

# 2026-2027 Questions and Answers (Updated November 13)

Responses will be left blank until a response is provided. Questions and responses will be updated weekly.

## City of Greater Sudbury

1. With 58 lines of business, how many departments do we have in each line of business. In 2023 and 2024 how many departments had surpluses in each year and out of all these departments how many have reserves aside from the overall 58 lines of business/ they're overall department.

Year-end variance reports describing the surplus and/or deficit of each division can be found here:

[2024 Year-End Operating Budget Variance Report](#)

[2024 Year-End Operating Budget Variance Report Appendix 1](#)

[2023 Year-End Operating Budget Variance Report](#)

[2023 Year-End Operating Budget Variance Report Appendix 1](#)

The following divisions have dedicated reserves:

- Building Services – Legislated
- Water/Wastewater – Rate supported
- Social Service - Housing
- Cemetery Services
- Linear Infrastructure Services - Winter Control
- Economic Development - Regional Business Centre
- Outside Boards
  - o Greater Sudbury Police Service
  - o Greater Sudbury Public Library

2. In the presentation we show \$402 million in municipal levy and \$859 in expenditures, we show 17% contributions to reserves how much in dollars does this amount to and which reserves are we putting into and is the 17% based on the \$402 million only or does this include provincial and federal funds. Please provide a complete breakdown of all monies.

3. On page 210 special capital levy we show \$6.1 million for community safety and revitalization program, college street underpass and Frobisher salt/sand dome. So my question is the 1.5 special levy was dedicated to specifically roads so has council reconsidered amending the resolution that was passed in April 2023. As I recall this special levy money was clearly directed to roads only. We currently have for 2026 \$16,597,506 million dollars that's to be spent on existing roads so we would be closing out infrastructure gap of approximately \$800 hundred million.

During 2024-2025 Budget deliberations, Council approved the special capital levy to be used towards debt repayments, and for road capital projects. This information can be found on pages 372 and 373 on the 2024-2025 Budget document found here:

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/budget-and-finance/previous-budgets/2024-2025-budget/proposed-budget1/proposed-2024-2025-budget/>

4. Are we using any salary gapping in 2026 or 2027 to reduce the overall budget, if so please identify where we're using the salary gapping and if we're not using salary gapping, please explain why not and identify how much money we currently have with positions that are currently not filled.

The salary gapping budget for each 2026 and 2027 is \$3.3 million.

The Corporate Vacancy Allowance Policy governs the management and administration for vacancy management to reflect compensation savings resulting from employee turnover throughout the calendar year. The Corporate Vacancy Allowance Policy applies to permanent and long-term contract employees within all City departments, except for the following:

- Greater Sudbury Police Services (GSPS)
- Water/Wastewater
- Services that operate on a 24/7 basis – This includes areas such as Pioneer Manor, Fire, Paramedic Services
- Emergency Management Services.

However, this policy does apply to the administrative staff of these services.

Vacancy management is difficult to address on a corporate-wide level because it relies on unpredictable variables such as employee absence and retirements in services that can accept a temporary reduction in staff capacity. While efforts were made to minimize service impacts, managing vacancies in this way can reduce responsiveness and place additional strain on staff. A better practice is to identify specific service adjustments and incorporate them into the budget so net costs are reduced by the value of vacancy management savings.

5. On page 246 we're showing land purchase of \$2.1 million dollars for the minnow lake fire station which will be located on Marus drive which is technically located beside the dog park on second ave, it's my understanding that this is municipal property so how are we purchasing our on property and if it's not municipal property who are we purchasing the property from. We're also showing \$9,195,000 million dollars could you please provide detailed description of the new build as we're use specific numbers so obviously we should be providing more details regarding this capital project. Why wouldn't we use the property next to the dog park as we would be saving the taxpayers \$2.1 million dollars or even using the property at the front of the cemetery which is once again municipal property.
  
6. The Garson fire station we're showing 1,013, million dollars in land acquisition and it's my understanding we're building the new station in front of the Garson arena so why would we be purchasing property we currently own.
  
7. The Van Horne station we're showing 16,236,000 million on a renovation, is this a renovation or a renovation with expansion. If this is a renovation with a expansion then please provide details of which property needs to be purchased in order to expand the station! If the is just a renovation of 16,236,000 this seems to be very excessive and once again with specific numbers that are provided in this we should be able to supply a detailed description of what's taking place.
  
8. I thought council agreed that user fees would increase year after year using the cost of living or a 3% increase which every was higher . I'm noticing on the budget that we're seeing some increases but not fully across the board, please explain why.

In accordance with the Miscellaneous User Fee Bylaw, the 2026 and 2027 user fee rates are increased by the greater of three per cent or the June 2025 Stats Canada Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items. Since the CPI was 1.9 per cent, the fees in the schedules include a three per cent increase, and any exceptions to this increase are described in the appropriate fee schedule. Such exceptions are the result of a comprehensive analysis identifying the appropriate cost recovery fee. User fee revenues included within the base budget considers the appropriate fees as well as anticipated usage of the service.

9. I noticed in our budget binder we didn't budget anything for crack filling our roads, why didn't we as crack filling helps prolong our roads and helps reduce the amount out pot holes through the freeze thaw cycle.

10. How much money did we spend in each year for consultants in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and how much money will we be spending on consultants for 2025 and could you please break down the cost as per each department.

The amount spent on consultants (excluding funded costs) is as follows:

Departments	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Budget)
Office of the Mayor	\$ 5,861	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000
Office of the CAO	\$ -	\$ 9,667	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Strategic Initiatives and Communications	\$ 25,560	\$ 37,669	\$ -	\$ 27,106	\$ -
Auditor General	\$ 15,155	\$ 509	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Financial Services	\$ 69,212	\$ 63,544	\$ 70,494	\$ 35,502	\$ 89,500
GM's Office - Corporate Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,425	\$ -
GM's Office - Community Well-being	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 455	\$ -
GM's Office - Community Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,131	\$ -	\$ -
Planning Services	\$ -	\$ 107,418	\$ 114,841	\$ 200	\$ 59,080
Transit Services	\$ -	\$ 8,650	\$ 14,180	\$ 8,063	\$ -
Linear Infrastructure Services	\$ 13,192	\$ 63,102	\$ 94,324	\$ 98,551	\$ 115,393
Housing Services	\$ -	\$ 78	\$ 6,034	\$ -	\$ 6,500
Long-term Care Services	\$ 26,114	\$ 37,484	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,604
<b>Total Consultant Costs</b>	<b>\$ 155,094</b>	<b>\$ 328,120</b>	<b>\$ 308,004</b>	<b>\$ 210,303</b>	<b>\$ 315,077</b>

The City retains consultants for a few reasons, including when:

- Specialized expertise is required
- Capacity is not available within existing staff workplans
- An independent opinion is required.

11. On page 11 of the Budget binder, I've noted the increase in Taxes Receivable as a percentage of tax levied, which may be an indicator of resident difficulty in paying their property taxes.

a. Do we have CGS figures for 2024?

The figure for 2024 is 3.7 per cent.

b. We are below the BMA average of 5.5% but how are we doing compared to our approved municipal comparators (if this information is available)?

## 12. What does “Rates Coverage Ratio” mean/indicate?

The rates coverage ratio provides a measure of the municipality’s ability to cover its costs through its own sources of revenue. It measures own-source revenue as a percentage of total expenditures. According to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, a basic target is 40 to 60 per cent; an intermediate is 60 to 90 per cent and an advanced target is 90 per cent or greater.

The Glossary in Appendix 1 of the 2026-2027 Budget Document contains a description of all financial condition indicators