Municipality of Argyle

2019-20 Operating and Capital Budget Presentation

Operating budget highlights

▶ Total operating revenues and expenditures budgeted at $8,409,500 for 2019-2020, an increase of $342,000 from the prior year.

▶ Council is being asked to consider a tax rate increase, both commercial and residential.

▶ Current rates are as follows:

   ▶ Residential $1.07 per every $100 of assessment – approximate cost for a home valued at $150,000 equals $1,605 before area rates.

   ▶ Commercial rate $2,25 per every $100 of assessment – approximate cost for a property valued at $150,000 equals $3,375 before area rates.

▶ Revised rates are as follows:

   ▶ Residential $1.09 per every $100 of assessment – approximate cost for a home valued at $150,000 equals $1,635 before area rates, increase of $30 annually.

   ▶ Commercial rate $2.27 per every $100 of assessment – approximate cost for a property valued at $150,000 equals $3,405 before area rates, increase of $35 annually.
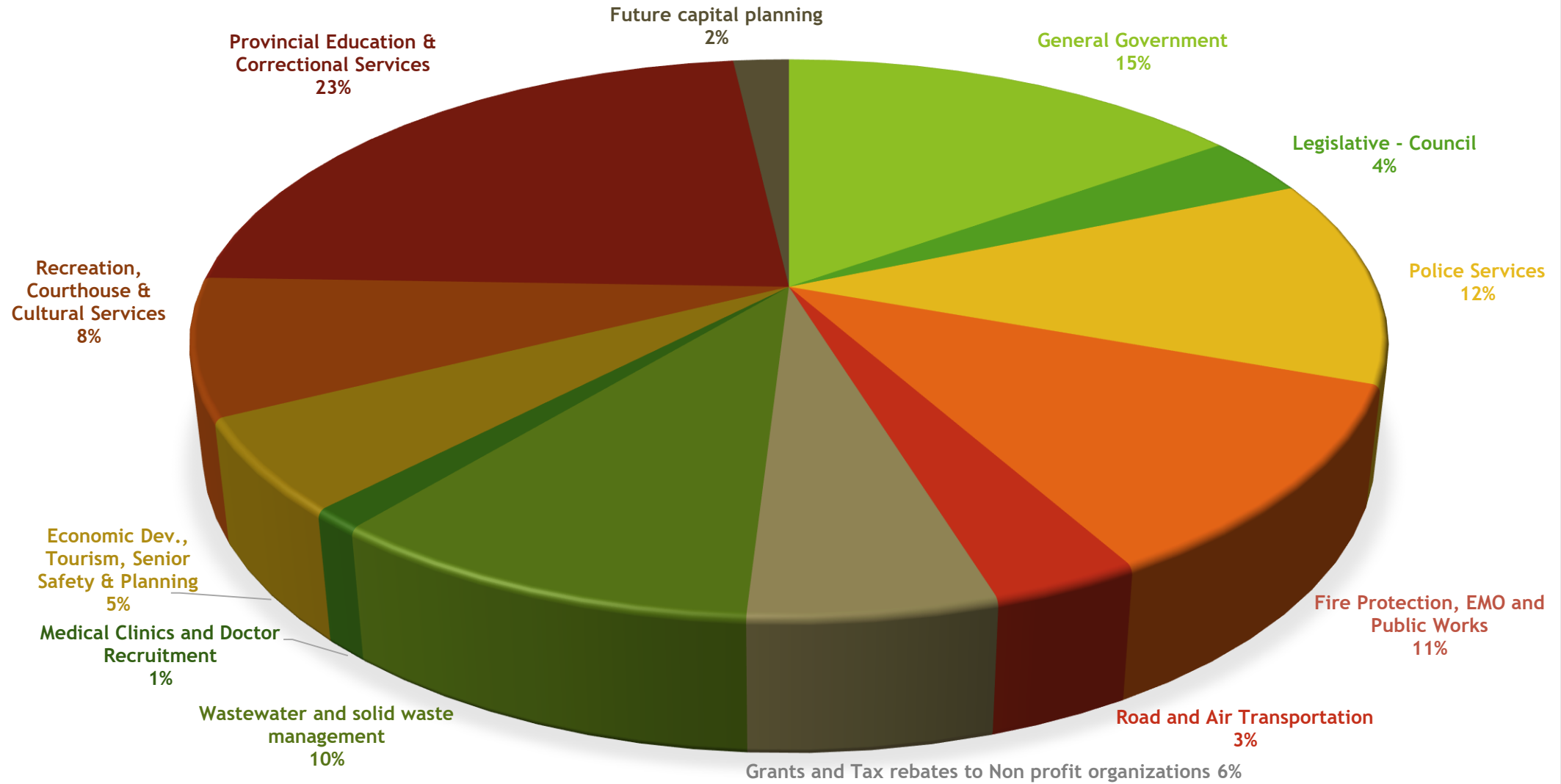
Why a property tax rate increase?

- Argyle traditionally relied on increases of market assessment of property to offset the delivery of services.

- Market values for properties has been growing, but only slightly, and growth for most residential properties has been capped at inflation rates, which have been low for Nova Scotia (in some years less than 1%).

- In some cases, commercial properties have decreased in values.

- The cost of operation has consistently exceeded the rise in market assessment, and staff has adjusted its investment in services accordingly.

- Council has made additional commitments to service delivery for residents of Argyle; increasing investment in fire protection and safety related services.

- Increased financial requests to support key recreational services provided to the region, including Mariners Center expansion, ongoing investment towards YMCA and other non-profit organizations key to delivery of community services.

Details of new investments

- Multiyear commitment to support fire departments that support fleet replacement for smaller fire departments, including fire dispatch services for all departments.

- Investment in safety related services, including building inspection, bylaw enforcement.

- Improvements to emergency management investment in comfort centers.

- Pilot project supporting Acadian archival services, integrating museum related investments across the region.

- Addition of storage for the West Pubnico Wastewater plant (paid by local ratepayers).

2019-20 BUDGETED OPERATING EXPENDITURES
SUMMARY OF HOW SERVICES ARE DELIVERED

Future capital planning 2%

Provincial Education & Correctional Services 23%

General Government 15%

Legislative - Council 4%

Police Services 12%

Recreation, Courthouse & Cultural Services 8%

Fire Protection, EMO and Public Works 11%

Economic Dev., Tourism, Senior Safety & Planning 5%

Medical Clinics and Doctor Recruitment 1%

Road and Air Transportation 3%

Wastewater and solid waste management 10%

Grants and Tax rebates to Non profit organizations 6%

Capital Budget highlights

▶ Projecting Federal Gas Tax investments of $980,000 in 2019-20, and capital reserve investment of $637,000 for a total of $1,617,000.

▶ Capital reserves are reserves generated by the Municipality, each year an amount is transferred from operations to fund future investments.

▶ The annual transfer to reserves in the past three years was between $125,000 to $145,000 per year.

▶ Federal Gas tax investments are federal funds, administered by municipalities. Argyle receives approximately $355,000 per year from the Federal Government.

Capital Budget highlights

- Federal Gas tax investment highlights are as follows:
  - $300,000 investment in solar energy – result will be the sale of energy to NS Power, increasing revenues for operations.
  - $250,000 for the administrative building construction (preliminary costs).
  - $250,000 for a public road construction in Tusket, allowing access to our newly purchased land housing our municipal office.

- Capital Reserve investment highlights are as follows:
  - Investment of $200,000 for the Ferry Terminal Upgrades – transfer to the Town of Yarmouth.
  - $300,000 invested in the administrative building construction (will be replaced with a loan at the end of the project).
  - $100,000 investment towards the Eel Brook Fire Station construction (Total commitment is $200,000, with the second installment next year).
  - Safety restoration of designated fire ponds across the Municipality.