

The Village council is developing a strategic plan for 2018-2021. Council would appreciate the input of the Lougheed residents to help formulate the plan. Please fill out the survey. No names are required. The survey can be dropped in the survey box at the village office or mailed to: Village of Lougheed, Box 5, Lougheed, AB T0B 2V0 **Please No later than Dec 31.2017.**

The Council is planning on holding a public meeting in January 2018, date to be announced, to go over survey results and receive more input from village residents.

Changes to the Municipal Government Act require each municipality to now have a development plan, an intermunicipal development plan, a 3 year operational budget and a 5 year capital plan by the end of 2020.

Income for the village includes grants, utility billings and property taxes.

The Alberta government has funding in place until the end of 2018. The grant structure could change for 2019. The village receives \$ 160,000.00 for capital grants. This is to replace capital items such as water treatment plant upgrades/updates, wastewater lagoon updates, roads, sidewalks and curbs. The village also receives about \$ 37,000 towards operating. This funding can be used for operational items, but not wages.

The government is asking that all municipalities work towards user pay for utility costs such as water, wastewater and garbage. Lougheed council has started the process of user pay and once the water meters are on line and we have gathered the data on usage, the billings will change, so that each property owner and business pay for the amount of water used not a flat rate as the billings are now. Wastewater billings will be based on a percentage of water used. The village belongs to the Flagstaff Solid Waste Management Society. The society requisitions the village yearly for the amount it costs to collect garbage in the village and for the village's share of landfill costs. The village then divides this requisition up for the number of households and businesses.

The remainder of funds required to pay expenses are acquired from property taxes. Tax rates are calculated by dividing the amount of revenue required by the total assessment of all property on which the tax rate is to be imposed. Individual assessment multiplied by the tax(mill) rate equals the amount of taxes each owner is required to pay. Businesses are assessed a higher tax rate than homes. Village Council has instituted a minimum property tax of \$950.00. Over 50% of village homes and businesses pay the minimum tax. The largest residential tax billing in the village is \$ 4200.00

Like most municipalities in Canada, Lougheed has an infrastructure deficit. An infrastructure study was completed in 2014. Council is working towards the upgrades required without placing a larger tax burden on the citizens. The past 4 years, the capital grants have been used to upgrade the water treatment plant to meet today's standards and to replace equipment at the end of life cycle. This year the heating and ventilation system was replaced. Council now has a quote for the next project to replace water treatment plant filtering system. The lagoon has had a major cleaning and there is more work required to keep operating at optimal standards. Capital projects in the future include replacing main valves in the water system, so all are operational, repairing/replacing manholes so there is no sewer leakage, replacing nonfunctioning individual water valves (cc valves) and swales, curbs and gutters.

This is your village and council would like your input to keep our community a viable place to live and attract new residents and businesses.