

City Expenditures - 2012-2022 - By Civic Department, Board and Commission (Explanation of Significant Changes)

Corporate Programs - Debt Charges

Increase in debt servicing costs to finance the City's capital program. As the City has grown the infrastructure has expanded to keep pace with the needs and expectations of a fast-growing community.

Corporate Programs - Neighbourhood Renewal (transfer to reserve)

This program collects dedicated taxation revenues to be used for the capital construction for the Neighbourhood Renewal program. This program also includes the Alley Renewal Strategy. The program is dedicated to renewing Edmonton's roads and alleys, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and street lights, as well as any missing sidewalk links. The increase is based on phased in approach for tax levy funding.

Corporate Programs - Corporate Revenues and Expenditures

Increases over 2019-2022 are largely due to changes in financial strategies. The budget for financial strategies is used to manage risk and provide flexibility for unknown amounts. Budgets are managed centrally through financial strategies and redistributed to the appropriate programs as factors become known.

Corporate Programs - Pay-as-you-go (transfer to capital)

Investment earnings net of investment related expenses, dividends from the Ed Tel Endowment Fund, and a portion of the base operating budget are set aside to fund capital. The pay-as-you-go transfer has grown gradually over the years to support the growing capital program.

Corporate Programs - Capital Project Financing

The increased expenses in this program are mainly related to increased transfers to the Local Improvement Reserve based on increased Local Improvement Tax Revenues for approved capital projects. There are also increased expenses for the transfer to the LRT Reserve for the freed up debt room for projects approved prior to 2016 that is redirected to fund the Valley Line South East LRT.

Corporate Programs - Traffic Safety and Automated Enforcement (transfer to reserve)

On December 5, 2014 City Council approved the Traffic Safety and Automated Enforcement Reserve. With establishment of this reserve, and beginning in 2015, the budget for automated enforcement revenues and transfer of the revenues to the Traffic Safety and Automated Enforcement reserve is included within Corporate Programs. In recent years there has been a decrease in photo enforcement revenues and the related transfer to the reserve as a result of a decrease in the City's share of automated enforcement revenues, traffic volume decreased during the pandemic, provincial moratorium on the automated enforcement program prohibited adding new sites or equipment and change in driver behaviour.

Corporate Programs - Valley Line LRT (transfer to reserve)

This program collects dedicated taxation revenues to support the construction and future operating costs of the Valley Line Southeast LRT. The net operating requirement for each year is based on the revised funding plan that was approved by Council on April 19, 2016 as part of the 2016 Spring Supplemental Operating Budget Adjustment.

City Operations

Significant reorganization in the City between 2013 and 2017 occurred. As a result, components of Transportation Services, Corporate Services and Community Services were relocated into the City Operations Department and its associated branches. A portion of the expenditure changes in these years (particularly in 2015 and 2016) are as a result of these reorganizations.

Since 2019 decreases have been experienced across City Operations due to the implementation of various cost saving measures related to corporate wide reductions including workforce strategies and vacancy management, contract savings, service reviews, and the implementation of "Reimagine" initiatives. Over the years, these impacts have been partially offset by the addition of various new Edmonton Transit Service programming such as Ride Transit, Smart Fare, On Demand Transit and DATS enhancements.

Communications and Engagement

The department was established in 2017, and was fully funded with current approved budgets. Advertising budgets throughout the City were centralized into the department in 2021.

Resources related to 311 and Customer Access are variable, and strongly driven by major initiatives from frontline departments (eg. Bus Network Redesign and Waste Transformation). Temporary support is often deployed to support specific projects and initiatives.

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Community Services

The increase in the Community Services budget from 2012 to 2020 is primarily attributed to the reorganization of programs and transfer of resources from other areas of the organization, including transfer of the ITU World Triathlon Series Sponsorship, recreation programming, event attraction, and transit peace officers. There were also cost increases related to additional funding from the Family and Community Services Support program and the Affordable Housing Investment Plan.

New and expanded facilities also increased the budget during the period and include:

- 2011-2012: Opening of the Terwilliger Community Recreation Centre and the Expanded Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre
- 2014-2015: Opening of the Meadows Community Recreation Centre and Clareview Community Recreation Centre and Clareview Library
- 2021-2022: Opening of Dr. Anne Anderson Community Centre

The department saw decreases in budgeted expenditures in 2021 and 2022 related to reduction in funding for certain grants programs.

Employee Services

The department was established in 2018, and was fully funded with current approved budgets. Funding was provided from the former Human Resources branch as well as budget reallocations and centralization of various employee support functions from other civic departments. In general, resource growth is strongly driven by major projects and initiatives from frontline departments.

Significant budget increases over 2012-2022 include:

- 2014-2015: Centralization of short term disability program budgets from various departments, and transfer of the Corporate Culture Office and Aboriginal Strategy & Community Capacity Building from Community Services.
- 2017-2018: Centralization of all civic health and safety resources into the Workforce Safety and Employee Health branch
- 2018: Centralization of employee support resources from Financial and Corporate Services

Financial and Corporate Services

The department budget increases over 2012-2022 was largely attributable to reorganizations. In 2016 the Real Estate branch was established with budgets transferred from Urban Planning and Economy. In 2021 the Service Innovation and Performance branch was established with the centralization of strategic support resources throughout the corporation. Expenditure fluctuations over 2020-2022 are primarily attributable to costs associated with the Enterprise Commons project. In general, resource growth is strongly driven by major projects and initiatives from frontline departments

Integrated Infrastructure Services

The department was established in during the 2016 - 2017 period, with a transition in organizational focus from an asset perspective towards a functional approach. Design and construction resources previously distributed across the corporation were centralized into the department. Additional areas of growth over the 2012-2022 are related to increased LRT design and construction activity and relocation of civic accommodation activities from Real Estate in 2017.

Urban Planning and Economy

The increase from 2012-2022 is mainly due to reorganizations and service level related expenditures.

Significant budget changes include:

- increase in expenses in the Development Services branch to maintain / enhance service levels (e.g. processing development applications, technical reviews, inspections and other priority activities under the Planning & Development Business Model)
- new planning initiatives, including Exhibition Lands, Regional Transit Service Commission, and Leduc Annexation
- significant growth and focus on environmental sustainability, green electricity, and energy transition.

Decreases over 2020 - 2022 relate to various reorganizations, including the transfer of Exhibition Lands and Integrated Service Counter out of the department, as well as the transfer of a portion of the Corporate Strategy branch to Financial and Corporate Services.

Boards and Commissions

Fluctuations in agencies, boards and commissions are largely due to increases required to maintain or grow services as approved by Council through budget discussions.