West Hants

something inspiring awaits

West Hants Regional Municipality

2026-2027 Reserve Budget

The Municipality has three types of reserves: Operating, Capital, and Special. These are set up under the Reserve Policy and the Municipal Government Act. Reserves for the Water Utility are managed by the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board.

These reserves help cover both daily operations and larger projects. They reduce the need to borrow money and help keep the budget steady from year to year.

The Reserve Budget is based on estimates and reflects what has been approved in the 2026–27 Capital and Operating Budgets. Projected amounts as of March 31, 2026 or 2027 may change as the 2025-26 fiscal year is finalized or if Council provides further direction in 2026-27.

OPERATING RESERVES

Operating reserves must be at least 10% of yearly operating revenue. They also receive any extra surplus funds at the end of each year.

- Fire Asset Reserve: Used to buy and replace firefighting equipment and vehicles. Each year, 2% of the total value of fire assets is added. It also receives money from equipment sales and insurance.

CAPITAL RESERVES

Council decides how much to add each year based on policy targets and what the Municipality can afford.

- Building Reserve: Funds repairs and new municipal buildings. Target: 2% of building assets value each year.
- Road Infrastructure Reserve: Pays for future road work. Target: 8% of road assets value each year.
- Vehicle Reserve: Covers vehicle replacements and upgrades. Target: 4% of vehicle assets value each year.
- Equipment Reserve: Covers non-vehicle equipment. Target: 4% of equipment assets value each year.
- General Capital Reserve: Used for general projects. Funded by land sales and surplus from asset sales.

SPECIAL RESERVES

Special reserves are set aside for specific future costs or legal obligations. They can only be used for their intended purpose.

RESERVE BALANCE AND PROPOSED ADDITIONS/SPENDING 2026-27

Operating Reserves	Approved March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	Approved March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Projected* March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Proposed 2026-27 Spend	Estimated 2026-27 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2027 Reserve Balance	Notes
WH - 5% Fund/Land Acquisition	$ 163,025	$ 257,729	$ 303,253	$ 10,000	$ 20,000	$ 313,253	
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	$ -	$ 22,562	$ 22,562	$ 59,405	$ 125,000	$ 88,157	Reserve Policy - 2%
Boundary Reserve	$ 24,500	$ 36,750	$ 49,000	$ -	$ 12,250	$ 61,250	
Election Reserve	$ -	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ -	$ 50,000	$ 100,000	
Sports Complex Donations	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	$ 2,000	$ -	$ -	$ 2,000	
Carryover	-$ 11,546	-$ 165,466	-$ 165,466	$ 187,004	$ 383,000	$ 30,530	
RCMP Reserve (Restricted)	$ 1,006,785	$ 756,785	$ 1,156,785	$ 1,050,000	$ 400,000	$ 506,785	
TOW- Swim Pool Liner Reserve	$ 50,038	$ 50,038	$ 50,038	$ -	$ -	$ 50,038	
WHRM Operating Reserve	$ 2,287,693	$ 587,171	$ 714,139	$ 698,930	$ 400,000	$ 292,177	Moved Gen Ops surplus as per FRAM
WH - Operating Reserve	$ 1,594,459	$ 1,406,184	$ 1,406,184	$ 966,340	$ 317,598	$ 757,442	
Total	**$ 5,170,104**	**$ 3,056,904**	**$ 3,046,122**	**$ 2,971,679**	**$ 1,707,848**	**$ 2,254,783**	Reserve Policy - 10% of revenue or $3.9 million

Capital Reserves	Approved March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	Approved March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Projected* March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Proposed 2026-27 Spend	Estimated 2026-27 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2027 Reserve Balance	Notes
Sewer Reserve	$ 306,679	$ 132,375	-$ 85,625	$ -	$ -	-$ 85,625	Negative owed to general operating
WH - Sewer Reserve	$ 1,101,275	$ 376,999	$ 376,999	$ 175,428	$ -	$ 201,571	
WHRM Building Reserve	$ 48,048	$ -	$ -	$ 226,813	$ 226,813	$ -	Reserve Policy - 2%
WHRM Road Infrastructure Reserve	$ 576,162	$ 470,322	$ 470,322	$ 523,736	$ 485,714	$ 432,300	Reserve Policy - 8%
WHRM Vehicle Reserve	$ 200,333	$ 421,391	$ 421,391	$ 25,000	$ 242,857	$ 639,248	Reserve Policy - 4%
Capital Reserve	$ 4,111	$ 95,000	$ 95,000	$ 72,877	$ -	$ 22,123	
Hantsport Fire Reserve	$ 19,594	$ 19,594	$ 19,594	$ -	$ -	$ 19,594	
TOW- Fire Equipment Reserve	$ 155,258	$ 142,082	$ 142,082	$ 62,000	$ -	$ 80,082	WFD Restricted
TOW- PWKS Equipment Reserve	$ -	$ -	$ 48,866	$ 48,866	$ -	$ -	
WH - Building	$ 638,473	$ 444,339	$ 444,339	$ 82,349	$ 7,078	$ 369,068	
WH - Equipment Reserve	$ 1,078	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Total	**$ 3,051,011**	**$ 2,102,102**	**$ 1,884,102**	**$ 1,217,069**	**$ 962,463**	**$ 1,678,361**	

*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.

RESERVE BALANCE AND PROPOSED ADDITIONS/SPENDING 2026-27

Special Reserves	Approved March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	Approved March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Projected* March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Proposed 2026-27 Spend	Estimated 2026-27 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2027 Reserve Balance	Notes
Canada Community Building Fund	$ 956,289	$ 2,213,938	$ 2,213,938	$ 3,600,571	$ 1,548,906	$ 162,273	
WH - Gas Tax (CCBF)	$ 2,610,501	$ 464,536	$ 464,536	$ 464,536	$ -	$ -	
Consolidation Reserve	$ 2,352,289	$ 917,934	$ 917,934	$ 497,725	$ -	$ 420,209	
HNS - Hantsport Infrastructure Reserve	$ 652,026	$ 678,924	$ 678,924	$ 620,103	$ 263,885	$ 322,706	
WIN - Windsor Infrastructure Reserve	$ 234,073	$ 967,490	$ 967,490	$ 473,430	$ 705,550	$ 1,199,610	
Asset Retirement Obligation Reserve	$ 513,618	$ 515,609	$ 854,689	$ 66,289	$ 558,060	$ 1,346,459	
Housing Accelator Fund	-$ 105,445	$ 98,622	$ 348,622	$ 587,025	$ 270,473	$ 32,069	Four installments of $270,471 till 2027-28
Sustainability Services Growth Reserve	$ 13,002	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	Spend by March 31, 2025
Total	**$ 7,226,353**	**$ 5,857,052**	**$ 5,857,052**	**$ 6,309,679**	**$ 3,346,873**	**$ 3,483,326**	

Water Operating Reserves	Approved March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	Approved March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Projected* March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Proposed 2026-27 Spend	Estimated 2026-27 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2027 Reserve Balance	Notes
WH - Sludge Reserve	$ 112,362	$ 142,362	$ 142,362	$ -	$ 10,000	$ 152,362	UARB order to add $10K/year
Total	**$ 112,362**	**$ 142,362**	**$ 142,362**	**$ -**	**$ 10,000**	**$ 152,362**	

Water Capital Reserves	Approved March 31, 2025 Reserve Balance	Approved March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Projected* March 31, 2026 Reserve Balance	Proposed 2026-27 Spend	Estimated 2026-27 Additions	Proposed March 31, 2027 Reserve Balance	
West Hants Utility Depreciation & Capital	$ 1,007,605	$ 738,702	$ 738,702	$ 1,149,781	$ 1,133,922	$ 722,842	MCGP Grant Out
Total	**$ 1,007,606**	**$ 738,702**	**$ 738,702**	**$ 1,149,781**	**$ 1,133,922**	**$ 722,842**	
Total Reserves	**$ 16,567,436**	**$ 11,897,121**	**$ 7,428,814**	**$ 11,648,208**	**$ 7,161,106**	**$ 8,291,674**	

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