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Brazeau County 2016 Annual Budget balances fiscal responsibility with County needs

BRAZEAU COUNTY — In 2016 Brazeau County will be investing in a number of capital projects, while maintaining service levels and focusing on fiscal prudence.

On November 26, Brazeau County Council approved a \$46 million operating budget and an additional \$22.8 million in capital projects. Of that \$22.8 million capital budget, 55% has been dedicated to road infrastructure.

“As a Council we’re happy we were able to approve a budget that shows leadership in its fiscal responsibility, while still recognizing the need to maintain and upgrade our vital infrastructure,” said Reeve Bart Guyon. “Our top priority is providing quality service to our residents and businesses in the cost-effective way they expect.”

At budget meetings from November 24 to November 26 Brazeau County Councillors and Administration went over the operational needs and capital requests for 2016. With the current economic climate, especially in our community where the oil and gas sector that employs so many of our residents is experiencing economic challenges, both Council and Administration approached the budget looking to minimize the impact to our citizens and businesses.

With that in mind, all departments found efficiencies and presented operating budgets reduced from 2015 levels. Overall, Administration presented Council with a budget that had an overall decrease in operations expenses of 4% from 2015.

“Administration has worked for the past several months to find ways to cut costs in their departments without compromising on the service we provide,” said Chief Administrative Officer Marco Schoeninger. “We were happy to present a budget to Council that reflects those efforts and recognizes the challenging economic situation Brazeau County and its residents are facing.”

The 2016 Tax Rates will be determined next April once Brazeau County has received its final assessment information.

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