

# 2005 APPROVED BUDGET

December 2004

## The Approved 2005 Budget

St. Albert City Council has approved the 2005 Budget, which includes a 5.38% increase in property taxes. In addition the City will raise utility rates by \$8 per month. The utility rate increase keeps St. Albert in mid range for utility fees elsewhere in the Capital Region.

The property tax increase combined with the Multipurpose Leisure Centre (MPLC) will mean an increase of \$18.65 per month on a home with a value of \$180,000.

### Utility Rates

The increase in utility rates allows the City to move ahead with needed upgrades, and follows the policy of establishing a pay-as-you-go system of financing.

There are indications that both the Federal and Provincial Governments are looking at new funding methods to assist municipalities with growing infrastructure demands. If there is funding from other levels of government, additional pressures for 2006 and 2007 would be mitigated.

### 2005 Budget Highlights.

- Funding for land acquisition and design of a new fire hall in northwest St. Albert.
- Replacement of vehicles and equipment for \$2.4 Million.
- Staffing and program investments to maintain delivery of services and programs to citizens.
- Rehabilitation of infrastructure such as reconstruction and replacement of roadways, sidewalks, bridges and civic facilities.
- 5 new staff to address safety issues, including two new RCMP officers, a Bylaw Enforcement Supervisor, a Fire Prevention Officer and an Information Technology Security resource to assist RCMP with implementation of mobile workstations.
- Funding to implement an Affordable Housing Strategy

### Impact of 5.38% Municipal Property Tax Rate Increase & MPLC on Sample Properties



#### Residential

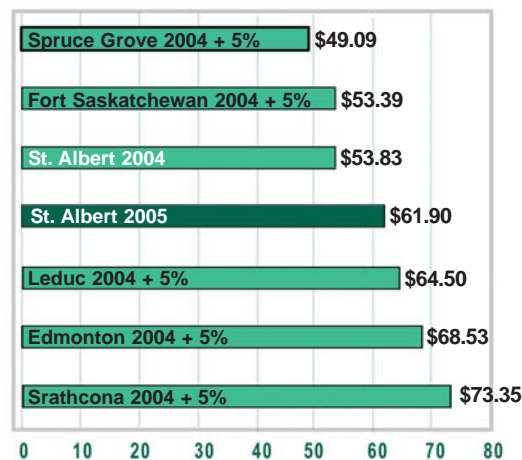
Property	Value	2005	Annual	Monthly
Condo	\$125,000	\$1,325	+\$155.41	+\$12.95
Home	\$180,000	\$1,907	+\$223.78	+\$18.65
Home	\$375,000	\$3,974	+\$466.22	+\$38.85



#### Commercial

Property	Value	2005	Annual	Monthly
Restaurant	\$920,000	\$14,346	+\$1,378	+\$114.87
Industrial	\$4.2 million	\$65,492	+\$6,293	+\$524.41

Comparison with Cities within the Alberta Capital Region



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## Capital and Operating Expenditures

The municipal operating budget has expenditures of \$71.4 million. This compares to expenditures in 2004 of \$63.1 million. In order to maintain service levels, increases are required related to service contracts, staffing, inflation and capital projects. The combined Municipal and Utility Capital Budget for 2005 is \$12.2 million and is achieved with no new external debt.

One of the challenges facing the City this year was lower than anticipated assessment growth.

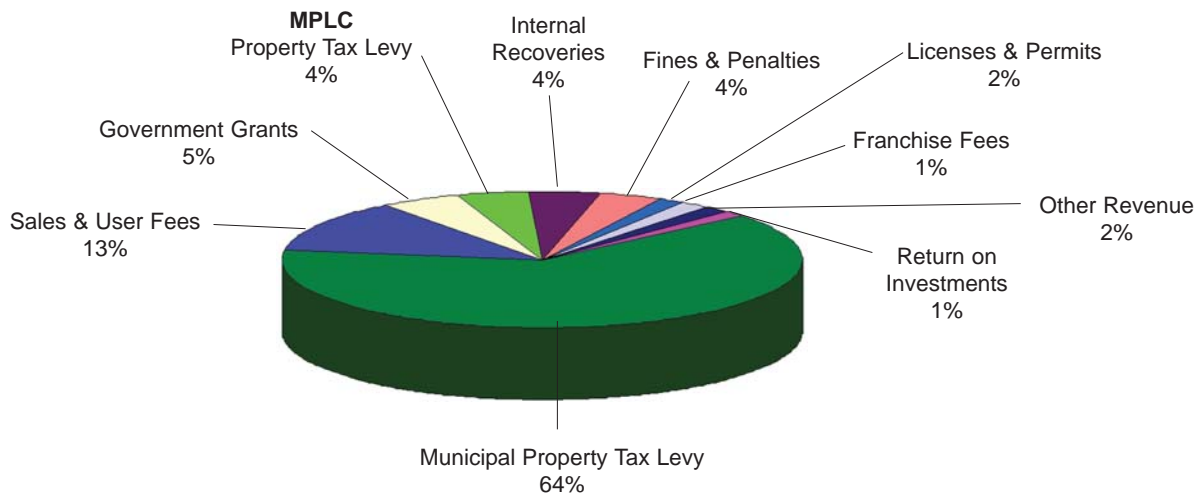
In 2004, assessment grew by 2.87%. The growth rate in previous years has been between 3.5 and 4%.

In 2005 the major challenge will be to maintain St. Albert's high quality services and programs while meeting new demands such as the West Regional Road and Multipurpose Leisure Centre. Funding for the Multipurpose Leisure Centre starts

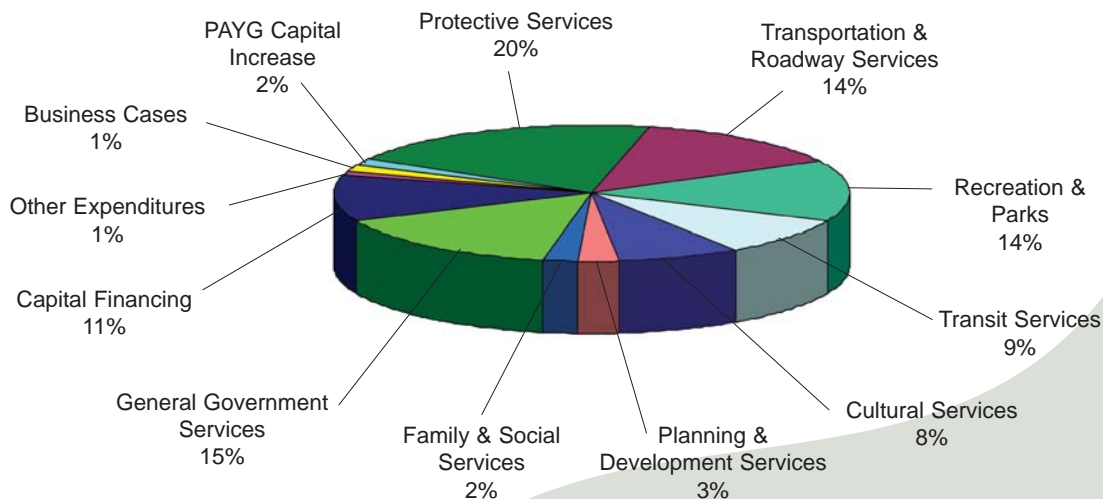
in 2005, while the impact of the West Regional Road will not occur until 2006. As new debt comes on stream a number of older debt payments will be retired.

The cost of the Multipurpose Leisure Centre will add an additional \$74 per \$100,000 of assessment for both residential and non-residential properties.

## Where the Money Will Come From for the 2005 Operating Budget



## How the City Will Spend In 2005



For more detailed information please visit [Budget 2005](#)