

Town of Berwick Council Meeting

February 10, 2026

Town of Berwick Council Chambers

6:30 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of the Agenda

3. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Council Minutes, January 13, 2025

4. Review of Action Items

5. Councillor Announcements

6. New Business

- a. Info Report: 2026/27 Operating & Capital Budget Direction
- b. RFD002-2026: 2026/27 Annapolis Valley Regional Library Budget Request
- c. RFD003-2026: 2026/27 Tidal Transit Budget Direction
- d. Info Report: 2026/27 Valley Waste Budget
- e. Berwick Mural Society funding request

7. Correspondence

- a. Valley Faces of Business
- b. Order of Nova Scotia
- c. Fundy Villa

8. Mayor's Report

9. In-Camera

- a. Personnel

10. Adjournment

Meeting Date	Action Item	Status	Comments
2025-01-14	Number of fines written by RCMP and how does it get directed to Town of Berwick revenue.	In-Progress	Initial information was provided to the Police Advisory Board. Still more information to gather.
2025-01-14	Planning Fee review and determine whether changes to the MPS will change our planning service fees, whether a staff person makes sense and look at similar size MU for comparison on changes to MPS vs. costs.	In-Progress	Will be reviewed and recommended during the 2026/27 budget.
2025-12-09	Update on 109 Marsters Avenue Dangerous or Unsightly Property	In-Progress	The Mayor and CAO will be visiting the property owner in February.
2026-01-13	Decorative light in front of Foodland is blinking	In-Progress	A part has been ordered to fix it.
2024-12-10	Reach out to other municipalities to understand how they are assessing the Code of Conduct criteria for establishing the sanctions	Not Started	
2024-12-10	Electricity Regulations, educational materials to provide to Council on the Council SharePoint site.	Not Started	
2025-02-11	Review Snow Removal Policy prior to next winter plowing season with input from Accessibility and Active Transportation.	Not Started	
2025-06-10	Set budget for charity event participation policy	Not Started	Include in 2026/27 budget.
	Add crosswalk using packing spaces at KMCC from the crosswalk at Veteran's to front door	Other	Deferred to Accessibility Advisory Committee for discussion and request to KMCC.
2025-04-08	Can staff look at an efficiency audit for the entire organization?	Other	Discuss during strategic planning.
	Breaking Soils Policy and Permits	Other	Deferred to Strategic Plan
2026-01-27	Installation of new crosswalk from Brown Street connector trail to Chute Park	Other	Included in operations and budget discussion for 2026/27

INFORMATION REPORT

2026-27 Draft Budget V1



To: Council
From: Director of Finance
Date: February 10, 2026
Subject: 2026-27 Draft Budget V1

References/Attachments

- 2026-27 Draft Budget V1 Package

Legislation

- MGA Section 65

Background

In accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*, all municipalities are required to deliver a balanced budget. Management began working through preliminary budget information in early December of 2025, engaging all departments in the process to best understand the needs and priorities of operations. Staff have also incorporated priority items which were identified through strategic planning sessions.

As Council engages in budget deliberations, it is critical to consider both the short-term and long-term financial health of the Town.

Current Position

At present there is a \$16,000 surplus in version 1. The draft 2026/27 operating budget includes the following assumptions:

- No change to the tax rates
- Benefits increase 7.0%
- Utility increase 2.7%
- Insurance increase 8%
- No transfer to operating reserve
- No funding of capital from operating

Staff are seeking direction from Council on a number of key decision points as we move toward approval of the 26/27 budget.

INFORMATION REPORT

2026-27 Draft Budget V1



Taxation and Assessments

Overall assessment increased 13.27% over the previous year. Commercial assessments decreased by 0.07%, while taxable residential assessments increased by 18.76%. CAP was set at 2.6%, and 90% of accounts are capped for 2026.

One (1) cent on the tax rates equals \$28,101.

Key Revenue Highlights

Revenue	Change over 25/26	Comments
Residential Taxation	\$644,000	Bentley's foster St. and Grandview assessment provides \$407,000 additional tax revenue; balance of increase related to new assessment growth and sales (removal of CAP)
Commercial Taxation	(\$38,000)	EVP successful in appeal for 23/24 & 24/25
Deed Transfer	(\$35,000)	Adjusted to reflect cooling market trend experienced in 25/26
AREA Revenue for CAO	(\$25,000)	AREA Board removed in 25/26
Recreation Revenue	\$9,000	Facilities and programming increase
Recreation Student Grants	(\$13,000)	Reduced to reflect actual grants received 25/26
AREA Dividend	(\$24,000)	0 entered in budget; may be adjusted when 25/26 forecast is provided
AVRL Rent	\$5,200	Increase per agreement
Interest	\$4,000	Additional interest earned on accounts
BEC Capital Project Mgmt. & Support	\$75,000	Internal support for the AMI/Kraken BEC capital project
Estimated Change in Revenue	\$602,665	

**INFORMATION REPORT
2026-27 Draft Budget V1**



Key Expense Highlights:

Expenditure	Change over 25/26	Comments
Mandatory Costs	\$225,657	See Table below.
Meeting expenses	(\$5,000)	The strategic plan expense has been removed from the budget.
Repair and Maintenance	\$12,900	General maintenance to the library and town hall. New seating outside gymnasium.
Audit Fees	\$12,116	Increase in audit fees per contract and support for financial consultant.
Legal One Time Increase	\$22,500	To support human resource and labour management.
Salaries	(\$17,000)	No change in staffing levels.
IT Services	18,331	Consultant fee, camera and network maintenance, work order software and online training
Public Works	\$38,618	Increase to general accounts such as repair and maintenance, tools and equipment, supplies and safety.
Winter maintenance contract	\$253,382	Net impact after operational savings are applied against the estimated contract.
Paving	\$100,000	To address a mill and paving section on Commercial Street south.
Parks Maintenance	(\$5,500)	Maintenance was increased in 2025/26 to complete work at chute park. That work is complete.
Community Development	\$6,000	Increases to Marketing and Community Events.
BFC Cardio Equipment Repairs	\$6,000	General maintenance of aging equipment

INFORMATION REPORT

2026-27 Draft Budget V1



Operating Reserves/Safe Restart	(81,742)	No transfers included
Estimated Change in Expenditure	\$586,262	

Mandatory Costs	2026/27	Y/Y	% of Annual Budget
Annapolis Valley Reg Centre for Education	\$765,684	\$78,244	10.5%
AVRL	\$17,400	\$0	0.2%
Property Valuation Services Corp	\$35,972	\$2,492	0.5%
Valley Waste Resource Management	\$222,254	\$(34,334)	3.1%
Tidal Transit (Kings Transit)	\$165,423	\$63,281	2.3%
RCMP Services	\$973,886	\$62,626	13.4%
REMO	\$16,000	\$6,730	0.22%
Valley REN	\$14,100	\$0	0.20%
VCFN	\$3,200	\$0	0.04%
Debt	\$414,180	\$46,617	5.7%
Total	\$2,628,100	\$225,657	36.20%

Decision Points

The following expenses/initiatives are not included in V1 of the draft 2026-27 operating budget. Staff are seeking direction from Council on whether or not to include the following items in the 2026-27 budget:

- Part-time Community Safety Officer: Reinstating this role will result in an additional expense of \$39,000
- Crossing Guards: Reduction by one will result in net savings of \$10,600
- Bridge Entrance Garden: A one-time initial cost of \$18,000 and ongoing maintenance costs will be required annually to maintain.
- Human Resources Services: Cost still being developed through HR Needs Assessment work.
- Leadership Training: Provide leadership coaching for the management team will result in a one-time expense of \$33,000.
- Reserves: Amounts to transfer into reserves for Town operating and/or equipment

INFORMATION REPORT

2026-27 Draft Budget V1



reserves.

- Tax Rates: Any changes Council would like to consider to the residential and commercial tax rates.
- Other additions or deletions Council would like to reflect in the draft 2026/27 budget.

Financial Implications

In accordance with the MGA, Berwick must approve a balanced budget.

The decisions made should consider both the present and future financial health and needs of the Town.

Priority Alignment

Check Applicable	Strategic Priority Area	Comments
X	Economic	
X	Environmental	
X	Social	
X	Cultural	

Community Engagement/Communication

A public budget information session is planned for Monday, February 23, 2026, 6:30 in the Anglican Church Hall.

All budget information will be posted on Berwick's website at: Berwick.ca/2026-27budget.

CAO Initials: JB

REQUEST FOR DECISION

RFD002-2026: AVRL Budget Request



To: Council
From: CAO Boyd
Date: February 6, 2026
Subject: Annapolis Valley Regional Library Funding Request

References/Attachments

- 2026/27 AVRL Budget Request, January 5, 2026
- AVRL F2026 Approved Budget

Legislation

- *Nova Scotia Libraries Act and Regulations*

Recommendation

That Council approve a \$2,300 funding increase which is consistent with the municipal share under the cost-sharing model, subject to provincial confirmation of their share.

Background

The Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL) is a provincially recognized regional library system established under the Nova Scotia Libraries Act. AVRL provides public library services to residents within its service area and is governed by a Library Board composed of appointed members from each of the eight municipal units in the service area and two representatives appointed by the Province of Nova Scotia. They are responsible for setting the annual operating budget and overseeing library operations.

Funding for AVRL is provided through a provincially legislated cost-sharing model involving the Province of Nova Scotia, participating municipal units, and the Library Board. Under this model, the Province establishes an approved operating funding level for the regional library system each year, which is then funded based on a prescribed sharing ratio.

For regional library systems, other than Halifax, the approved operating budget is typically funded as follows:

- approximately 70–71% by the Province of Nova Scotia;
- approximately 26% collectively by the participating municipal units; and
- approximately 3% by the Library Board

The total municipal share is apportioned among the participating municipalities based on population within the AVRL service area, with each municipal unit contributing its proportional share of the overall municipal requirement. The overall municipal share is a legislated cost sharing formula, and the annual amount cannot increase without 12-month

REQUEST FOR DECISION

RFD002-2026: AVRL Budget Request



notice to municipalities. However, municipalities may provide funding above the required amount at their sole discretion. Councils do not approve the AVRL operating budget directly.

AVRL provides funding for the staffing costs, collections, technology and operations. Municipalities are responsible for building costs, such as rent and maintenance costs (painting, repairs, etc.), furniture, and capital upgrades.

In 2024, the Province provided 12-month notice that a review of the funding formula would be undertaken, indicating that a change to the municipal contribution could change for 2025. A Library Funding Review Committee was established to review the funding formula and make recommendations to government. Recommendations were provided to the Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage but no changes to the funding formula have been made to date.

The current funding request from AVRL reflects an increase in its approved operating budget. The Province has not indicated a corresponding increase in its share of funding for the current budget year. The request is for 50% additional municipal funding for 2026/27. Any funding above the 2025/26 level is discretionary for the municipal units.

While the cost-sharing framework is intended to distribute increases proportionally between the Province and municipalities, a provincial funding freeze could shift a greater share of operating costs to municipal units. In this circumstance, the request represents more than a routine application of the funding formula and requires Council to consider whether it wishes to assume a higher proportion of library operating costs than is typically contemplated under the model.

The total municipal funding request is an increase of \$351,450 in revenue. This amount does not fully cover the AVRL's 2026/27 budget shortfall and would require additional use of reserves and/or service reductions to balance.

Considerations if Council approves the funding increase without provincial contribution:

- **Cost-Shifting:** Municipalities bear a disproportionate share of library operating costs, which are normally shared with the Province.
- **Precedent:** Approval may create an expectation that municipalities will fund future increases in the absence of provincial support.
- **Budget Impact:** Absorbing a continued increase could strain the Town's budget, affecting other services or requiring higher taxes/reserves.
- **Equity Between Municipalities:** Uneven participation could create tensions within the regional library partnership.
- **Reduced Leverage with Province:** Filling the gap may reduce pressure on the

REQUEST FOR DECISION

RFD002-2026: AVRIL Budget Request



Province to adjust its funding or sharing ratio.

- Not sustainable: The funding request does not fully cover AVRIL’s shortfall for 2026/27 that is already based on a lean budget with significant service reductions. The shortfall will only increase in the future as operating costs naturally rise due to inflation.

Financial Implications

The Annapolis Valley Regional Library is asking for a 50% increase from its municipal partners. The Town of Berwick has paid \$17,400 per year for its contribution to the library funding model since 2020. For 2026-2027, the AVRIL is asking for \$26,100 from the Town of Berwick, an additional \$8,700.

The financial impact will depend on Council’s chosen option. Approval of the recommended option would result in an increase to the Town’s 2026-2027 draft budget of \$2,300.

Priority Alignment

Check Applicable	Strategic Priority Area	Comments
X	Economic	
	Environmental	
X	Social	
	Cultural	

Alternatives

1. Approve the Full Increase

Approve the requested funding increase of \$8,700, acknowledging that the municipal share exceeds the traditional cost-sharing proportion and that the province may not provide funding.

2. Approve a One-Time Full Increase

Approve the increase as a one-time or interim measure, with direction that staff and the AVRIL Board continue discussions with the Province regarding equitable cost-sharing.

**REQUEST FOR DECISION
RFD002-2026: AVRL Budget
Request**



3. Defer or Decline the Increase

Defer or decline the request pending confirmation of provincial funding or further information from AVRL regarding alternative funding options

Community Engagement/Communication

N/A

CAO Comments

I support the recommendation. Council should request a long-term plan from AVRL if the province does not increase their funding.

CAO Initials: JB

Target Decision Date: February 10, 2026

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Budget Overview

Overview - Budget compare: F2027 vs F2026

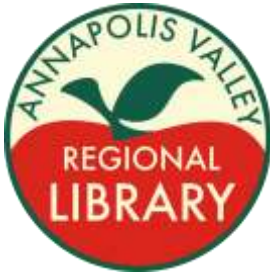
	Fiscal 2026/2027	Fiscal 2025/2026
INCOME		
4020 Revenue - Province	1,919,600.00	2,115,800.00
4030 Revenue - Municipal	-	-
4031 Annapolis County	130,700.00	130,700.00
4032 Annapolis Royal	3,400.00	3,400.00
4033 Berwick	17,400.00	17,400.00
4034 Kentville	42,800.00	42,800.00
4035 Kings County	331,600.00	331,600.00
4036 Middleton	12,300.00	12,300.00
4037 West Hants	134,400.00	134,400.00
4039 Wolfville	30,300.00	30,300.00
Total 4030 Revenue - Municipal	702,900.00	702,900.00
4105 Revenue - Printing	27,000.00	27,000.00
4700 Revenue - Deferred Write down		48,155.00
4702 Revenue - Donations	8,000.00	8,000.00
4703 Revenue - Grants	98,000.00	
4800 HST Rebate (OLD)	50,000.00	50,000.00
4901 Revenue - Interest	20,000.00	40,000.00
Total Income	2,825,500.00	2,991,855.00
COST OF GOODS SOLD		
5000 COS - Books, Periodicals & related costs	340,000.00	340,000.00
5020 Equipment Purchases	5,500.00	5,500.00
5025 Furniture Purchases	3,000.00	3,000.00
5026 Capital Purchases - Other	\$ -	\$ 54,155.00
Total Cost of Goods Sold	348,500.00	402,655.00
EXPENSES		
6005 Advertising & Promotion		6,000.00
6010 Bank Charges	2,500.00	2,500.00
6015 Communication & Internet Expenses	5,500.00	5,500.00
6025 HST Rebate - Books (OLD)	50,000.00	45,000.00
6040 Insurance	19,000.00	19,000.00
6050 Miscellaneous Expenses		500.00
6055 Office Expenses	35,000.00	35,000.00
6060 Postage	30,000.00	30,000.00
6065 Professional Fees	80,000.00	80,000.00
6200 Program Costs	-	11,000.00
6201 Advertising & Marketing	\$ 6,000.00	
6209 Supplies	11,000.00	
Total 6200 Program Costs	17,000.00	-
6300 Rent	70,550.00	69,507.00
6350 Service Contracts	-	-

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Budget Overview

Overview - Budget compare: F2027 vs F2026

	Fiscal 2026/2027	Fiscal 2025/2026
6351 Alliance	\$ 63,155.00	\$ 62,795.00
6352 Photocopying	35,000.00	35,000.00
Total 6350 Service Contracts	98,155.00	97,795.00
6400 Salaries & Wages	\$ 2,520,625.00	\$ 2,360,695.00
6406 Payroll Service Chrg	12,000.00	28,000.00
Total 6400 Salaries & Wages	2,532,625.00	2,388,695.00
6600 Vehicle Expenses	22,000.00	22,000.00
6650 Board Expenses	1,700.00	1,700.00
6700 Staff Expenses	40,000.00	40,000.00
6455 Staff Training/Conferences	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
6703 Misc	\$ 500.00	
Total 6700 Staff Expenses	\$ 41,250.00	\$ 40,750.00
Total Expenses	\$ 3,005,280.00	\$ 2,854,947.00
OTHER INCOME		
PROFIT	\$ (528,280.00)	\$ (265,747.00)



2026-27 Budget Request

To: The Town of Annapolis Royal
The County of Annapolis
The Town of Middleton
The Town of Berwick
The County of Kings
The Town of Kentville
The Town of Wolfville
West Hants Regional Municipality

From: Julia Merritt, Chief Executive Officer, Annapolis Valley Regional Library

Date: January 5, 2026

Re: 2026-27 Operating Budget Request

The AVRL respectfully submits this budget request for consideration and decision.

Background

At its September 18, 2025 meeting, the Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Library Funding Formula has expired as of March 31, 2025, and;
WHEREAS the AVRL has made significant cost-savings measures, and;
WHEREAS the AVRL is facing severe budgetary pressure that could lead to major loss of service, and;
WHEREAS it is the hope of the AVRL that both Provincial and Municipal orders of government will increase their financial commitments to retain library service in their communities;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AVRL Board request the funding municipalities to increase their annual operating contribution by 50% for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

This report outlines the AVRL's current financial situation and request for additional funding in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Library Funding Formula and Municipalities

The Provincial Library Funding Formula expired on March 31, 2025.

In 2024, the municipalities were provided notice by the Province that the Library Funding Formula was under review and that changes to their contributions could be forthcoming. No further requests or requirements for additional funds have been sent.

The Library Funding Formula represents the minimum level of financial contribution that a contracting municipality must provide to its regional library board. A municipality has the option to provide more funding to its regional library board.

Prior to 2025, several regional library systems regularly received additional funding: Eastern Counties, Halifax, and Pictou-Antigonish.

In the 2024-25 or the 2025-26 fiscal years, additional regional libraries have asked for and received supplementary funding, including: Cumberland, Pictou-Antigonish, and Western Counties.

AVRL has not previously asked its funding municipalities for additional contributions.

Current Funding Formula and Risks to Service

Since 2009, AVRL's budget has increased by 10% while the Bank of Canada estimates that inflation has increased by 43% during that same time period.

In order to mitigate the ongoing budget limitations, AVRL has implemented the following cost-savings measures:

- 2015-2024, reduction of 25% of the total permanent staff body
- Elimination of the bookmobile service in 2021
- As of 2024, 50% reduction in programming and the elimination of partnerships

The AVRL's 2025-26 budget represents a deficit position that will be funded by operational reserves. Without additional funding support, the Library Board will need to make significant reductions in service in 2026.

AVRL's 2026-27 Budget Overview

This budget represents an interim position for the AVRL prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, pending more information regarding the Provincial Library Funding Formula, Provincial "Bridge" funding, or additional contributions from funding municipalities.

AVRL is on track to realize the full amount of its budgeted deficit in 2025-26. This will deplete the operational reserve fund by approximately \$250,000 and leave roughly \$400,000 available to use in 2026-27.

The attached budget represents an interim deficit of \$528,280.

Changes from 2025-26

1. All wage rates adjusted for the rates negotiated in the 2025-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement; staff list adjusted for changes made during that time. All benefits categories have been updated to include current data (CPP, EI, etc).
2. Collections budget held at existing levels to prioritize this core service.
3. Loss of Provincial Same Page postage grant; in 2024-25 this was over \$14,000 in revenue.
4. Reduction to Payroll Processing Fees line; AVRL has re-developed in-house competencies to perform the payroll function and has cancelled the contract for managed payroll services.
5. All other lines adjusted to reflect changes to actual expenses, or held at 2025-26 levels where possible.

Remaining to Include

1. Any changes to the Library funding formula.
2. Any additional Bridge/Emergency funding amounts.
3. Any additional contributions from the municipal units.

Expenses are expected to remain as estimated unless service levels change.

2026-27 Budget Request

Below is a chart outlining the requested increase to each municipality’s contribution to AVRL for 2026-26, representing a total increase of \$351,450. This amount would allow the AVRL to continue to provide service at the current level for one full additional year (2026-27) prior to making additional service reductions. If a reduced amount is provided, in combination with potential future Bridge funding from the Province, this could still provide significant or full relief for the 2026-27 year.

Municipality	2020-2025 Contribution	2026-27 Contribution
Annapolis County	\$130,700	\$196,050
Kings County	\$331,600	\$497,400
West Hants County	\$134,400	\$201,600
Annapolis Royal	\$3,400	\$5,100
Middleton	\$12,300	\$18,450
Berwick	\$17,400	\$26,100
Kentville	\$42,800	\$64,200
Wolfville	\$30,300	\$45,450
Total Contributions:	\$702,900	\$1,054,350

REQUEST FOR DECISION

RFD002-2026: 2026/27 Tidal Transit Operating and Capital Budget Direction



To: Council
From: CAO Boyd
Date: February 10, 2026
Subject: 2026/27 Tidal Transit Operating and Capital Budget Direction

References/Attachments

- Kings Transit Authority (KTA) Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMSA)
- Valley Regional Services (VRS) Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMSA)
- 2026/27 Tidal Transit Operating and Capital Budgets
- 2026/27 Tide Transit Budget Summary

Legislation

- **Kings Transit Authority (KTA) Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMSA)**
 - Section 4 of the KTA IMSA delegates its decision making to the VRS Board.
 - Section 12 of the KTA Agreement states that 90 days before the beginning of the fiscal year, Tidal Transit shall submit its proposed annual operating plan and budget to the VRS Board after having consulted with CAOs Working Group. It further states that 30 days before the beginning of the fiscal year, the VRS Board shall consider and if deemed appropriate approve the proposed annual operating plan and budget.
- **Valley Regional Services (VRS) Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMSA)**
 - Section 7 of the VRS Agreement appoints the Mayor of Berwick to the VRS Board on the Town's behalf.
 - Section 14 of the VRS Agreement delegates authority from KTA and the Parties to the VRS Board for approval of the operating and capital budgets. This is a change from the Parties originally approving the budgets.
 - Section 17 of the VRS Agreement defines decisions related to operating and capital budgets as Special Resolutions, requiring an affirmative vote from a majority of eligible directors, which must include the director from Kings County.

Recommendation

That Council approve the 2026/27 Tidal Transit operating and capital budgets as submitted by Tidal Transit staff and reviewed by the CAOs Working Group and direct the Mayor to approve the budget at the Valley Regional Services Board.

REQUEST FOR DECISION

RFD002-2026: 2026/27 Tidal Transit Operating and Capital Budget Direction



Background

The Kings Transit Authority (KTA) is finalizing its name change to Tidal Transit. While the Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMSA) establishing Kings Transit still bears that name, Tidal Transit will be the organization's name going forward. For that reason, "KTA" is still used when referring to the agreement, while Tidal Transit is used in all other instances.

This is the first operating and capital budgets approved under the new Valley Regional Services (VRS) governance model and ownership change of Tidal Transit. The cost formula established under the new ownership has changed. The new formula consists of three components:

- 1/3 based on municipality's proportionate share of taxable assessment within a 2 km transit corridor;
- 1/3 based on a municipality's proportionate share of dwelling units (proxy for population served) within a 2 km transit corridor, and
- 1/3 based on the percentage of service time within each municipality.

Revenue Overview:

- An overall decrease in fare revenues for 2025/26 reflects the current system limitations, including the suspension of half of Route 2 in September 2025 and winter weather disruptions
- Advertising income is projected to increase as staff continue to focus on attracting new customers and rebuilding trust in the brand.
- Overall, the budget increased by 10.4% year over year, and the municipal contribution for operating increased by 14.9% year over year.

Expenditure Overview:

- Total compensation is projected to increase after a third party review and 1.5 new FTE (cleaner and mechanic).
- Maintenance and repair costs continue to increase as the fleet ages, breakdowns become more common, parts become harder to source, and additional resources are required to maintain the fleet.
- Fuel cost is down due to the fuel tax reduction.

Capital Overview:

In 2025/26 the VRS Board approved a scope change to its Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant for electric bus infrastructure, choosing instead to purchase hybrid diesel buses instead of electric and the associated charging infrastructure after procurement and operational challenges were raised. This scope change has recently been approved by the federal government and procurement of seven hybrid buses will begin with the approval of the capital budget and expected to arrive in 2027/28.

**REQUEST FOR DECISION
RFD002-2026: 2026/27 Tidal
Transit Operating and Capital
Budget Direction**



The capital contribution overall has increased from \$80,000 shared between four municipalities, to \$320,000 shared between seven.

The costs associated with Tidal Transit are increasing as the organization struggles to maintain its fleet and provide a reliable service. Of the 13 buses, 7 are currently in service. Five used buses were purchased in 2025/26 to temporarily stabilize the service as Tidal waits for the seven hybrid buses in 2027.

The CAOs Working Group has worked closely with Tidal Transit staff to create an operating and capital budget that provides necessary investment in the transit service.

Financial Implications

The Town’s annual contribution has increased by \$63,281 or 62% over the previous year. This is a combination of the overall budget increase and the amount of time spent in service increasing halfway through the year. The overall schedule will be updated to provide built-in breaks for drivers and reduce delays due to traffic or construction. The change would see the bus in Berwick increase from every two hours to every hour and twenty minutes. The exact times will be determined and communicated by Tidal Transit.

Staff have included \$165,423 in version 1 of the Town’s 2026/27 operating budget.

	2026-2027 Budget	2027-2028 Estimate	2028-2029 Estimates	2029-2030 Estimates	2030-2031 Estimates
Operating Contribution	152,227	155,271	144,660	145,920	148,624
Capital Contribution	13,196	13,460	13,729	14,003	14,284
Total Annual Contribution	\$165,423	\$168,731	\$158,390	\$159,924	\$162,908

Priority Alignment

Check Applicable	Strategic Priority Area	Comments
X	Economic	
X	Environmental	
X	Social	
	Cultural	

**REQUEST FOR DECISION
RFD002-2026: 2026/27 Tidal
Transit Operating and Capital
Budget Direction**



Alternatives

Council may decide not to approve the budget and provide specific feedback that can be communicated to the VRS Board and Tidal Transit staff. However, based on the VRS Agreement, if Berwick does not support the operating and capital budget and a majority of municipal units including Kings County (Special Resolution) support the budget, it will be approved and the Town will be responsible for its share of net-costs.

Community Engagement/Communication

N/A

CAO Comments

I support the recommendation.

CAO Initials: JB

Target Decision Date: February 10, 2026

**REQUEST FOR DECISION
RFD002-2026: 2026/27 Tidal
Transit Operating and Capital
Budget Direction**



Tidal Transit Authority					
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures					
Operating Budget					
	2026-2027 Budget	2025-2026 Forecast	2025-2026 Budget	2024-2025 YE Actuals	
Revenues	Fares	815,757	799,304	892,320	848,181
	Advertising income	50,000	41,588	24,000	29,750
	Operating grants core members	3,691,408	2,900,222	1,962,845	1,760,793
	Operating grants service partners	-	312,459	1,249,834	1,232,362
	Other revenues	-	-	-	21,938
		4,557,165	4,053,572	4,128,999	3,893,024
Expenses	Compensation - administration	839,729	762,135	776,484	610,054
	Route operations costs	1,463,652	1,344,550	1,241,873	1,211,901
	Fuel	503,983	453,958	594,996	599,722
	Insurance	243,098	242,427	217,899	205,486
	Bus maintenance and repairs	1,078,952	912,027	948,386	921,565
	Management fee - core recovery	-	(115,284)	(461,135)	(384,096)
	Management fee - Annapolis	-	75,876	303,505	255,241
	Management fee - Digby	-	39,407	157,630	128,855
	Administrative	427,750	363,475	349,361	344,297
	4,557,165	4,078,573	4,128,999	3,893,024	
Net Surplus	-	(25,000)	-	-	

Operating cash flow increase between budgets	478,728	14.9%
Capital cash flow increase between budgets	240,000	300.0%
Total additional cash request	718,728	21.8%

**REQUEST FOR DECISION
RFD002-2026: 2026/27 Tidal
Transit Operating and Capital
Budget Direction**



Tidal Transit Authority				
Municipal Operating Grants		2025-2026 Forecast		2026-2027 Budget
		Actual Funding as per IMSA*	Annual Total	Annual Total
Core Partners	Municipality of Kings	1,234,787	1,244,917	1,487,562
	Town of Kentville	411,143	414,765	510,070
	Town of Wolfville	301,269	303,936	383,160
	Town of Berwick	108,292	109,257	152,227
	Municipality of Annapolis	743,960	748,794	732,063
	Town of Middleton	54,714	55,595	132,944
	District of Digby	358,514	360,416	293,381
			3,212,679	3,237,679

* 1st quarter contribution rates use historical allocation method, Q2-4 have 50% transitional smoothing applied

Tidal Transit Authority					
Municipal Capital Grants		2025-2026 Forecast		2026-2027 Budget	
		Q1	Annual Total	Each Quarter	Annual Total
Core Partners	Municipality of Kings	12,000	36,838	32,238	128,954
	Town of Kentville	4,000	12,257	11,054	44,217
	Town of Wolfville	3,000	8,839	8,304	33,215
	Town of Berwick	1,000	3,338	3,299	13,196
	Municipality of Annapolis		11,872	15,865	63,461
	Town of Middleton		2,227	2,881	11,525
	District of Digby		4,629	6,358	25,433
			20,000	80,000	80,000

REQUEST FOR DECISION RFD002-2026: 2026/27 Tidal Transit Operating and Capital Budget Direction



5 Year Capital Plan

		2025-2026 Forecast	2026-2027 Budget	2027-2028 Estimate	2028-2029 Estimates	2029-2030 Estimates	2030-2031 Estimates
Capital Purchases	<u>Ext. Subsidy</u>						
ICIP Phase 1	73.3%	250,000					
ICIP Phase 2	73.3%						
7 Hybrid Buses	73.3%		-	9,544,250	-	-	-
2 Service Vehicles	73.3%		166,182	-	-	-	-
Building / Brand / Transit Technology	73.3%	40,882	1,087,838	1,673,105	-	-	-
RTSF-Shelters and Signage	90.0%	24,000	976,000				
RTSF-Building Consulting	100.0%	25,000					
Baseline Funding	40.0%						
Diesel Buses (3 / 2)	40.0%	-	-	-	3,433,320	-	2,381,351
Other	40.0%	-	260,000	102,000	104,040	106,121	108,243
<u>Not Subsidized</u>							
Used Buses		188,297	57,812	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Annapolis & Digby Buses		923,956	-	-	-	-	-
Cornwallis Park Transfer Station		56,375	175,000	-	-	-	-
<i>Total External Subsidy</i>		<i>(259,904)</i>	<i>(1,901,973)</i>	<i>(7,668,533)</i>	<i>(1,414,944)</i>	<i>(42,448)</i>	<i>(995,838)</i>
Municipal Funded Portion of Capital Spend		1,248,606	820,860	3,650,821	2,122,416	63,672	1,493,756
Capital Reserve Municipal Funding		80,000	320,000	326,400	332,928	339,587	346,378
<i>Year over Year Growth</i>			<i>300.0%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>
End of Year Capital Reserve Balance		892,754	830,404	-	-	314,529	-
Debenture Financing Required		-	-	2,057,745	1,591,945	-	781,382

		2025-2026 Forecast	2026-2027 Budget	2027-2028 Estimate	2028-2029 Estimates	2029-2030 Estimates	2030-2031 Estimates
Operating Grants by Municipality	Ratios for '26-31						
Municipality of Kings	40.30%	1,244,917	1,487,562	1,517,314	1,413,624	1,425,937	1,452,361
Town of Kentville	13.82%	414,765	510,070	520,272	484,718	488,940	498,000
Town of Wolfville	10.38%	303,936	383,160	390,823	364,115	367,287	374,093
Town of Berwick	4.12%	109,257	152,227	155,272	144,661	145,921	148,625
Municipality of Annapolis	19.83%	748,794	732,063	746,704	695,676	701,736	714,740
Town of Middleton	3.60%	55,595	132,944	135,603	126,336	127,436	129,798
District of Digby	7.95%	360,416	293,381	299,249	278,799	281,227	286,439
		3,237,679	3,691,408	3,765,236	3,507,929	3,538,483	3,604,056
			<i>14.0%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>-6.8%</i>	<i>0.9%</i>	<i>1.9%</i>
Capital Grants by Municipality							
Municipality of Kings	40.30%	36,838	128,954	131,533	134,163	136,846	139,583
Town of Kentville	13.82%	12,257	44,217	45,101	46,003	46,923	47,862
Town of Wolfville	10.38%	8,839	33,215	33,880	34,557	35,248	35,953
Town of Berwick	4.12%	3,338	13,196	13,460	13,729	14,004	14,284
Municipality of Annapolis	19.83%	11,872	63,461	64,730	66,025	67,345	68,692
Town of Middleton	3.60%	2,227	11,525	11,755	11,990	12,230	12,475
District of Digby	7.95%	4,629	25,433	25,941	26,460	26,989	27,529
		80,000	320,000	326,400	332,928	339,587	346,378
			<i>300.0%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>	<i>2.0%</i>

Tidal Transit Authority

Budget Summary

2026/27

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Budget Overview

2026 is a foundational year for Tidal Transit as we rebuild a rural public transit system that residents are proud to support and choose to ride. This is the first full fiscal year operating under the renewed ownership structure and a critical moment to reinvigorate this essential regional service. To rebuild public confidence, stabilize operations, and position the system for long-term growth, this year's operational workplan is centred around four strategic pillars:

1. Strengthen Service Reliability
2. Rebuild Public Trust and Modernize the Brand
3. Improve Fleet and Technology
4. Develop and Strengthen the Workforce

To complement the operational improvements, the capital program represents a significant revitalization plan. Capital investments in 2026/27 of \$2.7M are supported by \$1.9M million in federal and provincial subsidies, with a municipal contribution of \$820,860 funded through capital reserves and an increase to annual capital funding from \$80,000 to \$320,000 with 2% growth.

The federal and provincial subsidies include:

- Innovation Canada (ICIP) Phase 2 capital spending for facility upgrades;
- Rural Transit Solutions Fund (RTSF) for route infrastructure projects; and
- Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada - Baseline Funding for maintenance equipment.

Overall, the operational and capital plan is designed to realign Tidal Transit services, improve customer outcomes, enhance workforce capacity, and deliver long-term value for municipalities and riders alike. Strategic investment now will create a more dependable service with the infrastructure required to support a dynamic rural transit network that residents trust and depend on for decades to come.

1. Strengthen Service Reliability and Access

Initiatives:

- Redesign the current schedule to eliminate chronic delays and increase on-time performance (ICIP Phase 1 & 2).
- Open a heated transfer station in Cornwallis Park to improve rider comfort and accessibility.
- Install new bus stops and signage across all municipalities through the RTSF.

2. Rebuild Trust and Modernize the Brand

Chronic on-time performance issues have discouraged ridership and undermined public perception in recent years. A redesigned schedule and brand alongside educational marketing material will create a system that is consistently on time and easy to use. These enhancements will transform the way people experience Tidal Transit and rebuild a trusted service and brand.

Initiatives:

- Launch the new name and logo to signal improved standards.
- Deploy creative advertising campaigns to educate riders about changes to service levels and company policies.
- Collect regular survey data and customer feedback to track improvements.

3. Improve Fleet and Technology

Modern transit systems rely on technology for accuracy, transparency, and operational control. Investing in new onboard equipment will demystify the system for passengers through accurate and dynamic bus tracking software, intuitive and easy to use digital fares, and accessible audio/visual stop announcements.

Initiatives:

- Implement new onboard technology, including upgrades to the existing CAD/AVL tracking tools, digital fares, automatic audio/visual announcements, and automatic passenger counters, and upgrade onboard mobile radios to the latest standards (ICIP Phase 2).
- Release an RFP for hybrid-electric buses and award contracts (ICIP Phase 2). Construction of new vehicles will take at least 12 – 18 months depending on the vendor (ICIP Phase 2)

4. Build Workforce Capacity and Organizational Stability

Staff training, clear organizational roles, and internal stability are essential as passenger needs become more diverse and complex. Investing in staff ensures we can deliver safe, consistent, and customer-focused service.

Much of the next year will be a concerted effort to nurture and support staff at Tidal Transit. Existing human resource policies need to be reviewed and amended to reduce organizational risk. Implementing recommendations from the external compensation review conducted in 2025 are also addressed in this budget to align Tidal Transit staff with municipal standards.

Initiatives:

- Implement consultant's compensation recommendations to bring Tidal Transit employees to the same standards as VWRM and municipal owners.
- Provide enhanced staff training and development opportunities.
- Strengthen internal processes to better support front-line staff and operators.
- Align roles and responsibilities to meet the operational demands.
- Hire an additional finance staff member to be shared with Valley Waste.

Overall, this plan is ambitious, but vital to improve and grow the service. This budget reflects the needs of the organization and the riders of today as well as the expectations of the future. With support and investment from our municipalities, Tidal Transit Authority will rebuild into a service that residents proudly support and actively choose – a service defined by reliability, affordability, sustainability, and regional connection.

Operations

The 2026/27 budget reflects a major step forward in strengthening Tidal Transit’s organizational capacity, service quality, and long-term sustainability. It includes a few internal staffing and cost-structure adjustments. This ambitious plan is designed to grow ridership and public confidence after years of underfunding and organizational uncertainty.

Revenues:

An overall decrease in fare revenues for 2025/26 reflects the current system limitations, including the suspension of half of Route 2 in September 2025 and winter weather disruptions due to fleet fragility. This budget invests in attracting ridership by redesigning the schedule, increasing reliability through spare bus capacity, and aligning technology with customer needs and expectations.

Advertising income is projected to increase as staff continue to focus on attracting new customers and rebuilding trust in the brand.

Tidal Transit Authority

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Operating Budget

Revenues

	2026-2027 Budget	2025-2026 Forecast	2025-2026 Budget	2024-2025 YE Actuals
Fares	815,757	799,304	892,320	848,181
Advertising income	50,000	41,588	24,000	29,750
Operating grants core members	3,691,408	2,900,222	1,962,845	1,760,793
Operating grants service partner:	-	312,459	1,249,834	1,232,362
Other revenues	-	-	-	21,938
	4,557,165	4,053,572	4,128,999	3,893,024

Expenses:

Total operational expenses in the 2026/27 budget are proposed to increase 10.4% (\$430,000) from 2025/26.

- **Compensation – Administration Costs: \$63,000**
 - 1.72 % cost of living increase
 - Implementation of consultant’s recommendations
 - Increased vacation eligibility
 - 60/40 health benefit cost sharing
 - ½ FTE finance staff shared with Valley Waste Resource Management
- **Route Operations Costs: \$222,000**
 - Implementation of consultant’s recommendations
 - Increased wages and vacation eligibility for Operators
 - 60/40 health benefit cost sharing
 - Additional cleaner hired in February 2025
- **Bus Maintenance and Repairs: \$130,000**
 - 1.72 % cost of living increase
 - 1 additional mechanic
 - Additional repairs on aging buses
- **Insurance \$25,000**
 - 10% price increase anticipated
- **Administrative costs: \$78,000**
 - Licensing fees for new bus technology software
 - Marketing and printing
 - Staff training and development

Tidal Transit Authority					
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures					
Operating Budget					
	2026-2027	2025-2026	2025-2026	2024-2025	
	Budget	Forecast	Budget	YE Actuals	
Expenses	Compensation - administration	839,729	762,135	776,484	610,054
	Route operations costs	1,463,652	1,344,550	1,241,873	1,211,901
	Fuel	503,983	453,958	594,996	599,722
	Insurance	243,098	242,427	217,899	205,486
	Bus maintenance and repairs	1,078,952	912,027	948,386	921,565
	Management fee - core recovery	-	(115,284)	(461,135)	(384,096)
	Management fee - Annapolis	-	75,876	303,505	255,241
	Management fee - Digby	-	39,407	157,630	128,855
	Administrative	427,750	363,475	349,361	344,297
		4,557,165	4,078,573	4,128,999	3,893,024
Net Surplus	-	(25,000)	-	-	

Capital

Tidal Transit is in a rebuilding phase. The current fleet is beyond its useful life and impacting service quality. New buses need to be purchased over the next 3-4 years using external subsidies and municipal funding to stabilize the operations. Below is a general outline of approved Tidal Transit funding agreements with the federal and provincial governments.

External Funding Program Summary

1. Innovation Canada (ICIP) Phase 2: \$11.6M

- Federal contribution (40%): \$4,678,732
- Provincial contribution (33%): \$3,898,554
- Municipal contribution (27%): \$3,119,545

For the purchase of 7 hybrid electric buses, 2 service vehicles, on-board digital technology, consultant support, New Minas depot renovations, and branding.

2. Rural Transit Solution Fund (RTSF) Route Infrastructure: \$1M

- Federal contribution (80%): \$800,000
- Provincial contribution (10%): \$100,000
- Municipal contribution (10%): \$100,000

For the purchase of 25 bus shelters, 900 bus stop signs, 25 benches, 1 heated transfer shelter.

3. RTSF – Building Redesign: \$25,000

- Federal contribution (100%): \$25,000

For consultant support for New Minas Depot redesign and renovations.

4. RTSF – Baseline Funding \$5.1M over 10 years

- Federal contribution (40%): \$5.1M
- Provincial contribution (0%): \$0
- Municipal contribution (60%): TBD

General capital spending over 10 years. Tire balancer, bus lift in 2026/27; diesel bus purchases in 2028/29 and 2030/31.

5. Public Transit Assistance Fund (PTAP) \$375,000/year

- Provincial contribution (100%)

Not guaranteed, applied for annually, same amount received since 2014.

This table is a summary of required capital purchases for the next 5 years. To meet capital investments from provincial and federal partners, Tidal Transit is seeking an increase to the annual municipal capital grant from \$80,000 to \$320,000 with a 2% annual growth. Procurement for seven (7) new forty-foot hybrid electric buses is underway, with delivery and payment anticipated in 2027/2028. Federal, provincial, municipal, and debenture funding will be used to cover the cost of new buses as outlined below.

Capital 5 Year Forecast

		2025-2026 Forecast	2026-2027 Budget	2027-2028 Estimate	2028-2029 Estimates	2029-2030 Estimates	2030-2031 Estimates
<i>Capital Purchases</i>	<u>Ext. Subsidy</u>						
<u>ICIP Phase 1</u>	73.3%	250,000					
<u>ICIP Phase 2</u>	73.3%						
7 Hybrid Buses	73.3%		-	9,544,250	-	-	-
2 Service Vehicles	73.3%		166,182	-	-	-	-
Building / Brand / Transit Technology	73.3%	40,882	1,087,838	1,673,105	-	-	-
<u>RTSF-Shelters and Signage</u>	90.0%	24,000	976,000				
<u>RTSF-Building Consulting</u>	100.0%	25,000					
<u>Baseline Funding</u>	40.0%						
Diesel Buses (3 / 2)	40.0%	-	-	-	3,433,320	-	2,381,351
Other	40.0%	-	260,000	102,000	104,040	106,121	108,243
<u>Not Subsidized</u>							
Used Buses		188,297	57,812	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Annapolis & Digby Buses		923,956	-	-	-	-	-
Cornwallis Park Transfer Station		56,375	175,000	-	-	-	-
<i>Total External Subsidy</i>		(259,904)	(1,901,973)	(7,668,533)	(1,414,944)	(42,448)	(995,838)
Municipal Funded Portion of Capital Spend		1,248,606	820,860	3,650,821	2,122,416	63,672	1,493,756
Capital Reserve Municipal Funding		80,000	320,000	326,400	332,928	339,587	346,378
<i>Year over Year Growth</i>			300.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
End of Year Capital Reserve Balance		892,754	830,404	-	-	314,529	-
Debenture Financing Required		-	-	2,057,745	1,591,945	-	781,382

Municipal Cost Structure

Tidal Transit Authority				
Municipal Operating Grants		2025-2026 Forecast		2026-2027 Budget
	Actual Funding as per IMSA*	Annual Total	Annual Total	
Core Partners	Municipality of Kings	1,234,787	1,244,917	1,487,562
	Town of Kentville	411,143	414,765	510,070
	Town of Wolfville	301,269	303,936	383,160
	Town of Berwick	108,292	109,257	152,227
	Municipality of Annapolis	743,960	748,794	732,063
	Town of Middleton	54,714	55,595	132,944
	District of Digby	358,514	360,416	293,381
		3,212,679	3,237,679	3,691,408

* 1st quarter contribution rates use historical allocation method, Q2-4 have 50% transitional smoothing applied

Tidal Transit Authority						
Municipal Capital Grants		2025-2026 Forecast		2026-2027 Budget		
	Q1	Annual Total	Each Quarter	Annual Total		
Core Partners	Municipality of Kings	12,000	36,838	32,238	128,954	
	Town of Kentville	4,000	12,257	11,054	44,217	
	Town of Wolfville	3,000	8,839	8,304	33,215	
	Town of Berwick	1,000	3,338	3,299	13,196	
	Municipality of Annapolis		11,872	15,865	63,461	
	Town of Middleton		2,227	2,881	11,525	
	District of Digby		4,629	6,358	25,433	
		20,000	80,000	80,000	320,000	

2025-2026 Forecast	2026-2027 Budget	2027-2028 Estimate	2028-2029 Estimates	2029-2030 Estimates	2030-2031 Estimates
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Ratios for
'26-31

Operating Grants by Municipality

Municipality of Kings	40.30%	1,244,917	1,487,562	1,517,314	1,413,624	1,425,937	1,452,361
Town of Kentville	13.82%	414,765	510,070	520,272	484,718	488,940	498,000
Town of Wolfville	10.38%	303,936	383,160	390,823	364,115	367,287	374,093
Town of Berwick	4.12%	109,257	152,227	155,272	144,661	145,921	148,625
Municipality of Annapolis	19.83%	748,794	732,063	746,704	695,676	701,736	714,740
Town of Middleton	3.60%	55,595	132,944	135,603	126,336	127,436	129,798
District of Digby	7.95%	360,416	293,381	299,249	278,799	281,227	286,439
		3,237,679	3,691,408	3,765,236	3,507,929	3,538,483	3,604,056

14.0% 2.0% -6.8% 0.9% 1.9%

Capital Grants by Municipality

Municipality of Kings	40.30%	36,838	128,954	131,533	134,163	136,846	139,583
Town of Kentville	13.82%	12,257	44,217	45,101	46,003	46,923	47,862
Town of Wolfville	10.38%	8,839	33,215	33,880	34,557	35,248	35,953
Town of Berwick	4.12%	3,338	13,196	13,460	13,729	14,004	14,284
Municipality of Annapolis	19.83%	11,872	63,461	64,730	66,025	67,345	68,692
Town of Middleton	3.60%	2,227	11,525	11,755	11,990	12,230	12,475
District of Digby	7.95%	4,629	25,433	25,941	26,460	26,989	27,529
		80,000	320,000	326,400	332,928	339,587	346,378

300.0% 2.0% 2.0% 2.0% 2.0%

INFORMATION REPORT

2026/27 Valley Waste Operating and Capital Budgets



To: Council
From: CAO Boyd
Date: February 10, 2026
Subject: 2026/27 Valley Waste Operating and Capital Budgets

References/Attachments

- Valley Waste Resource Management (VW) Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMSA)
- Valley Regional Services (VRS) Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMSA)
- 2026/27 Tidal Transit Operating and Capital Budgets

Legislation

- **Valley Waste Resource Management (VW) Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMSA)**
 - Section 5 of the VW IMSA delegates its decision making to the VRS Board.
 - Section 15 of the VW Agreement states that 90 days before the beginning of the fiscal year, Tidal Transit shall submit its proposed annual operating plan and budget to the VRS Board after having consulted with CAOs Working Group. It further states that 30 days before the beginning of the fiscal year, the VRS Board shall consider and if deemed appropriate approve the proposed annual operating plan and budget.
- **Valley Regional Services (VRS) Intermunicipal Services Agreement (IMSA)**
 - Section 7 of the VRS Agreement appoints the Mayor of Berwick to the VRS Board on the Town's behalf.
 - Section 14 of the VRS Agreement delegates authority from VW and the Parties to the VRS Board for approval of the operating and capital budgets. This is a change from the Parties originally approving the budgets.
 - Section 17 of the VRS Agreement defines decisions related to operating and capital budgets as Special Resolutions, requiring an affirmative vote from a majority of eligible directors, which must include the director from Kings County.

Background

This is the first operating and capital budgets approved under the new Valley Regional Services (VRS) governance model. With this new governance model, the authority to approve the budgets has been delegated to the VRS Board. On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, the VRS Board approved the 2026/27 Valley Waste Resource Management Authority's Operating and Capital budgets.

INFORMATION REPORT

2026/27 Valley Waste Operating and Capital Budgets



Under the new governance model, Council should have the opportunity to consider the operating and capital budgets and provide direction to their Board representative to approve or not approve the budget at the VRS Board. Staff will ensure that in the future this process is followed.

The 2026/27 Valley Waste (VW) operating budget is a 10% increase over the previous fiscal year; though, primarily due to the implementation of the EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) there was net savings to municipal partners of \$1.161 million.

Revenue overview:

- \$2,380,000 from EPR for PPP related services
 - \$179,000 Administration and Education services
 - \$1,968,000 from collection services
 - \$236,000 from post collection services
- \$72,000 additional Administration & Education net revenues
- \$157,000 from wood grinding
- \$130,000 from commercial cardboard
- \$358,000 from tipping fees includes a 5% increase to fees; elimination of residential recycling fees

Expenditure overview:

- \$290,000 increase in employee compensation:
 - addition of 1.67 Full-time Equivalent positions: addition of 3 part-time seasonal employees and elimination of one seasonal student position; addition of one full-time accountant shared with Tidal Transit (0.5 FT).
- \$903,000 increase to curbside collection contract.
 - New contract and bi-weekly waste pick-up
- \$210,000 increase in landfill disposal based on an increase in volume.
- \$25,000 decrease in organics processing due to less volume.
- \$23,000 increase in hazardous waste processing
- Savings in expense due to EPR:
 - ~\$350,000 for recycling processing
 - ~\$240,000 for transfer and transportation services in year 1

Financial Implications

The Town's contribution for Valley Waste for 2026/27 will be \$213,223 for operating and \$9,031 for capital, a total of \$222,254. This is a 13% decrease, or -\$34,334 savings over the Town's previous year budget.

Staff have included \$222,254 in version 1 of the Town's 2026/27 operating budget.

INFORMATION REPORT
2026/27 Valley Waste Operating
and Capital Budgets



Priority Alignment

Check Applicable	Strategic Priority Area	Comments
X	Economic	
X	Environmental	
	Social	
	Cultural	

Community Engagement/Communication

N/A

CAO Initials: JB

INFORMATION REPORT

2026/27 Valley Waste Operating and Capital Budgets



Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Operating Budget

	2026-2027 Budget	2025-2026 Forecast	2025-2026 Budget	2024-2025 Actuals	
Revenues	Eastern Management Centre	3,020,789	2,863,769	2,571,901	2,785,972
	Western Management Centre	757,287	590,594	534,577	540,437
	Administrative Revenues	2,374,346	983,266	312,651	373,873
	Service Agreements & Diversion Credits	500,000	600,000	420,000	1,679,370
	Communications and Enforcement	334,456	300,386	276,034	276,483
	Wind Turbine	20,400	19,672	20,000	16,116
	Total Program Revenues	7,007,277	5,357,687	4,135,162	5,672,251
	Municipal Parties Contributions	7,582,418	9,459,181	9,459,180	6,062,104
	Less Portion Designated for Capital Use		(345,221)	(345,221)	(313,838)
		14,589,695	14,471,647	13,249,121	11,420,518
Expenses	Residential Collection	5,462,222	5,304,078	4,513,290	2,966,225
	Residual Transportation and Disposal	2,702,589	2,686,497	2,493,222	2,367,127
	Organics Processing and Transportation	1,073,924	1,020,671	1,099,006	1,054,560
	Recyclable Processing and Transportation	396,427	668,770	549,684	755,399
	Construction & Demolition Debris Processing	123,595	180,634	214,500	378,520
	Eastern Management Centre Operations	1,697,351	1,498,112	1,548,962	1,416,398
	Western Management Centre Operations	653,760	647,665	625,189	557,437
	Household Hazardous Waste	221,760	195,793	191,046	180,410
	Communications and Enforcement	644,033	539,271	632,054	522,366
	Wind Turbine	22,170	22,785	23,650	8,223
	Administration	894,895	846,292	857,150	829,250
Debt Principal & Interest	645,090	437,376	448,808	340,780	
Information Technology	51,882	53,008	52,560	43,820	
	14,589,696	14,100,951	13,249,121	11,420,515	
Net Surplus (Deficit)	-	370,696	-	2	

Ops cash flow increase between budgets	(1,531,541)	(16.8%)
Capital cash flow increase between budgets	29,179	8.5%
Additional cash request	(1,502,361)	(15.9%)

INFORMATION REPORT

2026/27 Valley Waste Operating and Capital Budgets



Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority					
Municipal Operating Grants	2025-2026 Forecast			2026-2027 Budget	
	Budgeted Funding	Predicted Year End True-up	Annual Total	Annual Total	
Municipality of Kings	5,311,165	(216,023)	5,095,141	4,427,739	
Town of Kentville	737,845	(30,011)	707,834	611,349	
Town of Wolfville	655,475	(26,660)	628,814	527,766	
Town of Berwick	247,223	(10,055)	237,168	213,223	
Town of Middleton	173,507	(7,057)	166,449	144,595	
Town of Annapolis Royal	76,814	(3,124)	73,690	64,070	
Municipality of Annapolis	1,911,930	(77,765)	1,834,165	1,593,676	
	9,113,959	(370,696)	8,743,263	7,582,418	

2025-2026 operating grants have capital grant funding removed on a allocated basis for comparability

Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority						
Municipal Capital Grants	2025-2026 Forecast			2026-2027 Budget		
	Annual Total			Annual Total		
Municipality of Kings			201,178	187,546		
Town of Kentville			27,948	25,895		
Town of Wolfville	As per a board decision, annually a portion of operating grants were allocated as capital grants up to fiscal 2025-2026		24,828	22,355		
Town of Berwick			9,364	9,031		
Town of Middleton			6,572	6,125		
Town of Annapolis Royal			2,910	2,714		
Municipality of Annapolis			72,421	67,503		
				345,221	-	
					321,168	

BERWICK MURAL SOCIETY
C/O PO Box 654
Berwick, NS
B0P 1E0

21 January 2026

Town of Berwick
Berwick Town Council

Hello Town Council;

The Berwick Mural Society would like to ask the town for a grant of \$3000.

We have spent over \$80,000 over the past five years on seven murals located in Berwick. Our plans for 2026 are exciting. The location will be the east wall on the former Mainstreet Video building on the corner of Main and Commercial Streets. The theme will be farm markets and agriculture.

We expect the cost to be in the area of \$14,000 to \$16,000.

Attached is our financial statements from 2025.

As always, thank you very much for the ongoing support from the Town. All the volunteers of the Berwick Mural Society appreciate your support.

Greg Hubbert
Fund Raising Chairperson

Berwick Mural Society

Berwick, Nova Scotia

Compiled Financial Information

March 31, 2025

Berwick Mural Society

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 7,528	\$ 10,645
Investment in Valley Credit Union	5	5
Prepaid expenses	<u>635</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 8,168</u>	<u>\$ 10,650</u>
Net Assets		
Accumulated Surplus	<u>\$ 8,168</u>	<u>\$ 10,650</u>
	<u>\$ 8,168</u>	<u>\$ 10,650</u>

On behalf of the Board

_____, Director

_____, Director

Berwick Mural Society

Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31, 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Revenue		
Donations	\$ 6,750	\$ 9,700
Town of Berwick	3,000	3,000
Municipality of the County of Kings	914	3,000
IHeart	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>13,664</u>	<u>15,700</u>
Expenses		
Bank charges	36	37
Cost of murals	15,000	18,000
Dues and fees	136	331
Insurance	635	-
Supplies	<u>339</u>	<u>100</u>
	<u>16,146</u>	<u>18,468</u>
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	(2,482)	(2,768)
Accumulated Surplus, beginning of year	<u>10,650</u>	<u>13,418</u>
Accumulated Surplus, end of year	<u>\$ 8,168</u>	<u>\$ 10,650</u>

From: [Mayor Trinacty](#)
To: [Krista Longmire](#)
Subject: Fw: Confirm your ad in Valley Faces for 2026
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 8:00:07 AM

For correspondence at council

Mike

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Valley Faces of Business <rod@valleyfaces.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 6:39 AM
To: Mayor Trinacty <mayor@berwick.ca>
Subject: Confirm your ad in Valley Faces for 2026

Hi Mike

On behalf of the Rotary Clubs of Kentville and Middleton, we extend our sincere thanks for your participation in the 2025 Valley Faces of Business publication, and for most of you, many more years of support! Businesses such as yourselves have allowed our charitable work to continue. When you support Rotary Clubs it demonstrates your commitment to our community.

We switched from Flyer Services to Canada Post and 30,000 copies were delivered in late October 2025 to over 30,000 homes and businesses. If you did not receive a copy, there is a digital version on our website [@valleyfaces.ca](#) and we can also have a copy delivered if you prefer.

We are once again requesting your support to showcase your business and staff by advertising with us again in the 23rd edition Valley Faces of Business publication issued in the fall of 2026. Last year you advertised as a 1/3 Page. Are there any changes you would like to consider for this year in ad content, size of ad, staff photo, etc.?

[Click here to go to the 2026 contract](#)

[Click here to go to the 2026 information sheet](#)

At this time, we are asking for **confirmation only**, with your photo and ad design scheduled in the spring/summer. Invoicing does not occur until you've approved your ad prior to printing.

Please reply your intent to participate and an email confirmation will be forwarded. Look forward to hearing from you and thank you again for your past and future support for projects through the Rotary Clubs of Kentville and Middleton.

Regards,

Rod McMahon
Program Coordinator – Valley Faces of Business
Rotarian
rod@valleyfaces.ca
www.valleyfaces.ca
cell = (647) 549-6642



THE ORDER OF NOVA SCOTIA

2 February 2026
HALIFAX

Mayor Mike Trinacty
Town of Berwick
PO Box 130
236 Commercial Street
Berwick, NS B0P 1E0

Your Worship,

In 2026, the Order of Nova Scotia officially celebrates its 25th Anniversary, marking a quarter-century of honoring excellence in Nova Scotia. I have been asked by the Chancellor of the Order of Nova Scotia, His Honour the Honourable Mike Savage, to remind you that nominations to the Order of Nova Scotia may be made up until Thursday, April 30th, 2026.

As a leader in your community, you are in an exceptional position to help recognize the work of exemplary citizens and those who have contributed to the life and vibrancy of our province.

You can download further information about the Order, along with electronic nomination forms via <https://novascotia.ca/iga/order.asp>. Should you require additional information or material, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Julie Langille, Chief of Protocol at 902-424-4194, or julie.langille@novascotia.ca. You may also contact me directly at 902-424-7050, or christopher.mccreery@novascotia.ca.

The closing date for 2026 nominations is Thursday, April 30th. The Lieutenant Governor and Advisory Council very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

With all kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Christopher McCreery, MVO
Secretary of the Order of Nova Scotia



January 29, 2026

Re: Upcoming Changes to Enriched Housing Services Provided by Grand View Manor

Dear Tenant,

The Enriched Housing Program at Fundy Villa is being phased out and the services provided by Grand View Manor will officially end on July 2, 2026.

Over the next six months, our teams will work with each of you to support your transition to alternative services and help you understand the options available to you. These changes will not impact your tenancy. You will remain in your unit as before.

If you are currently receiving services through Continuing Care, those supports will remain in place. Your care coordinator will be reaching out to you in the coming days to discuss the transition and address any immediate questions you may have.

For those who need services, home support services are available to Nova Scotians assessed as needing them through Nova Scotia Health Continuing Care. For those eligible, these services are often provided at a reduced cost or no cost, depending on your income. There are also services offered by community organizations.

As a first step, we will be hosting an Information Session on February 4, 2026, at 1:30 PM at Grand View Manor in the Assembly Room to provide you with more information about this change and what it means for you.

Representatives from the Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency (NSPHA), Grand View Manor, the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care and Nova Scotia Health Continuing Care will be present to share information and answer questions about services offered through Continuing Care. An Information Sheet outlining these services is included for your reference.

We look forward to seeing you at the session. Please feel free to invite one family member or a support person to join you. This session is for Fundy Villa tenants only. You and your support person (if you have one) will be asked to sign-in upon arrival.

If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact our Middleton office at 902-825-2922.

Sincerely,

Denise Turnbull, Director, Western District, Nova Scotia Provincial Housing Agency
Copy: Andrew Holland, Chief Executive Officer, Grand View Manor

