

Recreation and Culture 2024-2025 Business Plan and Budget

ISSUE

City Council approval is required in order to set the Operating and Capital Business Plan and Budget for 2024 and 2025. The figures in this report are stated as 2024 and 2025 respectively, unless otherwise noted.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Recreation and Culture Business Line Operating Budget for 2024 totalling \$66,304,700 in expenditures and \$26,972,300 in revenues be approved, which includes adjustments made through the 2023 special budget meetings as outlined in Appendix 1; subject to adjustments under the Business Plan Options section of the agenda;
2. That the Recreation and Culture Business Line Operating Plan for 2025 totalling \$67,966,000 in expenditures and \$28,104,700 in revenues be approved, which includes adjustments made through the 2023 special budget meetings as outlined in Appendix 1; subject to adjustments under the Business Plan Options section of the agenda;
3. That the 2024 Capital Budget totalling \$7,317,000 be approved, subject to adjustments under the Business Plan Options section of the agenda;
4. That the 2025 Capital Plan totalling \$11,724,000 be approved, subject to adjustments under the Business Plan Options section of the agenda;
5. That the rates for indoor arenas for 2024 and 2025, effective October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2026, as included in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved;
6. That rates and fees for Charge for Use sport fields for 2024 and 2025, effective January 1, 2024, as included in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved;
7. That the Nutrien Playland at Kinsmen Park (Nutrien Playland) admission rates and group rental rates for 2024 and 2025, effective January 1, 2024, as included in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved;
8. That the Special Event Application Fee for 2024 and 2025, effective January 1, 2024, as included in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved;
9. That the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo (SFFPZ) 2024 and 2025 rates and 2024 to 2026 rental fees, as included in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved;
10. That the Gordon Howe Campground rates and fees for 2024 and 2025, effective January 1, 2024, as included in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved;
11. That the Indoor Leisure Centres and Outdoor Pools rental rates for the period of September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026, as included in the 2024/2025

- Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved;
12. That the Indoor Leisure Centres and Outdoor Pools rates for Registered Programs and Admissions for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026, as included in the 2024/25 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved; and
 13. That the golf course rates and fees for the three City of Saskatoon municipal golf courses, effective April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2026, as included in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget, be approved.

BACKGROUND

At the [July 25, 2023](#), [August 15, 2023](#) and [August 31, 2023](#) Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) special budget meetings, GPC made numerous decisions that are now included in the 2024-2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget Document. The details of these decisions and previous adjustments that impact this business line are included in Appendix 1. Through approval of the recommendations in this report, the adjustments directed by City Council for this Business Line as part of the Special budget meetings will be confirmed and implemented as part of the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget. If City Council wishes to adjust any of the previously directed changes, direction through a resolution would be required.

The 2024-2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget was released on November 9, 2023.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Preliminary Budget includes a total of \$66,304,700 and \$67,966,000 in expenditures, in 2024 and 2025 respectively, for the Recreation and Culture Business Line. Increases of \$3,963,800 (6.4%) and \$1,661,300 (2.5%) are projected, mainly due to the following:

- The Parks Maintenance and Design Service Line is projecting increases of \$2,097,000 and \$758,900. The increase in Parks is largely due to the transfer in of Parks Department Management and Administrative staff, from the Corporate Support Service Line, to align costs with the services provided. Included in this transfer is 8.7 FTEs and a total operating budget of \$1,208,700. Additionally, as the city expands and more parks, open space areas and trees are added, additional funding is required to maintain service levels. An additional 18.87 hectares and 16.98 hectares are expected to open in 2024 and 2025, requiring a budget increase of \$275,400 and \$250,100.
- The Golf Courses Service Line is projecting expenditure increases of \$656,300 in 2024. This is largely due to an anticipated increase in revenues, and because this is a fully cost recovered Service Line, the contribution to Golf Course Capital Reserve has increased by \$444,700, to offset revenue and expenditure changes along with the contribution to the stabilization reserve, bringing the total annual contribution to \$701,600.

- Leisure Centre Rentals Service Line is projecting increases of \$373,500 and \$284,800. This is mainly due to inflationary adjustments for building maintenance, reserve contributions, administrative support and utility rate changes, which are partially offset by a share of costs recovered from the libraries. Additionally, a reduction in expenditures of \$50,000 to promotional expenditures was included as well as an increase of \$54,300, in 2024, for enhanced security at Cosmo Civic Centre and Shaw Centre.
- Other changes within various service lines are largely related to anticipated cost increases as a result of collective agreements and other inflationary and growth-related expenditures required in order to maintain the existing service level.

This business line also includes an increase in non-tax revenues of \$1,720,600 (6.8%) and \$1,132,400 (4.2%). These changes in non-tax revenues are largely due to increases in admission rates, specifically:

- Golf Courses anticipate increases of \$656,300 and \$97,900, due to increases in the number of rounds played, driving range and trackage revenue increases and rate increases for green fees.
- Leisure Centres – Programs anticipate an increase of \$398,000 and \$451,800. These changes are due to expected increases in admission and registration rates and the number of registrations.
- River Landing expects an increase in revenue, in 2024, of \$276,900. This is mainly due to parkade revenue of \$171,400 and street parking revenue of \$87,500, due to rate increases.

The projected property tax support provided to this business line is \$39,332,400 and \$39,861,300, which is an increase of \$2,243,200 (6.0%) and \$528,900 (1.3%). The change in property tax support is due to net impact of the increases and decreases in expenditures and revenues as previously outlined in this report.

Recreation and Culture Business Line Capital Budget

The Recreation and Culture Business Line includes \$7,317,000 and \$11,724,000 in funded capital projects, most notably:

- \$2,000,000, in 2024, in the Community Partnerships Service Line for the design of a new White Buffalo Youth Lodge, funded through the Major Capital Project Funding Plan;
- \$1,175,000 and \$875,000 for the planned replacement of major golf course equipment; this allows the civic golf courses to be maintained at the standard of play expected by the patrons. In addition, both 2024 and 2025 include provisions for driving range netting upgrades. This project is funded by the Golf Course Capital Reserve;
- \$287,000 and \$7,806,000 for the retrofit, repair and upgrade of Archibald Arena funded through the Major Capital Project Funding Plan

and a contribution from the Civic Buildings Comprehensive Maintenance Reserve; and

- \$2,270,000 and \$2,105,000 for the Parks Maintenance & Design Service Line largely due to the Park Upgrades, Enhancements & Repairs capital project which includes park upgrades, enhancements and repairs, including asphalt, irrigation, drainage, lighting and grading repairs at various parks.

Fee, Rate, Bylaw and Policy Changes

Additional information on recommended changes are provided in Appendix 2.

Additional Options

At the August 31, 2023 GPC special meeting the [Recreation and Culture Business Line](#) information was presented and is included as in Appendix 2. Within that report there were options for budget reductions that were not recommended by Administration, but City Council could still choose to include these options within the 2024-2025 Budget. City Council prioritized these remaining options and the results of that prioritization were presented within Appendix 1 of [the 2024 and 2025 Prioritized Budget Options](#) report at the September 13, 2023 GPC meeting. These available options for the Recreation and Culture Business Line that could still be considered are listed in Table 1 below and that table includes the number of votes for consideration from the September 13, 2023 meeting. Further information regarding each option can be found in Appendix 3.

Table 1 – Remaining Options

Option	2024 Reduction	2025 Reduction	Votes
12A - Reducing the Trimming component of grass maintenance service levels by 50%	(200,000)	-	3
13 - Deferral of new Property Tax Funded Park Positions	(197,100)	-	3
4C - Reduce the operating hours of all indoor leisure centers by one hour per day	(296,000)	-	2
10 - Deferral of new Property Tax Funded Positions at Forestry Farm	(48,000)	(22,700)	2
7C - Continue to offer the Weekday Paddling Pool and Spray Pad Play Program and Reduce the Weekend Program by 50%	(44,200)	-	2
12C - Elimination of Side Flankage/boulevard Mowing Service	(10,000)	(25,000)	2
6 - Increase outdoor pool admission rates to same as indoor pools	(27,000)	-	2
7A - Do not offer supervised play programs at the 17 spray pad locations	(282,500)	-	1
7B - Eliminate the weekend paddling pool operations	(101,400)	-	1
8B - Eliminate the Skateboard Program, Traveling	(48,700)	-	1

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Sports Van Program and Arts Centre Program			
5C - Do not operate two outdoor pools in June	(46,200)	-	1
12B - Elimination of Cross-Country Skiing Trail Setting Service	(32,000)	-	1
11 - Implement \$1.00 Service fee for online registrations	(11,500)	-	1
14 - Further increases to rates and fees	TBD	TBD	1
4E - Close one or more Leisure Centers for the months of June, July and August - Lawson	(286,700)	-	0
4B - Close all Indoor Leisure Centers on Stat Holidays	(240,000)	-	0
4A - Close all Indoor Leisure Centers on Stat Holidays between April and September	(141,000)	-	0
5B - Reduce operating days by only operating in July and August	(116,600)	-	0
4F - Close one or more Leisure Centers for the months of June, July and August - Saskatoon Field House	(103,000)	-	0
4D - Close one or more Leisure Centers for the months of June, July and August - Cosmo	(98,000)	-	0
5A - Reduce operating hours of outdoor pools by one hour per day	(28,000)	-	0
9 - Reduce Public Skating	(15,000)	-	0
8A - Reducing Youth Center Programs	TBD	TBD	0

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are included in this report.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the Preliminary Budget, the Administration will finalize the Approved Business Plan and Budget to be released in 2024.

APPENDICES

1. Previous GPC Decisions
2. Recreation and Culture Rates and Fees – 2024-2025
3. Recreation and Culture Business Line – August 31, 2023

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Gillian Wrubleski, Financial Analyst
Reviewed by: Kari Smith, Director of Finance
Clae Hack, Chief Financial Officer
Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager

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