



***MEDIA RELEASE –
For Immediate Release April 27, 2010***
**Council approves final budget for 2010;
tax rate remains steady**

Yellowhead County council approved the final budget for 2010 at their regular council meeting on April 27, 2010, and the municipal portion of the tax rate for both residential and non-residential will remain the same for the 2010 tax rate. In 2009, council was able to lower the tax rate to 2.3639 for residential and 5.9283 for non-residential, and was able to present a balanced budget for 2010 based on these same rates. The actual tax amount owing for individuals will depend on the assessed value of the property as of December 31, 2009.

“This budget includes everything the county needs to provide the necessary services to its residents and businesses,” said Mayor Gerald Soroka. “I think that based on this we can accomplish a great deal this year.”

The total budget amount is \$99,728,294, of which \$44,964,674 is for capital expenses, \$47,238,201 is for operating expenses and \$7,525,419 is for amortization expense on tangible capital assets. This is an increase from \$90,715,190 from 2009. The total number includes funding from federal and provincial grants, usage fees, as well as residential and non-residential ratepayers. The amortization of all county assets is now included in the budget, this is a new accounting requirement and will have no effect on the taxpayer-at-large.

A large portion of the payment made to the county is requisitioned for schools and seniors, and both requisitions rates were increased this year. The school requisition for 2010 is \$17,703,193, an increase of approximately \$400,000 from last year. The senior’s requisition will be paid to the Evergreens Foundation in the amount of \$1,989,934, an increase of approximately \$71,000. The funds are used to support care facilities in Edson, Hinton, Jasper, and Grande Cache.

Major capital projects that the county has budgeted for 2010 include the new Wildwood Shop and Administrative building, two new graders, two new fire trucks, the completion of the Cadomin sewer system, rehabilitation of the McLeod River Bridge and the replacement of the Wolf Creek Bridge along the old Hwy 16 (Township 534), completion of upgrades to the Evansburg Arena as well as trail paving, buildings and improvements at Tipple Park.

Road projects will include curb, gutter and sidewalks in Evansburg, rebuilding in Peers and Grande Prairie Trail, and chip seals on the Carrot Creek Loop, Miller Lake, Evansburg North Access and River Ridge Access. Overlays will also be completed in Wildwood and other improvements will continue throughout the county.

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Yellowhead County also continues to cost-share with the towns of Edson and Hinton in order to share resources and avoid duplication of services. The Town of Edson will receive just over \$2.4 million and the Town of Hinton will receive almost \$1.9 million; which will cover such services as FCSS, Fire Services, Landfill/Recycling, and Recreation. Yellowhead County provides these funds to cover the cost of county residents using these services within the respective municipalities. The funds given to each municipality also include \$638,000, earmarked for Community Development. Yellowhead County understands that industrial development in the county can create a need for more services within their neighbouring urban municipalities, and created this fund in order to support the implementation of these services.

Yellowhead County is committed to building a better community for present and future generations and knows that the 2010 budget will help to support the county in achieving that goal.

Yellowhead County

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