



#### Office of the Mayor

City Hall  
1 Carden St  
Guelph, ON  
Canada  
N1H 3A1

T 519-837-5643  
TTY 519-826-9771  
F 519-822-8277  
E [mayor@guelph.ca](mailto:mayor@guelph.ca)

[guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca)

### Mayor Guthrie's Introduction to the Proposed 2026 Budget Update

I have spent weeks hearing feedback on my proposed 2026 draft budget from residents, businesses, and Council colleagues. These discussions, combined with an imperative to keep taxes as low as possible, have prompted me to make several changes.

The forecasted 2026 budget originally earmarked a 4.51 percent tax rate increase for the City Services portion. After working closely with senior staff, I announced in October that the draft City Services portion of the tax rate was revised to 3.17 percent.

Balancing value and affordability, with all feedback given serious consideration, I have made targeted changes to the budget. These changes include:

- Continuing funding for Guelph's 2027 bicentennial celebration
- Adding funds to support physician recruitment
- Maintaining culture and civic events in Market Square and select city parks
- Monitoring and implementing termite control
- Supporting the Park Steward program
- Expanding museum and cultural programming
- Supporting a renoviction bylaw and Vacant Home Tax program
- Deferring Transit route 98 expansion to 2027
- Phasing in new bylaw officers

These budget adjustments reduce the City Services portion of the tax rate to 2.85 percent, providing enhanced value while maintaining affordability for residents and businesses.

Thank you to everyone who provided me with their feedback about the proposed draft budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cam Guthrie", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cam Guthrie  
Mayor

# Mayor's 2026 Budget Update



---

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Mayor Cam Guthrie  
**Date:** November 13, 2025

---

## Summary

The Mayor has prepared, for City Council's consideration, a 2026 Budget Update.

Adjustments have been made to the [Draft 2026 Budget Update](#) released on October 16, 2025 in the tax-supported budget.

The Mayor's 2026 Budget Update results in a City service budget requirement, net of the proportionate share of assessment growth, totalling an increased net levy requirement in 2026 of \$10,018,419 or 2.85 per cent over 2025.

## Mayor's Budget

### Tax-supported budget

The changes for the tax-supported budget are provided in Table 1.

Table 1 Mayor's 2026 Budget Update – City tax-supported services

Description	2026 budget update (\$)	2026 tax levy impact
<b>Draft 2026 Budget Update Net of Assessment Growth Revenue (released October 16, 2025)</b>	<b>11,142,753</b>	<b>3.17%</b>
Add: funding for Guelph bi-centennial	150,000	0.04%
Add: funding for termite control	60,000	0.02%
Add: funding for market square, culture and civic events	65,000	0.02%
Add: funding for Park Steward program	25,000	0.01%
Add: funding for museum and cultural programming	102,076	0.03%
Add: funding for the Guelph-Wellington Ontario Health Team physician recruitment	45,000	0.01%

initiative (2026 and 2027 commitment)		
Deferral of Transit route 98 enhancements to 2027	(1,054,774)	(0.30%)
Phase-in of new By-law Officers over 2026 and 2027	(101,416)	(0.03%)
Addition of Vacant Home Tax with net zero tax levy impact (revenue of \$600,000, expense of \$275,000, transfer to affordable housing reserve (119) of \$325,000)	0	0.00%
Development of a renoviction and rental replacement by-law (estimate underway) funded from Affordable Housing reserve (119)	0	0.00%
Additional assessment growth revenue	(415,220)	(0.12%)
<b>Mayor's 2026 Budget Update – City Services</b>	<b>10,018,419</b>	<b>2.85%</b>

#### Assessment Growth Revenue

Assessment Growth (AG) revenue has been budgeted at 1.15 per cent of the base budget, or \$4.04 million, split proportionally between the City (67 per cent) and LBSS (33 per cent). Actual AG revenue for 2026 will be confirmed later in November but is now estimated at 1.33 per cent. This results in an additional \$619,732 in revenues split City \$415,220 and LBSS \$204,511. Under the City's Revenue Budgeting Policy, the full amount of this additional AG revenue would normally be transferred to the Growth Reserve Fund (156) and would help to offset the 2027 increase; however I have directed staff to apply this increase to reduce the 2026 tax levy impact.