chief Administrative Officer

For more information on this report, please contact Kerri Mighton, Director of Finance/Treasurer at [kmighton@westgrey.com](mailto:kmighton@westgrey.com) or 519-369-2200 ext. 223.