

**Subject: Report on 2026 Budget Expenses Pursuant to Ontario Regulation
284/09**

File Number: ACS2026-FCS-FIN-0005

**Report to Finance and Corporate Services Committee on 3 March 2026
and Council 11 March 2026**

**Submitted on February 20, 2026 by Isabelle Jasmin, Deputy City Treasurer,
Corporate Finance, Finance and Corporate Services Department**

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Ward: Citywide

**Objet : Rapport sur les dépenses budgétaires de 2026 conformément au
Règlement de l'Ontario 284/09**

Dossier : ACS2026-FCS-FIN-0005

Rapport au Comité des finances et des services organisationnels

le 3 mars 2026

et au Conseil le 11 mars 2026

**Soumis le 20 février 2026 par Isabelle Jasmin, trésorière municipale adjointe,
Services des finances municipales, Direction générale des finances et des
services organisationnels**

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Quartier : À l'échelle de la ville

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Finance and Corporate Services Committee recommend that Council:

1. Adopt this report in accordance with Ontario Regulation 284/09.
2. Approve that the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) / City Treasurer be delegated the authority to adjust the accrual budget to include any budget changes approved by Council as part of the final adopted budget, and to include the accrual budget presentation within the City of Ottawa's final adopted 2026 budget book, for information purposes.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des finances et des services organisationnels recommande au Conseil :

1. d'adopter ce rapport conformément au Règlement de l'Ontario 284/09.
2. d'approuver la délégation au chef des finances et trésorier municipal du pouvoir d'ajuster le budget d'exercice pour inclure toute modification budgétaire approuvée par le Conseil dans le cadre de l'adoption du budget final, et d'inclure la présentation sur le budget d'exercice dans le livre budgétaire final de 2026 adopté par la Ville d'Ottawa, à titre d'information.

BACKGROUND

The *Municipal Act, 2001* requires that municipalities prepare balanced budgets. This means that municipalities need to have or raise sufficient funds each year, through the setting of tax rates, water rates, and user fees, in order to cover their operating and capital spending requirements for the year.

Ontario Regulation 284/09 permits municipalities to exclude a portion or all of the following expenses from their annual budgets:

- Amortization expenses (related to tangible capital assets)
- Employment benefit expenses
- Solid waste landfill closure and post-closure expenses.

The legislation requires that Council consider and adopt a report with respect to non-cash items that have been excluded from the annual budget such as fixed asset amortization expenses, employee benefits liabilities, and landfill closure costs, prior to finalizing the budget for the year. The report must identify any impacts of these differences on the change in the City's accumulated surplus.

Once adopted by Council, staff will add the 2026 accrual budget presentation to the City of Ottawa's Final Adopted 2026 Budget Book.

DISCUSSION

Budgeting on a Modified Accrual Versus Full Accrual Basis

There are differences between how municipalities set out their spending plans at the beginning of the year in their budgets and how they report on their results in their financial statements at year-end. The City of Ottawa, like other municipalities, prepares its annual budget on a modified accrual basis, with no anticipated surplus or deficit.

Modified accrual accounting treats certain cash items (such as borrowings, the initial cost of assets, and debt repayments) as revenues and expenses but recognizes these expenses and other transactions at the time they are incurred, not when the cash is received or paid.

Financial Statements are prepared on a different basis. The Province requires that municipalities follow the accounting standards set by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) for governments in Canada, which recommends that financial statements be prepared on a full accrual basis.

Full Accrual Budget Presentation

Table 1 below shows the City's budgeted operating results on the full accrual basis. These are presented in the same way the actual results are reported in the year-end financial statements, which is by function as opposed to by Service Area as reported in the City's Budget Books.

Table 1 – Full Accrual Budget Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus (in \$000's)

	2026 Budget	2025 Budget
Revenues		
Taxes available for municipal purposes	\$2,556,785	\$2,431,788
Government transfers	1,627,141	1,495,128
Fees and user charges	1,176,711	1,136,108
Contributed tangible capital assets	473,985	472,422
Development charges	174,283	170,544
Investment income	63,978	64,913
Fines and penalties	90,814	90,936
Other revenue	51,504	41,699
Share of earnings of government business enterprise	36,000	29,000
Total Revenues	6,251,201	5,932,538
Expenses		
General government	136,216	117,929
Protection to persons and property	852,638	799,797
Roads, traffic and parking	530,128	496,221
Transit	913,993	825,737
Environmental services	561,427	539,604
Health services	256,981	248,479
Social and family services	1,012,302	935,196
Social housing	431,310	399,061
Recreation and cultural services	453,944	424,467
Planning and development	140,020	111,579
Total Expenses	5,288,959	4,898,070
Annual Surplus	\$962,242	\$1,034,468

Reconciliation Between Modified Accrual and Full Accrual Budgets

There are several ways in which the modified accrual budget differs from the full accrual budget:

1. **Consolidated Entities:** Financial reporting includes most financial transactions of related entities, such as corporations owned by the City. The exceptions are transactions between related entities and the City, which are eliminated from the consolidated financial statements.
 - Ottawa Community Housing Corporation (OCHC) and other related entities are not included in the City's budget whereas these entities are included in the City's annual consolidated financial statements. These entities have balanced budgets

and therefore their budgeted revenues and their budgeted expenses are added to revenues and expenses accordingly for full accrual budgeting purposes.

- Hydro Ottawa is 100 per cent owned by the City of Ottawa. The modified accrual budget includes the dividends that the City receives from Hydro Ottawa. The full accrual budget includes the Hydro Ottawa equity pickup as an addition to revenues.
2. **Amortization:** The modified accrual budget treats capital spending as an expense in the year it occurs. Under the full accrual method, assets such as vehicles or buildings, which are expected to last more than one year, are “capitalized.” The asset is amortized over its expected service life and therefore that annual amount of amortization is recorded as an expense each year.
 3. **Post-Employment Benefits:** The defined benefit plans relating to post-retirement and post-employment provide a variety of benefits to retirees and long-term disabled employees based upon contractual agreements with various bargaining units. The benefits include income, medical, dental, life insurance, workers’ compensation, and sick leave benefits. For modified accrual budget purposes, the City estimates the amount of cash that will be paid out for these benefits in the year. In the full accrual budget, post-employment benefits are employee benefits that have been earned in the current year but will be paid in the future as employees retire.
 4. **Future Liabilities:** These items have incurred obligations in the current year but are to be paid out in future years. Examples include asset retirement obligations, landfill closure and post-closure liabilities, contaminated sites, brownfields, accrued interest, and contingent legal liabilities. These items are added as an expense in the full accrual budgeting presentation.
 5. **Contributed Assets:** These are tangible capital assets that are donated, contributed, or transferred from another organization. Contributed assets are not part of the modified accrual budget because they do not require cash. Contributed assets are added as revenue to the full accrual budget.
 6. **Timing Differences Between Capital Budget and Spending:** Budgets established for tangible capital asset acquisitions are on a project-oriented basis, the costs of which may be carried over one or more fiscal years. Whereas amounts were budgeted for on a project-oriented basis, the full accrual budget uses amounts based on estimated spend during the year to reflect the same basis of accounting that was used to report the actual results.

- 7. *Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets:*** The modified accrual budget treats capital spending as an expense in the year it occurs. Under the full accrual method, qualified spending on tangible capital assets can be capitalized and amortized over the life of the asset instead of recognizing the entire cost in the year it occurred. Some capital spending in the modified accrual budget is reclassified at year-end as an expense. The impact is estimated in the full accrual budget.
- 8. *Transfers To/From Reserves:*** Transfers from reserves and the proceeds of borrowing are not revenues, so they are removed from that category in moving from modified to full accrual. This has the effect of reducing budgeted revenues in full accrual and thus reducing the annual surplus, all other things being equal. Transfers and contributions into reserves and repayments of debt are not expenses under full accrual, so they are removed from expenses. This has the effect of reducing budgeted spending and thus increasing the surplus under full accrual.

Table 2 below shows a reconciliation between the 2026 modified accrual budget and the full accrual budget.

Table 2 – Reconciling the 2026 budget with PSAB standards (in \$000's)

Revenues	
Adopted budget operating and capital	\$6,848,089
<i>PSAB related adjustments for full accrual budgeting:</i>	
Contributed tangible capital assets	473,985
Timing differences between capital budget and spending	(11,636)
Consolidated entities	285,484
Reclassification of investment income	25,660
Hydro Ottawa Holding Inc. equity pickup	19,500
Transfers from reserves	(850,073)
Proceeds of debt issued	(464,413)
Reclassifications and eliminations	(75,395)
Total budgeted revenues for financial statement purposes	\$6,251,201
Expenses	
Adopted budget operating and capital	\$6,848,089
<i>PSAB related adjustments for full accrual budgeting:</i>	
Timing differences between capital budget and spending	(361,436)
Amortization	481,817
Consolidated entities	285,484
Obligations to be funded in future years	16,144
Employee future benefits and pension agreements	52,280
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(1,067,136)
Transfers to reserves	(728,291)
Debt principal repayments	(162,367)
Reclassifications and eliminations	(75,625)
Total budgeted expenses for financial statement purposes	\$5,288,959
Budgeted annual surplus for financial statement purposes	\$962,242

The full accrual budgeting method includes adjustments to the balanced budget which provides an estimate of the budgeted annual surplus on an accrual basis. The most significant difference between the balanced budget and the estimated accrual budget is that the accrual budget reflects the capital asset budgeting practices of setting aside funds in the capital budget for the acquisition and renewal of assets at a rate that is greater than the amounts required to recognize historical capital costs based on amortization expenses.

Table 2 shows the full accrual adjustments for 2026 which results in a budgeted annual surplus of \$962 million. This represents an improvement in the City's financial position from an accrual accounting basis.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to approving the recommendations in this report.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

This is a city-wide report.

CONSULTATION

This report is administrative in nature and therefore no consultation was required.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

The Finance and Corporate Services department is committed to ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities. While this report is administrative in nature, it is guided by and adheres to a legislated accessibility framework that includes the City's Accessibility Policy and the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation*, O.Reg. 191/1 of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

This report is a city-wide report with no specific rural implications.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

This report supports the current 2023 - 2026 Term of Council Priorities as well as the City's commitment to financial sustainability and transparency.

DISPOSITION

Once this report and the final 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets are adopted by Council, staff will reflect any final changes approved by Council and add the 2026 accrual budget presentation to the City of Ottawa's Final Adopted 2026 Budget Book.