

Appendix D - Summary of 2025 and 2026 Reductions – December 12, 2024

2025 Reduction Options – Approved by Council

Proposal	2025	Impact/Comment
New or additional revenues:		
Increase recreation fees by 5%, and increased drawdown from Tree Reserve	\$157,000	While some recreation revenues were increased in the draft, there is an opportunity to increase others. Furthermore, an additional \$50,000 drawn down from the Tree Reserve is proposed.
Eliminate new positions	\$1,560,000	Proposed in draft budget; not yet established.
Contracted service reductions	\$465,000	Some budget items within Legal, VCC, Real Estate, Parks, Recreation and Facilities, People and Culture, and Engineering and Public Works have been reviewed and can be reduced to align with expected actual spend.
Grant program reductions:		
Social Policy, Equity and Accessibility	\$250,000	This new grant program has yet to be launched.
Victoria Music Strategy (VMS)	\$150,000	Grants are available through regional and provincial funding bodies. Many of the initiatives outlined in the VMS that the community can activate through this grant program have been completed. Most current applications are for events, concerts and festivals that can be funded through Festival Project Grants or are not eligible.

Reserve contribution reductions:

Parking	\$700,000	Delay reinstating the 2024 reduction; the annual contribution would remain at \$2.85 million.
Art in Public Places	\$50,000	This reserve has a healthy balance of approximately \$900,000, which can support continued use. Also, capital project budgets can include funding for related public art. In addition, private developers contribute to public art through development permits.
Local Amenities	\$200,000	This reserve has an alternate funding source through development contributions. The current balance is approximately \$525,000.
Climate Action	\$379,000	This reserve has an estimated 2025 ending balance of \$3.3 million which can continue to be used for climate initiatives. In addition, project budgets will continue to include funding for all climate related components.
Tax Sale Lands	\$50,000	This reserve receives funding through sale of properties; current balance is approximately \$100,000. It can only be used for purchases of new properties and related capital improvements.
Debt Reduction	\$526,000	Reduce contribution to \$2 million; would extend repayment timeline for fire hall loan to approximately 25 years.

Program Reductions:

Community Programming	\$264,000	Scale back Canada Day to a daytime event focused on families in the Inner Harbour which would reduce policing costs. An event producer may come forward to take on an evening component. The remaining budget would be \$225,000 for production and policing. Scale back free community program and events, such as RAP Summer Nights.
Eliminate vacant positions	\$373,000	
Security contract	\$54,000	At City Hall, static onsite security will be replaced with campus-wide foot patrols. Park patrols at Oaklands, Irving, and Pemberton Parks would be reduced from twice daily to once daily.
Public washrooms	\$17,000	Overnight closure of washrooms in some parks.
Eliminate vacant positions	\$534,000	

Capital Programs:

Shorelines and Beaches	\$320,000	Defer program; beach access improvements will be delayed.
Facility Infrastructure Improvements	\$225,000	Scale back.
Natural Areas Restoration	\$176,000	Scale back.
Multi-modal corridors	\$965,000	Scale back; multi-year projects with some committed contracts.

EV Charging Stations	\$750,000	Scale back; climate objectives can be pursued in less capital-intensive ways.
Harbour Pathway	\$100,000	Scale back.
Marine Structures	\$100,000	Scale back.
Under Sidewalk Basements	\$220,000	Lower expected budget requirement going forward.
Stairs and Railings	\$50,000	Scale back.
Transit Network Improvements	\$100,000	Scale back.
Total	\$8,735,000	

2026 Reduction Option – Council Direction to Incorporate into Draft 2026 Financial Plan as Starting Point

Proposal	2026	Impact/Comment
New or additional revenues:		
New tax revenue from new development (NMC)	\$1,000,000	To fund capital as per the amended Financial Sustainability Policy
Sport court booking fees	\$200,000	The sport court reservation system will be expanded to allow individual bookings. To ensure accessibility, a portion of the overall timeslots will remain unbookable, reserving availability for casual drop-ins and other programming.
Grant program reductions:		
Major Community Initiatives and Events	\$285,000	Scale back program by 50%; currently this program has overlap with Festival Investment Grant and Cultural Infrastructure Grant programs. The remaining budget would continue to allow funding for 1-2 major requests and focus on large scale new event requests like Hockey Day in Canada, not existing local events and not capital projects/community initiatives.

<p>Growing in the City Grants</p>	<p>\$75,000</p>	<p>The proposed \$75,000 (30%) reduction would defer three of the four grant streams in 2026, focusing remaining funds on sustaining the core volunteer coordination function and aligning with Council’s budget reduction principles to avoid adding or expanding services, programs, or assets. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Garden Start-Up Grant (-\$30,000) • Growing in the City Micro-Grant (-\$10,000) • Get Growing, Victoria! Service Grant (-\$25,000) • Volunteer Coordinator Grant by \$10,000 annually (\$140,000 remaining grant budget) <p>This approach maintains capacity for volunteer coordination, while temporarily pausing funding streams that create new garden assets or expand educational programming.</p>
<p>Alliance to End Homelessness</p>	<p>\$100,000</p>	<p>Duplication of effort with City and provincial initiatives.</p>
<p>Pro Art Alliance</p>	<p>\$8,000</p>	<p>This program is based on memberships from other professional non-profit agencies that are region wide. Recommend that CRD Arts Service is approached for support as this group operates regionally. A \$2,000 budget would remain to continue to support the Pro Art City Builder Award.</p>
<p>South Island Prosperity Partnership</p>	<p>\$242,000</p>	<p>Duplication of services already provided by City Economic Development staff. Currently, the City’s return on investment in SIPP is unclear. Data such as how many businesses have come to the municipality of Victoria as a result of SIPP’s efforts would be helpful. Alternatively, to ensure specific deliverables are achieved, a service contract could be a better model.</p>

My Great Neighbourhood Grants	\$152,000	High internal time and resource commitment for this program. In addition, many projects have been completed to date and the City is taking on more placemaking projects internally, for example Broad Street, Ship Point etc.
Theatre SKAM	\$20,000	This organization is not fully acting as an arts hub as proposed. In addition, they have received much other City funding through various grant programs in comparison to other arts organizations. This grant does not fall within an application-based competitive program like other City grants for arts organizations.
Program Reductions:		
Butler Book Prize and Children's Book Prize	\$10,000	Alternate funding sources likely available. The Butler Book Prize Society could approach a number of public or private entities to find a new sponsor.
Hanging Baskets	\$130,000	Reduce program by 50%; focus on high tourism areas only.
Operational Adjustment for Response to Medical Emergency Services Assistance	\$1,100,000	Update dispatch protocol to align fire department responses for medical emergency service assistance to the highest acuity call types.
Explore Efficiencies and Regional Partnerships:		
Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate	\$8,000	Very time-consuming programs to run and there is an opportunity to shift the focus to a regional model for Greater Victoria which is better coordinated either by the GVPL or CRD Arts Service.

Youth bus pass program	\$630,000	Explore possibility of funding this program through CRD's new transportation service.
Capital Programs:		
EV Charging Stations	\$787,000	Scale back; climate objectives can be pursued in less capital-intensive ways.
Multi-modal Corridors	\$535,000	Scale back.
New Traffic Signals	\$50,000	Scale back.
Crosswalk Installations	\$64,000	Scale back.
Total	\$5,396,000	