



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 16, 2021**

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## **Balanced 2021 Budget will maintain 2020 property tax revenue, user rates and water rates**

At their February 16, 2021 Council Meeting, Martensville City Council approved a balanced budget for 2021 that aligns with Council's priorities and allows services and amenities to be maintained.

Over the past number of months, the focus of the City's budget meetings has been on minimizing the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the budget and on the delivery of services.

"COVID-19 has impacted everyone in our community, and so we wanted to ensure we were able to our keep our 2020 property tax revenue at \$8.25 million and not add an increase," says Mayor Kent Muench. "We also thought it was important to approve a budget that maintains all facility rental rates, programming fees, and water rates at 2020 levels."

In 2021, the City will invest just over \$4 million in capital projects including spending \$1,069,000 on roadway maintenance. This is thanks, in part, to the Federal Gas Tax Fund Program.

In 2020, the City was fortunate to receive \$1.4 million in COVID-19 relief funding through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP) and a Safe Restart Grant of \$575,000. This funding will allow the City to invest in facilities, maintain service delivery, and will offset lost revenues from recreation programs and facilities. Most of this funding will carry over in 2021 to help the City continue to respond to pandemic restrictions and decreased revenues.

The MEEP funding in particular, which is to be used for capital projects only, will allow the City to complete paving at the outdoor rink, build a pump track in Kinsmen Park, complete lights at the 18U diamonds at Mocon Field, and help fund the initial stages of a campground in Kinsmen Park.

This is also a revaluation year for all properties in the province of Saskatchewan. While the City has budgeted for a 0% increase in property tax revenues, properties may be affected differently depending on potential changes in their property's assessed values. The City will not be setting mill rates until early Spring when the final values for all property classes are received from SAMA and the province has set the education mill rates.

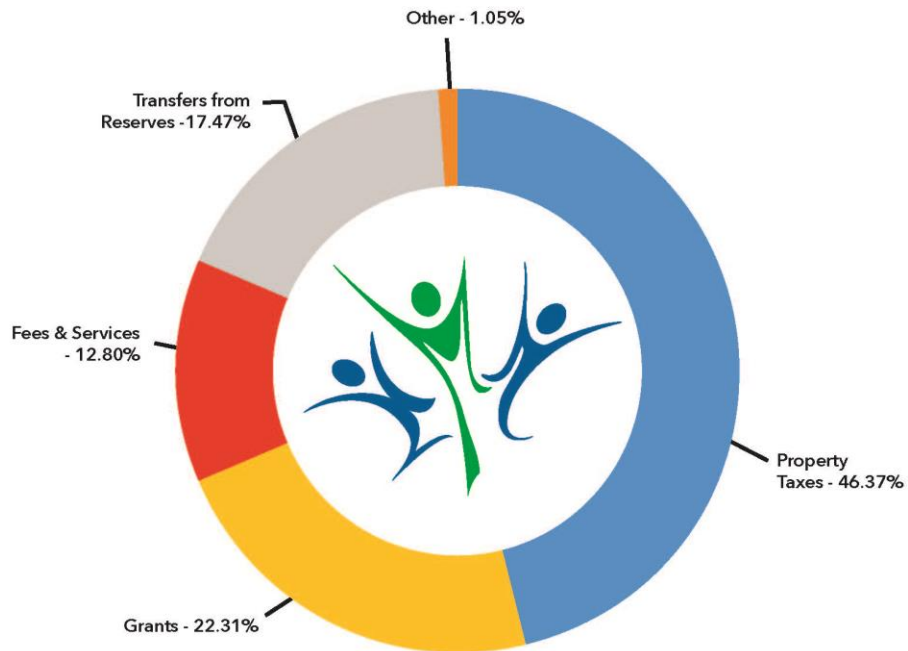
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# How is Martensville Funded?

The City of Martensville collects most of its revenue through property taxes as shown below, however other revenue streams also help fund the infrastructure, programs, and services offered in the City. Another significant source of revenue is government grant funding at 22.31%. Revenues from fees and services comprise 12.8% of the City's revenue stream, a decrease over prior years. Examples include things like recreation programming user fees, the garbage & recycling program fees, facility rental fees and many others. The City continues to look for alternative funding opportunities to ensure that we can maintain and grow all that the City of Martensville offers. Note that we do not include the City's Water & Sewer Utility Department here as this department only funds the Water & Sewer infrastructure and operations.

## HOW OUR CITY IS FUNDED:

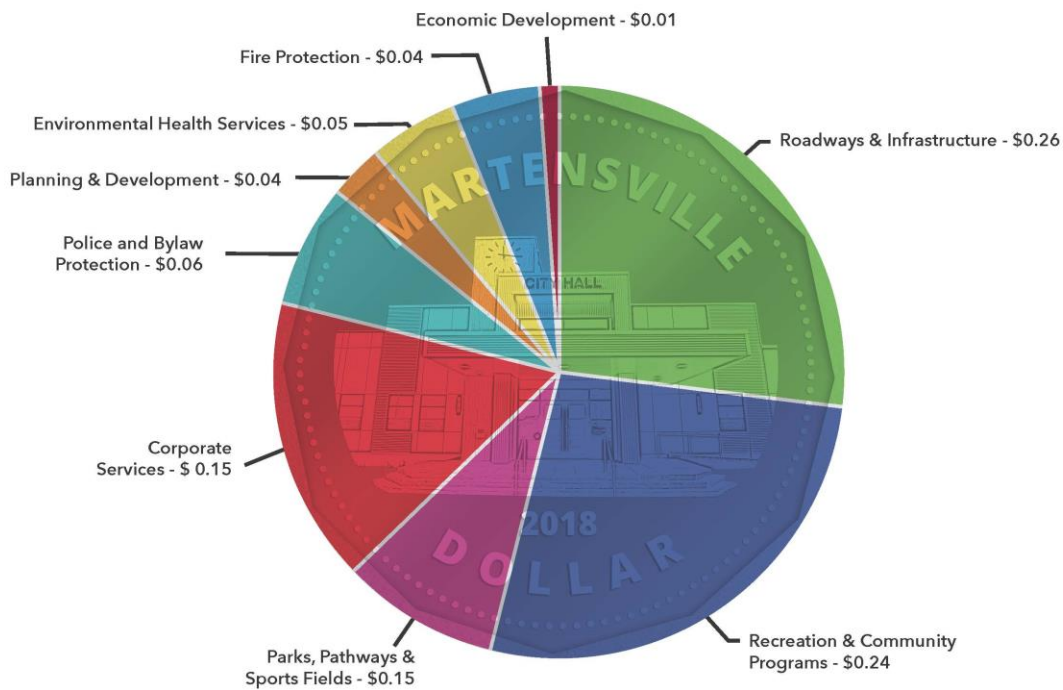


# Your 2021 Tax Dollar

Have you ever wondered how each tax dollar is spent? The image below shows the 2021 City of Martensville Budget broken down into different functions in the City. Each dollar spent is put into essential infrastructure and service needs for the residents and businesses in Martensville. For more detailed information on the 2021 approved spending, please refer to the 2021 Budget Highlights.

Note that this image does not include the Water & Sewer Utility Department as this is operated as a fee for service department and is not funded by general property taxation.

## HOW YOUR DOLLAR IS SPENT:



# 2021 Budget Highlights

## General Government

- The City has maintained property tax revenue at 2020 levels. There is no increase to property tax revenue in the budget however when mill rates are set in the spring, properties may still experience an increase dependent on the revaluation and the impact on each property's assessment value.
- The City will undertake the first phase of a comprehensive Asset Management Plan in 2021, contingent on grant funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

## Water & Sewer

- The \$75.00 base tax amount will continue for 2021 to fund a reserve for future wastewater treatment.
- The New Building Canada Fund project for Wastewater Treatment and Water Distribution will continue to move ahead in 2021 with the next phases of the project to begin. Under the New Building Canada Fund, approved projects are funded one-third by the Government of Canada, one-third through the Provincial Government and the final one-third at the municipal level. The funding will allow the City to upgrade its existing lagoons, build a new gravity conveyance system to connect to the City of Saskatoon's sanitary sewer system, and upgrade the existing sewage lift station. In addition, upgrades to the water supply reservoir and pumping stations and a new water main will connect to Saskatoon's drinking water supply system. It is estimated that the project should be completed in 2024.
- A new effluent line from the lagoon to the Opimihaw Creek will be completed. This is a requirement from the Water Security Agency to allow us to discharge to the creek.
- Upgrades will be completed at Sewer Lift Station 3 to address capacity issues at this station.

## Emergency & Protective Services

### *RCMP*

- The RCMP detachment will remain at the current staffing level for 2021. This is the equivalent of 8 full time members.

### *Fire Department & Emergency Measures Organization (EMO)*

- The Department will be adding weekend stand by pay for one officer and three firefighters. This will ensure the department has the necessary personnel for initial response to weekend incidents.

## **Infrastructure & Planning**

### *Land Development & Land Use Planning*

- Numbers projects are planned for 2021 including the completion of the Southeast Sector Plan, a Levy Study & Comparison, aligning the City's OCP with the new P4G District OCP, and completion of the development standards manual.
- General engineering studies will include a Drainage Study and 9<sup>th</sup> Street North Drainage Plan.
- The City continues to support and participate in the Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth (P4G) and work with partners to advance plans for land use, transportation, and servicing in the region.

### *Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance*

- As per the Pavement Assessment and Pavement Management Plan approved in 2017, Council has committed \$1,069,000 to roadways in 2021. This is possible due to accessing \$569,000 of the City's Federal Gas Tax Funding to prioritize our roadways and align with Council's priorities that infrastructure is maintained and at optimum service levels.
- Street lighting along 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South will be installed.
- The City will add a second pedestrian crosswalk with lighting at a location to be determined.

## **Recreation & Community Services**

- The City will continue to invest in a new multi-purpose recreation facility for the community by contracting DCG to assist the Lace Em Up campaign to fundraise for the new facility. We have also engaged aodbt and Wright Construction to design/plan the facility and provide an accurate cost projection.
- All facility rental rates, programming fees and user fees have been maintained at 2020 levels.
- MEEP Funded projects to be completed in 2021 include the pump track, lights at the 18U diamond at Mocon Field, and paving at the outdoor rink. Some initial work will also be started on a campground within the Kinsmen Park Master Plan.
- Recreation programming revenue is expected to be reduced due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. Corresponding expenses have been adjusted accordingly. Staff will continue to look at alternate program delivery options.
- Pathway lighting will be added with portions contingent on ICIP grant funding.