

2010 Budgets Approved

Council approval was given to the 2010 M.D. budgets, at the last regular Council meeting of 2009. The budgets (capital and operating) were probably two of the more difficult budgets in recent history: Council's decisions anticipate that the municipal property tax requisition will increase by a maximum of 3.5%, and will further require a withdrawal of \$172,000 from the Taxation Rate Stabilization reserve fund.

Council was very aware of the state of the economy in Alberta, Canada, and internationally. In their efforts to maintain services, it was necessary to provide for a slight increase in taxes, but there is a possibility that assessment increases may lessen the impact on ratepayers. As always, M.D. Council can only be responsible for the municipal portion of the property tax bill: the Alberta School Foundation Fund (education taxes) and Bow River Housing Authority (seniors' housing taxes) requisitions are established by other bodies.

Slated for 2010 are the following:

-The major capital project for 2010 remains the Exshaw water system: a full municipal water system for the hamlet will cost \$13,000,000. Approximately 92% of those costs are covered by provincial grants, while the Exshaw ratepayers will pay the remainder (approximately \$1,050,000) through a local improvement tax. As the contracts were awarded in late 2009, it is anticipated that the project will be complete in late 2010.

- One new permanent position has been added: an Accounting Assistant – Taxation, Assessment and Utilities was created and filled internally, and the existing Secretary/Receptionist vacancy will be filled early in 2010.

-Two projects that affect the M.D. Administration building in Exshaw: an allotment of \$20,000 for some interior renovations (primarily kitchen area upgrades) and \$100,000 for a building extension, to add up to four offices to accommodate current staff. Funding to come from the Building reserve fund.

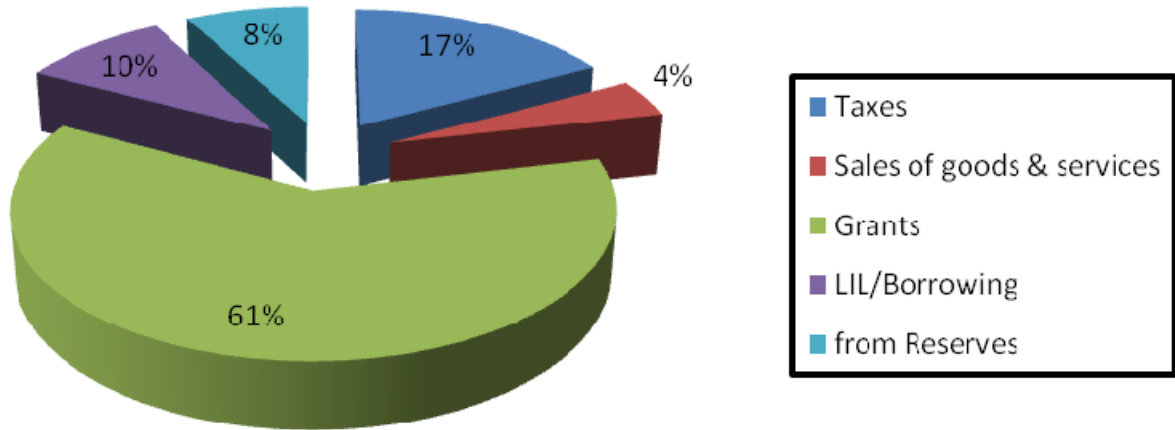
- A number of road projects are slated for 2010, including addressing the storm-water drainage on roads in the Hamlet of Benchlands, street improvements on Diamond Drive in Exshaw, continuing contributions towards roads in West Jumpingpound, an initial engineering examination of emergency access capabilities in Harvie Heights, and a review of Jamieson Road. A number of funding sources are involved: the largest part will be funded by grant programs and reserves.

- The current haul-all garbage bins in Harvie Heights will be replaced.

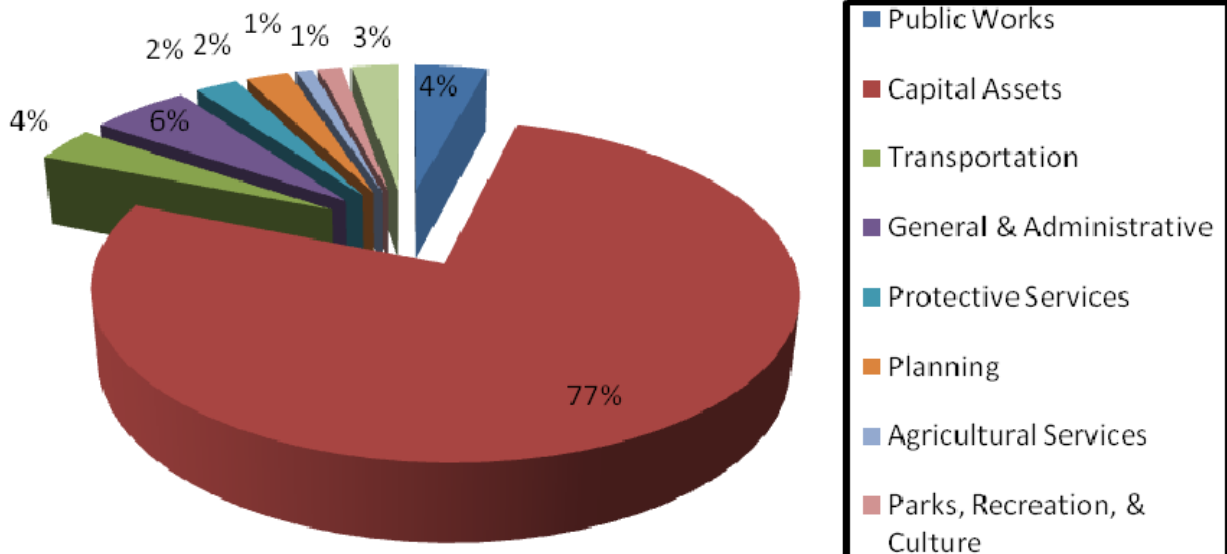
To put the budget in a visual perspective, you will find six charts below. The first two charts depict the 2010 budgeted revenue and overall expenditures, including capital items. As the capital items greatly exceed the operating expenditures and may make it difficult to get a clear picture of the non-capital items only, the third chart provides a graphical snapshot of the 2010 anticipated operating costs by function to more clearly provide a perspective on the operating budget in isolation.

The next three charts provide comparative information of the 2010 budgeted revenue, overall expenditures and the operating expenditures only by function to the 2009 budgeted amounts for the same categories. This is just a broad outline of the 2010 Budget and for more detailed information you are encouraged to visit our website or contact the office. We are happy to answer any questions you have.

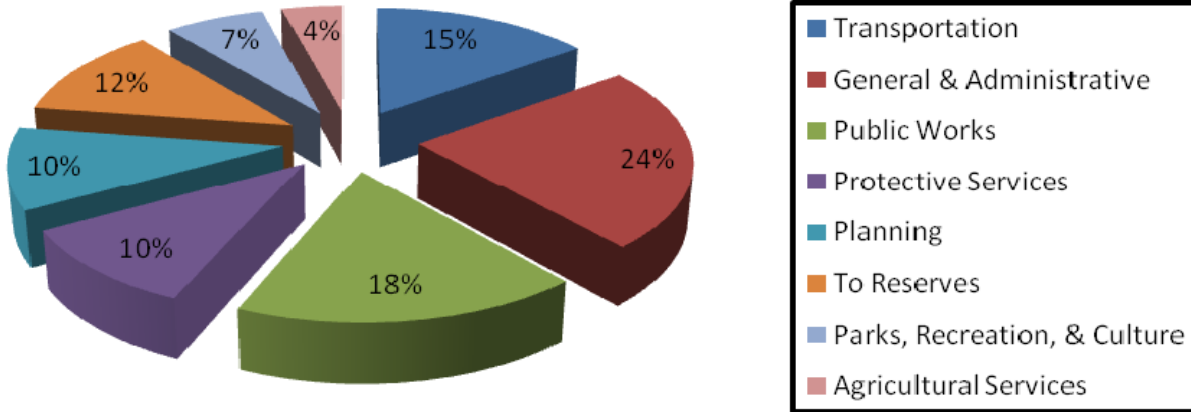
Municipal District of Bighorn 2010 Budgeted Revenue by Source



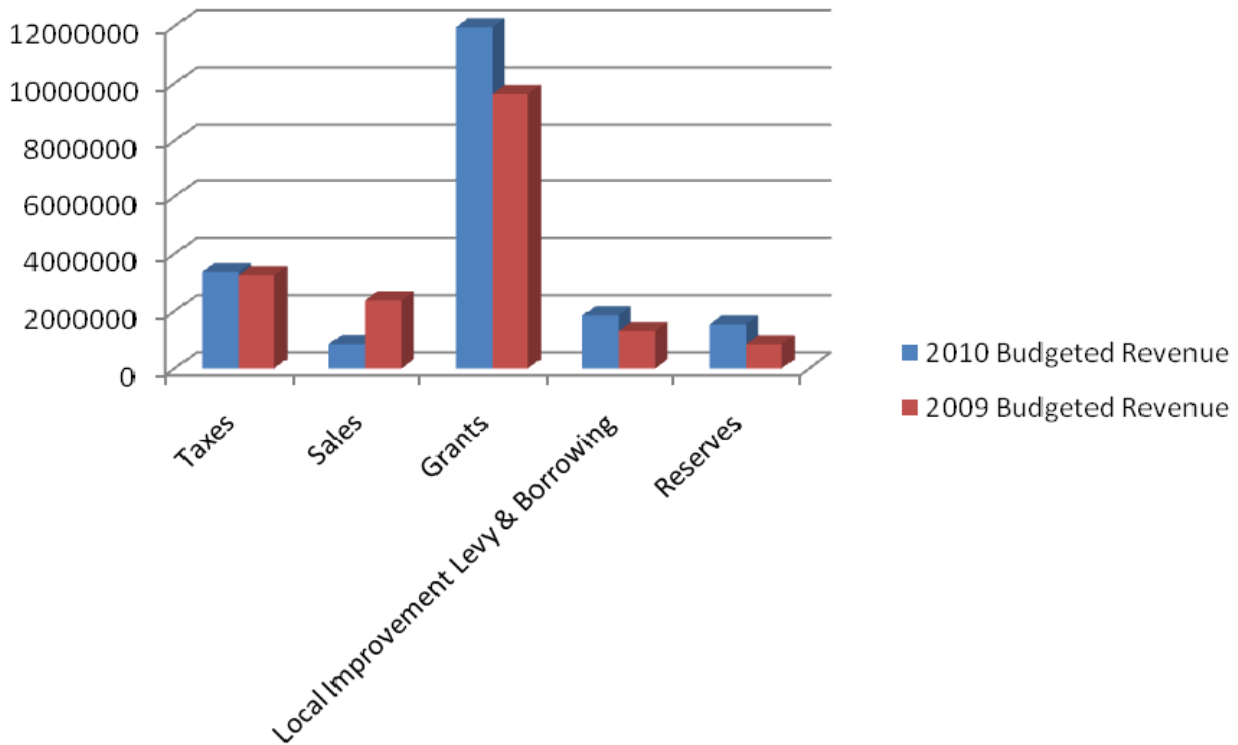
Municipal District of Bighorn 2010 Budgeted Expenses by Function



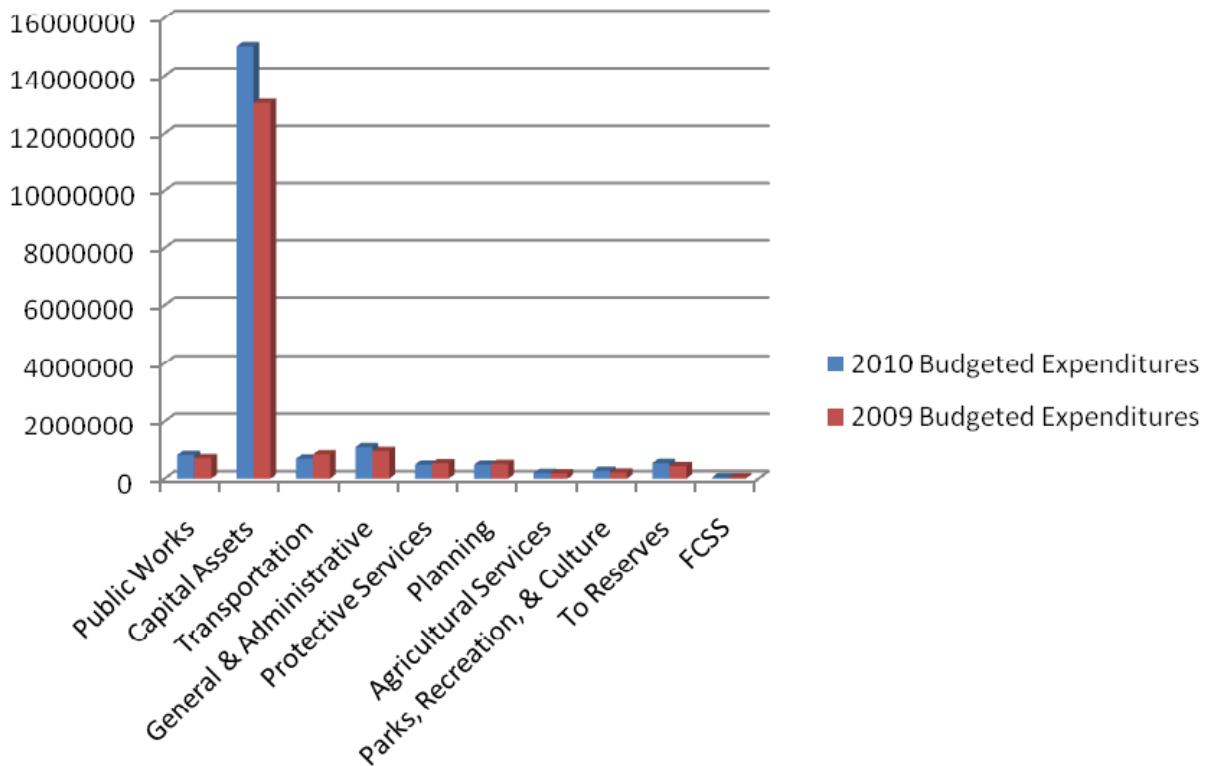
Municipal District of Bighorn 2010 Budgeted Expenses by Function - Excluding Capital Acquisitions



Municipal District of Bighorn - Comparative Budgeted Revenue by Source



Municipal District of Bighorn - Comparative Budgeted Expenditures by Function



Municipal District of Bighorn - Comparative Budgeted Operating Expenditures by Function

