



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2016

Council Passes 2016 Budget with Lowest Tax Increase in 3 Years

MARTENSVILLE, SK – Managing growth, prioritizing the current needs of the City, and planning for the future were the focus of City Council budget meetings this month. The budget was discussed and reviewed at previous meetings and approved by City Council at the March 15, 2016 regular Council meeting.

"I am pleased to see a budget that focuses on improving the quality of life for residents," says Kent Muench, Mayor of the City of Martensville. "Through the dedication of administration and Council's careful oversight, this budget ensures current and future projects will help Martensville remain the best place to live, work and play in Saskatchewan."

The budget includes a mill rate increase by .23 mills. This increase will affect residential properties differently, depending on the value of their property. The average residential property owner will see a tax increase of approximately \$45 for the year. From this, the City's revenue will increase by approximately 2.5%, or about \$170,000. There will be no changes to the base tax levy, garbage & recycling fees, or the wastewater treatment levy, as outlined below.

The Notice of 2016 Property Tax Levies will appear as follows (2015 levies are listed for comparison):

	2016	2015
Municipal Tax Base	615.00	615.00
Garbage/Recycling Fees	180.00	180.00
City Residential Tax levy (mill rate)	6.26	6.03
Future Wastewater Treatment Levy	75.00	75.00

Note: Not included above is the School Tax Levy of 5.03 mills for residential and 8.28 mills for commercial/industrial.

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For more information, contact:
Mayor Kent Muench or Leah Sullivan, Director of Corporate Services
City of Martensville
(306) 931-2166

2016 Budget Highlights

Water & Sewer

Council will continue to fund a reserve for future waste water treatment. This will be required in the near future to meet the Ministry of Environment's regulations. The \$75.00 base tax amount will continue for 2016. Discussions continue regarding the potential to have Saskatoon provide water and waste water services to Martensville in the future. In addition, the City continues to await notice of funding under the Building Canada Fund. If successful, the Federal and Provincial governments would contribute up to two-thirds of the funds required. The City will continue to explore all future requirements and funding options to ensure the best solution for Martensville's waste water treatment.

Emergency & Protective Services

RCMP

The renovation of the former City Hall will be completed in 2016 for use by the RCMP. The current RCMP location will be expanded and renovated to accommodate growth within our current RCMP agreement. The remainder of the space will be leased to the RCMP Traffic Safety Enforcement Unit. This partnership will result in a much higher visibility of the RCMP in and around Martensville.

Fire Department & Emergency Measures Organization (EMO)

The purchase of a new fire truck (water tanker) from 2015 will be finalized with delivery of the new truck expected in March.

Infrastructure & Planning

The Infrastructure Replacement Program and comprehensive Asset Management Program will be finalized in 2016 to address aging infrastructure and assets beginning with roadways. This will address planning for aging infrastructure and assets in order to allow Council to make more informed decisions with respect to service levels, financing and taxation models.

Land Development & Land Use Planning

The City will be working with our Consulting Engineers to investigate design and cost options to improve Centennial Drive (north of 3rd Street North to 9th Street North), 10th Avenue North (north of 3rd Street North) and Reddekopp Drive. The proposed improvements will be incorporated into the City's future capital plan.

In 2015, the City purchased an additional 40 acres of land immediately east of the proposed school site. A portion of the land was allocated to fulfil the school park-side requirements of the Province; the City also wanted to ensure there would be ample space (Municipal Reserve) for a community park near the school. In total, approximately 20 acres of the land is proposed to be developed as park-space, and 20 acres will eventually be designated towards future development lands. The parcel is identified as Municipal Reserve (MR) 64. In 2016 the City has proposed to spend an initial \$10,000 towards surveying and engineering, as well as \$200,000 in earthworks toward making the space accessible. A preliminary landscaping plan for the park-space is being completed by Community Services in 2016.

A comprehensive traffic study will also be undertaken this year. The traffic study will provide traffic forecasting to correlate with the recently adopted Future Growth Plan. By measuring and comparing existing traffic counts to land uses, the study will predict the future traffic loads anticipated on streets over the same time period contemplated within the Future Growth Plan (50 years). By initiating the study now, it will help lay the ground work for how much land must be set aside for arterial and collector roadways, how much money should be allocated towards future development costs, and when major roadway capital projects like road widening, or intersection improvements, will need to take place.

Improvements to 4th Street South

Phase two of the reconstruction of 4th Street South will be completed in 2016. Phase two includes reconstruction between 3rd Avenue and 6th Avenue and is budgeted at \$470,000. Phase three (2017) includes reconstruction between Centennial Drive and 3rd Avenue.

Traffic Lights

\$300,000 has been allocated to complete the design and installation of traffic lights at Centennial Drive North and 3rd Street North.

Recreation & Community Services

The budget will continue to fund operating and capital costs, prioritize upgrades, and provide new facilities, parks, playgrounds, pathways and programs to serve the public. Plans for 2016 focus on the development of outdoor spaces.

At the Martensville Athletic Pavilion, final landscaping will be completed and equipment will be installed for the future concession site.

As part of the Kinsmen Park Master Plan, Phase One will continue with significant work on the pathways and lighting to be completed for a budgeted amount of \$600,000. There will be pathway grading and construction east of 10th Avenue and south of 3rd Street North. Some landscape development including topsoil and seeding will also be completed on the regraded areas in 2016. In addition, the soccer field will be repaired in 2016 with partial funding being provided by the Martensville Soccer Association.

Initial landscaping of Lake Vista has also been included in the budget for 2016 and is set at \$150,000. This includes irrigation and planting on the 10th Avenue median, as well as topsoil and seeding which will be part of the boulevard/buffer landscaping.

The Tree Planting Program will continue with planting to occur in Lions Park, North Hills, as well as MR11.

Finally the Lions building will be updated and renovated to make the building more appealing to potential renters.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Department will continue to focus on attracting and supporting commercial, industrial and residential growth. The new Lake Vista subdivision will also be a priority as will continued commercial opportunities for investors.

The Department will also continue to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses to start-up and expand, build the profile of Martensville, and communicate the benefits of living, working and investing in the city.

The 2016 Budget also provides for a renewed relationship with SREDA and enhancing communications initiatives targeted at residents and potential residents. The budget also supports the Headstart on a Home Program with anticipated projects commencing in 2016.



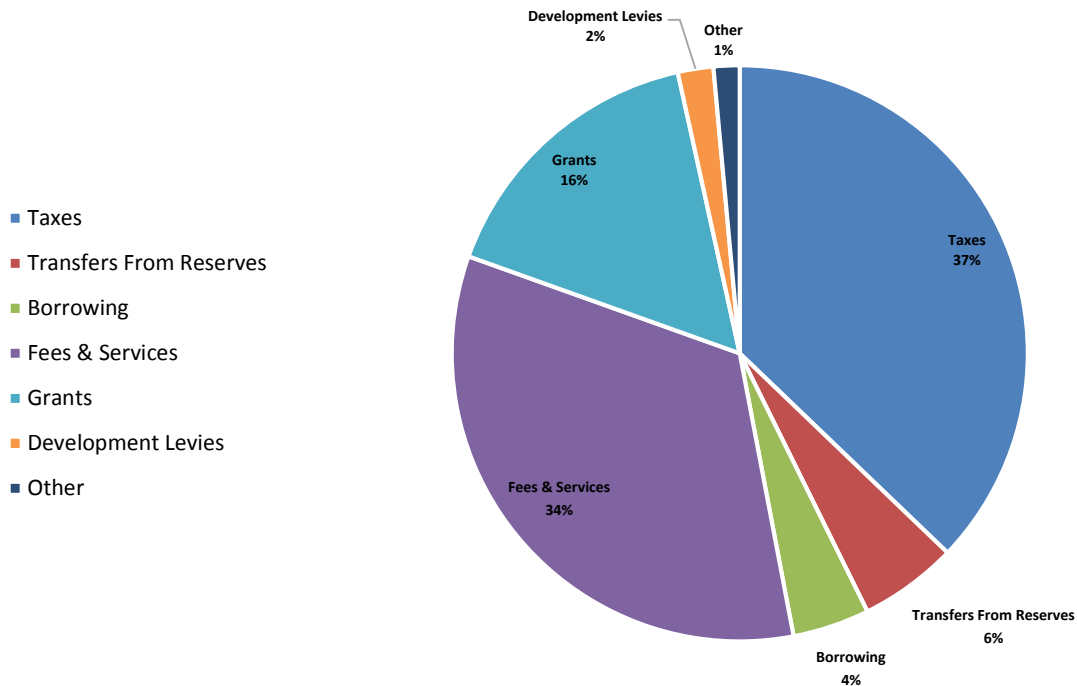
CITY OF MARTENSVILLE 2016 BUDGET

How our City is Funded:

For 2016 City Revenues and Transfers from Reserves are as follows:

Taxes	\$ 6,889,900
Transfers from Reserves	1,023,000
Borrowing	800,000
Fees & Services	6,202,800
Grants	2,979,800
Development Levies	370,000
Other	271,000
Total	\$18,536,500

2016 Total Revenues & Transfers from Reserves





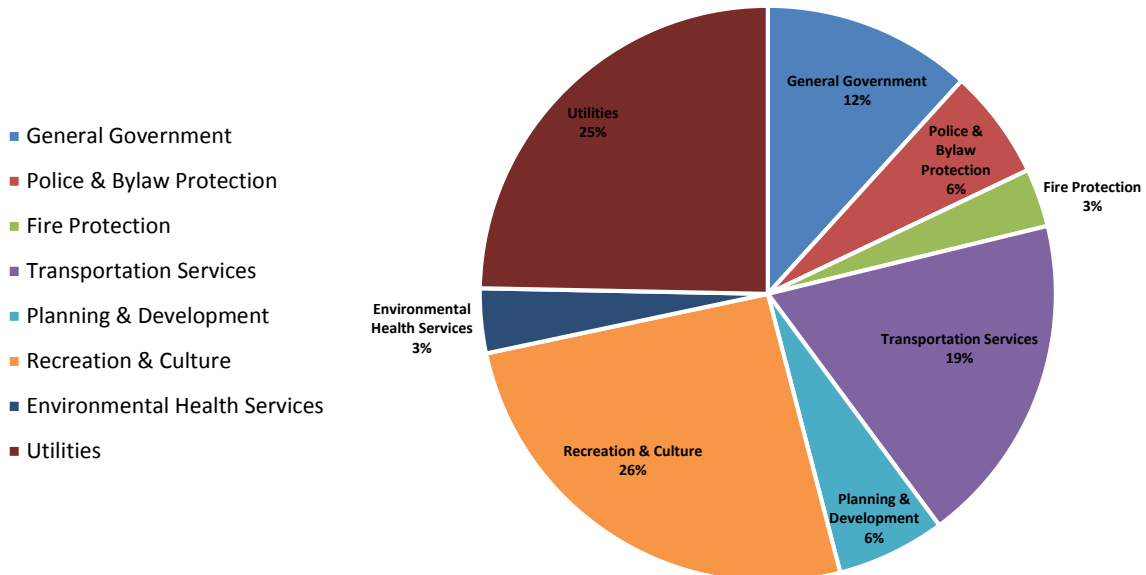
CITY OF MARTENSVILLE 2016 BUDGET

Where we spend our Revenues & Reserves:

For 2016 the City will allocate spending according to the following:

General Government	\$ 2,175,900
Police & Bylaw Protection	1,147,300
Fire Protection	607,400
Transportation Services	3,456,300
Planning & Development	1,130,800
Recreation & Culture	4,769,400
Environmental Health Services	673,100
Utilities	<u>4,576,300</u>
Total	\$18,536,500

2016 Spending by Department



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