



Mayoral Decision

Decision Number: MD-2025-003
Date: September 11, 2025
Subject: **Direction RE: Preparation of the 2026 Budget**

I, Crystal Meloche, Mayor of the Town of LaSalle, pursuant to the authority granted to the head of Council under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, (the “Act”) and Ontario Regulation 530/22 hereby direct the Chief Administrative Officer and the Treasurer the responsibility for preparing the proposed 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets for the Town of LaSalle using the below principles as a framework for the budget preparation.

Principles:

1. Affordability and Residential Impacts

- Ensure the proposed budget reflects a strong commitment to **affordability** for residents.
- Assess all budget decisions through the lens of **taxpayer impact**, seeking to minimize unnecessary financial pressures while maintaining core municipal services.
- Present **residential impacts in a clear and understandable way** so that taxpayers can see how the budget will affect their household.

2. Balancing Needs and Wants

- Prioritize **essential services and infrastructure** required for a safe, livable, and resilient community.
- Clearly differentiate between **needs (mandatory investments)** and **wants (enhancements or discretionary projects)** to support transparent decision-making by Council and the public.
- Staff shall prepare a **base budget scenario** focused on essential services and contractual obligations only, an **administration recommended budget** based on the above as well as funding for current and future growth and enhancements and supply the **implications of going below the administration recommendation**.

3. Planning for a Growing Community

- Prepare budget recommendations that respond to the realities of LaSalle's **population growth and community expectations**.
- Ensure that new and future growth-related pressures—such as roads, recreation, emergency services, and water/wastewater—are balanced against the capacity of current and future taxpayers.

4. Public Engagement and Transparency

- Release the **draft 2026 budget to the public by November 13, 2025**, two weeks prior to the first day of budget presentations.
- Host a **public open house session during the week of November 17, 2025**, to provide residents with an opportunity to review the draft budget, ask questions, and share feedback.
- Share information broadly through **PlaceSpeak**, the Town's website, social media, and other communication tools to ensure residents have accessible and meaningful ways to engage with the process.

5. Council Communication

- Provide **regular updates to Council** during the budget preparation process.
- Respond to all budget-related inquiries from Members of Council **in writing**, ensuring responses are circulated to all members and relevant staff.

6. Budget Presentation

- Present the draft 2026 budget to the Mayor and Council beginning on **November 27, 2025**, in accordance with provincial legislation.

Rationale:

The Town of LaSalle is experiencing **steady growth and evolving community needs**. At the same time, residents are facing economic pressures, and Council has a responsibility to carefully balance fiscal discipline with community expectations. The 2026 budget must reflect this balance — protecting affordability while investing wisely in infrastructure and services that support our growing town.

Signed this 11th of September, 2025.



Crystal Meloche
Mayor