

## Monique Ouellet

---

**From:** Los Mos <lusitaniascu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 16, 2024 4:31 PM  
**To:** Budget  
**Cc:** Julie Ramos  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL Strong Concerns Regarding Proposed Budget Increases

You don't often get email from lusitaniascu@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express my growing frustration and dissatisfaction with the proposed budget for 2025. While I understand that the high cost of living is a reality, it is completely unreasonable for the municipal government to impose an 8.7% increase on residents, especially when the services we receive in return are so limited and underwhelming.

We live in a rural municipality with poorly maintained roads, minimal recreation and cultural services, and no real municipal transit. Yet, somehow, you're proposing to increase our financial burden, despite the fact that there are obvious inefficiencies in the way our services are managed. This proposed budget does nothing to address those inefficiencies—instead, it appears that the only solution is to keep raising taxes. I find that unacceptable.

As elected representatives, it is your responsibility to find ways to streamline operations and ensure that public funds are being spent wisely. Simply increasing taxes without addressing these core issues is not the solution.

I am particularly concerned by the following items in the draft budget:

1. \$659,444\*\* for increased contributions to reserves—what exactly are we reserving for, and why are we suddenly seeing such a significant jump?
2. \$486,201\*\* increase in the OPP contract—can you explain the justification for this increase? What do we actually get in return for this expenditure?
3. \$687,572\*\* for a wage adjustment for cost of living. With 159 employees, that translates to over \$4,000 per person. Is this truly justified?
4. \$80,000\*\* increase in insurance costs—what is driving this up so significantly?
5. \$97,000\*\* increase in software fees—can you provide a breakdown of these costs?

These increases are not just numbers on a page; they represent a real burden on the people who live here, and frankly, it's difficult to see the justification for any of them when so many services remain subpar.

I urge you to rethink this budget, and before implementing such significant tax increases, I ask that you demonstrate real efforts to find efficiencies and prioritize the needs of the residents you serve.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I expect a clear, detailed response on how these issues will be addressed.

We are going to drive hard working residents out of our community. This is not what I voted for!!!

Sincerely,  
Carlos Ramos