

July 2026 - Issue 1

KearneyKonnnect

Town Newsletter

Treasury Department Update

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Town of Kearney



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2026 OPERATING BUDGET: WHAT'S NEW?

This spring, Council reviewed the third draft of the Town of Kearney's 2026 Operating Budget. Thanks to careful review and several budget refinements, the proposed municipal tax increase was **reduced from 6.92% to 3.89%**, helping lessen the impact on taxpayers while continuing to invest in essential municipal services.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



- The tax rate has been reduced to **3.89%**.
- For the average single-family home (assessed at approximately \$144,000), the annual municipal tax increase has been **reduced from \$118.27 in the first draft to**

\$66.50

- Just over 62% of the residential properties will see an average increase of \$41.00

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL PLANNING

To offset costs where possible, the Town has:

- Increased projected revenues from recycling and gym rentals.
- Reduced several operating expenses, including building office supplies and training.
- Continued long-term planning through reserve funds and capital budgeting to prepare for future infrastructure needs.

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Investing \$2.2 million in Capital Expenditures



Fire Department – Purchase a new first response vehicle and thermal imaging camera plus replace radios, some bunker gear and cylinders for SCBA



Parks and Recreation – Start the professional services for the Lion's Park Pavilion Rebuild, purchase a zero turn mower, purchase banners for Regatta and a new swim line for McManus beach, Boardwalk repairs, storage solutions for fitness equipment storage room



Administration – Increase function in the municipal office, create a facilities and parks and trails master plan



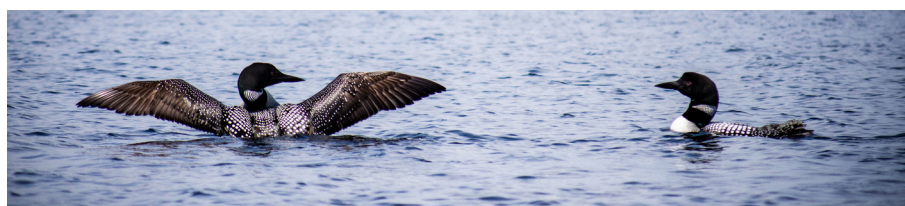
Bridges and Culverts – Repairs to the Allister Johnston Bridge as per our mandatory bridge inspection report



Public Works Equipment – Purchase a new Tandem Snow Plow Truck and a used front end loader



Roads – Gravel application to Island Lake Road, removing berms on Hwy 518 from Main Street to Loon Lake Road, Hard Surface Treatment of portions of Clam Lake, Ostick and Echo Ridge Roads and improving some smaller roads to a municipal standard to provide full year round maintenance.



KEY BUDGET CHANGES

General Government

- Council remains close to the same as 2025 but obviously there are election expenses for 2026
- Administration has an increase in Wages and Benefits with the addition of the Community Engagement and Recreation position
- Overall, Administration remains about the same as last year

Planning and Development

- Official Plan and Zoning By-law project will finish in 2026

Protective Services

- Fire Department remain consist over last year
- Policing increased by \$34,699
- Building wages down due to vacancy

Health Services and Social/Family Services

- There is a 5.6% increase in levies for health/social/family services or \$29,952

Environmental Services

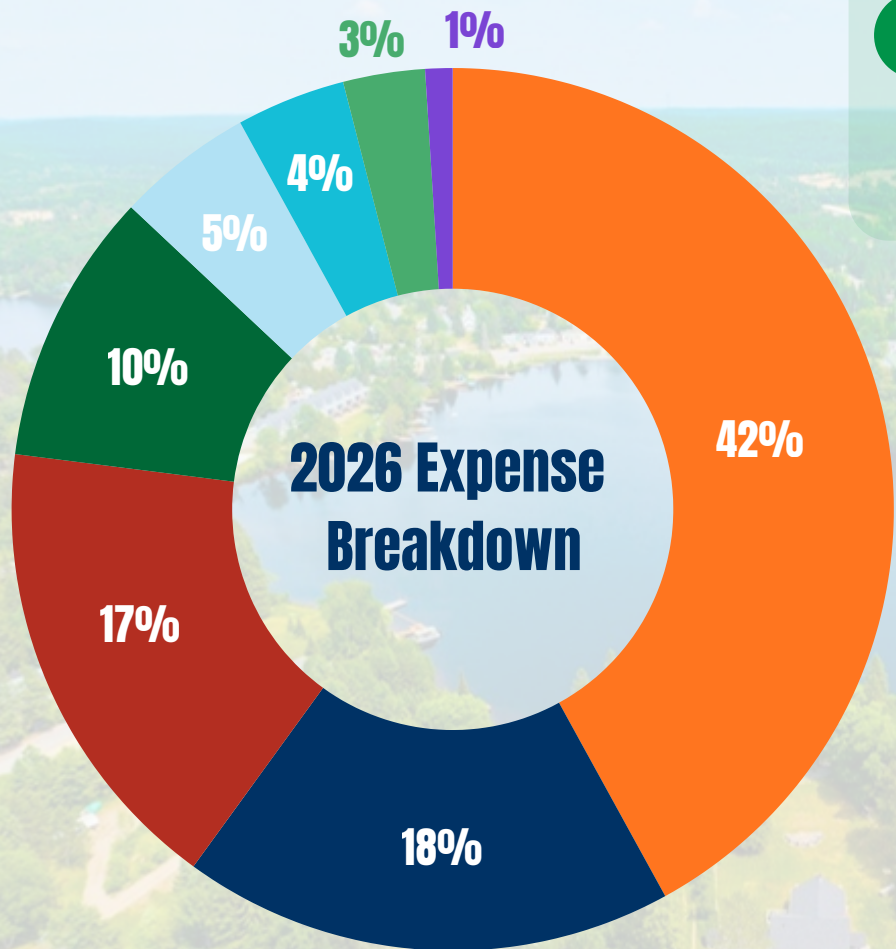
- Savings in recycling because of provincial program taking over residential recycling
- No capital items in 2026

Public Works

- Significant lower grader expenses
- Significantly higher capital costs for 2026

Parks and Recreation

- Wages and Benefits are increased for part of the Deputy CBO/Facilities Manager position and an additional seasonal worker (June to October)
- Construction of the Lions Pavilion to start in 2027 but administrative tasks, such as engineering, drawings, permits will start in 2026
- Library levy increase



Did You Know?



In 2026, \$644,385 is collected in taxes to forward to the four school boards in our district.



Did You Know?

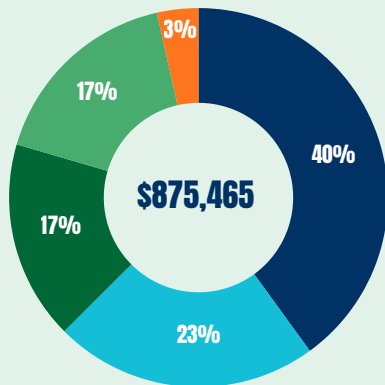


Every municipal property tax bill helps fund a wide range of services—many of which are mandated by the Province.

In 2026, approximately

\$875,465

of municipal taxes collected are directed to the following levies:



■ Police Services ■ Social Services Administration Board ■ Ambulance Services
■ Home of the Aged ■ Health Unit

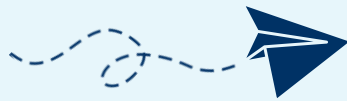
INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

The proposed budget includes investments in several priority areas, including:

- Enhanced volunteer firefighter wellness supports.
- New funding for firefighter bunker gear testing and repairs.
- Additional winter sand and salt to strengthen winter road maintenance.
- Continued support for recreation programming and growing community participation.



LOOKING AHEAD



The Town continues to balance responsible financial stewardship with maintaining the high level of services residents rely on. Every budget decision aims to ensure taxpayer dollars are invested wisely while planning Kearney's future.



Careful Planning

Smarter decisions today for a stronger tomorrow.



Financial Responsibility

Balancing needs with long-term sustainability.



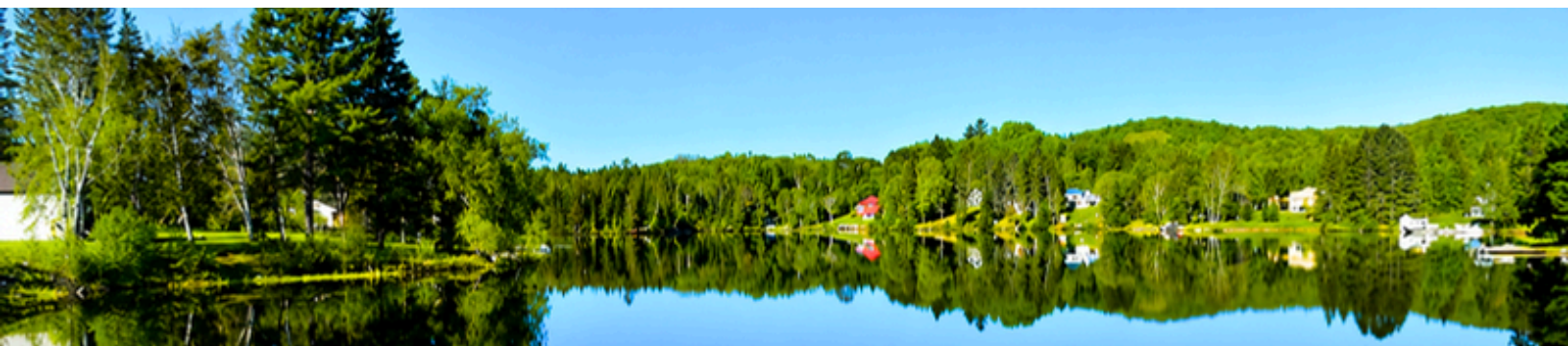
Community-Focused

Investing in the services that matter most.



Careful Planning

Working with residents to build a better Kearney.



Thank you!

Your voice and your continued support help shape the future of our community. If you would like to discuss the budget process, please contact:

Jenny Leblond, Treasurer



705-636-7752 ext. 105



jenny.leblond@townofkearney.ca