

THE MUNICIPALITY
OF THE COUNTY OF

LA MUNICIPALITÉ
DU COMTÉ DE

RICHMOND

Richmond County Municipal Budget 2026 - 2027

Our continued investment in community wellbeing, affordability, services, and long-term growth.



Budget in 60 seconds - What this budget means for you!

- **Affordability:** Municipal tax rates remain unchanged for 2026–27.
- **Healthcare:** Support continues for healthcare recruitment, seniors safety, and community wellness.
- **Community:** Funding supports local organizations, recreation, trails, and community events.
- **Infrastructure:** Projects include municipal building upgrades, arena improvements, sewer and water improvements, and transfer station investments.



L-R, District 1 Councillor Shawn Samson, District 2 Councillor and Warden Lois Landry, District 3 Councillor Brian Marchand, District 4 Councillor and Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette and District 5 Councillor Brent Sampson

A few words from our Warden and Council

Richmond County Council approved its 2026–2027 budget at a Special Council Meeting held on May 28, 2026. This balanced budget of just over \$19 million reflects Council’s ongoing commitment to responsible financial management while continuing to invest in the services, infrastructure, and organizations that help make Richmond County a great place to live.

I am pleased that Council was able to maintain both residential and commercial tax rates for a fourth consecutive year. At a time when affordability remains a concern for many households, holding the line on tax rates while expanding our Low-Income Property Tax Exemption Program was an important priority during budget deliberations.

The budget continues support for many of the initiatives that strengthen our communities, including grants for community organizations, trails and waterfront development, public transit, healthcare, food security, seniors’ services, youth programs, tourism, and housing. We are also making significant investments in infrastructure, including the Richmond Arena retrofit project, water and sewer improvements, road paving partnerships, and expanded fire protection through the installation of dry hydrants.

Like all municipalities in Nova Scotia, Richmond County is also responsible for substantial mandatory provincial costs. More than \$6 million of this year’s budget is allocated to education, policing, and assessment services.

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank municipal staff for their work throughout the budget process and residents for their ongoing engagement and support. Together, we continue to build a strong, vibrant, and affordable Richmond County.

Lois Landry
Lois Landry, Warden - MCOR

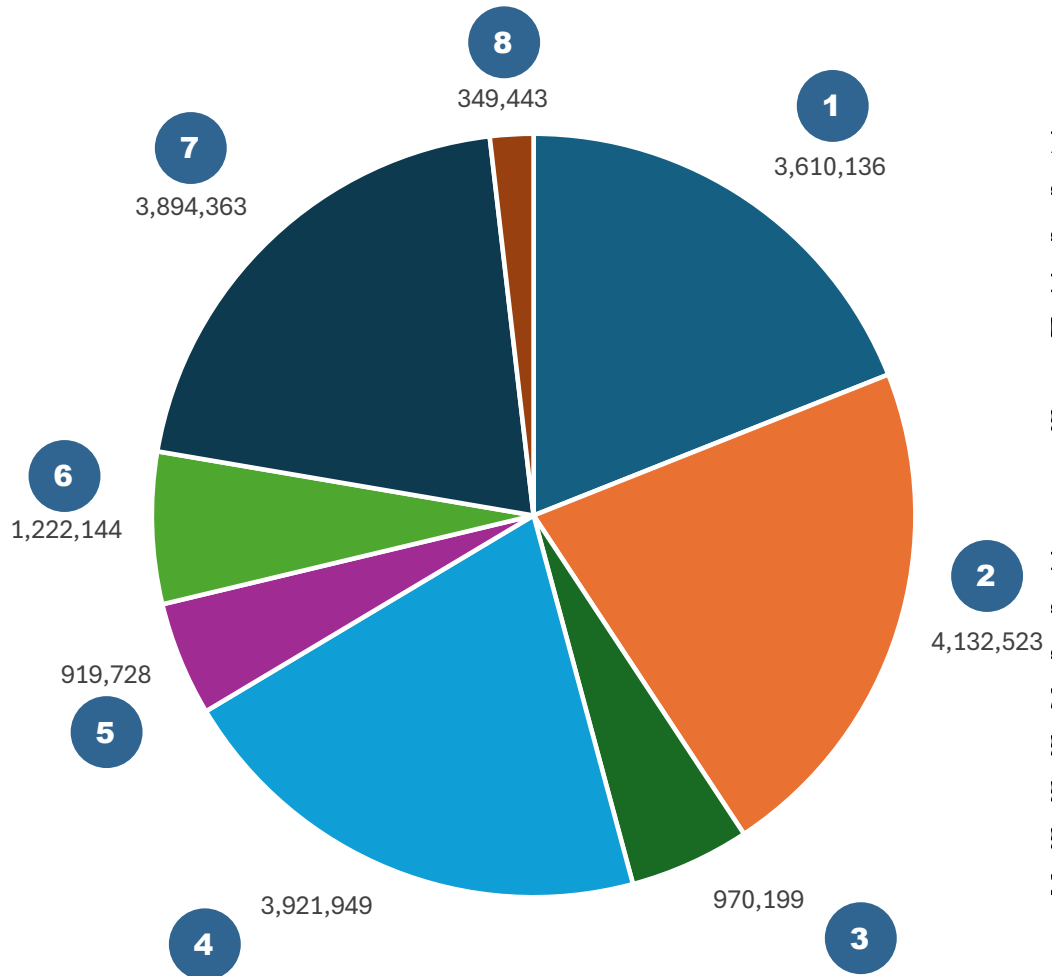
Where your money goes

Budget spending is distributed across the services residents use every day:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. General Government - (Council, Admin Staff, Insurance, Legal, IT Tech & Buildings) | 19% |
| 2. Protective Services - (Fire and Police) | 22% |
| 3. Transportation - (Sidewalks, Streetlights and PW Admin) | 5% |
| 4. Environmental Services - (PW Field Staff, Transfer Station and Landfill Closure) | 21% |
| 5. Economic Development - (Planning, CB Partnership and Community Grants) | 5% |
| 6. Recreation & Community Development - (Rec Staff, Programming & Supplies) | 6% |
| 7. Collected for Other Governments - (Schools & Village) | 20% |
| 8. Fiscal Services - (Interest on loans, Amortization and Transfers from Reserves) | 2% |

Approximately 33% of expenses are mandatory provincial contributions such as policing, education, and property valuation services.

Budget 2026 - 2027



Community Investments & Grants

The County continues to support organizations and services that strengthen quality of life.

- Strait Area Transit — \$100,000
- At Home Housing Initiative — \$45,000
- Senior Safety Coordinator — \$30,000
- Strait Richmond Hospital CT Scanner Campaign — \$25,000 (*maintained for when campaign begins*)
- Cancer Centre Support — \$20,000
- Cape Breton University Medical Education Support — \$12,500
- Food Banks Across Districts — \$12,000

Council also awards over \$60,000.00 annually in District and Regional Funds through our Grant Program.

Key Projects for 2026–27

- \$5,000,000 replacement of ice floor, piping and refrigeration equipment at the Richmond Arena
- \$2,500,000 Construction & Demolition Site Expansion at our Transfer Site Facility
- \$500,000 Water Main replacement along Bennies Lane in Louisdale
- \$325,000 Cost Share Road Paving with the Provincial Government for Forgeron Lane in West Arichat
- \$225,000 HVAC renewal at the municipal administration building
- \$200,000 in upgrades to the Arichat Water Plant
- \$150,000 for sewer renewal projects

Revenue & Tax Highlights Key financial updates for the year:

- Residential tax rate remains \$0.85 per \$100 of assessment
- Commercial tax rate remains \$2.15 per \$100 of assessment
- Property assessment growth contributes to revenue increase
- Low Income Property Tax Exemption - Household Income threshold moved up to \$35,000.00 and the benefit maintained at \$200.00
- No increase in recreation fees

Important Dates

- Interim property tax bill: issued April 1, due June 1
- Final property tax bill: issued September 1, due November 1
- Municipal Grant Program deadline: March 31, 2027

