

Minutes

Budget and Finance Committee

September 24, 2025

Call to Order

The Budget and Finance Committee met at the County Administration Building on the above date. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with the following members in attendance:

Councillors Eccles, Milne, Nielsen, Mackey, Carleton, Keaveney, Dickert and Warden Matrosovs.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Delegations

Items For Direction or Discussion

Capital Presentation - Long-Term Care

Director of Long-Term Care and Seniors Services, Jennifer Cornell, reviewed the Long-Term Care department's assets including the three homes which serve 319 residents. Among the three homes, medical supplies like beds and lifts would be included in the capital assets.

Councillor Greig entered the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Director Cornell noted that a report will be brought forward to the Long-Term Care Redevelopment Task Force on the budget impacts of running two buildings at the same time with the build of the new Rockwood Terrace home.

A capital funding source is the Ministry of Long-Term Care where they provide funding for comprehensive minor capital to help with minor repairs and upkeep of the homes.

She noted that the homes rely heavily on building condition assessment reports for planning as well as WorxHub which is a preventative maintenance software used by the homes. Arjo, who is the supplier for much of the medical equipment for the homes, also completes regular preventative maintenance on equipment to ensure they have a longer

life-cycle and meet the needs of the residents. She noted that items like beds, mattresses and lifts are on an ongoing replacement cycle.

The Committee discussed if items need to be replaced on a certain schedule when it comes to medical equipment. Director Cornell noted that if equipment is repaired often, these pieces of equipment are watched closely for replacement especially lift equipment where the manufacturer recommends the lifecycle of the product.

The Committee discussed how our costs and funding compares to the private sector where staff noted the difficulty in comparing the two since the private sector doesn't provide these numbers openly. Staff noted that the County sits in the middle to the higher end of costs against private comparators which is not a concern in terms of budgeting. Some private sector homes are for-profit and the equipment purchased by the County is often better quality equipment with a longer useful lifecycle which raise our costs.

FR-BFC-18-25 2026 and 2027 Budget Assumptions and Timelines

BFC15-25

Moved by: Councillor Keaveney

Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

That Report FR-BFC-18-25 regarding the 2026 and 2027 Budget Assumptions and Timelines be received; and

That the proposed budget assumptions be incorporated into the draft 2026 and proposed 2027 budgets for council's consideration and direction.

Carried

CAOR-BFC-14-25 2026 Staffing Requests and 2027 Forecast

Deputy CAO, Niall Lobley, reiterated the importance of retaining staff and responding to growth within the County by maintaining current service levels. He noted that as we get closer to 2027, staffing requests will need to be reviewed and refined as the year progresses.

The Committee discussed the different tasks and duties of both the Coordinator for Climate and Environmental Initiatives anticipated for 2026 and Facilities Manager position anticipated for 2027. Niall Lobley noted the Coordinator position will help to track success of the Going Green in Grey initiative as the County currently does not have the resources in place to fully capture this work. This position will also help to work with the municipalities within the County as well as community engagement.

The Facilities Manager will work with the Going Green in Grey initiative to implement green initiatives into our current facilities while also managing the large portfolio of buildings that Grey County has.

The Committee discussed opportunities to share services, specifically staffing. Staff noted that this is the work the Joint Municipal Services Committee is currently looking at on sharing services across all nine member municipalities.

The Committee discussed the option of having the Law Clerk role as a contract position rather than a full-time position. Staff reiterated the need for a full-time staff member to help with the complex and increasingly busy role with more agreements, policies and procedures coming through the corporation.

Randy Scherzer, CAO, reiterated that departments across the County are continually looking at LEAN processes for efficiency in terms of operations and budget impacts.

BFC16-25

Moved by: Councillor Carleton

Seconded by: Councillor Dickert

That report CAOR-BFC-14-25 Staffing Request 2026 – 2027 be received; and,

That staff be directed to include \$339,700 in the 2026 budget, and \$95,700 in the 2027 budget to accommodate 2026 full time staffing requests; and,

That staff be directed to include the following full time staffing requests as part of the 2026 budget being,

- a. **Duty Supervisor (Float), Paramedic Services**
- b. **Mechanic, Transportation Services**
- c. **Law Clerk, Legislative Services, and**
- d. **Coordinator, Climate and Environmental Initiatives; and**

That staff be directed to include two new student positions in the 2026 budget; and,

That staff be directed to include the following full time staffing positions within the forecast 2027 operating budget, being

- e. **Mechanic, Transportation Services**
- f. **Facilities Manager, Office of the CAO**
- g. **Manager Performance and Culture, Human Resources and,**
- h. **Business/Data Analyst, Technology and Information Services; and,**

That staff be directed to include two student positions within the 2027 forecast budget; and,

That all positions forecast in the 2027 budget be subject to further review for necessity through the 2027 budget process.

Carried

Closed Meeting Matters

The Committee proceeded into closed session at 11:05 a.m.

BFC17-25

Moved by: Councillor Carleton

Seconded by: Councillor Eccles

That the Budget and Finance Committee does now go into closed session pursuant to Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, to discuss:

- i. **(d) labour relations or employee negotiations (*bargaining updates*)**

Carried

The Committee returned to open session at 11:25 a.m.

The Chair confirmed that only the items stated in the resolution to move into closed session were discussed.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Other Business

A question was addressed regarding reporting back on cost savings resulting from projects intended to increase efficiencies and realize cost savings like in the case of paved shoulders. Director of Transportation, Pat Hoy, advised that staff are reviewing data and working on bringing a report to a future meeting.

Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillors Carleton and Nielsen, the Budget and Finance Committee adjourned at 11:30 a.m. to the call of the Chair.