



CORPORATE SERVICES *Staff Report*

REPORT NO: COR-2025-34

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Greg Clark, Director of Corporate Services/CFO

PREPARED BY: Greg Clark, Director of Corporate Services/CFO

REVIEWED BY: Harold O'Krafka, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 23, 2025

SUBJECT: 2026 Budget Schedule

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report COR-2025-34 2026 Budget Schedule be received, and,

THAT Council approve shortening their length of time for overriding the Head of Councils veto from 15 days to 6 days.

SUMMARY:

- Strong Mayor's Powers – Mayor's Budget
- Adoption of the budget prior to the start of the fiscal year enables staff to plan execute Council's direction effectively and efficiently.
- The 2026 budget will continue to address fiscal issues identified in the 2025 budget.

BACKGROUND:

Historically staff would bring forward a recommended budget for consideration by Council, the presentation, deliberation and approval of which is an opportunity for the community and Council to engage regarding the services, and associated costs, that are provided by the Township. To ensure appropriate notice of timing is provided, and staff can sufficiently prepare documentation, an approved series of meetings is required.

Extension of Strong's Mayors Powers to the Township of Wilmot has changed the budget process, in that the budget is now the responsibility of the Mayor to present.

REPORT:

Strong Mayor's Powers

As per the Municipal Act, all municipalities must adopt annually a budget that includes planned operating and capital expenditures, associated revenues including fees and rates as well as establish the total tax levy to be collected.

Municipal best practice is to adopt the budget prior to the beginning of the year, thereby enabling the administration to effectively plan and execute the budget without uncertainty and delay. Adoption of the operating budget in advance of the budget year starting enables recruitment of required staff in a timely manner and ensures the ability to develop effective work plans that encompass all of Council's directions. With regards to the capital budget, staff can prepare tender packages in advance of the major construction season, May to October, ensuring competitive pricing and availability of required contractors and consultants.

As per the Strong Mayor's Powers, the timelines are as follows:

- Council has 30 days from release of the Mayor's budget to amend the proposed budget.
 - If no amendments are made the budget is approved as presented.
- If the budget is amended, the Mayor has 10 days to veto any amendments.
 - The Mayor has already approved shortening this timeline to 5 days.
 - If the Mayor does not veto any of the amendment(s) the budget is approved as amended.
- If the Mayor vetoes Council's amendment(s), Council has 15 days to override the amendments with a two-thirds majority vote.
 - Council is being asked to shorten this timeframe to 6 days.
 - If Council overrides the veto, the amendment(s) stand and the budget is approved as amended.
 - If Council does not override the veto, the amendment(s) is removed and the budget is approved as presented

Budget Schedule

Event	Method	Date
Public release of budget	Website	October 29, 2025
Presentation of budget	Special Council Meeting	November 3, 2025
Public Delegation Night	Special Council Meeting	November 6, 2025
Council amendments	Special Council Meeting	November 27, 2025
Mayor veto period ends	Website	December 2, 2025
Council override period ends	Special Council Meeting (only if necessary)	December 8, 2025

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Responsible Governance: Fiscal Responsibility

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no direct financial considerations.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – 2026 Budget Calendar