



**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT**  
**COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**AGENDA**

**FOR MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM – Ashcroft Community Hall**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

*“Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka’pamux people.”*

**2. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

**3. PRESENTATION OF THE 2026 BUDGET**

CFO Bhalla – Proposed 2026 Budget and Upcoming Projects - Power Point Presentation

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS**

**The following process will be followed during Public Comments and Questions:**

- Individuals must state their name and address for identification purposes;
- Public Input shall be addressed through the Chair and answers given likewise;
- Input should be limited to 2 minutes per question or point each and respect equal opportunity for other community members in the gallery.

**5. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING**

M/S

*THAT, Council adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1*

- *(c)labour relations or other employee relations*
- *(e)the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality*

**6. TERMINATION**

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**MEETING DATE:** April 13, 2026

**FROM:** Yoginder Bhalla, CFO

**SUBJECT:** 2026 Budget – Community Forum Presentation

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Information

**PURPOSE:**

To introduce the 2026 Draft Budget presentation and provide an opportunity for public engagement and feedback.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**



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Yoginder Bhalla,  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved for Submission to Council:**



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Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

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**Background**

As part of the Village's commitment to transparency and responsible financial planning, Council has undertaken an open and collaborative budget development process.

To date, Council has held two open budget meetings where the 2026 Draft Budget was reviewed and discussed line-by-line in a public setting. This approach provides the community with direct insight into how decisions are made and how priorities are established.

This Community Forum represents the first formal presentation of the proposed 2026 Budget to the public and is intended to support understanding, answer questions, and gather feedback prior to final adoption.

**Discussion**

The attached presentation provides an overview of the key factors influencing the 2026 budget, including inflationary pressures, utility increases, and ongoing service delivery costs.

Despite these pressures, Council has worked to maintain a balanced and responsible approach, including:

- A proposed municipal tax increase of approximately 3.5%; and
- Continued efforts to limit utility increases over time.

The presentation also outlines:

- How property taxes are calculated and the relationship between assessment changes and tax rates (see slide 4–5);
- The portion of taxes retained by the Village versus other agencies (slide 6);
- Key capital and operational priorities for 2026, including infrastructure, public safety, and community investments (slide 7–8);
- The Village's overall financial position, including reserves and asset values (slide 11).

The budget has been developed through a structured prioritization process, aligning projects with Council's strategic objectives and categorizing them by urgency and importance.

**Next Steps**

Feedback received at the Community Forum will be considered by Council prior to finalizing the 2026 Budget.

# Community Forum

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FINANCIAL & BUDGET PRESENTATION



# Inflation-War Impact

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Inflation was 1.8%, but we can already see the impact on gas prices.

Fortis requested 10.67% increase and Hydro increased 3.75%

Supply chain disruptions

Contractual changes

# Despite this

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Taxes increase kept at 3.5%

Utilities limited increased of 5% in last 5 years

# Taxes Payable

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$$a \times b = c$$

Assessment/1,000 x Tax Rate = Taxes Payable

# How does this work

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Assessments in village came down by 5%

In turn tax rate will be adjusted up, so your net increase is at the budgeted 3.5%

For example, you were paying \$100 in taxes, you will now pay \$103.50 if your property assessment declined by the average 5%

# Village portion of Taxes

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Village only gets to keep about 50% of your total tax bill

The rest goes to

- TNRD
- School District
- Police
- British Columbia Assessment Authority
- Municipal Finance Authority

We can only control our finances and are given numbers from other jurisdictions.

# Major Projects

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Water Meters

Fire Smart

STP Upgrade

Garbage Truck Replacement

Economic Development & Grant  
writer

Intercommunity Bylaw Officer

LGCAP

North Ashcroft Reservoir (subject  
to grant vs estimated costs)

Type (All)

Priority	Area	Description	Sum of Cost	Sum of Est. Grant	
Critical	Fire	New Doors for hall	12,000.00	0.00	
		Water	PRV Block & Bleed	30,000.00	
			Uni Directional Flushing	10,000.00	
	Cemetery	New Columbarium	50,000.00		
	Sewage	Piping repair for lift station #4 & fencing for LS2 &4	50,000.00		
		Source water protection plan (SWPP)	15,000.00	10,000.00	
	Environment	Small Electric SUV along with charging infrastructure	75,000.00	72,000.00	
	Storm drainage	Improvements to hydro row- culvert	15,000.00		
		Complete drainage system changes	15,000.00		
	Admin	Insurance - Appraisal required	25,000.00		
	Public Works	Utility Trailer	6,000.00	0.00	
		New Shop doors	15,000.00	0.00	
	Roads	Mesa Hill	110,000.00		
		Replace snowplow blade	20,000.00		
	Recreation & Culture	Community Hall Roof	65,000.00	0.00	
		Legacy Park Sidewalk	15,000.00		
		Legacy Park Concrete Pad & Pagoda	15,000.00		
		Pool repairs & piping	20,000.00		
		Pool new hot water tank	15,000.00		
		Mesa Park Upgrades	250,000.00	100,000.00	
Arena Pump		35,000.00			
Arena Doors		15,000.00	10,000.00		
Arena Training		10,000.00			
<b>Critical Total</b>			<b>888,000.00</b>	<b>192,000.00</b>	

# Working groups

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1. Storm Drainage & Runoff
2. Water to AIB
3. North Ashcroft Reservoir, Asset Management, LGCAP
4. Trails, Parks & Community Garden
5. Volunteer Fire Department
6. Economic Development
7. Emergency Management

These working groups are subject to changes

# Project ranking process

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Multiple meeting with staff & council to prioritize works

Strategic planning sets overall structure

Process promotes discipline and planning

Split into three categories

- Critical
- High Priority
- Medium Priority
- Low Priority

Critical works are scheduled for current year

# Village Financial Position

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Village is debt free; with well managed treasury

Book Value of Assets i.e. Original Cost less Depreciation is about \$19 million

Replacement Value is over \$70 million

Village has about \$5.5 million in reserves 80% of which is restricted

Given size of assets this is not a large reserve

# Questions & Feedback?

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