



West Hants
something inspiring awaits

West Hants Regional Municipality

2025-26 Reserve Budget

The Municipality, through its reserve policy, and the authority of the Municipal Government Act set up operating, capital, and special reserves. Reserves associated with the water utility are directed by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

The purpose of the reserves is to help with operational and capital projects to minimize both debt servicing costs and significant annual budget impacts.

The reserve budget is prepared using projections at year end. The actual ending balance may be subject to changes as the fiscal year closes.

OPERATING RESERVES

Operating reserves will be at least 10% of the annual operating revenue, as outlined in the Reserve Policy. Additionally, these reserves and reserve funds will receive funds from any unallocated surplus funds in each fiscal year, as per the Municipal Government Act.

CAPITAL RESERVES

Through the operating budget, Council will allocate and approve capital reserve contribution based on the target within the policy and financial capacity of the municipality's fiscal budget year.

- Building Reserves will provide funds for updates and new construction for any buildings owned by the Municipality. This reserve will receive an annual target contribution of 2% of the total asset value of the buildings owned by the Municipality.
- Road Infrastructure Reserves will provide funds for future road infrastructure projects. This reserve will receive an annual target contribution of 8% of the total asset value of all road infrastructure owned by the Municipality.
- Vehicle Reserves will provide funds for vehicle upgrades and replacements. This reserve will receive an annual target contribution of 4% of the total asset value of all Municipal vehicles.
- Equipment Reserves will provide funds for any equipment not required to be registered under the Motor Vehicles Act. This reserve will receive an annual target contribution of 4% of the total asset value of all Municipal equipment.
- Fire Asset Reserves will provide funds for required fire-fighting equipment, including fire vehicles. This reserve will receive an annual target contribution of 2% of the total asset value of all fire assets. It will receive any proceeds from the sale of fire-fighting equipment or insurance proceeds.
- Capital Reserves will provide for general capital projects. This reserve will receive any proceeds from the sale of municipal lands and surplus on disposal of assets.

SPECIAL RESERVES

Special Reserves will be segregated and restricted to meet the purpose of the reserve fund. It is based on a statutory requirement or defined liability payable in the future and is usually prescriptive as to the basis for collection and use of monies in the fund.

WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
RESERVE BALANCE AND PROPOSED ADDITIONS/SPENDING 2025-26

	Approved March 31, 2024	Approved March 31, 2025	*Projected March 31, 2025	Proposed 2025-26 Spend	Estimated 2025-26 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2026	Notes
Operating Reserves	Reserve Balance	Reserve Balance	Reserve Balance			Reserve Balance	
WH - 5% Fund/Land Acquisition	\$ 163,025	\$ 163,025	\$ 247,729	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 257,729	
TOW- 5% Open Space Reserve	\$ 22,235	\$ 22,235	\$ 22,235	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,235	
TOW- 5% Subdivision Contribution	\$ 30,916	\$ 30,916	\$ 30,916	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,916	
WHRM Fire Services Reserve	\$ 73,702	\$ -	\$ 30,135	\$ 101,984	\$ 100,000	\$ 28,151	Reserve Policy - 2%
Boundary Reserve	\$ 12,250	\$ 24,500	\$ 24,500	\$ -	\$ 12,250	\$ 36,750	
Election Reserve	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Sports Complex Donations	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	
Carryover	\$ 754,699	\$ 11,546	\$ 1,040,273	\$ 1,205,739	\$ -	\$ 165,466	
RCMP Reserve (Restricted)	\$ 841,068	\$ 1,006,785	\$ 1,006,785	\$ 650,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 756,785	
TOW- Swim Pool Liner Reserve	\$ 50,038	\$ 50,038	\$ 50,038	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,038	
TOW- Operating Reserve	\$ 943,791	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
WHRM Operating Reserve	\$ 3,338,146	\$ 2,287,693	\$ 1,656,627	\$ 1,539,617	\$ 400,000	\$ 517,010	Moved Gen Ops surplus as per FRAM
WH - Operating Reserve	\$ 2,424,607	\$ 1,594,459	\$ 1,594,459	\$ 1,273,874	\$ 1,102,400	\$ 1,422,985	
Total	\$ 8,706,478	\$ 5,170,104	\$ 5,705,697	\$ 4,781,214	\$ 2,084,650	\$ 3,009,133	Reserve Policy - 10% of revenue or \$3.8 million

	Approved March 31, 2024	Approved March 31, 2025	*Projected March 31, 2025	Proposed 2025-26 Spend	Estimated 2025-26 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2026	Notes
Capital Reserves	Reserve Balance	Reserve Balance	Reserve Balance			Reserve Balance	
Sewer Reserve	\$ -	\$ 306,679	\$ 508,806	\$ 594,433	\$ 218,000	\$ 132,373	
WH - Sewer Reserve	\$ 1,434,575	\$ 1,101,275	\$ 1,106,300	\$ 729,301	\$ -	\$ 376,999	
TOW- Sewer Reserve	\$ 366,814	\$ -	\$ 110,550	\$ 110,550	\$ -	\$ -	
WHRM Building Reserve	\$ 144,949	\$ 48,048	\$ 18,517	\$ 236,813	\$ 218,296	\$ -	Reserve Policy - 2%
WHRM Road Infrastructure Reserve	\$ 451,958	\$ 576,162	\$ 665,410	\$ 680,803	\$ 485,714	\$ 470,322	Reserve Policy - 8%
WHRM Vehicle Reserve	\$ 8,571	\$ 200,333	\$ 239,534	\$ 61,000	\$ 242,857	\$ 421,391	Reserve Policy - 4%
Capital Reserve	\$ 25,821	\$ 4,111	\$ 227,868	\$ 96,868	\$ -	\$ 131,000	
Hantsport Fire Reserve	\$ 100	\$ 19,594	\$ 19,594	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,594	
TOW- Fire Equipment Reserve	\$ 206,372	\$ 155,258	\$ 219,582	\$ 77,500	\$ -	\$ 142,082	
TOW- PWKS Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
WH - Building	\$ 432,059	\$ 638,473	\$ 604,158	\$ 166,897	\$ 7,078	\$ 444,339	
WH - Equipment Reserve	\$ -	\$ 1,078	\$ 7,078	\$ 7,078	\$ -	\$ -	
WH - Transportation	\$ 28,848	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total	\$ 3,100,067	\$ 3,051,011	\$ 3,727,397	\$ 2,761,243	\$ 1,171,946	\$ 2,138,100	

*Approved and projected balances are estimates and may fluctuate from what was originally presented due to repayment of internal loans, year-end entries, project approval variances, deferral of projects, and grants.

WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
RESERVE BALANCE AND PROPOSED ADDITIONS/SPENDING 2025-26

	Approved March 31, 2024 Reserve Balance	Approved March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	*Projected March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	Proposed 2025-26 Spend	Estimated 2025-26 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Notes
Special Reserves							
Canada Community Building Fund	\$ 1,994,344	\$ 956,289	\$ 2,859,378	\$ 1,635,848	\$ 1,084,370	\$ 2,307,900	
WH - Gas Tax (CCBF)	\$ 1,807,213	\$ 2,610,501	\$ 2,532,073	\$ 2,412,135	\$ -	\$ 119,938	
Consolidation Reserve	\$ 2,628,047	\$ 2,352,289	\$ 2,373,394	\$ 1,455,460	\$ -	\$ 917,934	
HNS - Hantsport Infrastructure Reserve	\$ 624,980	\$ 652,026	\$ 1,305,550	\$ 964,126	\$ 248,400	\$ 589,824	
WIN - Windsor Infrastructure Reserve	\$ 251,100	\$ 234,073	\$ 526,493	\$ 301,503	\$ 291,750	\$ 516,740	
Asset Retirement Obligation Reserve	\$ 259,414	\$ 513,618	\$ 354,961	\$ 58,332	\$ 218,980	\$ 515,609	
Housing Accelerator Fund	\$ -	\$ 105,445	\$ 433,149	\$ 605,000	\$ 270,473	\$ 98,622	Four installments of \$270,473 till 2027-28
Sustainability Services Growth Reserve	\$ 847,633	\$ 13,002	\$ 833,470	\$ 833,470	\$ -	\$ -	Spend by March 31, 2025
Total	\$ 8,592,821	\$ 7,226,353	\$ 11,218,467	\$ 8,265,874	\$ 2,113,973	\$ 5,066,566	
Water Operating Reserves							
	Approved March 31, 2024 Reserve Balance	Approved March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	*Projected March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	Proposed 2025-26 Spend	Estimated 2025-26 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Notes
WH - Sludge Reserve	\$ 102,362	\$ 112,362	\$ 132,362	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 142,362	UARB order to add \$10K/year
Total	\$ 102,362	\$ 112,362	\$ 132,362	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 142,362	
Water Capital Reserves							
	Approved March 31, 2024 Reserve Balance	Approved March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	*Projected March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	Proposed 2025-26 Spend	Estimated 2025-26 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	
West Hants Utility Depreciation & Capital	\$ 6,884,795	\$ 1,007,605	\$ 3,021,143	\$ 3,042,016	\$ 697,000	\$ 676,128	MCGP Grant Out
Total	\$ 6,884,795	\$ 1,007,606	\$ 3,021,143	\$ 3,042,016	\$ 697,000	\$ 676,128	
Total Reserves	\$ 27,386,523	\$ 16,567,436	\$ 23,805,066	\$ 18,850,346	\$ 6,077,568	\$ 11,032,288	

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