



**OTTAWA TAX PAYERS ADVOCACY GROUP**

*"The Silent Majority is Silent No More"*

**The Ottawa Taxpayer Advocacy Group Releases Detailed Plan for 2 Year Budget Freeze – No New Money**

**Capital Budget**

We have identified about \$416 million or about half the \$762 million capital budget for further analysis. If you reduce the budgets below by 10%, that will generate a savings of about 40 million dollars. What impact will that have on

service?

In cases with aggregate expenses, please answer by listing the projects to explain the rational. For example an answer like reducing the Transit budget by 10% means 10% fewer buses would be unsuitable. There are about 60 capital projects in Transit and there must be least 20% of the projects that can bear 80% of the reduction. Another example is that a 10% cut in the budget for parks and recreation does not means closing beaches, parks and sports centres. There about 25 capital projects in Parks & Recreation, a similar 20% of projects logic will apply.

The City is spending about \$6 million on 33 roof replacement projects. What is the City's policy for how long a roof will be used before replacement? If we raised or reduced the threshold by 15 years what impact will that have on cost of replacement? What % of the cost are materials and what % is labour?

Description	Cost	Type	Account
Other Transit Services	218,872		
Hydro (2009 figures)	84,400		
Other Parks Recreation Services	22,358		
Growth Transit Garage	17,000	Growth Transit Garage	903780
SE-Citizen-CentricSvcs(e-services/311)	12,000	Strategic Comm	905716
Roofs	6,088		
Light Rail Transit Office	6,000	Growth LRT	905245
Deputy Manager Operations	5,700		
Deputy Manager Public Works	5,407		
SE-CommunityBasedMobileWorkforce	5,400	Strategic City Manager	905717
2010 Transitway Stations	4,100	Growth Transit Garage	905492
Renewal O-Train	3,935		
Other Library	3,933		
SE-Smart Energy	2,400	Environment	905733
EnvironmentalRemediation2010	2,000	Renewal Real Estate	905674
LCR-General Government	1,904	Renewal Offices	905609
2010Vehicle&EquipmentPublicWorks	1,825	Growth Traffic	905445
SE-Transforming Fleet Management	1,800	Strategic Roads	905714
BusinessParkPropertiesBuyBack2010	1,800	Renewal Real Estate	905673
RG-LCR-General Government	1,710	Renewal Offices	905661
Childcare	1396		
MinorParkImprovements2010	650	Renewal Parks, Recreation	904934
SE-Integrating Community & SocialSvcs	600	Strategic Emp & Fin Assis	905718

By-Law & Regulatory Services	562		
Tree Planting Initiative	500	Strategic Trees	904455
GreenFleet	500	Strategic Fleet Services	905470
Collections2010	500	Growth Library	905631
Lifecycle Renewal - Tree Program	446	Renewal Trees	905450
Two-Way Radio Replacement	400	Renewal Road Operations	905442
SE-Sponsorship & Advertizing	300	Strategic Sponsorship	905734
SE-In.Business/mgmt/oppractices(PW)	300	Strategic Roads	905715
Transit Communications	275	Renewal Transit	905160
Lifecycle Renewal-Salt Storage Facilities	250	Renewal Road Operations	903394
Minor Facility Improvements	250	Renewal Parks, Recreation	905712
CorporateRadioSystem-2010	245	Renewal Radio	905472
Parks & Facility Signage	150	Strategic Parks, Recreation	903918
Development Charge Bylaw Review 2014	150	Growth By Law	905384
Planning Branch (Construction, Rural)	150		
ITStrategicPlanRefresh2010	120	Renewal IT	905720
IT Performance Measurement(TCO)2010	100	Renewal IT	905709
2010ParkingStudies	50	Renewal Pedestrian	905447
Growth Planning Studies	50	Growth Library	905624
2010AudibleSignalProgram	45	Strategic Roads	905457
	<b>416,621</b>		
<b>About \$6 million on 33 Roof Replacement Projects</b>			
Parks	2012		
Transit	1410		
Fire	1370		
Transportation	746		
Long Term Care	470		
Social Housing	50		
Childcare	30		

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### **City Response:**

#### 1. General capital program spending:

In developing the 2010 capital budget requirements, staff has provided their best estimates in order to deliver the Council directed projects to address the rehabilitation and growth needs in the City. The justification for the capital spending was included in the supplementary capital budget document provided to Council during their budget 2010 deliberations. This document can be referenced on the web.

[http://www.ottawa.ca/city\\_hall/budget/budget\\_2010/adopted\\_supplemental\\_capital\\_budget\\_2010.pdf](http://www.ottawa.ca/city_hall/budget/budget_2010/adopted_supplemental_capital_budget_2010.pdf) [ PDF - 5.21 MB ]

#### 2. Service Excellence (SE) Initiatives:

Projects listed in the OTAG schedule include investments in new technologies have been approved in 2010 to address service excellence objectives which will result in future operational efficiencies and savings. Decreasing the budgetary allocations will either reduce the amount of work that can be done during the year, jeopardize the ability of staff to complete projects or delay the implementation of new technologies designed to generate efficiencies and savings. Council received a report on the Service Excellence Strategy in November 2009, as part of the background information on the 2010 budget. This document can be referenced at:

<http://www.ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/abfc/2009/11-17/12%20-%20ACS2009-COS-ODP-0015.htm>

#### 3. Renewal:

Capital projects for infrastructure renewal that are included on the schedule are necessary to close the infrastructure renewal gap that was highlighted as part of the City's Long Range financial planning and that forms part of the fiscal framework. Council has set targets for closing that gap. Reducing the amount spent on infrastructure renewal will result in a further deferral of works required to maintain the City's infrastructure. The LRFP and 2007 Fiscal Framework can be referenced at

[http://www.ottawa.ca/city\\_hall/financial/lrpf3/index\\_en.html](http://www.ottawa.ca/city_hall/financial/lrpf3/index_en.html)

[http://www.ottawa.ca/city\\_hall/financial/fiscal\\_2007\\_en.html](http://www.ottawa.ca/city_hall/financial/fiscal_2007_en.html)

### **City Response**

Any questions that deal with policy issues will not elicit staff City Response as setting policy is Council's prerogative. (For example: questions that ask staff to prioritize services are policy questions.)

### **City Response**

#### **Roof replacement:**

Replacements are based on an annual assessment of our facilities, and take into consideration the life of the infrastructure in accordance with sound asset management practices.

#### **Follow Up Question Capital Costs**

The justification for each capital project does not show the impact of a 10% cut. For example if we cut the budget for the bus garage or mobile workforce or tree planting or transit communication of facility signage by 10% what will be the impact? Cages instead of solid metal doors etc we spent a lot of time reviewing all capital projects and identifying those that could do with 10% less money, it is unfortunate that our question was not addressed.

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