



Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023
Submitted by: Cindy Howard, County Treasurer
Subject: Budget Variance Report - July 2023

BACKGROUND:

Council approves annual budgets for all departments. Professional estimates, the current legislative environment, macroeconomic trends (such as currency fluctuations, commodity prices, unemployment figures and business investment, etc.) and other local information available at the time are significant inputs to the budget recommended to Council by administration. All departments monitor revenues and expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Financial Reports to the end of July have been provided to you. We have now completed seven months of 2023 and below is an update on any variances. County continues to forecast an overall balanced budget for 2023. However, the County continues to face ongoing financial pressures and challenges including inflation and supply-chain disruption. Department Heads were consulted in the preparation of this report.

ANALYSIS:

Highlights of the budget variances by department are as follows:

Administration:

Interest Revenue from investments are higher than budget due to higher interest rates.

Supplementary tax revenues and tax write-offs are part of the yearend process.

Insurance costs have not been allocated.

Planning:

No significant variances at this time.

Economic Development:

No significant variances at this time.

Information Technology:

Expenditures are tracking as expected.

Social Services:

The social housing amount has been prorated until actual billings are received from the City of London.

Children Services actuals are higher than budget due to Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program.

Other Program Costs includes the Provincial Homelessness Prevention Services program. The 2023 Middlesex County Allocation for Homeless Prevention Services is \$873,903. This amount includes the base allocation (\$210,245) and One-Time Allocation (\$663,658). Confirmation of this funding was received May 19, 2023 from the City of London.

Transportation:

No significant variances at this time.

Strathmere Lodge:

The Lodge received additional COVID-19 Prevention and Containment funding and additional funding for personal protective equipment (PPE) allocated for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The final Ministry of Long- Term Care 2022-23 Prevention and Containment Expenditures reporting was completed in April 2023.

The lodge received an increase in Ministry funding to support staffing and building repairs.

Ambulance:

Middlesex-London Paramedic Service monitors expenditures to ensure alignment with the approved budget. However, MLPS continues to experience a continued increase in call volume and offload delays, which are impacting system performance.

The system is also experiencing an increase level of occupation and non-occupational absence from the workplace, which is impacting staffing and budget.

On August 30, 2023, the Ministry of Health advised that Middlesex County will receive up to \$1,037,884 in one-time funding for the 2023/2024 funding year to support the Dedicated Offload Nurses Program.

On August 30, 2023, the Ministry of Health advised that Middlesex County will receive for the 2023 calendar year up to \$26,426,622 in 50/50 Land Ambulance Services Grant (LASG) (base funding).

Library Services:

No significant variances at this time.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
<p>Promoting Service Excellence</p> 	<p>Innovate and transform municipal service delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anticipate and align municipal service delivery to emerging needs and expectations• Engage, educate and inform residents, businesses, and visitors of county services and community activities• Collaborate with strategic partners to leverage available resources and opportunities• Build organizational capacity and capabilities