

REPORT TO: Mayor and Members of Council

PREPARED BY: Ralph D'Alessandro, Director of Finance/Treasurer

DEPARTMENT: Administration & Finance

DIVISION: Treasury

MEETING DATE: April 3, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 Draft Budget

PROPOSED MOTION

THAT this report be accepted for information;
AND THAT Council accept the 2025 Draft Budget (as amended if applicable) as the 2025 Final Budget;
AND THAT staff be directed to prepare the 2025 levy by-law based on the 2025 Final Budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be accepted for information;
AND THAT Council deliberate the proposed expenditures, estimated revenues and recommended transfers to and from reserves;
AND THAT Council establish the approved values for the 2025 Final Budget.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 Draft Budget documents were distributed previously to allow Council time to review the data and ask for clarifications around the revised presentation of the various components. The document is broken into eight different sections to provide easy reference to each topic to be reviewed.

As presented, the 2025 Draft Budget requests \$9,392,325 for Taxation – Own Purposes which is a 5.17% increase in total dollars. Due to growth in the assessment roll, the corresponding increase required to the municipal portion of the levy rate would be 2.69%. The actual rate increase that ratepayers will see on their tax bills would include this value

plus those rate increases imposed by the County and the Province (for school board levies).

The 2025 Budget also requests authority to spend \$12,294,321 for Water – Wastewater operations and capital projects that are totally funded by non-levy revenues.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Leadership: To Create a Positive, Open Organizational Culture With Open, Respectful and Responsible Leadership

Prosper: To Support Economic Strength, Foster Entrepreneurship And Attract Investment By Strengthening The Municipality's Long-Term Finances

BACKGROUND

The Municipality of North Middlesex, as per the Municipal Act 2001, is empowered to create a balanced annual cash requirement budget which will inform the municipality’s required tax levy to be imposed on the ratepayers. This value will determine the rate to be charged on the assessment roll to provide the municipality with the funds required for the fiscal year’s activities.

Each year, senior management lead by the treasurer prepares the draft budget of the municipality’s financial needs for the coming fiscal year. This document is presented to council for their review and deliberations on the appropriate balance of services provided to versus taxes levied on the ratepayers.

DISCUSSION

Council is encouraged to ask questions of any member of Senior Management to clarify the amounts requested to spend or the values estimated as revenues to be received. The Treasurer will provide responses to questions relating to the levy rate, the debt position and the transfers to / from reserves.

Staff have reached out to their peers in surrounding municipalities and have confirmed the following increases in the municipality’s portion of the levy rate:

Southwest Middlesex	5.08%
Adelaide Metcalfe	4.66%
Strathroy Caradoc	4.59%
Lucan Biddulph	4.42%
Middlesex Centre	4.27%
Thames Centre	3.92%

Other municipalities in the area have not confirmed their rates but the information available online or in the media indicate that they have similar increase to those listed above (i.e. Lambton Shores 4.4% and Warwick 5.0%).

FINANCIAL

Establishes levy taxation, operation spending and capital project authority for 2025 fiscal year.

ATTACHMENT

2025 Budget Book Distributed by hand on March 27, 2025

Prepared By: **Ralph D'Alessandro, Director of Finance/Treasurer**

Approved By: Carolyn Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer