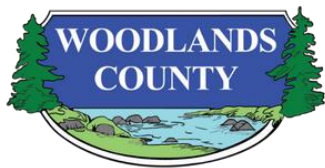


# 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS



# 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

## INTRODUCTION

Woodlands County invited residents to share their input on the 2026 Interim Budget through an online survey conducted from March 10–18, 2026.

The survey included eight questions and one open-ended comment section, providing residents with an opportunity to share their priorities and perspectives. Council and Administration sought this feedback to help confirm that decisions made in the interim budget align with community priorities.

A total of **65 residents participated**, offering valuable insights to help finalize the 2026 budget.

## BUDGET LIFECYCLE

The Budget Lifecycle outlines the annual process Council and Administration follow to plan, review, and finalize the County’s budget.

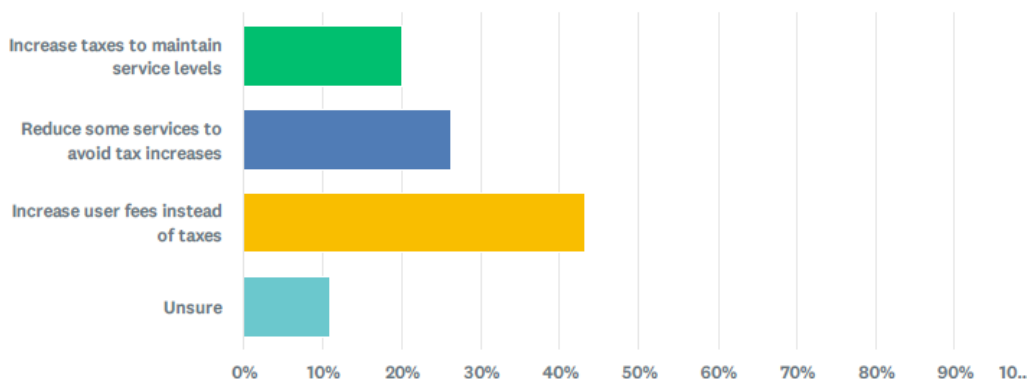
Now that the public engagement survey is complete, the next step is to present these results to the Finance & Taxation Committee and Council, where they’ll conduct their final deliberations before approving.



# 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

## Q2 If costs increase due to inflation, which approach should the County take?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

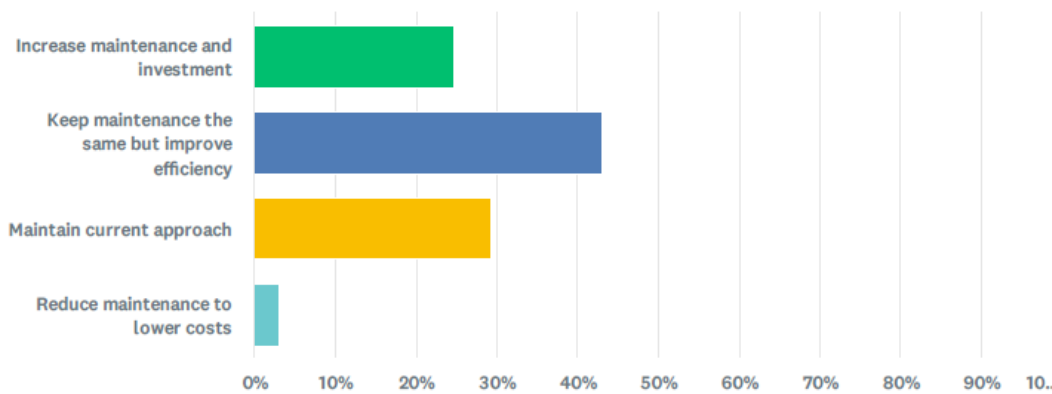


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Increase taxes to maintain service levels	20.00%	13
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Reduce some services to avoid tax increases	26.15%	17
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Increase user fees instead of taxes	43.08%	28
<span style="color: teal;">●</span> Unsure	10.77%	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>65</b>

# 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

## Q1 Which best reflects your view on County road maintenance?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

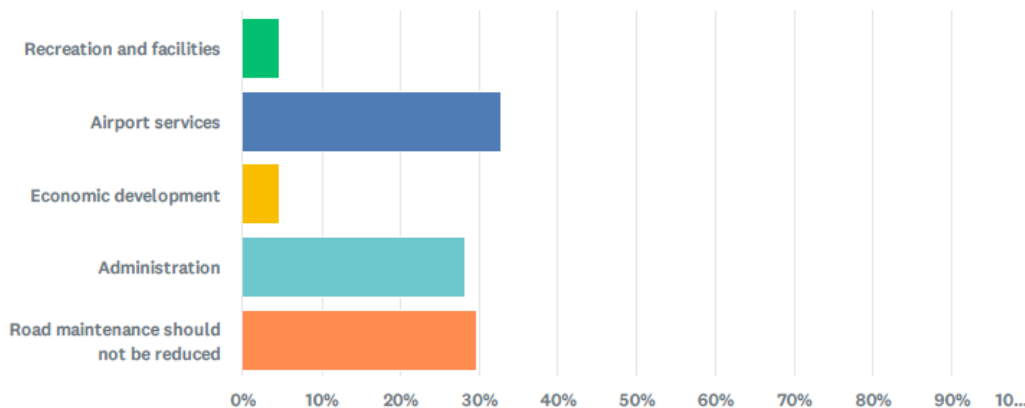


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Increase maintenance and investment	24.62%	16
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Keep maintenance the same but improve efficiency	43.08%	28
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Maintain current approach	29.23%	19
<span style="color: teal;">●</span> Reduce maintenance to lower costs	3.08%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>65</b>

# 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

## Q3 If service reductions were required, which area should be considered first?

Answered: 64 Skipped: 1

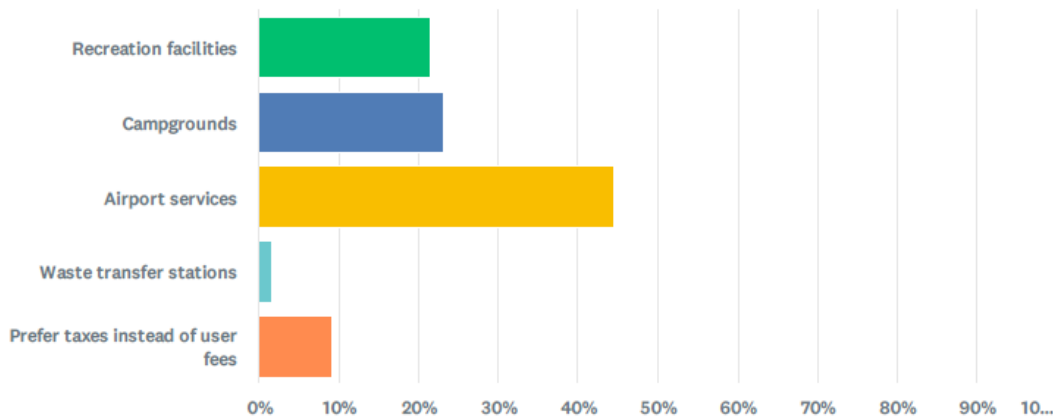


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Recreation and facilities	4.69%	3
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Airport services	32.81%	21
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Economic development	4.69%	3
<span style="color: teal;">●</span> Administration	28.13%	18
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Road maintenance should not be reduced	29.69%	19
<b>Total</b>		<b>64</b>

# 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

## Q4 Which services would you support user fees for?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

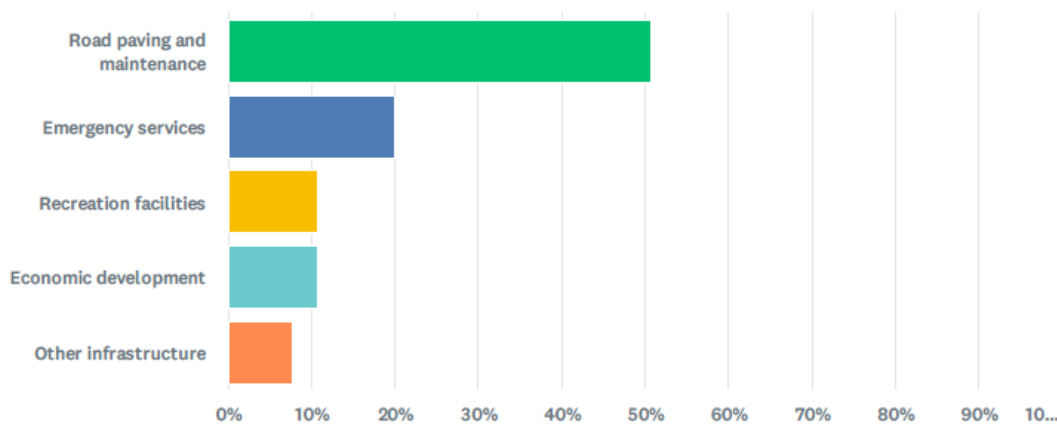


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Recreation facilities	21.54%	14
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Campgrounds	23.08%	15
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Airport services	44.62%	29
<span style="color: teal;">●</span> Waste transfer stations	1.54%	1
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Prefer taxes instead of user fees	9.23%	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>65</b>

# 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

## Q5 If funding allows only one major investment, which should be the priority?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

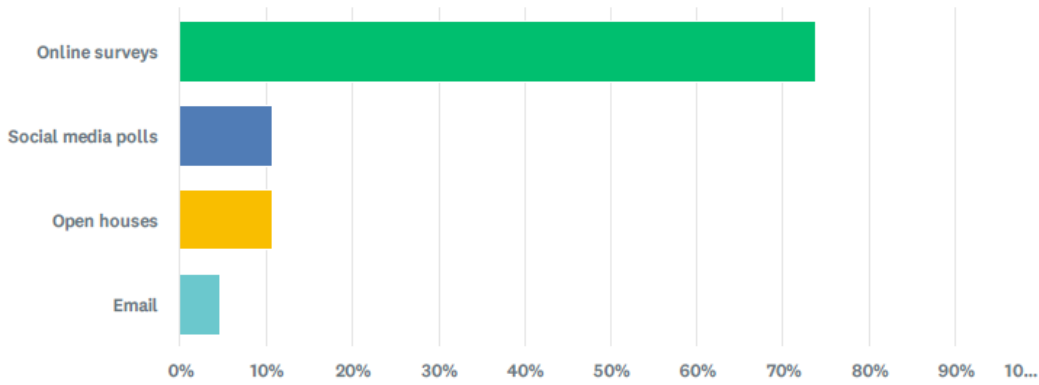


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Road paving and maintenance	50.77%	33
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Emergency services	20.00%	13
<span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Recreation facilities	10.77%	7
<span style="color: teal;">●</span> Economic development	10.77%	7
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Other infrastructure	7.69%	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>65</b>

# 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

## Q6 How would you prefer to provide budget input?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

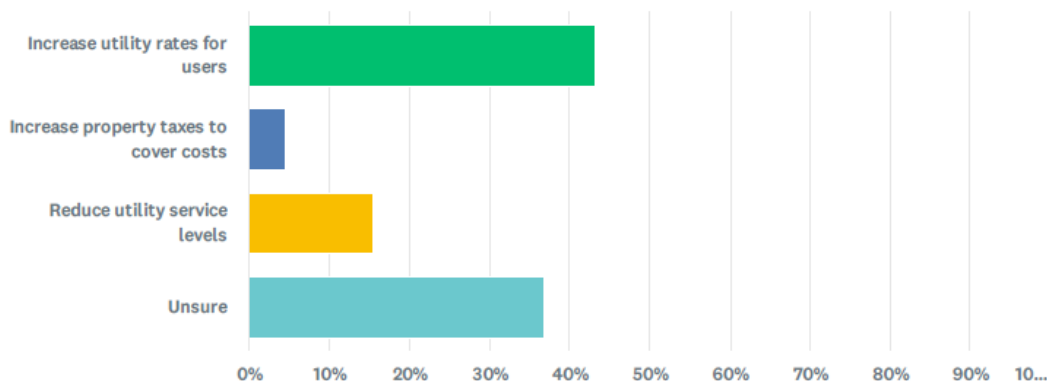


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Online surveys	73.85%	48
● Social media polls	10.77%	7
● Open houses	10.77%	7
● Email	4.62%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>65</b>

# 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

## Q7 If utility services cost more to operate, which approach should the County take?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Increase utility rates for users	43.08%	28
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Increase property taxes to cover costs	4.62%	3
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Reduce utility service levels	15.38%	10
<span style="color: teal;">●</span> Unsure	36.92%	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>65</b>

## 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

### Q8 What changes or priorities would you like Council to consider before the final 2026 budget is approved?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 38

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	What is actually needed, how many staff does it require and at what service level will the county be able to comfortably maintain.	3/17/2026 7:53 PM
2	Do not increase taxes for any reason	3/17/2026 8:36 AM
3	Either hire road improvements out to capable contractors, or hire people to work at the county that are knowledgeable on it. The cold mix asphalt layed down on range road 114 has been terrible since the day it was layed down. If a contractor was hired to do that job and that was the result, would it have been acceptable? No. Another example is all the work done to rr 120 north when they rolled all the gravel into the ditch, then spent days working the ditch trying to bring the gravel back onto the road. There's been so many mismanaged projects and incompetent employees at the county that our tax money is being wasted. The basement office project is a prime example. Hired an engineer to engineer the job, trades didn't do what was engineered, it was brought up to woodlands employees, nothing done about it. They need to start shopping for best value, nothing done cheapest price, and make every effort to keep the work local.	3/16/2026 4:01 PM
4	What utility services are you asking about? The only service we get is the so called road maintenance. I live on a bus route with a steep hill - this winter the road grading has been little to none. You need to re-evaluate this program - it's not working. So much time and money spent on getting the grader back to its parking spot by 3 pm. - then redo next day - do a cost analysis - especially with the cost of fuel - maybe a bit of overtime instead of the way it's managed now. Oh less focus on Ft Assiniboine as well.	3/15/2026 8:21 PM
5	Streamlining administration and management	3/14/2026 6:01 PM
6	I have seen many woodlands country trucks drive around and not doing any actual work or sitting on country roads for the better part of the day. Why are they being paid when they are not doing anything.	3/14/2026 10:56 AM
7	Look at how people are living day to day and CANT afford more increases in all stuff ! Maybe cut back on a lot of these trips that staff and councillors attend ! 2 to go to them not all of them !	3/14/2026 9:05 AM
8	Keep care of the facilities we have. I have witnessed the facia off the fire hall in blue ridge for over two years. A lot of money to build these facilities and not being maintained. You have a fire chief and a manager of emergency services that should be able to see this lam sure they drive by many times every week Take care of the facilities we have. Not looking very professional with metal missing from the building .stands out like a sore thumb	3/14/2026 8:52 AM
9	Clean up administration. Make employees accountable or terminate them.	3/14/2026 7:13 AM
10	Fix oiled and cold mix roads.	3/13/2026 10:17 PM
11	Some of your questions are misleading and don't tell the whole picture. 1. What utility services are you talking about? Do you mean water, sewer and garbage in hamlets or something else? 2. Funding allows for only one investment - mean one project? The choices are vague.	3/12/2026 9:12 PM
12	Budgeting is tough whether it be the County or a resident. Residents are paying ridiculous costs for everything in life from groceries or gas to rent or utilities. I hope the County is able to find a balance between keeping additional costs to tax payers low, but provide quality service and focus on the necessities. This is a time of needs, not wants	3/12/2026 8:48 PM
13	Improve future surveys to include space for open comments for each question, and allow for multiple answers (ranked) for each question. The survey is leading as written and doesn't allow for actual engagement. Coordinate road maintenance with the province so that there are not concurrent projects blocking access such as what happened with HWY43 and East Mtn Rd summer 2025. Require businesses that increase traffic on county roads (eg: Twin Acres Greenhouse on RgeRd120) to pay increased road use taxes to compensate for the dramatic road deterioration and reduced road safety resulting from increased traffic to that business.	3/12/2026 8:03 PM

## 2026 BUDGET FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

14	It would be great if there was an open house that highlights where the tax dollars go, to be able to learn about each department and projects underway and having staff and council there to be able to answer questions.	3/12/2026 6:34 PM
15	My experience living on RR110 our roads are awful all year round. Something needs to change as grading isn't the answer.	3/12/2026 12:46 PM
16	Don't cut taxes to lower service levels	3/12/2026 12:36 PM
17	Review number of employees. Eliminate positions not needed	3/12/2026 12:29 PM
18	Before raising taxes. Look at the inefficiencies located with in the county and fix them.	3/12/2026 5:14 AM
19	Not sure as long as the taxes don't increase too much.	3/11/2026 8:12 PM
20	Keep up good work! Maybe share more successes!	3/11/2026 11:53 AM
21	For future surveys the option to provide more than one answer to certain questions would get a better understanding of the public's thoughts regarding the question being asked. This specific survey seemed to direct the public towards a particular outcome.	3/11/2026 10:35 AM
22	Medical coverage in emergency rooms should be a very high priority.	3/10/2026 5:17 PM
23	Fire safety, clean up deadfall, dont provide fire pits in Gooselake Day Use - the area is too deep in deadfall	3/10/2026 2:30 PM
24	More programs for the summer	3/10/2026 2:20 PM
25	Have to travel to edmonton / st. albert / camrose for dance no options for county families	3/10/2026 2:18 PM
26	Investing in community communications using modern tech - email for new info, text alerts emergencies Invest in economic & tourism development to diversify & create careers to keep the youth on the land. Including farming.	3/10/2026 2:12 PM
27	How to bring more money to Woodlands County. More training for managers and Directors for leadership and mentorship's. Build better relationships with other Counties to work together to share ideas and what works in their areas.	3/10/2026 9:49 AM

