

BUDGET 2026
TOWN OF CLARENVILLE



2026 Budget Highlights

- No mill rate Increases for Residential/Commercial Property tax or Business Tax
- No Residential/Commercial Water/Sewer Increase
- Addition of the Tourism Accommodation Tax
- Debt Ratio – Less than 17%
- Budget Increase of 5.8%
- Administration
 - Communications Officer (New position)
 - New Town Website
 - Further Town Software Upgrades
- Fire Department
 - Increase to Fire Fighter Compensation for On-Call Weekends
 - Electric Vehicle Fire Fighting Supplies
 - Smoke Machine for Training
 - Pick-Up Truck
 - Starlink
 - Continued SCBA/Bunker Gear Investment
 - Additional Investment for Fire Fighter Involvement into Community Related Events
- Recreation
 - Phase 1 - Shoal Harbour Play Area Facilities Improvements
 - Water Station Installation at CEC
 - CEC Parking Lot Repairs
 - Lighting & Drapery Upgrade to CEC Theatre
 - Protective Netting at Elizabeth Swan Park
 - New Playground Equipment
 - Installation of Heat Pumps at Bill Davis Chalet
 - Dog Park Fence
- Public Works Equipment
 - Sidewalk Machine
 - Asphalt Recycler
 - Forklift
 - Woodchipper
 - Pick Up Truck – Municipal Enforcement
 - Traffic Signal Pole Repairs

- Roadwork & Other Infrastructure
 - MYCW 2025-2026 Continuation - Water Plant Upgrades & Wastewater Upgrades
 - CCBF – Road Improvements
 - Sidewalk Master Plan
 - Liftstation Upgrades & Reconstruction
 - Improvements to Memorial Drive – near Home Hardware
 - Main valve replacement – Lower Shoal Harbour River Bridge
- Economic Development
 - Shoreline Park
 - Regional Wellness Centre Feasibility Study
 - Downtown Development Plan
 - Gateway Signs Landscaping
 - Community Arts Initiative
- Other Community Development Initiatives
 - 75th Anniversary Celebrations
 - Sustainability Study White Hills
 - Other Tourism and Recreation Investment

Introduction

Good afternoon Mayor Pickett, fellow Councillors, staff, and those joining us in-person and online. As the Council Lead of the Finance and Administration Department, it is my pleasure to present Budget 2026 for the Town of Clarendville.

The annual budget preparation process offers more than a financial planning exercise; it provides an important opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the achievements of the past year. In 2025, many of our accomplishments were made possible through the collective efforts, dedication, and collaboration of a wide range of individuals and organizations. These successes were supported not only by valued partners who have worked alongside us in previous years, but also by new partnerships that emerged throughout the year, strengthening our work and expanding our reach. Together, these relationships played a vital role in helping us move projects forward, achieve shared goals, and continue building momentum for the future.

The annual budget process also offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on the experiences of the past year and the insights gained along the way. It allows us to better understand our community, our environment, and the evolving infrastructure needs around us, helping to inform thoughtful planning and strengthen our approach moving forward.

Combining insights with a focused approach allows Council to continue to grow processes that address many community obstacles and opportunities. These include, but are not limited to, human resource investment, affordable living, new and improved recreation facilities and community events, and replacing or maintaining the infrastructure impacted by age, population and climate.

Supporting continued interest from new and current residents and businesses means that Council will focus on the necessary choices to make strategic and often difficult decisions to ensure that the Town is doing the absolute best for our residents. These decisions are outlined throughout this document, with the best for our Town and its stakeholders in mind.

The Fiscal Plan for 2026

The 2026 Budget presents a plan for the Town's revenue and expenditures in the year ahead. Throughout the fall, Council worked closely with managers to carefully review their departmental spending. This process included evaluating priorities and available options, collecting detailed information from staff, and considering feedback received through the pre-budget survey to support informed and balanced decision-making. Some of the pre-budget survey suggestions have been implemented throughout this budget. As economic conditions continue to evolve, the Town is experiencing increased costs associated with delivering the programs and services that residents expect, rely on, and deserve, and this review helps ensure resources are used thoughtfully and responsibly.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to Councillor Dylan Stringer, who is serving his first term on the Finance Committee, for his engagement and commitment throughout the budgeting process, remaining Council members and our management staff for their dedication and commitment to starting and finalizing this budgetary process. A special

thanks to Angela Giles, our Director of Finance & Administration and David Harris, our CAO, who spent many hours evaluating the various scenarios that brought us to this presentation. Additionally, I want to extend a thank you to our Director of Public Works - Rick Wells, Fire Chief - Cory Feltham, Recreation Manager - Brandon Reardon, Economic Development Officer - Colin Holloway, Town Clerk - Erin Dicks, as well as our outstanding office staff who gathered the information for the Committee.

Council's overall budget for 2026 matches revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$13,856,845 compared to \$13,096,195 in 2025, an increase of approximately 5.8% from the 2025 budget.

I will first reflect on the past year and then outline a plan for 2026 that Council has put in place to better manage our town through the next year.

2025 Town Projects

Affordable Housing

In 2025 the Town was successful in its application for CHIF funding from the Government of Canada for two affordable housing projects. These projects include a provincial funding component that is being actively discussed with provincial partners. In 2026, Council and staff will continue working collaboratively with government partners and developers to advance affordable housing initiatives and support sustainable housing solutions within the community. If approved by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, this project will have a total cost of \$8.1 million with a Town contribution in the form of a loan of approximately \$740,000.

Water Plant Upgrades

In 2025 the Town applied through a Federal/Provincial funding program for additional funds of approximately \$3,500,000 for water plant upgrades. If successful, the Town portion would be approximately \$650,000. This project would address various water plant upgrades to improve the quality and capacity of water services for the Town of Clarenville to address the ongoing concerns of population growth and climate change.

Causeway Watermain Replacement & Storm Damage Repairs

In 2025 the Town applied through a Federal/Provincial funding program for additional funds of approximately \$1,700,000 for Causeway watermain replacement and storm damage repairs. If successful, the Town portion would be approximately \$310,000. This project would address continuing water breaks in the Causeway area that are recurring due to prior damage and aging infrastructure. This project also addresses the quality and capacity of water services for the Town of Clarendville.



Election

During 2025 the Town held its Municipal Election which saw two new councillors, Dylan Stringer and Rod Nicholl, being elected to Council. Council would like to thank previous Deputy Mayor Paul Tilley and Councillor Bill Bailey for their tremendous work during their time on Council.

Wellness Centre Initiative

In 2025, the Town began important groundwork by conducting surveys and advancing toward a feasibility study for a potential new Wellness Centre. This facility has the potential to be a significant asset for the health and well-being of residents in Clarendville and the surrounding region. The

feasibility study will carefully examine how such a project could be approached in a strategic and sustainable manner, including opportunities to share both benefits and costs with federal and provincial partners, as well as neighbouring communities, to help ensure that any future development is financially responsible and does not place an undue burden on Clarenville taxpayers.



Strategic Road Upgrades

2025 was a busy year for the Town's Public Works Department as work was completed on key town road infrastructure. This past year saw a complete restoration of the water, sewer and road for a portion of Tilley's Road from Crewe Place to the Trans-Canada Highway and restoration of the Lower Shoal Harbour River Bridge. Council also applied monies from the Canada Community Building Fund for road improvements to Aspen Lane, Bridgemount Crescent, Best Avenue, as well as the intersection of Shoal Harbour Drive and Beaumont Hamel Drive.

Capital Equipment

In 2025 the Town purchased two pick-up trucks and a backhoe for Public Works. A sweeper truck and a flyer truck, that were previously ordered, were also delivered in 2025, which allowed for improved street cleaning services. The Town is also awaiting delivery of a mobile generator from the 2025 Budget.

Economic Development

In 2025, the Town continued to advance initiatives aligned with the 2023–2028 Strategic Economic Plan, focusing on building a business-friendly community, strengthening partnerships, advancing tourism development, supporting arts and culture, and enhancing quality of life.

Progress toward a more business-friendly environment included the launch of a new Business Navigation Guide, consolidating policies, procedures, and online permit applications to support red tape reduction, as well as a new Business Directory to highlight local services and amenities.

Collaboration remained central to the Town’s efforts. Strong partnerships continued with the Clarenville Area Chamber of Commerce, including support for its strategic plan and the Small Business Week Networking Breakfast, along with ongoing collaboration with the Association for New Canadians, Discovery Trail Snowmobile Association, Clarenville Coasts Regional Tourism Association, and Clarenville Heritage Society.

Tourism development advanced through continued implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Enhancement Plan. Key achievements included new gateway signage, an updated community map and tourism brochure, and, in partnership with the Clarenville Coasts Regional Tourism Association, the launch of a new tourism destination website, promotional videos, and the 2025 Visitor Experience Survey. The establishment of Shoreline Park on Marine Drive further enhanced tourism, placemaking, and heritage storytelling.

Support for arts and culture continued with the second year of the Community Art Procurement Program, delivered in partnership with the Clarenville Regional Arts Association, which also provides year-round exhibitions at The Gallery. In addition, the Town partnered with YMCA-NL to explore the feasibility of a future Regional Wellness Centre, reinforcing a long-term focus on community well-being.

These accomplishments reflect the collective efforts of Town staff, Council, community partners, local businesses, and residents, contributing to continued economic momentum and Clarenville’s role as a strong regional hub.

Recreation

Over the past year the Town's Recreation Department was successful in resurfacing and purchasing windscreens for the tennis/pickleball court. This project was a partnership with CARA and provided a substantially needed upgrade to the Town's recreation infrastructure.

The Town's Recreation Department continued many successful events in 2025 including Winter Carnival, Clarendville Days and the Pumpkin Walk. The **On the Rocks Concert in the Park and Gearoid McCarthy concerts**, were an enormous success with amazing entertainment and attendance. These events continue to be enjoyed by hundreds of residents and visitors alike.

Over the past year the Recreation Department began some engineering work for the Shoal Harbour Ballfield Area facilities improvements.

The department also purchased a zero-turn lawnmower, a pick-up truck, a zamboni laser level and power stacking machine for the CEC, new tables and chairs for recreational use, public use garbage bins as well as additional fencing and netting for the ballfield.



Other Community Initiatives

The Town recently received a new CREST Bus which is wheelchair accessible. This project was supported through funding under the Rural Transit Solution Fund as well as the Provincial Community Transportation program.



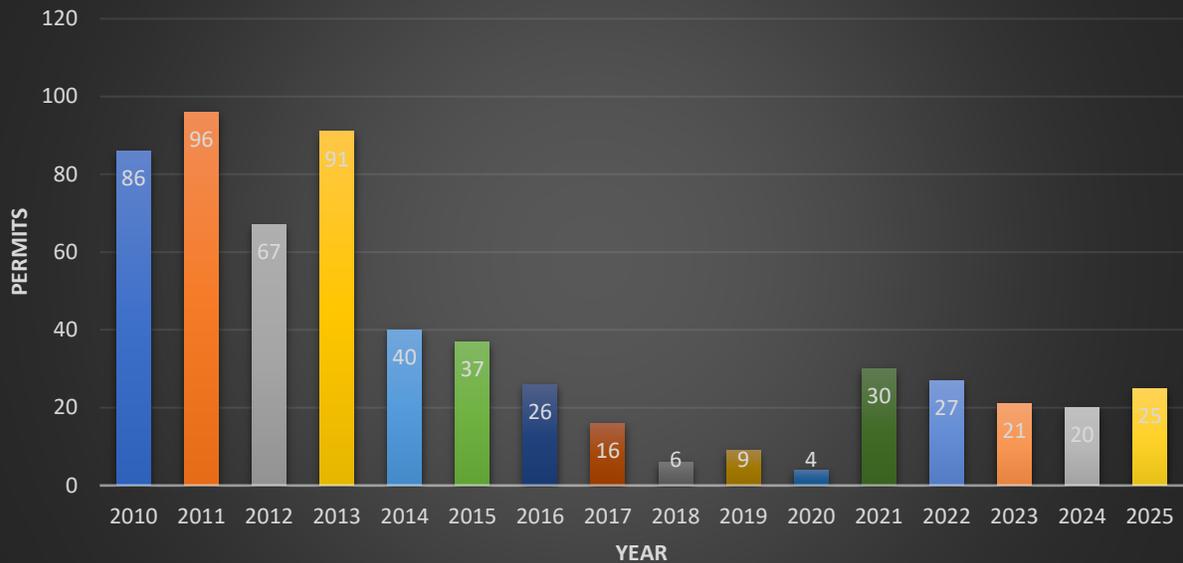
The Doctor Recruitment Initiative

Since 2023 the Town of Clarendville has partnered with Eastern Health and the local medical community in an initiative to attract and retain medical professionals. This program will continue in 2026.

2025 Growth

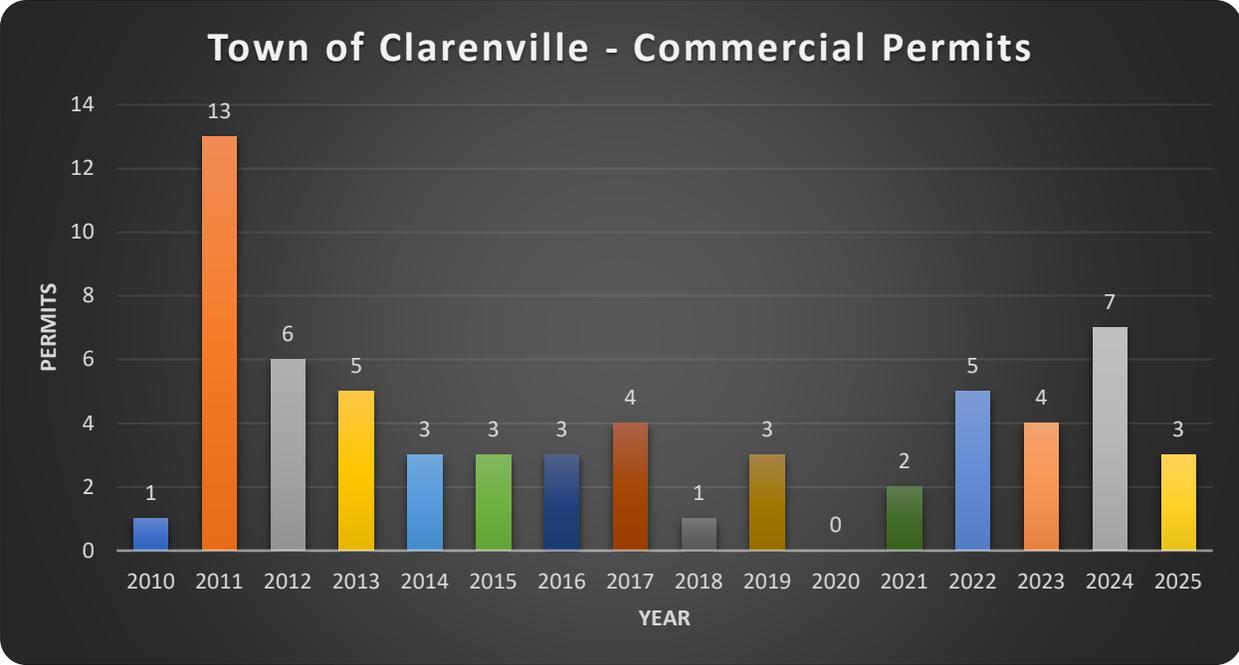
The Town did see consistent and reasonable growth in 2025 with respect to residential development. Up to the end of December 2025, 25 new permits were issued for residential dwellings, compared to 20 in 2024. 3 new permits were issued for new commercial developments in 2025, versus 7 commercial permits being issued in 2024.

Town of Clarendville - Residential Permits



Many residents and businesses continued to proceed with improvements and expansions to their properties. The Town did continue to see many permits for other types of renovations. Including the 25 new residential dwellings, residential renovations, accessory buildings and subsidiary apartments, there were a total of 239 permits issued for a value of \$8,615,269.

Commercially there were 27 permits issued which included the 3 new buildings and 24 for additional renovations for a total increased value of \$4,936,300.



2026 Expense Increases

As was the situation in 2025, inflation and investment continues to play a role in higher costs, however in 2026 the Town has been able to use some of the Town’s decrease in interest costs in 2026 to go toward much more beneficial investments. Though interest rates are not comparable to pandemic levels and are still a large commitment within the budget, they have somewhat reduced. These savings are used to invest in other infrastructure and operations for the Town.

Similar to other organizations, the Town is not immune from rising costs and it significantly impacts the operating and capital budget. Increased costs for labour, materials, supplies and other services accounted for much of the increase over 2025.

In addition to regular road/bridge maintenance, the budget process allowed for continued focus on some much-needed infrastructure and equipment and other expenditures required to advance and maintain the service levels of the Town. This year much of these discussions continued around water and sewer services as through growth, climate change and aging infrastructure they have and will continue to be impacted.

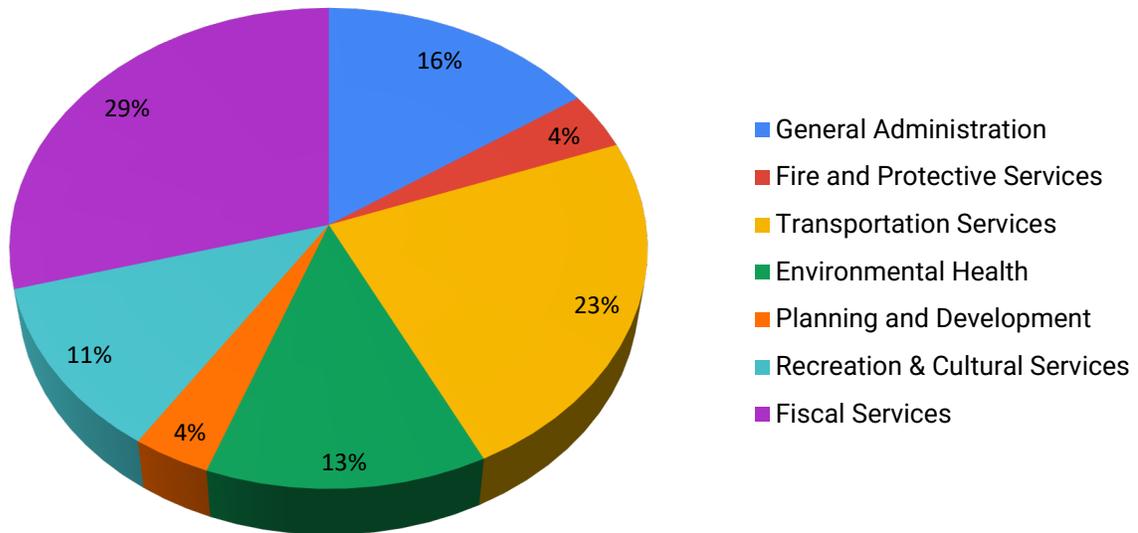
The 2026 Budget - Planned Operating Expenditures

Clarendville classifies its annual operating expenditures into seven departmental categories. These categories include:

1. General Administration – The administrative costs associated with running the Town
2. Fire and Protective Services - The Clarendville Fire Department and Enforcement
3. Transportation Services - Infrastructure & Public Works
4. Environmental Health - Water and Waste
5. Planning and Development - All Planning and Community/Economic Development
6. Recreation and Cultural Services - Arts and Recreation
7. Fiscal Services - Financials/Borrowing Costs

Town of Clarendville				
Expenditures (Thousands of Dollars)	2026	2026	2025	2025
General Administration	\$2,150.30	15.52%	\$2,000.24	15.27%
Fire and Protective Services	\$532.51	3.84%	\$474.55	3.62%
Transportation Services	\$3,229.50	23.31%	\$3,148.78	24.04%
Environmental Health	\$1,802.33	13.00%	\$1,736.52	13.26%
Planning and Development	\$500.95	3.62%	\$346.47	2.65%
Recreation & Cultural Services	\$1,589.53	11.47%	\$1,399.93	10.69%
Fiscal Services	\$4,051.73	29.24%	\$3,989.71	30.47%
Total Planned Expenditures	\$13,856.85	100.00%	\$13,096.20	100.00%
Increase (Decrease) over previous year			5.81%	

2026 Clarendville Planned Expenditures



General Administration

The general administration budget will see an increase of approximately 7.5%. This increase is partially due to inflationary changes over the 2025 budget for items such as human resources, insurance and municipal assessment costs.

Over the past several years, the Town has made meaningful improvements to communication with residents through the introduction of new software and expanded use of digital and traditional media. As Clarendville continues to grow, Council recognizes an opportunity to further strengthen how the Town connects, informs, and engages with the community. To support this goal, the 2026 Budget includes funding for the hiring of a Communications Officer, the development of a new Town website, and the addition of new software designed to enhance citizen engagement and improve access to information.

Through this Budget, there are provisions for community grants to various non-profit organizations that offer valuable contributions within our community. Again this year the Town will continue to support the Alpine Development Alliance Corporation, Random Age-Friendly (Crest Bus), the Clarenville Heritage Society, Clarenville Area SPCA, Clarenville & Area Age Friendly 50+ Club, Clarenville Food Bank, Triple Bay Eagles Ground Search & Rescue and the Public Library Board. However, this year Council allocated an additional \$16,500 to extend support to assist other organizations. These include the Clarenville Regional Arts Association, Eastern NL Dragon Boat Club Inc., 4th Clarenville Scouting, The Loft, Clarenville Coasts Regional Tourism Association, Violence Prevention East Inc. and the Association for New Canadians.

Fire and Protective Services

The Clarenville Fire Department and Enforcement operating budget will see an increase of approximately 12.2% in 2026. The increases reflect funds allocated to the fire department for improved fire fighter compensation, emergency response, safety and community engagement. During 2025 the Clarenville Fire Department assisted in fighting the Conception Bay North Fire and other fires within the region. This past summer provided a time to reflect on how quickly things can change and how important our fire department is to the community.

The 2026 Budget will include an addition of \$25 in compensation for volunteer firefighters assigned to on-call weekends.

To improve the response of the fire department and provide necessary service for the Emergency Operations Centre, monies have also been provided for Starlink service. This will ensure connectivity during local and highway emergencies that could result in poor cell phone reception, internet and power outages.

To support the Fire Department's strong and ongoing engagement with the community, funding has been allocated to help enhance its involvement in community-focused events throughout the year. These investments will allow the department to continue building meaningful connections with residents through popular initiatives such as Christmas celebrations, Clarenville Days, the Trunk or Treat program, and other community events,

further strengthening the positive relationship between the Fire Department and the community it serves.

Council would like to express sincere gratitude for the work that they do and recognize that their safety in this challenging climate is of extreme importance.



Transportation Services

The Town's transportation budget, which includes public works operations, street lighting and snow removal, will see an increase of less than 2.6%. This increase is mainly due to inflationary costs for items such as human resources, road maintenance materials such as salt and sand, as well as increases for other day-to-day services such as electricity.



Environmental Health

The environmental health department, which includes water and sewer operations, chemical supplies and waste management, will see an increase of less than 4%. This increase is attributable to regular inflationary costs to provide services. This year we saw an increase in our waste collection costs, partially due to community growth as well as continued increases in the weight fees for waste collection. Council will commit to providing more communication and educational resources for residents in 2026 with respect to recycling and other efforts to reduce waste.

I would like to note that some of the investment made to the provision of transportation and environmental health is capital in nature and will be discussed later in the Capital section of the document.



Planning and Development

The Planning and Development department, which includes Beautification, Economic Development and Community Development, will see an increase of approximately 45%.

This year there are monies set aside to continue work on the Shoreline Park which began in 2025. This project along with funds for a Downtown Development plan will help achieve the goal of making Clareville a pedestrian friendly community. It will encourage residents and tourists to park and enjoy all the things that this community has to offer. Contained within this strategy is the concept of making the Marine Drive area more walkable by focusing on rejuvenating the Downtown. The Shoreline Park project is also in support of the Town's 75th Anniversary to be held in 2026. It will help re-tell the history of the community and invites residents and visitors to explore the coastline.

Provisions to support the landscaping for the Gateway Signage, Community Art Procurement fund as well as monies to leverage funds for the Wellness Centre Feasibility Study are also included in the Economic Development portion of these funds.

This Budget will also include funds for 75th Anniversary celebrations, in addition to those for enhanced recreational events. This investment will reflect the opportunity to capture other meaningful ways to capture the

history and culture of the Town that can have a lasting impact. Again, this will help ensure that this milestone year is celebrated in a meaningful and inclusive way to bring everyone together, for residents and visitors alike.

To assist with tourist focused initiatives, \$30,000 has been identified for a White Hills Sustainability Plan. This plan will address opportunities to ensure that all options are being explored to improve the seasonal duration, nature and quality of the provisions that this unique asset has to offer.

Funding for Community Development has also been allocated in the amount of \$100,000, to help improve and maintain current tourist and recreational programs and facilities. The details of the direction of these funds will be determined as the year progresses.



Recreation and Cultural Services

Overall, departmental expenses have increased by just over 13%, reflecting inflationary pressures and the continued delivery of high-quality programs and services. Additional funding has been allocated to

recreational events, including Clarendville Day, to support expanded programming in recognition of the Town's 75th anniversary celebrations.

Other recreation-related adjustments are primarily capital in nature and are addressed throughout this report. The budget also includes continued investment in trails, parks, and playgrounds, supporting year-round recreation and enhancing quality of life within the community.



Fiscal Services

This department, which includes the Town's loan payments, debt charges, and also funding for the Town's Capital Works programs and capital equipment purchases, will have an increase of a little under 2% compared to last year. This Budget did see some relief with interest costs for borrowing as interest rates, though not as low as some prior years, have dropped to a much more favourable level. It also reflects additions to the cost of capital investment throughout the various departments. 2026 will see an increase of principal payments, mainly due to borrowing that has taken place for major Capital projects and new equipment such as the most recent MYCW work. These additional principal payments are partially offset by the lower interest rates. New borrowed items announced in this year's

Budget will not have principal payments in 2026. The Town continues to use cost-saving initiatives through products that are available for borrowing.

2026 Town Projects

Capital Projects Budget



Roads and Sidewalks

Mr. Mayor, I am pleased to announce again this year that the Town has provided funding in the Budget in the amount of \$555,000 for the Road Improvement Program. This is to improve local roads and is in addition to the Town's portion of any Government related road funding.

In 2023, the Town was approved for the 3-Year Capital Works Program in the amount of \$5,232,544 with a contribution by the Town of approximately \$1,105,440. The first phase of this program started in 2024, the second phase in 2025, with the third phase of this work continuing in 2026. The Town will see continued water plant upgrades as well as investment into wastewater improvements. The Town has budgeted for its portion of this project as a loan which will have its first payment in 2026. This project will continue to be a great capital infusion for the community.

The Town will also receive its annual Canada Community Building Funding in the amount of \$327,099. This funding will also be used to carry out local infrastructure improvements. These funds will be allocated to prioritized projects for 2026 improvements.

As part of Council's infrastructure strategy, in 2026 the Town will invest in a Sidewalk Master Plan. This plan will allow for a strategic and safety focused approach to investing in sidewalk and crosswalk placement in the coming years, particularly along the main thoroughfares.

Lift Station Removal/Reconstruction

In addition to a contribution of \$100,000 for annual lift station upgrades across Town, funds of \$750,000 will be allocated, in the form of a loan, for major lift station reconstruction. The projected work is currently undergoing further engineering assessment and will require land acquisition, so therefore is pending, subject to meeting the necessary criteria to successfully proceed with the project.

Lower Shoal Harbour River Bridge Water Main

This Budget will see provisions for a loan in the amount of approximately \$390,000 for the replacement of the water main located across the Lower Shoal Harbour River Bridge. This will allow for improved redundancy, reliability and quality of water and work will be done in conjunction with the MYCW Capital Works Project for the restoration of the bridge. This work was awarded in 2025 but will take place in 2026.

Memorial Drive Drainage Issues

Approximately \$100,000 will be provided through a loan to address the water drainage issues that have been causing significant issues near Home Hardware on Memorial Drive. This work was awarded in 2025 but will take place in 2026.

Equipment - Public Works

Council will also purchase the following equipment:

- Sidewalk Machine of \$225,000

- Woodchipper – \$25,000
- Pickup trucks for Municipal Enforcement - \$70,000
- Asphalt Recycler - \$150,000
- Forklift - \$50,000
- Traffic Signal Pole Repairs - \$55,000

The woodchipper will also be one of the initiatives to help reduce waste and reuse materials that are already available to residents.

Equipment – Fire Department

This Budget also provides for annual purchases to ensure that fire-fighting tools and safety equipment are regularly replaced. This year these include electric vehicle fire-fighting supplies, additional forest fire equipment as well as a smoke machine for training. The Town will also continue a high investment in SCBA's and other related fire-fighter protective equipment. SCBA's have recently undergone industry changes with 30-minute SCBA's becoming obsolete with upgrading to 45-minute units.

Funds have also been allocated, through a loan, for a new pick-up truck for the Fire Department in the amount of \$90,000. This ensures that the Town is able to continue with a regular replacement schedule to ensure all vehicles are meeting necessary safety requirements.

Equipment - Recreation

In Recreation, funds will be provided out of revenue for the following;

- Phase 1 - Shoal Harbour Play Area Facilities Improvements - \$115,000
- Water Station Installation at CEC - \$3,000
- CEC Parking Lot Repairs - \$25,000
- Lighting & Drapery Upgrade to CEC Theatre Lighting - \$50,000
- Protective Netting at Elizabeth Swan Park – \$15,000
- New Playground Equipment – Shoal Harbour - \$10,000
- Installation of Heat Pumps at Bill Davis Chalet (pumps were purchased in 2025)- \$5,000
- Dog Park Fence - \$8,000

This, Mr. Mayor, represents our plans for the expense side of the Budget.

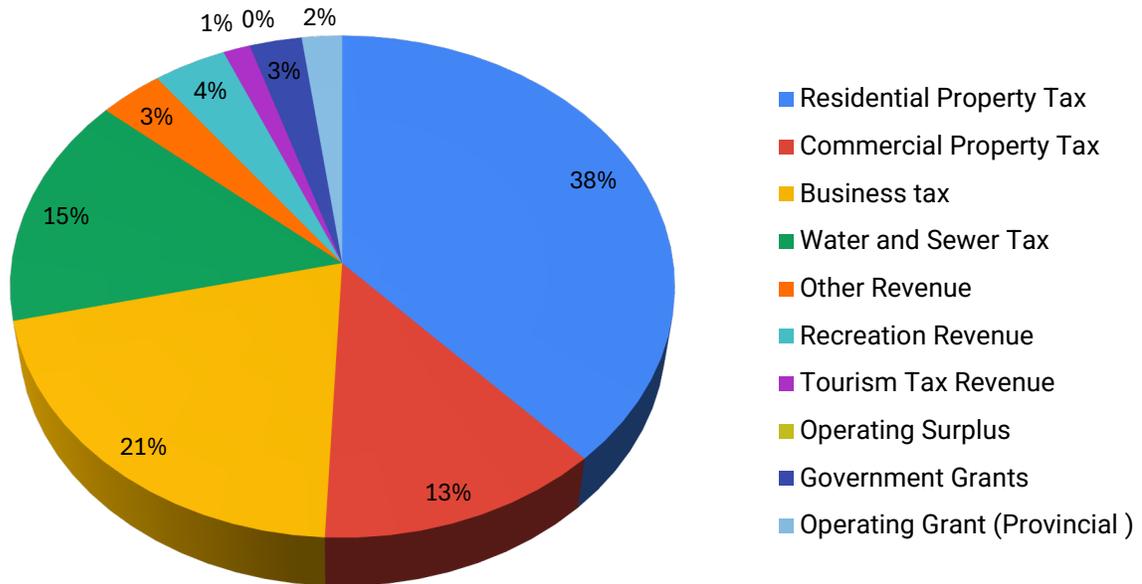
Now for the revenue side.

2026 Budget - Planned Revenues

Mr. Mayor, the projected revenues required for this budget are \$13,856,845, an increase of 5.8% from the 2025 budget. Clarendville’s two major sources of revenue come from Residential and Commercial taxation. I will now elaborate on these:

Town of Clarendville				
Revenue (Thousands of Dollars)	2026	2026	2025	2025
Residential Property Tax	\$5,273.70	38.06%	\$4,971.93	37.96%
Commercial Property Tax	\$1,759.36	12.70%	\$1,545.41	11.80%
Business tax	\$2,853.60	20.59%	\$2,637.37	20.14%
Water and Sewer Tax	\$2,071.09	14.95%	\$1,984.19	15.15%
Other Revenue	\$473.75	3.42%	\$505.75	3.86%
Recreation Revenue	\$541.90	3.91%	\$487.90	3.73%
Tourism Tax Revenue	\$200.00	1.44%	\$0.00	0.00%
Operating Surplus	\$0.00	0.00%	\$183.58	1.40%
Government Grants	\$386.40	2.79%	\$483.02	3.69%
Operating Grant (Provincial)	\$297.05	2.14%	\$297.05	2.27%
Total Planned Revenue	\$13,856.85	100.00%	\$13,096.20	100.00%
Increase (Decrease) over previous year			5.81%	

2026 Clarendville Planned Revenues



Residential Taxes

Mr. Mayor, this year the 8.3 mills residential tax rate in Clarendville will not increase. Water and sewer fees for residential users will also not be impacted for 2026 and will remain at \$385 per household unit.

Taxation is tied to property values that are provided to Towns by the Municipal Assessment Agency. Clarendville, along with some other medium-sized communities, did see an increase in residential property assessments in 2026. For many taxpayers, depending on the size of the increase in assessment, this will mean an increase in taxation, though there is no mill rate increase.

I would like to reiterate that, as a Council, we are committed to a continued & concerted effort to further build our community while getting the best possible value for our tax dollars and emphasizing affordability as this past couple of years has been so difficult on so many. Council and staff have focused their efforts on cost savings to ensure that residents can benefit from the same services.

Commercial Taxes

The business community is a key contributor to Clarendville's tax base.

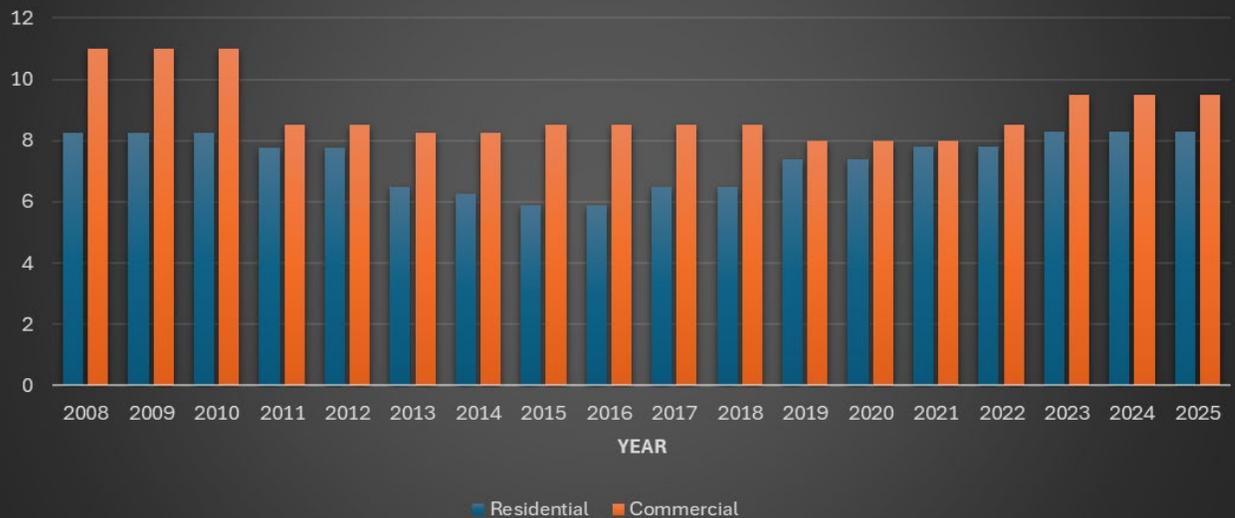
As previously mentioned in the expenditure highlights, we continue to work with our business community and are taking steps to assist and grow our business sector through investment in economic development, tourism related initiatives and recreational activities. Continuous investments in communications, tourism and economic development, as discussed earlier in the expense side of the budget, are positive steps in highlighting the business potential of our town.

Mr. Mayor, this year the mill rate for the commercial property tax will remain unchanged at 9.5 mills. Commercial assessments have had some increases and therefore many businesses, depending on the change of the assessed value, may mean an increase in taxation, though there is no change in the mill rate.

The business tax mill rates will also remain the same as 2025 rates and can be found in the attached tax structure. The Town is pleased to offer business tax mill rates that are comparable to those of other similar sized Towns in the Province.

Commercial water and sewer rates for 2026 will also remain consistent with those of 2025 with a \$360 base rate plus 3 mills of assessed value.

Clareville's Historic Residential and Commercial Tax Rates



Waste Collection – Environmental Fees

The Town will continue with the annual \$25 environmental fee to be applied to each household unit to cover additional costs for automated multi-stream waste collection.

Other Revenue

In this Budget the Town also recognizes recreation revenue, revenue from its own sources in the form of interest, municipal enforcement, building permits and other miscellaneous items, Canada Community Building Funding and the annual Municipal Operating Grant.

Other Financial Consideration

Finally, Mr. Mayor, this year the Town will introduce a 4% Tourism Accommodation Tax for the first time. This initiative represents an important step in creating a dedicated and sustainable funding source to support tourism development and enhance visitor experiences in Clareville. The revenue generated will be reinvested into tourism-related initiatives that benefit both residents and local businesses. During the first quarter of the year, the Town will host a stakeholder engagement session

to collaboratively develop a long-term strategy for the effective and transparent use of these tourism funds.

Additionally, to ease the burden of taxation for low-income property owners, we will continue to offer low-income tax reductions for those who qualify as follows:

Annual Income	Reduction
\$0.00 - \$25,000	40%
\$25,001 - \$28,000	30%
\$28,001 - \$30,000	20%

A View to 2026 and Beyond

Looking forward, this budget is a commitment to continued investment in Clarendville by improving community involvement and infrastructure, as well as partnering with the business sector and government to ensure continued infusion of economic and tourism development to benefit residents, companies and other organizations.

This Budget Mr. Mayor, we believe, is a budget that balances municipal spending during inflationary times with planning for continued growth as a Town.

Last but not least Mr. Mayor, I am very pleased to report that this Budget leaves us with a Debt Ratio of less than 17%, which is well under the 30% threshold permitted by the Provincial Government. This provides us with a sound financial foundation to take our Town into the future.

This low debt ratio will certainly keep us in good standing with the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs and will give us the ability to borrow money should the need arise for any emergencies that may occur.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that the Municipality of Clarendville accepts the balanced budget tabled for the fiscal year 2026 in the amount of \$13,856,845 and that this document be submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Community Engagement for review and acceptance.