BRAZEAU COUNTY
Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Reeve and Council of Brazeau County

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Brazeau County (the County), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and the statements of operations and accumulated surplus, changes in net financial assets, remeasurement gains and losses and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the County as at December 31, 2023 and the results of its operations, changes in its net financial assets, remeasurement gains and losses and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the County in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Annual Report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditors' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the County's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the County or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance (Council) are responsible for overseeing the County's financial reporting process.

(continues)



Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud
 or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that
 is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material
 misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve
 collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that
 are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the
 effectiveness of the County's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the County's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date or our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Board to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the
 disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a
 manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

METRIX GROUP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Edmonton, Alberta April 16, 2024

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

To the Reeve and Council of Brazeau County

The integrity, relevance and comparability of the data in the accompanying financial statements are the responsibility of management.

The financial statements are the responsibility of management, prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. They necessarily include some amounts that are based on the best estimates and judgments of management.

To assist in its responsibility, management maintains accounting, budget and other controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are appropriately authorized, that assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded, and that financial records are reliable for preparation of financial statements.

Metrix Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, have been appointed by County Council to express an opinion on the County's financial statements.

Colin Swap
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

	2023	2022 (Restated) (Note 20)
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 20,647,033	\$ 25,030,976
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	8,138,645	2,533,557
Land held for resale	14,870	14,870
Investments (Note 4)	22,980,194	22,131,425
	51,780,742	49,710,828
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	3,497,203	4,707,159
Deposit liabilities	73,605	66,955
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	3,048,982	4,731,849
Contaminated sites (Note 7) Asset retirement obligations (Note 8)	804,535 479,000	780,217
Long-term debt (Note 10)	6,741,545	7,881,444
	14,644,870	18,167,624
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	37,135,872	31,543,204
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Note 11)	191,588,864	195,806,371
Inventories for consumption (Note 12)	5,134,610	4,584,656
Prepaid expenses	336,930	307,446
	197,060,404	200,698,473
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (NOTE 13)	\$ 234,196,276	\$ 232,241,677
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS IS COMPRISED OF:	204 204 204	000 500 000
Accumulated surplus from operations Accumulated remeasurement losses	234,261,631 (65,355)	232,583,089 (341,412
Accumulated remeasurement losses	(65,355)	(341,412
	234,196,276	232,241,677
Contingencies (Note 15)		
ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL:		

BRAZEAU COUNTY Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2023	2022
	(Budget) (Note 22)	(Actual)	(Actual)
REVENUE			
Net municipal taxes (Schedule 2)	\$ 25,513,234	\$ 25,659,799	\$ 23,392,985
Government transfers for operating (Schedule 3)	745,993	9,062,243	2,254,145
Investment income	770,000	1,673,811	1,080,279
User fees and sale of goods	563,998	538,502	601,775
Licenses, permits, rentals and fines	248,125	275,890	282,963
Sales to other governments	79,428	164,520	175,601
Penalties on taxes	101,000	87,109	88,751
Other	14,636	35,323	78,049
	28,036,414	37,497,197	27,954,548
EXPENSES			
Roads, streets, walks and lighting	5,851,504	13,367,067	12,738,113
Disaster and emergency measures	50,000	8,974,665	29,009
General and administration	3,930,323	4,505,031	3,166,393
Common equipment pool	4,417,067	2,643,309	4,182,841
Parks and recreation	1,659,676	1,910,806	4,176,560
Economic and agricultural development	1,647,190	1,596,104	2,298,162
Policing	1,227,570	1,244,892	1,028,721
Firefighting services	1,252,519	1,128,792	860,226
Water supply and distribution	712,178	1,069,475	970,964
	922,341	738,468	1,081,904
Land use planning, zoning and development	-	674,184	689,961
Wastewater treatment and disposal Council	310,412	,	809,692
	702,474	670,453	,
Waste management Culture - libraries	471,785	618,252	586,241
	597,582	508,555	531,513
Family and community support services	316,119	304,108	292,022
Storm	25,438	20,470	36,564
Ambulance and first aid	16,500	16,500	15,542
Cemetaries	20,600	12,613	33,501
	24,131,278	40,003,744	33,527,929
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)			<u> </u>
BEFORE OTHER REVENUE (EXPENSES)	3,905,136	(2,506,547)	(5,573,381)
OTHER REVENUE (EXPENSES)			
Government transfers for capital (Schedule 3)	5,913,719	4,523,751	1,529,725
Other	200,000	173,567	182,246
Cash in lieu of parks	-	35,480	5,292
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets		(547,709)	(80,205)
	6,113,719	4,185,089	1,637,058
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	10,018,855	1,678,542	(3,936,323)
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	232,583,089	232,583,089	236,519,412
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	\$ 242,601,944	\$ 234,261,631	\$ 232,583,089

BRAZEAU COUNTY Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

		2023 (Budget) (Note 22)		2023 (Actual)		2022 (Actual) (Restated) (Note 20)
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$	10,018,855	\$	1,678,542	\$	(3,936,323)
Purchase of tangible capital assets Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets Amortization of tangible capital assets Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	Ψ	(8,814,329)	Ψ	(6,132,125) 67,644 9,734,279 547,709	Ψ	(4,910,314) 501,098 9,774,855 80,205
		(8,814,329)		4,217,507		5,445,844
Use (acquisition) of inventory for consumption Use (acquisition) of prepaid expenses Increase (decrease) in accumulated remeasurement gains and losses		-		(549,954) (29,484) 276,057		387,633 (62,666) (335,222)
		_		(303,381)		(10,255)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS		1,204,526		5,592,668		1,499,266
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR		31,543,204		31,543,204		30,043,938
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$	32,747,730	\$	37,135,872	\$	31,543,204

BRAZEAU COUNTY Statement of Remeasurement Gains and Losses For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	(Bud)23 dget) t <i>e 22)</i>	2023 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)
ACCUMULATED REMEASURMENT GAINS (LOSS), BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	\$	-	\$ (341,412)	\$ (6,190)
Unrealized gains (losses) attributable to: Derivative investments		_	276,057	(335,222)
ACCUMULATED REMEASURMENT GAINS (LOSS), END OF YEAR	\$	-	\$ (65,355)	\$ (341,412)

	2023	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ 1,678,542	\$ (3,936,323)
Non-cash items included in annual surplus		00.005
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	547,709	80,205
Amortization of investment premium/discounts Amortization of tangible capital assets	(28,127) 9,734,279	170 9,774,855
Amortization of tangible capital assets	9,734,279	9,774,033
Change in non-cash working capital balances:		
Accounts receivable	(5,605,088)	(848,186)
Prepaid expenses	(29,484)	(62,666)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(1,209,956)	(263,698)
Deferred revenue	(1,682,867)	(577,085)
Inventories for consumption	(549,954)	387,633
Contaminated sites	24,318	46,375
Asset retirement obligations	479,000	-
Deposit liabilities	6,650	3,800
	3,365,022	4,605,080
CADITAL ACTIVITIES		
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES Purchase of tangible capital assets	(6,132,125)	(4,910,314)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	67,644	501,098
Troopede on disposar of tangisto suprial accord	 07,011	001,000
	(6,064,481)	(4,409,216)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Long-term debt principal repayments	(1,139,899)	(1,317,314)
zong tomi dobt principal repaymente	(1,100,000)	 (1,017,011)
	(1,139,899)	(1,317,314)
INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Acquisition of investments	(5,620,966)	(9,147,329)
Proceeds on sale of investments	5,076,381	3,889,100
	 (544,585)	 (5,258,229)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
DURING THE YEAR	(4,383,943)	(6,379,679)
CACH AND CACH FOUNTAL ENTO DECIDING OF VEAD	05 000 075	04 440 055
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	25,030,976	 31,410,655
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 20,647,033	\$ 25,030,976

	2023	2022
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$188,904,310	\$193,032,840
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	6,132,125	4,910,314
Cost of tangible capital assets disposed of	(1,367,595)	(1,104,584)
Accumulated amortization of tangible capital assets disposed of	752,242	523,281
Amortization of tangible capital assets	(9,734,279)	(9,774,855)
Asset retirement obligations (Note 8)	(39,000)	-
Long-term capital debt repayments	1,139,899	1,317,314
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$185,787,702	\$188,904,310
Equity in Tangible Capital Assets is Comprised of the Following:		
Tangible capital assets net book value	\$191,588,864	\$195,806,371
Asset retirement obligations (Note 8)	(39,000)	-
Long-term debt used for tangible capital assets	(5,762,162)	(6,902,061)
		* 4 0 0 0 0 4 0 4 0
	\$185,787,702	\$188,904,310

	2023 (Budget) <i>(Note 22)</i>	2023 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)
TAXATION			
Real property taxes	\$ 13,638,445	\$ 13,686,352	\$ 12,951,325
Linear property taxes	21,785,672	21,809,238	20,536,830
Government grants in lieu of property taxes	9,121	9,121	8,608
	35,433,238	35,504,711	33,496,763
REQUISITIONS			
Alberta School Foundation Fund	(9,128,032)	(9,128,823)	(9,360,944)
Brazeau Seniors Foundation	(762,515)	(762,515)	(759,425)
Designated industrial property	(189,457)	(188,730)	(178,546)
	(10,080,004)	(10,080,068)	(10,298,915)
OTHER TAXES			
Community aggregate levy	160,000	235,156	195,137
NET MUNICIPAL TAXES	\$ 25,513,234	\$ 25,659,799	\$ 23,392,985

	2023 (Budget) (Note 22)	2023 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)
TRANSFERS FOR OPERATING Provincial government Local governments	\$ 739,344 6,649	\$ 9,058,329 3,914	\$ 2,141,429 112,716
	745,993	9,062,243	2,254,145
TRANSFERS FOR CAPITAL Provincial government Federal government Local governments	5,913,719 - -	4,341,135 182,616 -	1,529,725 - -
	5,913,719	4,523,751	1,529,725
TOTAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	\$ 6.659.712	\$ 13.585.994	\$ 3,783,870

BRAZEAU COUNTY Schedule of Segmented Information For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Schedule 4

	General Administration		ecreation and Culture		Protective Services		olic Works an ansportation Services	d	Utilities		All Other	То	otal
REVENUE													
Net municipal taxes	\$ 1,854,343	\$	1,849,594	\$	2,686,465	\$	7,741,158	\$	1,441,993	\$	10,086,246	\$ 256	659,799
Government transfers	Ψ 1,004,040	Ψ	238,026	Ψ	8,171,116	Ψ	7,741,100	Ψ	-	Ψ	653,101	. ,	062,243
Investment income	1,673,811		200,020		0,171,110		_		_		-	,	673,811
User fees and sales of goods	13,606		96,774		2,105		183,648		221,762		20,607	,	538,502
All other	105,791		-		141,613		37,501		-		2,047		286,952
Licenses, permits, rentals and fines	-				95,531		64,755		_		115,604		275,890
	3,647,551		2,184,394		11,096,830		8,027,062		1,663,755		10,877,605	37,4	497,197
EXPENSES													
Contract and general services	1,146,365		162,855		8,612,315		683,264		692,136		697,301	11.9	994,236
Salaries, wages and benefits	2,231,672		342,520		454,227		3,987,355		593,676		1,984,020		593,470
Materials, goods and supplies	213,924		19,320		656,449		3,607,200		141,851		54,798		593,542
Transfers to other governments	-		1,464,533		651,086		64,684		-		254,142		134,445
Other expenses	23,663		-		701,130		5,757		163,969		26,876		921,395
Transfers to boards,							,						,
agencies and organizations	-		195,166		21,500		-		-		192,736	4	109,402
Interest on long-term debt	1,569		-		123		118,802		72,537		_	1	193,031
Bad debts (recovery)	30,358		-		-		_		(414)				29,944
	3,647,551		2,184,394		11,096,830		8,467,062		1,663,755		3,209,873	30,2	269,465
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT) BEFORE AMORTIZATION	-		, <u>,</u>		-		(440,000)		-		7,667,732	7,2	227,732
Amortization of tangible capital assets	857,480		234,967		268,019		7,563,784		698,156		111,873	9,7	734,279
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT)	\$ (857,480)) \$	(234,967)	\$	(268,019)	\$	(8,003,784)	\$	(698,156)	\$	7,555,859	\$ (2,5	506,547)

BRAZEAU COUNTY Schedule of Segmented Information For The Year Ended December 31, 2022

Schedule 5

	General Administration	Recreation and Culture	Protective Services	Public Works an Transportation Services		All Other	Total
REVENUE							
Net municipal taxes	\$ 1,131,096	\$ 2,733,652	\$ 1,418,718	\$ 8,918,110	\$ 1,360,382	\$ 7,831,027	\$ 23,392,985
Government transfers	Ψ 1,101,000	1,567,338	Ψ 1,410,710	Ψ 0,510,110	Ψ 1,000,002	686,807	2,254,145
Investment income	1,080,279	-	_	_	_	-	1,080,279
User fees and sales of goods	10,610	113,203	76	282,922	191,794	3,170	601,775
All other	92,954	-	151,033		-	30,925	342,401
Oil well drilling taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licenses, permits, rentals and fines	-	-	102,650	75,597	-	104,716	282,963
	2,314,939	4,414,193	1,672,477	9,344,118	1,552,176	8,656,645	27,954,548
	2,011,000	1,111,100	1,072,477	0,044,110	1,002,170	0,000,040	27,004,040
EXPENSES							
Salaries, wages and benefits	1,242,166	302,122	338,773	4,251,339	548,081	2,412,472	9,094,953
Transfers to other governments	-	3,756,811	545,857	68,000	-	423,652	4,794,320
Contract and general services	912,393	155,967	182,763	1,199,245	586,052	1,281,338	4,317,758
Materials, goods and supplies	143,597	15,740	65,577	3,688,686	171,689	123,498	4,208,787
Other expenses (recovery)	14,838	6,651	519,831	6,667	146,538	48,792	743,317
Transfers to boards,							
agencies and organizations	-	232,556	19,542		-	109,765	361,863
Interest on long-term debt	1,706	-	134	130,181	99,816	-	231,837
Bad debts	239						239
	2,314,939	4,469,847	1,672,477	9,344,118	1,552,176	4,399,517	23,753,074
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT) BEFORE AMORTIZATION	-	(55,654)	-	-	-	4,257,128	4,201,474
Amortization of tangible capital assets	851,454	238,226	261,021	7,613,400	694,990	115,764	9,774,855
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT)	\$ (851,454)	\$ (293,880)	\$ (261,021) \$ (7,613,400)	\$ (694,990)	\$ 4,141,364	\$ (5,573,381)

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements are the representations of Brazeau County (the "County") management prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the County are as follows:

(a) Reporting Entity

These financial statements include the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses and changes in equity balances and in financial position of the County. This entity is comprised of all the organizations that are owned or controlled by the County and are, therefore, accountable to the Council for the administration of their financial affairs and resources.

The schedule of taxes levied includes requisitions for education and senior foundations that are not part of the municipal reporting entity.

(b) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting recognizes revenue as it is earned and measurable. Expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable based upon receipt of goods or services and/or the legal obligation to pay.

Funds from external parties and earnings thereon restricted by agreement or legislation are accounted for as deferred revenue until used for the purpose specified.

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenue in the period in which the events giving rise to the transfer occurred, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met by the municipality, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made.

Expenses are recognized in the period the goods and services are acquired and a liability is incurred or transfers are due.

(c) Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Where measurement uncertainty exists, the consolidated financial statements have been prepared within reasonable limits of materiality. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The County has used estimates to determine an allowance for doubtful accounts, accrued liabilities, post employment benefits, contaminated sites, asset retirement obligations and the useful lives of tangible capital assets.

(d) Valuation of financial assets and liabilities

The County's financial assets and liabilities are measured as follows:

Cash

Accounts receivables

Investments

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

Deposit liabilities

Asset retirement obligations

Long-term debt

Derivatives

Cost and amortized cost

Lower of cost or net recoverable value

Fair value and amortized cost

Cost Cost

Cost or present value

Amortized cost

Fair value

(CONT'D)

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

(d) Valuation of financial assets and liabilities (cont'd)

For financial assets and liabilities measured at amortized cost, the effective interest rate method is used to determine interest revenue or expense. Transaction costs are a component of cost for financial assets and liabilities that are measured at cost or amortized cost and expensed when measured at fair value.

(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include items that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash, are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value, and have a maturity of three months or less at acquisition.

(f) Investments

The County holds derivatives in the form of principal protected notes which are recorded at fair value in the statement of financial position. Unrealized gains and losses from changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognized in the statement of remeasurement gains and losses. Upon settlement, the realized gains and losses are reclassified as revenue or expense in the statement of operations.

(g) Excess Collections and Under-levies

Excess collections and under-levies arise from the difference between the actual levy made to cover each requisition and the actual amount requisitioned. If the actual levy exceeds the requisition, the excess collection is accrued as a liability.

In situations where the actual levy is less than the requisition amount, the under-levy is accrued as a receivable.

(h) Tax Revenue

Property tax revenue is based on market value of assessments determined in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*. Tax rates are established annually. Taxation revenues are recorded at the time tax notices are issued. Assessments are subject to appeal.

Construction and borrowing costs associated with local improvement projects are recovered through annual special property tax assessments during the period of the related borrowings. These levies are collectible from property owners for work performed by the County and are recognized as revenue in the year they are levied.

(i) Post Employment Benefits

Upon full retirement, after the age of fifty-five (55), County employees are entitled to be paid out between twenty-five (25%) and fifty percent (50%) of their remaining accumulated sick leave days proportionate their length of service. The cost of this post employment benefit is recognized as an expense as the employees provide service.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

(j) Asset retirement obligations

During 2023, the County adopted *PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations* prospectively which provides guidance on how to account for and report liabilities for retirement of tangible capital assets.

Asset retirement obligations are legal obligations associated with the retirement of tangible capital assets. Asset retirement activities include all activities relating to an asset retirement obligation including, but not limited to, decommissioning or dismantling, remediation of contamination, post-retirement activities such as monitoring, and constructing other tangible capital assets to perform post-retirement activities.

A liability for asset retirement obligation is recognized when there is a legal obligation to incur retirement costs, the past transaction or event giving rise to the liability as occurred, it is expected that future economic benefits will be given up, and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

When a liability for asset retirement obligation is recognized, asset retirement costs related to recognized tangible capital assets in productive use are capitalized by increasing the carrying value of the related asset and are amortized over the estimated useful life of the underlying tangible capital asset. Asset retirement costs related to unrecognised tangible capital assets and those not in productive use are expensed.

(k) Contaminated Sites

Contaminated sites are a result of contamination being introduced into air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic or radioactive material or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard. The liability is recorded net of any expected recoveries. A liability for remediation of a contaminated site is recognized when a site is not in productive use and is management's estimate of the cost of post-remediation including operation, maintenance and monitoring.

(I) Non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the normal course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenues over expenses, provides the Change in Net Financial Assets for the year.

i) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets is amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land improvements	15 - 30 years
Buildings	20 - 50 years
Engineered structures	
Roadways	
Gravel	20 years
Тор	20 years
Base	30 years
Bridges and culverts	30 - 142 years
Wastewater systems	20 - 75 years
Water systems	35 - 75 years
Machinery and equipment	10 - 20 years
Vehicles	10 - 20 years

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

i) Tangible Capital Assets (cont'd)

One-half of the annual amortization is charged in the year of acquisition and in the year of disposal. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at fair value at the date of receipt and also are recorded as revenue.

Works of art for display are not recorded as tangible capital assets but are disclosed.

ii) Leases

Leases are classified as capital or operating leases. Leases which transfer substantially all of the benefits and risks incidental to ownership of property are accounted for as capital leases. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related lease payments are charged to expenses as incurred.

iii) Inventories for Consumption

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value with cost determined by the average cost method.

Land held for resale is recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value on a specific item basis. Cost includes costs for land acquisition and improvements required to prepare the land for servicing such as clearing, stripping, and levelling charges. Related development costs incurred to provide infrastructure such as water and wastewater services, roads, sidewalks, and street lighting are recorded as property and equipment under their respective function.

(m) New Accounting Standards not yet Adopted

Effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2023, *PS 3400 Revenue* provides guidance on how to account for and report revenue, and specifically, it addresses revenue arising from exchange transactions and unilateral transactions

20. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 2023 2022 Operating bank accounts Temporary investments Savings bank accounts \$ 10,161,978 \$ 10,325,663 14,394,702 14,394,7

Temporary investments consist of 31-90 day notice on amount accounts and Short-term Investment Certificates. The Short-term Investment Certificates bear interest at rates ranging between 5.66% - 5.89% and maturing in February and March 2024.

3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2023	2022
Receivables from other governments Trade and other Taxes and grants in place of taxes	\$ 6,987,879 581,967 568,799	\$ 1,623,223 540,252 370,082
	\$ 8,138,645	\$ 2,533,557
Taxes and grants in place of taxes consist of the following:		
Current taxes	207,692	(17,321)
Tax arrears	578,523	604,819
	786,215	587,498
Less: Allowance for doubtful taxes	(217,416)	(217,416)
	\$ 568,799	\$ 370,082

Taxes are considered past due when the property owner has not made a payment by the outlined due date. The table that follows presents the carrying value of tax arrears at year-end that are past due but not included in the allowance for doubtful taxes because they are fully secured by the value of the propety and collection efforts are reasonably expected to result in repayment.

	One year	_	Гwo years		hree years and greater		2023 Total
Tax arrears	\$ 84,255	\$	51,441	\$	225,411	\$	361,107
	One year	Т	wo years	Three years and greater			2022 Total
Tax arrears	\$ 115,021	\$	83,355	\$	189,027	\$	387,403

4. INVESTMENTS

	20	23	2	022		
	Carrying	Market	Carrying	Market		
	Value	Value	Value	Value		
Corporate bonds - amortized cost	\$ 16,351,950	\$ 15,832,271	\$ 16,965,437	\$ 15,978,506		
Principal-protected notes (b)	5,763,544	5,763,544	4,301,288	4,301,288		
Principle at risk notes (b)	864,700	864,700	864,700	864,700		
	\$ 22,980,194	\$ 22,460,515	\$ 22,131,425	\$ 21,144,494		

Corporate bonds have coupon interest rates between 1.610% to 6.034% (2022 - 1.610% - 4.859%) with maturity dates from June 2024 to September 2033.

Derivative investments have maturity dates from January 2029 to April 2032 and are carried at fair market value in which the measurements are derived from:

- a) Level 1 Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets.
- b) Level 2 Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the assets, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices).

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

	2023	2022
Trade and other accounts payable	\$ 2,907,167	\$ 4,155,632
Accrued vacation pay	394,805	359,659
Post-employment benefits (Note 1 (i))	159,635	149,858
Accrued interest on long-term debt	 35,596	42,010
	\$ 3,497,203	\$ 4,707,159

6. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue is comprised of the following amounts which have been received from third parties for a specified purpose. Additions are comprised of both contributions and interest earned during the year. These amounts are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related costs are incurred.

	2022			Additions	Revenue Recognized	2023
Canada Community-Building Fund Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater	\$	488,627	\$	521,460	\$ -	\$ 1,010,087
Partnership		593,395		311,860	-	905,255
Municipal Sustainability Initiative - capital Strategic Transportation Infrastructure		3,538,814		1,414,857	(4,110,140)	843,531
Program		-		135,601	(13,438)	122,163
Government of Canada		-		102,390	-	102,390
Other		60,746		89,583	(92,384)	57,945
Brazeau Slowpitch Society		-		181,178	(173,567)	7,611
Family and Community Support Services		50,267		-	(50,267)	-
	\$	4,731,849	\$	2,756,929	\$ (4,439,796)	\$ 3,048,982

1,7 0 1,9 10 \$ 2,7 00,020 \$ (1,100,700) \$ 0,010,000

7. CONTAMINATED SITES

Contaminated sites are a result of contamination being introduced into the air, soil, water, or sediment of a chemical, organic, or radioactive material, or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard.

Based on an external consultant's report, the County has ascertained liabilities for two contaminated sites due to soil contamination. The County has accepted responsibility to perform remediation work on the two parcels of land for soil contamination. The remediation will result in the removal of an estimated 5,750 cubic meters of soil from both sites. Currently, there is no time frame as to when the remediation will be completed. This estimated liability is based on an estimated 5,750 cubic meters of soil being excavated and disposed off-lease.

8. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION

Gravel sites

The County has asset retirement obligations pursuant to the *Environmental Enhancement and Protection Act* (Alberta) to fund the future reclamation of its work sites. Reclamation activities include the final soil cover, landscaping, and visual inspection. Although, the timing of the work site\ reclamation is conditional on the length of time until the site is expected to be inactive, regulations create an existing obligation for the County to reclaim the work site when the asset retirement activity occurs. The obligations are measured at the current cost due to the uncertainty about when the retirement and reclamation activities are expected to occur.

Buildinas

The County has asset retirement obligations to remove various hazardous materials including, asbestos, lead, mercury, and mold from buildings under its control. Regulations require the County to handle and dispose of these materials in a prescribed manner when it is disturbed, such as when when the building undergoes renovations or is demolished. Although the timing of the removal is conditional on the building undergoing renovations or being demolished, regulations create an existing obligation for the County to remove the materials when the asset retirement activities occur.

	2023	2022
Balance, beginning of year Net Change for the year:	\$ -	\$ -
Initial adoption	479,000	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 479,000	\$ -

The obligations of \$479,000 (2022 - \$NIL) are measured at the current cost due to the uncertainty about when the retirement and reclamation activities are expected to occur.

9. CREDIT FACILITY

The County has a demand revolving operating credit facility to a maximum of \$2,000,000 bearing interest at prime less 0.75% per annum. The credit facility was not drawn upon as of December 31, 2023 or 2022.

10. LONG-TERM DEBT				
			2023	2022
Alberta Capital Financing Auth bearing interest at fixed rates r per annum maturing between 2	anging from 2.30% to 5.75%	\$	6,576,555	\$ 7,700,019
Obligation under capital leases interest and a rate of 1.57%, m			164,990	181,425
		\$	6,741,545	\$ 7,881,444
Tax supported debt Self supported debt		\$	6,741,545 -	\$ 7,876,309 5,135
		\$	6,741,545	\$ 7,881,444
Principal and interest payment	s are due as follows:			
	<u>Princi</u>	pal	Interest	<u>Total</u>
2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 Thereafter	975 1,001 1,028	,542 ,001	171,753 146,319 120,199 93,375 70,038 178,725	\$ 1,122,317 1,122,183 1,122,049 1,121,917 491,039 2,542,449
	\$ 6,741	,545 \$	780,409	\$ 7,521,954

Interest on long-term debt amounted to \$193,031 (2022 - \$231,837).

The County's total cash payments for interest in 2023 were \$199,424 (2022 - \$234,128).

						2023		202
						Net Bo	ok	
	-							
Engineered Structures	;							400.00
Roadways					\$	125,663,768	\$	126,82
Wastewater systems						16,789,331		17,16
Water systems						12,789,567		13,07
Storm systems						1,000,330		1,01
						156,242,996		158,08
Buildings						13,028,699		13,92
Land						6,533,051		6,48
Machinery and equipme	nt					5,202,725		6,20
Land improvements	111					4,588,156		4,80
Vehicles						2,718,869		2,45
Construction in progress	5					3,274,368		3,85
				Sec. 10	\$	191,588,864	\$	195,80
	Cost							Cost
	Beginning of	of						End c
	Year		Additions		Disposals	Transfers		Year
Engineering Structures	8							
Roadways	\$ 372,872,32	25	\$ 1,646,581	\$	(507,061) \$	3,503,258	\$	377 51
Wastewater systems	21,666,99		φ 1,040,001	Ψ	(307,001) ψ	0,000,200	Ψ	21,66
Water systems	16,046,33							16,04
Storm systems	1,263,6							1,26
Storin systems	1,203,0	12	_				_	1,20
	411,849,27	73	1,646,581		(507,061)	3,503,258		416,49
Machinery and								
equipment	17,101,68	38	107,953		(39,736)	15,343		17,18
Vehicles	6,561,79	91	76,055		(289,353)	650,833		6,99
Buildings	25,019,62	23	39,000		-	-		25,05
Land	6,488,23		44,813		-	-		6,53
Land improvements	8,566,0		-		-	94,441		8,66
Construction in progress			4,217,723		(531,445)	(4,263,875)		3,27
- construction in progress				Φ.			Φ.	
	\$ 479,438,63		\$ 6,132,125	Ф	(1,367,595) \$	_		484,20
	Accumulate							ccumul
	Amortizatio						Α	Amortiza
	Beginning of)†	Current					End o
	Year		Amortization		Disposals	Transfers		Year
Engineered Structures	.							
Roadways	\$ 246,051,87	76	\$ 6,293,093	\$	(493,634) \$	-	\$	251,85
Wastewater systems	4,500,17		377,493	,	-	-	-	4,87
Water systems	2,967,78		288,990		-	-		3,25
Storm systems	246,50		16,778		-	_		26
	253,766,33	35	6,976,354		(493,634)	-		260,24
Machinery, equipment,								
and furnishings	10,900,00	77	1,116,298		(33,782)	_		11,98
Vehicles	4,107,29		397,992		(224,826)	-		4,28
Buildings	11,093,97		935,946		(224,020)	-		12,02
	3,764,64		307,689		-	-		4,07
Land improvements								
Land improvements	3,7 5 1,6							292,61

12. INVE	NTODIES FOR CONSUMPTION			
	NTORIES FOR CONSUMPTION	2023		2022
	nd and gravel ts, chemicals, and other	\$ 4,746,025 388,585		331,90
		\$ 5,134,610	5	4,584,65
3. ACC	JMULATED SURPLUS	2023		2022
	restricted surplus stricted surplus	\$ 25,377,201	\$	23,493,59
C	perating restricted surplus (Note 14) apital restricted surplus (Note 14)	920,194 21,835,122		848,77 19,330,21
	uity in tangible capital assets (Schedule 1) ange in accumulated remeasurements gains (losses)	185,787,702 276,057		188,904,31 (335,22
		\$ 234,196,276	\$	232,241,67
4. RES	TRICTED SURPLUS	2023		2022
	ERATING RESTRICTED SURPLUS			
G	eneral operating	\$ 920,194	\$	848,773
CA	PITAL RESTRICTED SURPLUS			
	eferred capital projects	\$ 4,639,513	\$	2,754,849
	ajor facility capital investment	4,393,224		4,723,275
	ngineering structures	3,154,825		2,909,949
	quipment replacement	1,660,007		439,125
	oads	1,437,421		2,651,106
F	ire equipment	1,028,215		1,387,686
	eferred projects ecreation facilities (Willey West)	1,012,175		1,618,716
D	ecreanon facilites (VVIIIeV VVESI)	722 212		276 2/1
		723,212		376,241
В	uildings	698,048		218,865
B S	uildings ewer capital replacement	698,048 663,680		218,865 573,800
B S C	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities	698,048 663,680 426,247		218,865 573,800 343,408
B S C W	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities /ater capital replacement	698,048 663,680 426,247 387,473		218,865 573,800 343,408 341,045
B S C W P	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities /ater capital replacement arks-cash in lieu	698,048 663,680 426,247 387,473 359,944		218,865 573,800 343,408 341,045 287,882
B S C W P C	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities /ater capital replacement arks-cash in lieu ommitted funds	698,048 663,680 426,247 387,473		376,241 218,865 573,800 343,408 341,045 287,882 275,645
B S C W P C	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities /ater capital replacement arks-cash in lieu	698,048 663,680 426,247 387,473 359,944 298,841		218,865 573,800 343,408 341,045 287,882
B S C W P C U	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities /ater capital replacement arks-cash in lieu ommitted funds tility servicing	698,048 663,680 426,247 387,473 359,944 298,841 261,121		218,865 573,800 343,408 341,045 287,882 275,645
B C W P C U	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities /ater capital replacement arks-cash in lieu ommitted funds tility servicing ff-site levies	698,048 663,680 426,247 387,473 359,944 298,841 261,121 242,570		218,865 573,800 343,408 341,045 287,882 275,645 47,588 120,814
B C W P C U C A A	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities /ater capital replacement arks-cash in lieu ommitted funds tility servicing ff-site levies lternate land use services	698,048 663,680 426,247 387,473 359,944 298,841 261,121 242,570 187,128		218,865 573,800 343,408 341,045 287,882 275,645 47,588 120,814 157,893 61,455
B S C W P C U C A A A L	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities /ater capital replacement arks-cash in lieu ommitted funds tility servicing ff-site levies lternate land use services lternate energy program lberta water and wastewater and surplus	698,048 663,680 426,247 387,473 359,944 298,841 261,121 242,570 187,128 150,535 66,626 41,907		218,865 573,800 343,408 341,045 287,882 275,645 47,588 120,814 157,893 61,455 38,654
B C W P C U C A A A L	uildings ewer capital replacement ultural facilities /ater capital replacement arks-cash in lieu ommitted funds tility servicing ff-site levies lternate land use services lternate energy program lberta water and wastewater	698,048 663,680 426,247 387,473 359,944 298,841 261,121 242,570 187,128 150,535 66,626		218,865 573,800 343,408 341,045 287,882 275,645 47,588 120,814 157,893

15. CONTINGENCIES

The County is a member of the Alberta Municipal Insurance Exchange. Under the terms of membership, the County could become liable for its proportionate share of any claim losses in excess of the funds held by the exchange. Any liability incurred would be accounted for as a current transaction in the year the losses are determined.

The County is a defendant in various lawsuits as at December 31, 2023. Where the outcome of a claim against the County is considered likely to result in a loss and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, accrued liabilities have been recorded. Where the resulting potential losses, if any, cannot be determined or the occurence of future events is unknown, accrued liabilities have not been established.

16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The County is exposed to the following risks in respect of its financial instruments at December 31, 2023.

Credit risk

The County is exposed to credit risk with respect to receivables. Credit risk arises from the possibility that customers may experience financial difficulty and be unable to fulfill their obligations. The County is exposed to the credit risk associated with fluctuations in the oil and gas industry as a significant portion of the property taxes outstanding at December 31, 2023 relate to linear property and are receivable from companies in the oil and gas industry. The large number and diversity of customers minimizes the County's credit risk.

Marker price risk

Market price risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual security, its issuer or general market factors affecting all securities.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the County will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with its financial liabilities. The County maintains cash balances to ensure that funds are available to meet current and forecasted financial requirements. Management continues to monitor the County's liquidity position on a regular basis.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the County's annual surplus will be affected by the fluctuation and degree of volatility in interest rates. Interest rate risk on the County's long-term debt is managed through fixed rate debentures with the Province of Alberta (Note 10).

17. SEGMENTED INFORMATION

The County provides a wide range of services to its citizens. For each reported segment, revenues and expenses represent both amounts that are directly attributable to the segment and amounts that are allocated on a reasonable basis. The accounting policies used in these segments are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the financial statements as disclosed in Note 1. For additional information see the Schedule of Segment Disclosure (Schedule 4).

18. REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of remuneration and benefits for elected municipal officials, the County Manager and designated officers as required by Alberta Regulation 313/2000 is as follows:

			р.		2023	2022
	Rei	muneration	Benefits and Allowances		Total	Total
Reeve and Councillors						
B. Guyon (Reeve)	\$	74,120	\$	22,548	\$ 96,668	\$ 90,973
D. Wiltse		46,229		19,500	65,729	66,137
K. Westerlund		46,048		19,584	65,632	60,438
D. Ekstrom		40,625		18,521	59,146	61,463
C. Brooks		38,887		13,209	52,096	55,050
A. Heinrich		39,159		7,470	46,629	45,618
G. Gunderson		26,000		11,921	37,921	-
R. Swap		2,050		1,103	3,153	68,842
	\$	313,118	\$	113,856	\$ 426,974	\$ 448,521
Chief Administrative Officer (1)	\$	172,820	\$	40,219	\$ 213,039	\$ 75,024
Designated Officers (6)	\$	750,264	\$	173,088	\$ 923,352	\$ 907,087

- 1) Salary includes regular base pay, bonuses, overtime, lump sum payments, gross honoraria and any other direct cash remuneration including per diem amounts.
- 2) Employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees, including pension, health care, dental coverage, vision coverage, group life insurance, accidental disability and dismemberment insurance, long and short term disability plans, professional memberships and tuition.
- 3) Benefits and allowances include the employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees, and the employer's share of the costs of any additional taxable benefits.

19. LOCAL AUTHORITIES PENSION PLAN

Union employees of the County participate in the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP), which is one of the plans covered by the *Public Sector Pension Plans Act*. The LAPP is financed by employer and employee contributions and investment earnings of the LAPP Fund.

Contributions for current service are recorded as expenses in the year in which they become due.

The County is required to make current service contributions to the LAPP of 8.45% of pensionable earnings up to the year's maximum pensionable earnings under the Canada Pension Plan and 12.23% on pensionable earnings above this amount. Employees of the County are required to make current service contributions of 7.45% of pensionable earnings up to the year's maximum pensionable earnings and 11.23% on pensionable earnings above this amount.

Total current service contributions by the County to the LAPP in 2023 were \$240,737 (2022 - \$234,006). Total current service contributions by the employees of the County to the LAPP in 2023 were \$214,331 (2022 - \$208,576).

At December 31, 2022 the Plan disclosed an actuarial surplus of \$12.67 billion (2021 \$11.92 billion).

20. RESTATEMENT

Effective January 1, 2023, the County adopted *PS 3450 Financial Instruments* retroactively and comparative figures have been restated.

The effect of these changes on the comparative figures have resulted in decreases in investments, accumulated remeasurement losses, and accumulated surplus in the amount of \$341,412.

21. DEBT LIMITS

Section 276(2) of the *Municipal Government Act* requires that debt and debt limits, as defined by Alberta Regulation 255/00, for the County be disclosed as follows:

	2023	2022
Total debt limit Total debt	\$ 56,245,796 (6,741,545)	\$ 41,931,822 (7,881,444)
Amount of debt limit unused	\$ 49,504,251	\$ 34,050,378
Service on debt limit Service on debt	\$ 9,374,299 (1,122,317)	\$ 6,988,637 (1,339,334)
Amount of debt servicing limit unused	\$ 8,251,982	\$ 5,649,303

The debt limit is calculated at 1.5 times revenue of the County (as defined in Alberta Regulation 255/00) and the debt service limit is calculated at 0.25 times such revenue. Incurring debt beyond these limits requires approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. These thresholds are guidelines used by Alberta Municipal Affairs to identify municipalities, which could be at financial risk if further debt is acquired. The calculation taken alone does not represent the financial stability of the County. Rather, the financial statements must be interpreted as a whole.

22. BUDGET FIGURES

The budget figures presented in these financial statements are based on thebudget approved by Council on April 12, 2023.

The table below reconciles the approved budget figures reported in these financial statements.

	\$	4,413,698
Transfers from capital reserves		2,750,610
Transfers from operating reserves		458,562
Add back:		(0,014,020)
Purchase of tangible capital assets		(8,814,329)
Deduct:	· ·	,,
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$	10.018.855

23. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's financial statement presentation.

24. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by Council.