

Notable Variances – By Department

Tax Supported

Significant variances within department operating budgets are summarized below. A positive number represents a favourable variance (increases in revenues or decreases in expenditures).

Corporate Shared

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Taxes / Tax Write-Offs	Unfavourability mainly driven by accrual of anticipated Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Building and Property Improvement Grant (BPIG) payments for four properties. Cumulative annual incentive is \$140,000 for up to five years.	\$ (13,000)
Supplemental Taxes	In-year assessment growth was less than budgeted. Annual supplemental tax budget is based on recent historical averages and anticipated development.	\$ (17,000)
Fines	Fines under the Provincial Offences Act are below budget due to reduced ticketing and collections activity.	\$ (27,000)
Penalties and Interest	Favourability mainly due to increased penalties on property tax accounts. Taxes receivable equal to 5.4% of taxes levied (2022 was 4.5%).	\$ 69,000
Bank Interest / Transfer to Reserves	Higher than average monthly bank balances and rates resulted in favourable bank interest revenue of \$2,500,000. Per Town practice, surplus investment funds are transferred to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve and/or Infrastructure Reserve, thus resulting in a NIL impact to the Operating budget.	\$ NIL

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Investment Income	Favourability due to unanticipated gains resulting from the Town's investment in OneFund of \$114,000. Offset by a Transfer to Reserve Fund as the gains have been reinvested. No net impact to the Operating budget.	NIL

Public Works

Roadways

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits / Transfer from Reserves	Unfavourable variance due to one incremental Leader position from budget and higher than anticipated wage rates.	\$ (51,000)
Maintenance Services	Unfavourable variance mainly due to unanticipated repairs to snowplow trucks (\$25,000), repairs/replacement of roadside mower blades and LED lamps (\$6,000), gate repair (\$5,000) and storm frame (\$4,000).	\$ (39,000)
Professional Services	Unfavourability primarily due to unanticipated professional consultant reviews regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standardizing tender documents, - Pedestrian crossing, and - Various projects on Lesperance Road from CR22 to Westlake including an intersection review, functional design, and northbound right turn lane. 	\$ (32,000)

Street Lighting

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Maintenance Materials & Supplies	Unfavourability due to increase in LED repairs.	\$ (15,000)
Maintenance Services	Unfavourability mainly due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unanticipated tree trimming,• Unanticipated pole repair, and• Higher monthly street light repairs in Q2/Q3.	\$ (54,000)

Winter Control

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits	Favourable variance is a result of less winter events occurring than anticipated.	\$ 63,000
Maintenance Materials & Supplies	Salt expenditures are dependent on the quantity and severity of weather events in the year. Favourable variance driven by lower than anticipated snowfall.	\$ 20,000
Maintenance Services	Unfavourable due to unanticipated ice storm clean up (\$9,000) and salter motor repairs (\$4,000).	\$ (13,000)

Garbage Collection

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Contracts	Unfavourable variance due to higher than anticipated fixed cost rate increases.	\$ (11,000)

Garbage Disposal

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Contracts	Unfavourable variance due to higher than anticipated fixed cost rate increase.	\$ (20,000)

Fire Services

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits	Unfavourability due to higher than anticipated overtime and increased hours of volunteer fire fighters.	\$ (43,000)
Maintenance Services	Unfavourability mainly due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unplanned engine repairs (\$4,000), • Pager repairs (\$6,000), and • Fire Hall roof and alarm panel replacement (\$15,000). 	\$ (28,000)
Professional Services/Transfer from/to reserve	Favourability due to project timing (\$44,000) as work continues on Strategic Fire Master Plan & Community Risk Assessment into 2024. Amount is fully funded through reserve, thus no impact to the operating budget.	\$ NIL

Building

Building

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Permits	Unfavourable building permits due to current market conditions and high interest rates having a considerable negative impact on permit activity.	\$ (669,000)
Wages & Benefits	Favorability is mainly driven by the vacancies.	\$ 44,000
Professional Fees	Costs for temporary staff have been primarily processed through our payroll system and therefore reflected in Wages & Benefits above. Favourability here partially offsets the unfavourable impact of temporary staffing in Wages & Benefits.	\$ 25,500
Transfer to/from Reserve Fund	Net transfer from reserves required to balance the shortfall in building permit revenue.	\$ 526,000

Pool

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Maintenance Materials & Supplies	Unfavourable due to additional chemical supplies being required as a result of increased precipitation (\$6,000), additional pool maintenance (\$4,000) and overstock of literature and leadership materials (\$3,000).	\$ (13,000)

Storm Sewers

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Grants	Favourability due to higher than budgeted cost recoveries for annual maintenance on East Town Line drain.	\$ 11,000
Miscellaneous Revenue / Transfer to Reserves	Favourability mainly due to insurance claims proceeds.	\$ 14,000
Maintenance Services	Unfavourability due to an additional one-day flushing and higher repair costs than budgeted.	\$ (11,000)
Utilities	Unfavourability primarily due to higher usage than budgeted.	\$ (17,000)

Transit

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Grants / Transfer from Reserve	Favourability due to higher than budgeted Transit Gas Tax funding from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (\$78,000). This is offset by lesser requirement from Transit Lifecycle Reserve (\$65,000)	\$ 13,000
User Charges	Unfavourability is mainly a result of lower than anticipated ridership (\$14,000) and advertising revenue (\$3,000).	\$ (17,000)

Parks

Parks

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits	Favourability driven by salary gapping and less overall hours incurred than anticipated.	\$ 63,000
Maintenance Materials & Supplies	Favourability due to lower than budgeted gas usage (\$21,000) and equipment purchases (\$6,000). This is partially offset by increased Materials & Supplies driven by new security bollards at Lakewood, increased ball diamond clay and additional flowers (\$10,000).	\$ 16,000
Maintenance Service	Unfavourable variance driven by additional tree trimming and removal services due to storm damage (\$5,000), increased vehicle maintenance cost to extend the life of older trucks (\$13,000), and unanticipated repairs of woodchipper (\$15,000).	\$ (34,000)
Contract Services	Unfavourable variance primarily attributable to security for Lakewood parking lot.	\$ (23,000)

Community Facilities

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Maintenance Services	Unfavourable variance mainly due to repairs to newly acquired Maidstone Recreation Centre.	\$ (19,000)

Recreation Other

Special Events

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits	Favourable due to lower than anticipated hours for events.	\$ 11,000

Cultural Other

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Net Expenditures	Chief Tecumseh Statue in Lakewood Park. The project costs were partially covered by donations and sponsorship (\$15,500), interfunction transfer – Council (\$6,000), as well as golf tournament donation (\$5,000), resulting in net expenditures of \$10,000.	\$ (10,000)

Other Protection

Animal Control

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Animal Control	Favourable variance driven by over accrual of Lakeshore Dog Pound expenditures in prior years. No expense required in 2023.	\$ 25,000

Crossing Guards

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits	Favourable variance driven from the elimination of four noon-hour shifts.	\$ 17,000

Planning & Zoning

Planning & Zoning

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
User Charges	Unfavourability due to fewer applications than anticipated flowing from the weak broader economic conditions experienced throughout the year.	\$ (40,000)
Wages & Benefits	Favourability mainly due to vacancies.	\$ 25,000
Tecumseh Hamlet Secondary Plan	Increase in project costs of \$58,000 to engage consultant service to address landowner/stakeholder concerns. Funded through reserves, so no net impact to the Operating budget.	\$ NIL
Mainstreet Community Improvement Plan	No grants or related costs were incurred in 2023. The net financial impact is NIL	\$ NIL
Development Charge Study	Increase in project costs of \$5,500. Fully funded through reserves, thus no net impact to the Operating budget. Study to be completed in 2024.	\$ NIL
Oldcastle Future Development Lands Study	Favourability is a result of starting the study later than anticipated (\$48,000). Incurred costs are fully funded through reserves, thus no impact to the Operating budget. Study to be completed in 2024.	\$ NIL
Comprehensive Zoning By-law	Favourability driven by lower than anticipated professional fees. Fully funded through reserves, thus no impact to the Operating budget. Study to be completed in 2024.	\$ NIL
Tecumseh Housing Action Plan	Funding for this project was authorized by Council after the 2023 Budget was approved (Report # DS-2023-09). Fully funded through reserves, thus no impact to the Operating budget.	\$ NIL

Agriculture & Reforestation

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits	Favourable variance primarily due to vacancies.	\$ 55,000

Local Economic Development

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Transfer from Reserves/ Professional Services	Initiation of Commercial Areas Branding Study delayed until first quarter of 2024 (\$25,000). The cost of professional fee will be transferred from reserves. No impact on operating budget.	\$ NIL

Arena

Arena

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Grants / User Charges	Favourability due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher than anticipated facility rental (\$28,000), primarily ice rental revenue attributable to year-end tournaments and extended hours from minor hockey. Higher than expected advertising renewal rates (\$5,000). Higher than projected concessional sales (\$7,000). 	\$ 49,000
Wages & Benefits / Transfer from Reserves	Favourable due to vacancies and salary gapping.	\$ 20,000
Maintenance Materials & Supplies	Unfavourability driven by additional supplies and parts required for general upkeep and maintenance of facility (\$13,000), and the incremental usage of janitorial supplies and	\$ (16,000)

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
	introduction of feminine product dispensers (\$5,000).	
Maintenance Services	Unfavourable primarily due to unforeseen repairs and servicing of equipment.	\$ (30,000)
Utilities	Favourability driven by lower hydro & water usage than anticipated.	\$ 42,000

Recreation Programs

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
User Charges / Professional Services	<p>Favourable User Charges driven by higher than anticipated registration/entry fee (\$16,000).</p> <p>Unfavourability in Professional Services driven by universal programming (\$7,000). This is fully offset by Pathway to Potential funds thus no impact on the Operating budget.</p>	\$ 19,000

Police

Police

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Grants	Favourability due to higher than anticipated Community Safety & Policing (CSP) grants.	\$ 25,000
User Charges	Favourability driven by greater than anticipated false alarm (\$8,000) and O.P.P clearance revenues (\$4,000).	\$ 20,000
Contract Services	Favourable variance is primarily due to lower than anticipated O.P.P contract costs.	\$ 37,000

Administration

Technology & Client Services

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits	Favourable variance primarily due to vacancies and salary gapping.	\$ 32,000
Office Supplies & Equipment Maintenance	Unfavourable variance primarily due to unbudgeted software purchases and acquisition of additional licenses for existing software, necessitated by increased organizational headcount.	\$ (34,000)
Professional Services / Transfer from Reserves	Favourable variance driven by delay of Cloud Strategies implementation to 2024 (\$47,000), partially offset by Transfer from Reserves (\$37,000).	\$ 10,000

Maintenance

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits / Transfer from Reserves	Favourable variance mainly due to vacancies.	\$ 44,000
Contract Services / Transfer from Reserves	Favourable due to deferral of Climate Change Adaptation Plan development to 2024 (\$38,000). This is partially offset by the deferral of Transfer from Reserves revenue (\$32,000)	\$ 6,000

Customer Service

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits	Favourable variance mainly due to vacancies.	\$ 55,000

CAO

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Professional Services / Transfer from Reserves	Favourability due to lower than anticipated spend on general legal and other professional services (\$62,000). Lower than budgeted spending for ongoing lottery litigation is fully offset by a decrease in Transfer from Reserves. Net impact to Operating budget is NIL.	\$ 62,000

Legislative & Clerk Services

a) General

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Licenses & Permits	Favourable due to receipt of e-gaming payout (\$31,000) partially offset by decrease in anticipated marriage licenses (\$6,000).	\$ 25,000
Wages & Benefits / Transfer from Reserves	Favourability primarily due to vacancies.	\$ 42,000

Financial Services

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wages & Benefits / Transfer from Reserves	Favourability is driven by vacancies.	\$ 82,000
Professional Development	Favourable variance resulting from lower than anticipated activity during 2023.	\$ 10,000

People & Culture

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Wage & Benefits	Favourability is mainly a result of salary gapping and vacancies.	\$ 131,000
Professional Development	Favourability is driven by the deferral of leadership training to 2024 (\$10,000) as well as the delay in new hires and timing of various conferences (\$10,000).	\$ 20,000
Professional Services - Legal	Unfavourability driven by increased legal services related to confidential personnel matters.	\$ (10,000)
Other	Favourable variance resulting from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfer of volunteer appreciation budget to Legislative and Clerk Services (\$4,400)• Lower than anticipated Advertising (\$3,000)• Deferral of Promotional Items purchased to 2024 (\$1,500).	\$ 10,000

Rate Supported

Significant variances within department operating budgets are summarized below. A positive number represents a favourable variance (increases in revenues or decreases in expenditures).

Sanitary Sewers

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
User Charges	Favourability driven by higher than anticipated non-residential consumption (\$161,000) and sewer capital charges (\$11,000). This is partially offset by lower residential consumption (\$110,000).	\$ 58,000
Maintenance Services	Unfavourable variance due to multiple unanticipated sewer Private Drain Connection (PDC) replacements.	\$ (45,000)
Contract Services	Unfavourable variance due to the following 1) Overall, 16% higher than budgeted rates for wastewater treatment costs from the City of Windsor (approximately 24% increase to Little River and 17% increase to Lou Romano resulting in a \$237,000 unfavourable variance). City rates are based on prior year operating costs per volume. 2) Unbudgeted repairs identified during Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) inspection and equipment failures (\$58,000).	\$ (295,000)
Grants Expense	Favourable due to lower than anticipated intake of wastewater backflow and foundation disconnection subsidy program.	\$ 73,000

Waterworks System

Watermain and Services

a) General

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
User Charges	Favourability primarily due to greater than anticipated development activity.	\$ 47,000
Wages & Benefits	Favourability driven by vacancies.	\$ 88,000
Purchases for Resale	Unfavourability due to bulk water purchase rates greater than budgeted.	\$ (30,000)

General Waterworks

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
User Charges	Favourability primarily driven by higher than anticipated non-residential consumption (\$176,000) and water fixed charges (\$39,000). This is partially offset by lower residential consumption (\$100,000).	\$ 108,000
Maintenance Materials & Supplies	Unfavourability due to the incremental cost for replacement of North and West exterior man doors.	\$ (13,000)
Professional Services	Favourable variance resulting from lower than anticipated activity in 2023.	\$ 17,500

Water Oasis

Budget Item	Commentary	Amount
Water Sales - Oasis	Favourable variance due to higher than anticipated water sales.	\$ 8,000