

**MEETING DATE:** June 24, 2024

**SUBMITTED BY:** G. Peskens, Chief Financial Officer

**PREPARED BY:** L. Padgham, Manager, Financial Planning & Budgets

**REPORT TITLE:** 2025 Budget Planning Survey Results

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary purpose of this survey is to assess the views of City of Leduc residents concerning the City's fiscal priorities and tax strategy for the 2025 budget.

## BACKGROUND

The Budget Planning Survey (Survey) was administered by Advanis from April 29 – May 31, 2024. The Survey is prepared annually (apart from 2020 due to the COVID pandemic) and provides residents with an opportunity to share feedback with Administration and Council that can inform the City's priorities and approach to developing the upcoming municipal budget. As such, the Survey is one point of data collection that can guide decisions and priorities for the upcoming budget, but it is not the only source of input upon which these decisions are ultimately made.

The questions asked were kept consistent to compare results with previous years except for a few exceptions which are noted in Advanis' report. Attached, is the General Population Survey Report which is a statistically valid report compiled by information received from residents of the City of Leduc.

Key takeaways from the survey include:

- The survey had 657 respondents – a 31% increase over last year. This indicates a significant increase in residents' desire to weigh in on our budgetary approach and priorities.
- 64% of survey respondents did not know what percentage of taxes collected goes to the province; indicating many residents may be unaware of the levies that we collect which are forwarded to the province and the Leduc Housing Foundation. These levies have an impact on the final tax rate for property owners, but they may be unaware of this.
- 59% of respondents felt they receive good, very good or excellent service value for taxes paid. This is down 10% from last year, and the figure has been trending downward since 2019.
- 39% of respondents shared their preferred tax strategy was to increase or maintain services by increasing taxes. 47% of respondents shared their preferred tax strategy was to cut services to maintain or reduce taxes.

In addition, the City of Leduc provides an open link to the survey which provides residents with the opportunity to contribute to the survey if they did not get a chance through the statistically valid survey. There were 34 (2023 – 294) stakeholder surveys completed through this open link and the results will be posted on the website in addition to a "What We Heard Report".

### **NEXT STEPS**

Administration will take the Survey results into consideration throughout the preparation of the 2025 – 2027 budget. The Survey results will be shared with the community through the City's website, e-newsletter and social media channels.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Leduc 2025 Budget Survey General Population Report

Leduc 2025 Budget Survey Presentation