



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Glen Cowan, Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer

Date: December 2, 2024

Report No: ES-035-24

Subject: 2025 Capital and Operating Budget

Recommendation:

1. THAT the 2025 Capital Budget with a gross amount of \$140,587,603, including debenture financing of \$6,000,000, as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report be received for review and any amendments made by Council;
2. THAT the 2026-2034 Capital Forecast with a gross amount of \$1,486,674,286 as outlined in Appendix 3 of this report be received for review and any amendments made by Council;
3. THAT in accordance with s.s. 5(1) of the Development Charges Act, 1997 and S. 5 of Ontario Regulation 82/98, it is Council's clear intention that any eligible excess capacity provided by the 2025 Capital Program will be paid for by future development charges;
4. THAT any donations, grants or subsidies applied in the 2025 capital program to projects with development charges funding are to offset the non-growth related costs of those projects unless otherwise specified;
5. THAT the 2025 Operating Budget for Town and Library resulting in a net tax levy of \$110,948,876 assuming 1.80% net assessment growth, as outlined on Appendix 4 of this report, save and except the portion related to Seniors Programs Salaries and Benefits, be received for review and any amendments made by Council;

6. THAT the 2025 Operating Budget for Seniors Programs Salaries and Benefits, in the amount of \$46,142, be received for review and any amendments made by Council;
7. THAT, if the actual net taxable assessment growth is different than 1.80%, any increase in the tax dollars generated from the Town portion of assessment growth for 2025 taxation be transferred to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve or any decrease in tax dollars generated from the Town portion of assessment growth for 2025 taxation be funded from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve;
8. THAT the non-union salary range adjustment for 2025 be approved at a rate of 3.0%;
9. THAT the 2026-2027 operating forecast for the Town, including the Library, which projects a total levy requirement of \$150.7 million by 2027 as outlined in Appendix 5 of this report (or as potentially revised) be received;
10. THAT the transfers to and from Reserves and Reserve Funds within the 2025 Budget as outlined in Appendix 6 (or as potentially revised) be received;
11. THAT the Milton BIA budget in the gross amount of \$501,153 resulting in a net tax levy of \$284,539, as outlined in Appendix 7, be received for review and any amendments made by Council.
12. THAT, for the purposes of the 2025 Budget, the 30-day period referred to in subsection (6) of Ontario Regulation 530/22 be shortened such that it is considered expired at the time of Council approval of this resolution on December 2, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mayor's 2025 budget was publicly released on November 13.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Operating Budget Highlights:

- The 2025 budget, as presented, represents an estimated 9.89% change in local portion of the residential property tax rate (or \$31.91 per \$100,000 of residential assessment).
- The 2025 operating budget makes strategic investments in Council priorities such as Information Technology, Transit and Fire Services, and makes progress towards financial sustainability as envisioned in the Town's Multi-Year Financial Strategy (as approved in ES-016-24).

Capital Budget Highlights:

- Represents an investment of \$140.6 million in 139 projects.
- 63.0% of the capital budget is related to state of good repair or other enhancements, including investment in the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure such as the transportation network (roads, structure and traffic), stormwater assets, public facilities, parks and investments required to fulfill compliance programs.
- 37.0% of the capital budget will extend existing services to growth areas through investment in new infrastructure and transit fleet.
- Operating impacts resulting from the 2025 capital program are anticipated to be approximately \$1.2 million in 2025 before increasing to an annual cost of \$3.5 million beginning in 2027.

A Budget Reference Document (under separate cover) was prepared by staff to support the budget discussions. For 2025, the Mayor's budget presented herein aligns with the information presented within the Budget Reference Document, and both were prepared on the basis of the recommendations outlined in the Budget Call report ES-023-24. Town Council will have the opportunity to bring forward motions to modify the local budget through the meeting of Council on December 2, 2024.

Subsequent to the preparation of the Mayor's budget and the Budget Reference Document, the Halton Police Board approved a budget request that represented a 13.8% increase the cost of police services for 2025. That increase has yet to be considered by Regional Council, and exceeds the 4.8% budget target that Halton Regional Council established through report FN-19-24. The potential impact on the total property tax rate of the Board approved budget is considered in the financial implication section below.



Background

The budget process provides a venue within which decisions as to the appropriate balance between affordability, service levels and financial sustainability can be made. Section 290 (1) of the Municipal Act requires municipalities to prepare and adopt an annual budget. In accordance with Town's Budget Management Policy No. 113, budget guidelines are set by Council.

The 2025 Budget Call Report, ES-023-24, projected a total residential property tax pressure of 7.31%. This figure considered the projected tax rate changes for the local, regional and education portions of the levy, and included a pressure of 13.84% for the Town's portion of the tax rate. Through ES-023-24, Council requested that the operating budget be prepared in alignment with the Town's Council approved strategic plans and long-term studies, and that the budget be presented with an estimated total residential property tax increase of approximately 6.5%. Council also directed staff to prepare a Capital and Operating Budget Reference Document, and to present options to reduce the tax levy impact for the year 2025 as well as identify opportunities for additional investment.

The 2025 Budget Reference Document has since been prepared by staff and is available under separate cover. Further, on November 12, 2024 Mayor Krantz signed a declaration wherein, amongst other items, direction was provided to present the 2025 Operating Budget with a net levy of \$110.9 million and the 2025 Capital Program with a total cost of \$140.6 million. As such, there is alignment for 2025 between the figures that are presented in the Budget Reference Document and the Mayor's budget presented herein.

A condensed summary of the 2025 Budget is provided within this staff report (below). The information and figures presented in the balance of this staff report will exclude Downtown Milton's Business Improvement Area (BIA) unless otherwise noted.

Discussion

Budget Public Input

An important consideration in the preparation of the budget is the input received from the public throughout the year as part of the engagement initiatives for master plan updates, planning processes, as well as the 2022 Citizen Engagement Survey. In addition to these ongoing opportunities, residents and business owners were also invited to provide comments and input related to the prioritization of services and investments for the 2025 budget year. This opportunity was available starting in July through the Let's Talk Milton platform. All comments received by the time of publishing this report are attached as

Discussion

Appendix 1 to this report. Additional comments that are received will be shared with Council in advance of the December 2, 2024 budget meeting.

Some relevant items for consideration from the most recent Citizen Engagement Survey include:

- 77% of residents rate that the programs and services received for tax dollars as fairly good or very good.
- Residents are split over how to balance taxation with service levels, with 66% of the respondents favouring tax increases to enhance or maintain services while the 34% favoured cutting services to maintain or reduce taxes.
- 59% of respondents feel that Milton should pay about the average property taxes as other GTA municipalities.
- 96% responded that it is important or somewhat important to set aside funding to replace infrastructure (such as roads and buildings).

Full details of the Citizen Engagement Survey can be found in Staff Report ES-004-23.

Strategic Plan 2023-2027

The corporate Strategic Plan (ES-009-23) represents a shared vision that guides the work of Council and staff to meet the needs of the evolving community. The plan identifies the needs of the organization and community for this term of Council as well as for the longer term. The 2025 budget supports the five strategic themes of the plan through both new and multi-year projects as outlined below:

- Invest in People
 - Addition of new staff in Fire Services in order to achieve full urban coverage
 - Investment in new staffing resources in priority areas including information technology and economic development
- Innovate in Technology and Process
 - Investments in the digitization of various internal and external services.
 - Continued progress towards next-generation 911 emergency communications and dispatch services.
 - Continued upgrades to networking, infrastructure, power and communications across all Town facilities.

Discussion

- Quality Facilities and Amenities
 - Construction of new Bowes Neighborhood Park in the Boyne area
 - Conversion of multi-use courts in Coates Neighbourhood Park North to pickleball courts and in Bristol Park to lit pickleball courts
 - Addition of cricket batting cages at Optimist Park
 - Redevelopment of various parks including Melanie Park and Watson Park
 - Planned improvements for various recreation facilities including:
 - Leisure Centre gymnasium
 - Milton Sports Centre pool and arenas
 - Mattamy National Cycling Centre cycling track
 - FirstOntario Arts Centre various upgrades
 - Library Beaty Branch updates
- Connected Transit and Mobility
 - Investment in transit including introduction of Sunday service and extended service to 10:30 p.m. on weekdays, as well as the purchase of buses to expand service in the Boyne and Derry Green areas.
 - Road construction including urbanization of Nipissing Road, rehabilitation of Ontario Street, Appleby Line and Milborough Line, and replacement of the Fourth Line Nassagaweya Bridge.
 - Continued maintenance of existing road network through the annual asphalt overlay and expanded asphalt programs.
 - Active transportation investments including construction of the Boyne pedestrian railway crossing and new Boyne area trails.
 - Ongoing focus on traffic and road safety with new pedestrian crossovers, raised crosswalks and 40 km/h neighborhoods in various locations, the Automated Speed Enforcement program and road safety strategy.
- Planned Community Growth
 - Investment in compliance programs for Additional Residential Units (ARUs) and to address illegal land use.
 - Development of a Municipal Parking Strategy

Discussion

Operating Budget

In order to reduce the tax impact from the 13.84% projection from ES-023-24 and spread the impact of the inflationary and other pressures over several years, the following notable cost reductions and revenue increases were made for 2025:

- Did not increase the incremental infrastructure funding by the full incremental \$1.5 million that was planned to reduce the deficit and only included \$0.75 million
- Continued to fund \$1.6 million in operating costs from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve in 2025
- Deferred the operating budget impacts of \$0.6 million from the six new 12 metre buses and one new 6 metre bus required for growth and service enhancements; procurement of buses will still proceed in 2025 and the service is planned to start in September 2026
- Deferred \$0.3 million in operating budget impact from the NG911 Implementation; the project will continue to proceed in 2025 with the operating impacts deferred to 2026
- Increased investment income by \$0.1 million and staff gapping savings by \$0.1 million
- Delayed the budgeted start date of new fire suppression staff to May 1, 2025 resulting in savings of \$0.3 million in 2025
- Utilized contract staffing via capital programs as opposed to permanent tax-funded roles in operating budget (example - GIS technicians)
- Line by line review to identify opportunities for further budget reductions

The 2025 Operating Budget, as summarized in Appendix 4, includes \$222.4 million of gross expenditures to support service delivery across the growing community, of which 48.6% is funded from non-property tax revenues. The budget, as presented, results in a 9.89% local property tax increase (\$31.91 per \$100,000 of residential assessment).

The net levy presented in the 2025 Operating Budget document has increased \$11.77 million from the 2024 budget and can be divided into four major categories:

Non-Recurring Impacts (\$1.64 million reduction)

Non-recurring are items that are expected to have an impact on the budget for a limited time period. Included in this category are \$2.75 million in temporary contract staffing that are offset by recoveries from the capital program resulting in no net impact to operating. Also included is \$1.57 million in Tax Rate Stabilization funding used to reduce the tax

Discussion

impact for 2025. As this is not a sustainable funding source it will need to be phased out of the operating budget in future years.

Status Quo Impacts (\$6.43 million increase)

Status quo changes represent the increases or decreases required to maintain existing service levels. The main driver of the increase relates to \$4.63 million in inflationary and market increases to individual accounts as appropriate, including capital financing. The \$0.75 million in incremental lifecycle funding to reduce the deficit is also included, as is \$0.79 million in increased fire suppression costs such as staff progressing through the ranks, the backfilling of staff on leave and costs associated with meeting NG911 requirements.

Partially mitigating the pressures is \$1.75 million in reduced net Transit service costs, reflecting the continued impact of record ridership growth and reductions in fleet expenses based on trends. Also included is a \$0.1 million increase in investment income to be retained in the operating budget and an increase in staff gapping savings of \$0.1 million.

Extension of Services to Growth Areas (\$6.50 million increase)

This category represents the costs and revenues required to extend existing services to newly developed neighborhoods, including increased investment in reserves to fund the lifecycle costs of assumed or constructed infrastructure. It also includes the addition of growth related staffing and technology, as well as a timing-related adjustments in planning application activity and associated fees.

Service Level Changes (\$0.47 million increase)

Included in the 2025 budget are a number of service level changes including:

- the expansion of transit services
- transfer of economic development services from Halton Region
- permanent establishment of the youth space program
- redevelopment of existing multi-use courts to pickleball
- installation of new cricket batting cages
- introduction of the Automated Speed Enforcement program
- compliance initiatives for Additional Residential Units and Illegal Land use
- advancement of digitization to improve customer service
- continued funding from the Town to the BIA in support of events

Human Resources

The total staffing level is planned to increase by 25.07 full time equivalents (FTEs) in 2025 bringing the total Town staffing level to 718.76 FTEs. Of the 25.07 net change in FTE,



Discussion

14.15 are fire staffing positions required to achieve full urban coverage. An Economic Development officer is also proposed to fill the local gap associated with the Halton Region decision to divest from all economic development services. The remaining positions are growth related positions and largely related to investments in technology, development, recreation and maximizing revenue opportunities. The net change in FTE represents a 3.6% increase in 2025.

A 3.0% increase to the non-union salary range is recommended for 2025. The percentage increase is based on a municipal benchmarking exercise completed in 2024 and an assessment of anticipated market changes next year.

Capital Budget

The 2025 Capital Budget will invest in 139 projects valued at \$140.6 million.

Data collected through the Town's Asset Management Plan and underlying condition assessment studies are reflected in the planned projects for 2025. Of the \$83.0 million of state of good repair projects, 68% is within the area of Transportation including roads, bridges, culverts and other traffic related infrastructure.

The \$51.9 million investment in growth projects includes road urbanization and expansions, park construction, growth of the Town's operations fleet, new buses to introduce transit service to growth areas in 2026 and stormwater management in growth areas.

An additional \$5.6 million investment is related to projects that are not driven directly by growth or investments in the state of good repair and include funding to support the fire department's transition to the Next Generation 911 radio system and resources to support the additional residential units compliance program.

Appendix 2 provides a summary of the 2025 Capital budget expenditures and funding by project.

Operating Impacts from Capital Projects

Investing in new and expanded infrastructure can have a significant financial impact on future operating budgets and tax levies. In addition to the operational costs, contributions to reserves are also introduced with the addition of new infrastructure in order to prevent increases in the Town's annual infrastructure deficit. The 2025 capital budget includes projects that are expected to result in increased operating costs as summarized in the following table:



Discussion

Project	2025 Impact*	2026 Impact*	2027 Impact*	Annualized Tax Levy Impact**
Transit	\$14,267	\$1,036,568	\$1,692,157	1.88%
Information Technology	251,788	781,504	782,439	0.87%
Transportation	601,096	615,745	649,334	0.72%
Parks & Trails	206,888	244,493	244,493	0.27%
Operations Fleet	82,814	97,077	97,077	0.11%
Fire	9,100	9,100	9,100	0.01%
Total Operating Impacts	\$1,165,953	\$2,784,488	\$3,474,601	3.86%

* Represent impacts from the 2025 capital program only.
 ** The percentages (%) are relative to 2024 tax rates applied to projected 2024 assessment values.

Long Term Financial Planning

The annual budget is considered in the context of a long-term planning framework in order to ensure the financial sustainability of the services that are provided to the community. Consideration is given to aligning the budget with the results of the Town’s asset management and master planning exercises.

Growth Projections and Fiscal Impact Study

Over the next several years the Town is anticipating a significant amount of residential growth as the Boyne area progresses and intensification in the pre-HUSP area occurs. Similarly, non-residential activity is also expected to increase as the Derry Green business park activity continues.

Operating Budget Forecast for 2026 and 2027

Within the context of the 20-year forecasting completed through the fiscal impact study, a three year operating forecast is prepared. Based on a 2025 tax rate increase of \$31.91 per \$100,000 of assessment, the Town can expect a tax rate pressure of \$46.23 and \$35.78 per \$100,000 of residential assessment in each of 2026 and 2027. This equates to an estimated 13.04% and 8.93% residential tax rate pressure at the local level in those years. The main drivers associated with the projected increases to the tax levy for each of 2026 and 2027 are outlined within Appendix 5, and consistent with the current and prior years, the Town may look for opportunities to mitigate those future pressures at the time of the 2026 and 2027 budget processes.

Discussion

Multi-Year Financial Strategy

Through ES-016-24 Council endorsed a Multi-Year Financial Strategy wherein the annual target for the total property tax rate increase (inclusive of the Town, Region and Province) was established between 4.5% and 7.0% until such time that the following outcomes are achieved:

- The Town has eliminated the use of non-sustainable funding sources (such as the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve) for on-going operating costs
- Further progress towards reducing the annual infrastructure deficit has been achieved, and other annual funding deficits (such as development charge exemptions and property tax write-offs) have been eliminated
- The Town's property tax rate falls within the range of the comparator municipal group, while remaining lower than the average of those peer municipalities

Should the 2025 Budget be finalized as presented, the Town can expect to make 2% to 20% progress on various measurable as presented in Appendix 8. This is due to the incremental investment that are being made to the various funding deficits, along with the planned reduction in the utilization of the tax rate stabilization reserve in 2025.

Capital Forecast and Financing

The expected capital investment in growth, state of good repair and other projects over the ten-year budget and forecast from 2025-2034 is \$1.6 billion and is largely focused on transportation (roads, bridges and traffic), public facilities and parks & trails with over 78% of funds directed towards these services. Of this ten year forecast, the nine years between 2026 and 2034 is summarized within Appendix 3.

Approximately 48% of the estimated investment requirements through the capital forecast will be funded from development charges, while 44% is projected to be funded from reserves and reserve funds. The balance is expected to be funded through debentures, grants and other recoveries.

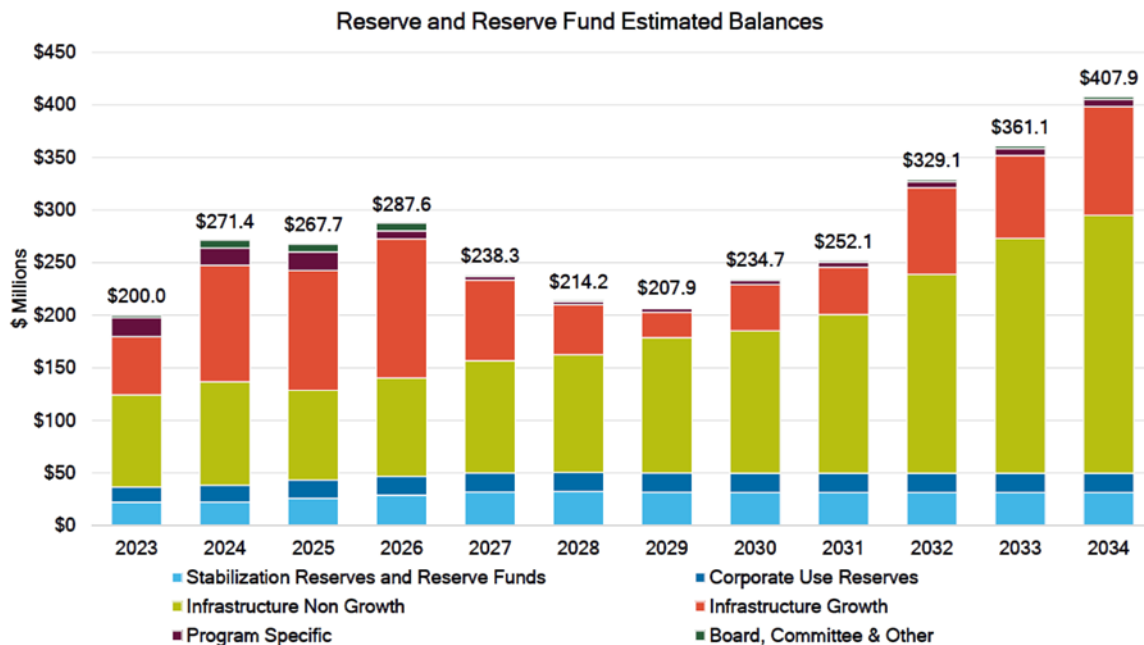
Reserves and Reserve Funds

Reserves and reserve funds are a critical element of the Town's long-term financial plan and are used to maintain a stable financial position, minimize fluctuations in the tax rate and to support future funding requirements. The aggregate balance in reserves is anticipated to decrease by \$3.8 million in 2025, primarily due to anticipated timing of expenditures within the capital program.

Discussion

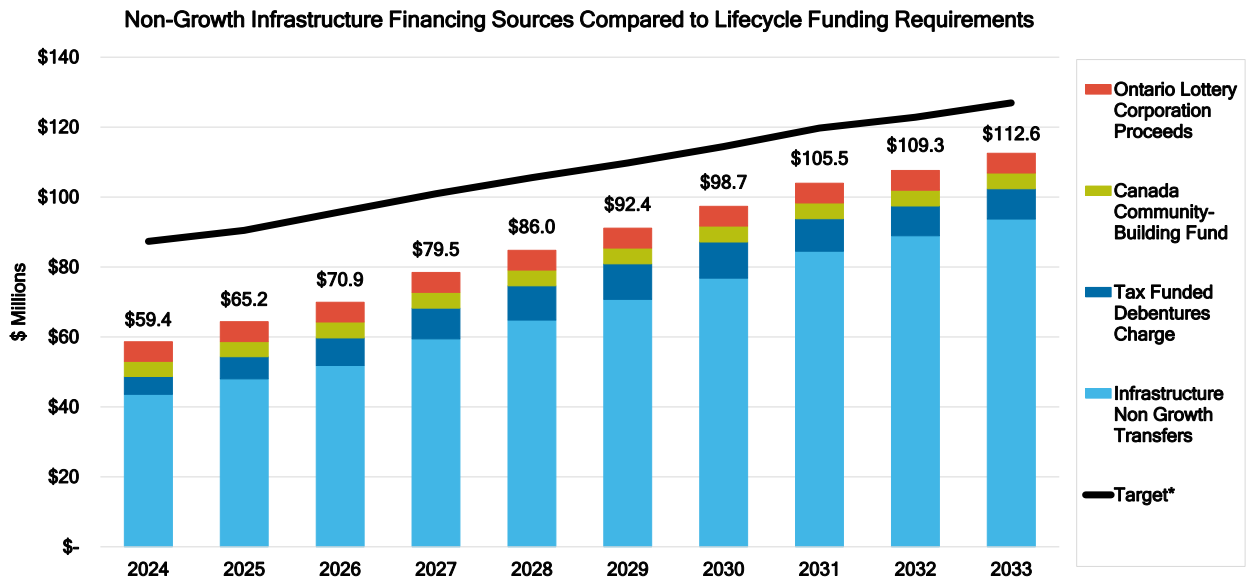
Reserve / Reserve Fund Type	Dec 31, 2023 Balance	Dec 31, 2024 Estimated Balance	Dec 31, 2025 Estimated Balance
	(\$ thousands)		
Stabilization	\$22,074	\$22,309	\$25,818
Corporate Use	14,679	15,991	17,429
Infrastructure Non Growth	87,556	98,351	85,320
Infrastructure Growth	55,468	110,754	113,960
Program Specific	17,774	16,647	17,718
Boards and Committees	2,426	7,383	7,416
Total Reserves and Reserve Funds	\$199,978	\$271,433	\$267,663

As shown in the following graph the Town's reserves are estimated to stay relatively consistent between 2025 and 2031, before increasing by 2034. It is important to note that even though the reserve balances increase sharply towards the end of the forecast, there are multiple projects that are expected to draw down the balances in 2035 and beyond such as the construction of the Britannia community centre.



Discussion

The Town’s most recent Asset Management Plan recognized the Town’s contributions to capital reserves will require augmentation through future budgets to ensure sufficient funds are available to adequately finance infrastructure renewal requirements. The forecast period presented to 2034 assumes an incremental \$1.5 million annual contribution, beginning in 2026, to invest in infrastructure and grow the long-term reserve balances to more sustainable levels.

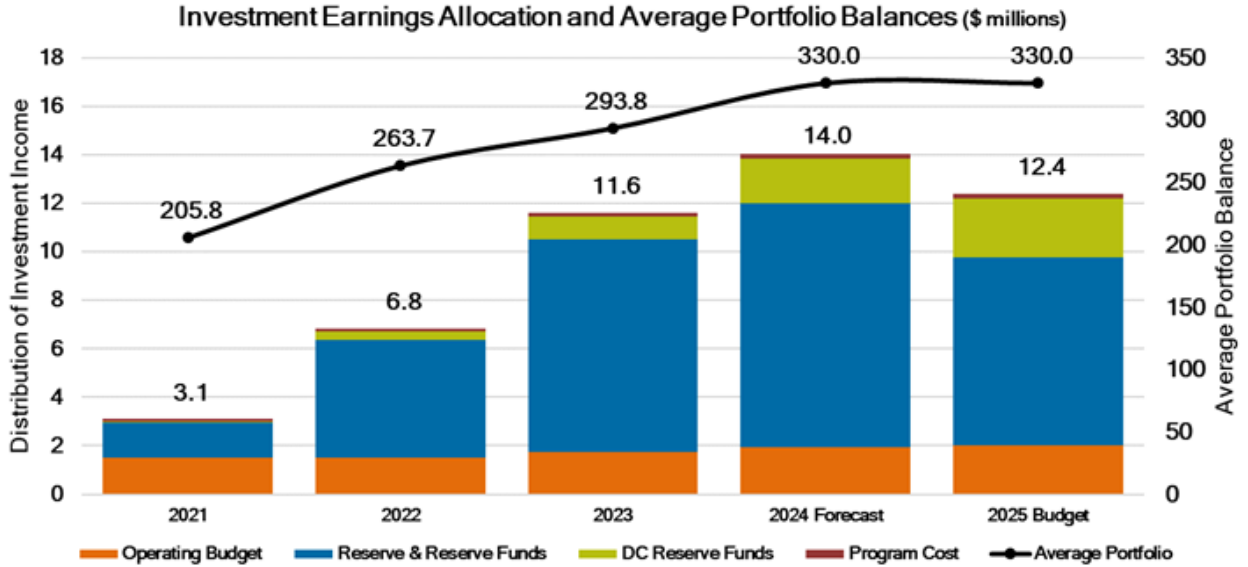


Investment Income Allocation

Included in the 2025 operating budget is estimated earnings on the Town’s investments of \$12.4 million, based on an average estimated portfolio balance of \$330 million throughout the year. This equates to an average rate of return of 3.76%, which is reflective of the Town’s current holdings, the anticipated market conditions and the Town’s investment policies.

As shown in the following table, earnings from the Town’s investments support the operating budget as well as reserve balances, which are then incorporated into the capital financing plans. The amount of investment income being used to support the operating budget is \$2.0 million in 2025, which represents an increase of \$0.1 million from the 2024 budget and \$0.6 million over a 5 year period. The 2025 budget includes \$10.2 million of investment income being transferred to reserves and reserve funds which will be used to support the Town’s capital program and alleviate pressure on other revenue sources such as property taxes.

Discussion



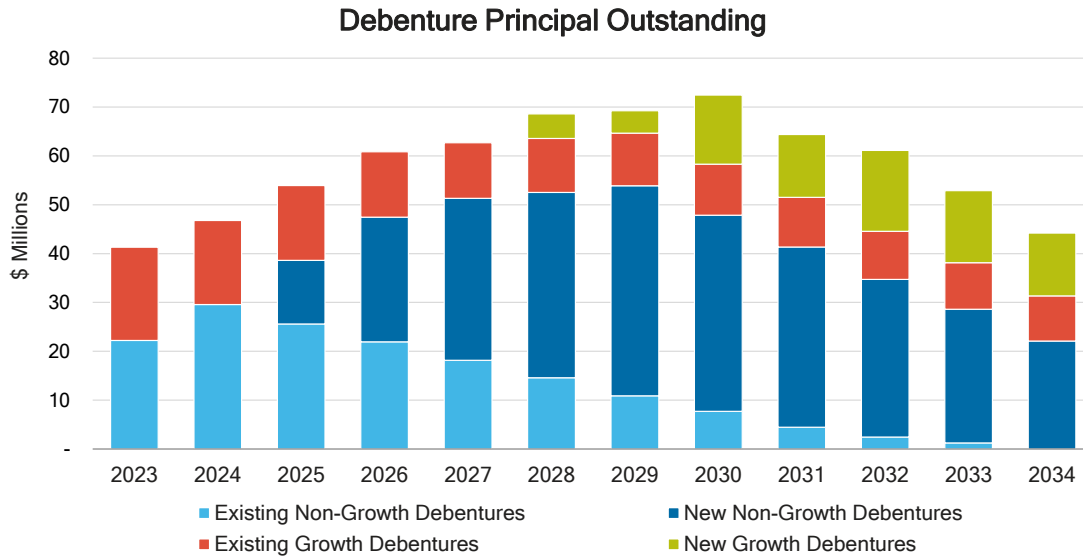
Debenture Financing

Debenture financing is used to support timely investment in infrastructure projects while managing the Town’s cash flows and financial impacts. Debentures spread the cost of infrastructure projects over their useful lives to allow the costs to be shared between current and future taxpayers and users.

Within the 2025 budget, \$6.0 million of debenture financing has been assumed, as shown in Appendix 2. Over the 10 year forecast period, a total of \$73.5 million in new debenture funding is anticipated. Milton is forecasted to remain within the stated debenture capacity limits of the Province and Council assuming the continuation of the Town’s strategies to gradually reduce the existing infrastructure deficit.

The following graph depicts Milton’s annual debenture principal outstanding by debenture type forecasted over the following 10 years.

Discussion



Risks, Challenges and Opportunities

There are a number of issues to remain mindful of in both 2025 and future budget processes including:

- Existing infrastructure funding deficit and Asset Management Plan requirements.
- Staffing complement is notably lower than that of comparator municipalities, with higher reliance on contractors, part-time staffing and volunteers in several service areas.
- Economic considerations including fluctuating interest rates and the pace of growth in the housing market.
- Expanding existing services into the growth areas and the additional service and infrastructure requirement that will result for the Town.
- Financial pressures that may result from legislative changes at both the Provincial and Federal level.
- Implementation of the Town’s master plans, service delivery reviews and other strategic plans.

Discussion

- Continued partnerships to create a post-secondary presence in the Milton.
- Continued pursuit of opportunities to secure funding support from other levels of government.

Downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA)

The BIA Budget includes a gross expenditure of \$0.50 million and a net levy requirement of \$0.28 million. This budget was approved by the BIA Board in the fall of 2025 and the BIA levy will be applicable for industrial and commercial properties within the BIA boundary.

Next Steps

A budget workshop will be held with Council on November 25. Council will then consider all information and may bring motions to amend the budget through the December 2 Council meeting. Residents can continue to provide feedback through Let's Talk Milton or register to delegate at the December 2 Council meeting.

At the December 2 meeting, it is expected that any potential amendments to the 2025 Budget will be considered by Council. The final recommendation within this report states:

THAT, for the purposes of the 2025 Budget, the 30-day period referred to in subsection (6) of Ontario Regulation 530/22 be shortened such that it is considered expired at the time of Council approval of this resolution on December 2, 2024.

If this recommendation is approved following Council deliberations it would have the effect of shortening the legislated 30 day time period for Council amendments.

- Should there be no amendments that receive majority approval in advance of Council approval of the recommendation noted above, then the 2025 Budget would be deemed final upon its approval.
- Should there be an amendment(s) approved, the approval of the recommendation noted above would initiate the 10-day period for the Head of Council to veto any such amendment (should they choose to).

Once all legislated steps are exhausted (i.e. Council's ability to amend the budget, the Head of Council's ability to veto amendments, and Council's ability to override any such veto), the 2025 Budget will be deemed final. It is currently anticipated that this could occur at the December 2, 2024 Council meeting.



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Financial Impact

A 2025 tax levy of \$110.9 million equates to a 9.89% change in the Town’s portion of residential property taxes and an impact of \$31.91 per \$100,000 of residential assessment. Assuming a 4% increase for Halton Region (in accordance with Regional Council’s direction through FN-19-24) and an education increase of 0%, it would result in an estimated blended tax rate increase for 2025 of 5.66%, or \$43.90 per \$100,000 of assessment, as shown in the following table.

	Share of Tax Bill	2024 Taxes	2025 Increase	2025 Taxes	\$ Impact on Total Tax Bill	% Impact on Total Tax Bill
Milton Services	35.96%	\$ 271.75	8.43%	\$ 294.67	\$22.92	2.96%
Fire Services	7.32%	\$ 50.97	17.64%	\$ 59.96	\$8.99	1.16%
Total Milton	43.28%	\$ 322.72	9.89%	\$ 354.63	\$31.91	4.11%
Regional Services	23.27%	\$ 183.34	4.00%	\$ 190.67	\$7.33	0.95%
Police Services	14.78%	\$ 116.43	4.00%	\$ 121.09	\$4.66	0.60%
Total Region of Halton**	38.05%	\$ 299.77	4.00%	\$ 311.76	\$11.99	1.55%
Education***	18.67%	\$ 153.00	0.00%	\$ 153.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	100.00%	\$ 775.49	5.66%	\$ 819.38	\$ 43.90	5.66%

* Cost per \$100,000 of residential assessment are derived using the assessment values & tax rates from the 2024 tax by-law (CORS-014-24). These values will be re-stated following budget approval using the finalized 2024 assessment figures from the returned assessment roll.
 ** Fire Services figures exclude the cost of facilities and support services that are budgeted for and managed by other program areas.
 *** Per Region of Halton 2025 Budget Directions approved by Council through resolution FN-19-24 (includes enhanced waste service for urban area).
 **** Consistent with recent experience, the 2025 education rate is presented in alignment with the prescribed rate currently outlined in O. Reg. 400/98 and is subject to change through the approval of final 2025 rates by the Province.

The final total tax rate change can only be determined following the completion of the levy requirements at the Regional and Provincial levels. As noted above, the Halton Police Board has approved a budget request for 2025 that would see their portion of the levy increase by 13.8% (11.8% after assessment growth), which exceeds the Regional Council direction that was established in FN-19-24.

At the time of preparing both the Town’s Budget Call report and the Town’s proposed 9.89% increase to the local portion of the levy for 2025, it was recognized that there may be upward pressure on the budgets for other levels of government. Town staff will provide further updates to Council at the December 2nd Council meeting with respect to the projected total residential tax rate change for 2025, based on the latest information that is available for the other levels of government at that time. Although the total increase is likely to exceed the 5.66% figure that is presented above, it is expected to remain within the target range that

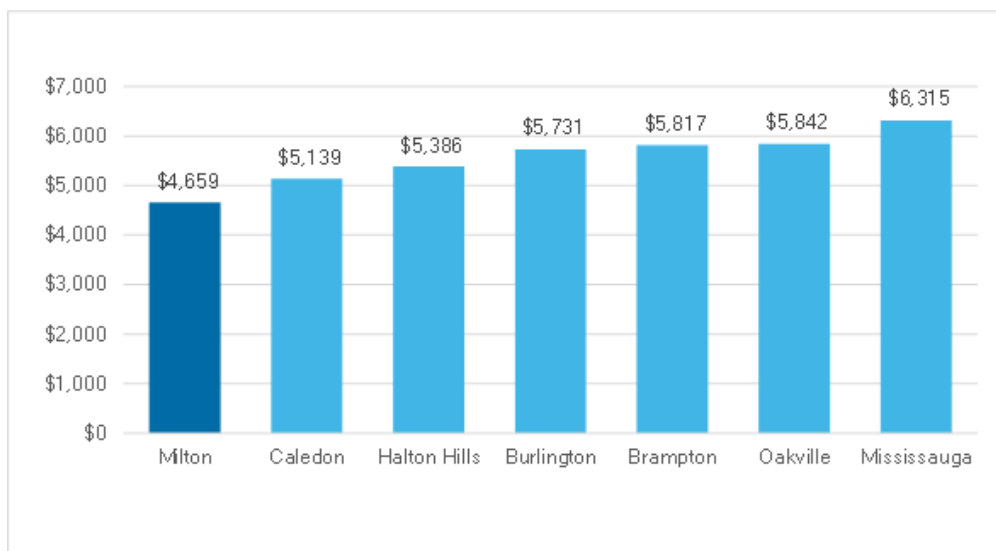


The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Town Council established as part of the Multi-Year Budget Strategy and the Budget Call report.

When comparing Milton's overall residential tax bill (including Town, Region and Education portions) to surrounding municipalities, Milton continues to have the lowest tax rates. The following graph shows that Milton's total residential property taxes for a 2 storey home are 18% lower than the comparator group average.

2023 Residential Property Taxes for a 2 Storey Home



Respectfully submitted,

Glen Cowan
Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer

For questions, please contact: Jennifer Kloet, CPA, CA

Phone: 905-878-7252 Ext. 2216



Attachments

Appendix 1 - Public Input Results
Appendix 2 - 2025 Capital Budget - Project Expenses and Funding
Appendix 3 - 2026-2034 Capital Forecast
Appendix 4 - 2025 Gross and Net Operating Expenditures
Appendix 5 - 2026-27 Operating Forecast
Appendix 6 - Transfers to/from reserves and reserve funds
Appendix 7 - Milton BIA Budget
Appendix 8 - Multi-Year Strategy - Scorecard
2025 Budget Reference Document - Overview (available under separate cover)
2025 Budget Reference Document - Supplementary Information (available under separate cover)

Approved by CAO
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer

Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.