

**T Luchak Submission for Strathcona County Proposed 2023 Budget
November 21, 2022 Non-Statutory Public Hearing**

From: [Tamara Luchak](#)
To: [Legislative Officer](#)
Subject: Letter to speak to the Proposed budget for 2023
Date: November 17, 2022 8:49:03 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.

Dear council members,

As a senior in this county of which we have lived in since 1977, there is no other place we would rather live. Our children have grown up and left. There is just us two living in our own home. As many seniors in this community, it is our hope to live in our own house as long as we can. Rather than building more senior facilities, can the seniors living on their own be encouraged and supported to do so. Our resources have gone in to our house and we continue to support and maintain it however the wild card is the taxes. We know you need a reasonable tax increase but 5.5 is just tough. If this continues over the next years, that is a big bite out of our budget. Can we reduce that figure some how? Secondly, is it possible to have a rate adjusted for seniors trying to live in their own homes? I don't mean just a bus pass. Would the county not consider helping seniors who live here? We don't all want to be pushed in to a small apartment. We want yards and gardens and our own space and maybe a pet.

Please consider this group of people as you set the tax rate.

Yours Sincerely,

Tamara Luchak

Living in Ward 6.

Sent from my iPad

**T Sangster Submission for Strathcona County Proposed 2023 Budget
November 21, 2022 Non-Statutory Public Hearing**

From: [Tyson S](#)
To: [Legislative Officer](#)
Subject: 2023 Budget Written Submission
Date: November 17, 2022 9:57:59 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.

The following is a submission for the 2023 Budget proceedings:

The proposed 2023 Budget does not provide a breakdown by service, which makes it exceedingly difficult to assess whether a service is providing value for money and to what extent its costs are recovered via service / user fees. The most glaring example is Strathcona County Transit - I regularly see completely empty buses going through my neighbourhood, Summerwood. This implies that Strathcona County has surplus bus service, considering the number of actual transit riders in Sherwood Park outside of commuters to Edmonton is fairly low. In the interest of transparency, I would request that Strathcona County publish the operating loss / surplus for transit services, and if there is a loss, the subsidy that is provided per rider to cover the shortfall.

The 2023 proposed budget includes a ~\$440K increase to funding for the Strathcona County Library, bringing the Budget to a staggering \$10.96 million. That is ~\$109 per capita. Comparatively, Edmonton spends almost half as much at ~\$57 per capita, despite having to cover a larger geographic area and serve more high needs communities. I am a user of the Strathcona County Library; however, I only use the online ebook borrowing service. It seems that electronic services reduce the need for more expensive in-person library services and present an opportunity to reduce library expenditures. How many unique individuals actually use a Library in-person in a given year, and what is the cost per person?

The province provides a [tool called the Municipal Measurement Index](#) to compare expenditures between municipalities. According to this tool, Strathcona County (\$3929) has higher per capita expenses than Edmonton (\$3060) and all other major communities in the Greater Edmonton Area including St. Albert (\$2828), Fort Saskatchewan (\$2976), Leduc (\$3394), and Spruce Grove (\$2636). Strathcona County does have rural areas within its jurisdiction, but can that alone explain the higher per-capita expenses? How much management does Strathcona County have compared with comparable municipalities and how do the employee salaries compare with other jurisdictions? Has an analysis been done to study why Strathcona County has higher expenditures?

Another insight from the Municipal Measurement Index is that the non-residential tax burden in Strathcona County is much lower than other jurisdictions. This is a competitive advantage; however, there is significant room to shift the tax burden from residents to industrial and commercial properties while still maintaining significantly lower rates than Edmonton and other communities. Given that much of the inflation is due to higher oil and gas prices and the oil and gas industry represents a significant portion of our industrial tax base - I think that it would be reasonable to adjust the tax burden toward higher taxes for non-residential properties.

Thank you,

Tyson Sangster
Sherwood Park, 