## CLEARWATER COUNTY Consolidated Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2024



#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Reeve and Council of Clearwater County

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Clearwater County (the County), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024, and the consolidated statements of operations and accumulated surplus, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the County as at December 31, 2024, the consolidated results of its operations, changes in its net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the County in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Annual Report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditors' report. Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.





Independent Auditors' Report to the Reeve and Council of Clearwater County (continued)

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the County's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the County or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the County's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit
  procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing
  an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the County's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the County to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



**Chartered Professional Accountants** 

### MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

To the Reeve and Members of Council of Clearwater County

The integrity, relevance and comparability of the data in the accompanying consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of management.

The consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of management, prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. They necessarily include some amounts that are based on the best estimates and judgments of management.

To assist in its responsibility, management maintains accounting, budget and other controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are appropriately authorized, that assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded, and that financial records are reliable for preparation of consolidated financial statements.

Metrix Group LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, have been appointed by County Council to express an opinion on the County's consolidated financial statements.

Rick Emmons

Chief Administrative Officer

Murray Hagan, B.Comm, CPA, CA

Chief Financial Officer

	2024	2023
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 55,733,623	\$ 52,563,032
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	7,851,124	13,151,965
Land held for resale	6,036,727	5,715,512
Investments (Note 4)	50,032,550	51,979,710
	119,654,024	123,410,219
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities ( <i>Note 5</i> )	7,307,980	7,134,976
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	7,542,850	13,542,306
Long-term debt (Note 7)	223,335	656,935
Asset retirement obligations (Note 8)	8,667,119	9,759,788
	23,741,284	31,094,005
	20,711,201	01,001,000
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	95,912,740	92,316,214
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Note 9)	392,229,299	391,152,180
Inventories for consumption (Note 10)	5,303,675	5,697,791
Prepaid expenses	1,130,602	987,322
	398,663,576	397,837,293
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (NOTE 11) (Schedule 1)	\$ 494,576,316	\$ 490,153,507

ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL:

Bryan Cermak.

#### CLEARWATER COUNTY Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	2024	2024	2023
	(Budget) (Note 21)	(Actual)	(Actual)
REVENUE			
Net municipal taxes (Schedule 2)	\$ 54,189,345	\$ 55,967,960	\$ 52,838,602
Government transfers for operating (Schedule 3)	1,675,677	4,095,244	1,696,376
Investment income	2,420,000	3,879,397	3,324,022
User fees and sale of goods	2,783,970	2,794,477	4,677,800
Penalties on taxes	350,000	461,135	445,451
Other	592,100	314,933	280,830
Rentals	212,300	250,210	281,305
Fines	225,000	201,246	246,682
Developer levies		129,273	120,069
Licenses and permits	65,000	111,306	108,890
	62,513,392	68,205,181	64,020,027
EXPENSES			
Legislative	1,449,796	1,155,421	881,636
Administration	9,219,589	7,231,750	6,479,096
Assessment	444,625	428,610	525,176
Fire, ambulance, and protective services	6,652,629	6,253,887	6,146,962
Public works - general	1,880,080	1,774,848	1,603,762
Roads, streets, walks and lighting	13,397,751	14,458,882	10,339,988
Facilities	1,951,247	1,401,267	1,465,542
Water supply and distribution	151,385	96,819	170,128
Wastewater treatment and disposal	1,669,007	2,359,970	193,466
Waste management	3,315,525	1,386,375	2,904,104
Airport	159,723	69,041	284,738
Family and community support services	1,453,442	1,067,217	562,589
Agricultural services	3,508,688	3,077,378	2,720,052
Land use planning, zoning and development	3,171,323	2,275,839	2,200,001
Parks and recreation	3,177,784	2,187,970	3,216,567
Culture	111,070	577,262	353,154
Amortization	23,000,000	24,140,674	23,570,500
Amortization	23,000,000	24,140,074	23,370,300
	74,713,664	69,943,210	63,617,461
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE OTHER			
REVENUE (EXPENSES)	(12,200,272)	(1,738,029)	402,566
OTHER REVENUE (EXPENSES)			
Government transfers for capital (Schedule 3)	10,849,300	8,990,606	6,488,903
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	<u> </u>	(2,829,768)	(961,736)
	10,849,300	6,160,838	5,527,167
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(1,350,972)	4,422,809	5,929,733
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, BEGINNING OF YEAR,	490,153,507	490,153,507	484,223,774
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	\$ 488,802,535	\$ 494,576,316	\$ 490,153,507

#### CLEARWATER COUNTY Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	2024 (Budget) (Note 21)	2024 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)
ANNUAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (1,350,972)	\$ 4,422,809	\$ 5,929,733
Purchase of tangible capital assets Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets Amortization of tangible capital assets Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(40,366,896) - 23,000,000 -	(28,928,859) 881,298 24,140,674 2,829,768	(38,002,204) 877,320 23,570,500 961,736
Use of supplies inventory Acquisition of prepaid expenses	(17,366,896) - -	(1,077,119) 394,116 (143,280)	(12,592,648) 532,753 (44,551)
		250,836	488,202
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	(18,717,868)	3,596,526	(6,174,713)
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	92,316,214	92,316,214	98,490,927
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 73,598,346	\$ 95,912,740	\$ 92,316,214

		2024	2023
		2024	2023
OPERATING ACTIVITIES  Annual surplus  Non-cash items included in annual surplus	\$	4,422,809	\$ 5,929,733
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets Amortization of tangible capital assets	_	2,829,768 24,140,674	961,736 23,570,500
		31,393,251	30,461,969
Changes in non-cash working capital balances:     Accounts receivable     Prepaid expenses     Accounts payable and accrued liabilities     Land held for resale     Deferred revenue     Inventories for consumption     Asset retirement obligations  CAPITAL ACTIVITIES	_	5,300,841 (143,280) 173,004 (321,215) (5,999,456) 394,116 (1,092,669) 29,704,592	(1,945,627) (44,551) (5,277,157) (158,574) 9,593,403 532,753 488,928 33,651,144
Purchase of tangible capital assets Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets		28,928,859) 881,298 28,047,561)	(38,002,204) 877,320 (37,124,884)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES  Long-term debt principal repayments		(433,600)	(416,738)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES Purchase of investments Proceeds on sale of investments	_	1,947,160 1,947,160	(11,000,000) 5,192,385 (5,807,615)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS DURING THE YEAR		3,170,591	(9,698,093)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR		52,563,032	62,261,125
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$	55,733,623	\$ 52,563,032

	Unrestricted Surplus	Restricted Surplus (Note 12)	Equity in Tangible Capital Assets	e <b>2024</b>	2023
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 100,000	\$108,661,115	\$381,392,392	\$490,153,507	\$484,223,774
Annual surplus	4,422,809	-	-	4,422,809	5,929,733
Restricted funds used for operations	2,511,376	(2,511,376)	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds designated for future use	(20,432,854)	20,432,854	-	-	-
Change in asset retirement obligations (Note 8)	(1,092,669)	-	1,092,669	-	-
Current year funds used for tangible capital assets	(13,250,402)	-	13,250,402	-	-
Restricted surplus used for tangible capital assets	-	(15,678,457)	15,678,457	-	-
Net book value of tangible capital assets disposed of	3,711,066	-	(3,711,066)	-	-
Amortization	24,140,674	-	(24,140,674)	-	<u>-</u>
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ 110,000	\$110,904,136	\$383,562,180	\$494,576 <u>,3</u> 16	\$490,153,507

	2024 (Budget) (Note 21)	2024 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)
TAXATION			
Real property taxes	\$ 44,374,138	\$ 46,303,101	\$ 43,279,601
Linear property taxes	31,165,339	31,200,947	29,400,759
	75,539,477	77,504,048	72,680,360
Less revenue sharing:			
County of Wetaskiwin	675,000	726,496	712,886
,		-,	,
Taxes after revenue sharing	74,864,477	76,777,552	71,967,474
REQUISITIONS			
REQUISITIONS Alberta School Foundation Fund	18,468,570	18,603,029	17,342,186
Westview Lodge	1,226,150	1,226,150	919,198
Red Deer Catholic Regional Division No. 39	527,404	527,404	443,773
Designated industrial property assessment	453,008	453,009	423,715
	20,675,132	20,809,592	19,128,872
NET MUNICIPAL TAXES	\$ 54,189,345	\$ 55,967,960	\$ 52,838,602

	20: (Bud <i>(Note</i>	lget)	2024 (Actual)		2023 (Actual)
TRANSFERS FOR OPERATING Provincial government Local governments	·	22,691 <b>\$</b> 52,986	\$ 3,529,575 565,669	\$	1,218,969 477,407
	1,67	75,677	4,095,244		1,696,376
TRANSFERS FOR CAPITAL Provincial government Local governments	10,84	49,300 -	8,343,119 647,487		6,392,873 96,030
	10,84	49,300	8,990,606		6,488,903
TOTAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS	\$ 12,52	24,977 \$	\$ 13,085,850	\$	8,185,279

	General Government	Community Services	Emergency & Protective Services	Transportation Services	Planning & Development	Recreation & Culture	Environmental Services	Agricultural Services	Total		
REVENUE	<b>4</b> 55 007 000	•	•	•				•	<b>4</b> 55 007 000		
•	\$ 55,967,960	\$ -	\$ -	*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,967,960		
Government transfers	481,380	-	1,050,508	2,263,862	52,977	52,977 -		246,517	4,095,244		
Investment income	3,879,397 12.323	-	240.046	222.004	- 265,562	-	4 222 222	- - E11 000	3,879,397		
User fees and sales of goods All other	,	-	349,946	332,004	,	- 2 671	1,322,833	511,809	2,794,477		
All other	688,260	<u>-</u>	201,170	250,605	298,983	3,671	-	25,414	1,468,103		
	61,029,320	-	1,601,624	2,846,471	617,522 3,671		1,322,833	783,740	68,205,181		
EXPENSES											
Salaries, wages and benefits	4,570,544	224,329	3,183,225	5,312,341	1,436,572	8,545	1,846,412	1,616,924	18,198,892		
Contract and general services	3,331,347	284,164	518,501	7,605,404	756,354	536,291	917,812	917,812	917,812	643,477	14,593,350
Materials, goods and supplies	323,947	10,935	792,331	4,685,324	57,237	25,331	161,542	661,339	6,717,986		
Transfers to other governments	405,230	69,041	-	40,132	-	1,539,364	2,000,000	32,515	4,086,282		
Transfers to individuals/organizations		525,772	1,759,829	-	25,676	655,701	-	1,000	2,967,978		
Bad debts	178,294	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	178,294		
Other expenses	6,419	-	-	1,863	-	-	-	122,123	130,405		
Interest on long-term debt	-	22,017	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,017		
Asset retirement obligation recovery		-	-	(10,067)	-	-	(1,082,602)	-	(1,092,669)		
	8,815,781	1,136,258	6,253,886	17,634,997	2,275,839	2,765,232	3,843,164	3,077,378	45,802,535		
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT)											
BEFORE AMORTIZATION	52,213,539	(1,136,258)	(4,652,262)	(14,788,526)	(1,658,317)	(2,761,561)	(2,520,331)	(2,293,638)	22,402,646		
Amortization	518,159	12,432	535,937	21,070,636	152,812	81,085	1,526,130	243,483	24,140,674		
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT)	\$ 51,695,380	\$ (1,148,690)	\$ (5,188, <u>1</u> 99)	\$ (35,859,162)	\$ (1,811,129)	\$ (2,842,646)	\$ (4,046,461)	\$ (2,537,121)	\$ (1,738,028)		

	General Government	Community Services	Emergency & Protective Services	Transportation Services	Planning & Development	Recreation & Culture	Environmental Services	Agricultural Services	Total
REVENUE									
	\$ 52,838,602	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,838,602
User fees and sales of goods	148.650	Ψ -	1,846,670	404,969	745,366	Ψ -	1,125,066	407,079	4,677,800
Investment income	3,324,022	_	1,040,070	-0,505	7-10,000	_	1,125,000	407,073	3,324,022
Government transfers	414,144	_	858.078	_	48,244	_	81,408	294,503	1,696,377
All other	672,887	_	264,371	207,429	320,415	_	01, <del>4</del> 00	18,124	1,483,226
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	57,398,305	-	2,969,119	612,398	1,114,025	-	1,206,474	719,706	64,020,027
EXPENSES									
Salaries, wages and benefits	3,989,741	108,908	3,175,902	4,491,709	1,394,214	16,708	1,765,004	1,397,241	16,339,427
Contracted and general services	3,014,868	84,413	506,322	5,637,916	658,649	691,803	852,990	523,749	
Materials, goods and utilities	305,306	5,611	780,117	3,213,033	84,355	11,928	171,025	494,748	5,066,123
Transfers to other governments	426,300	284,738	, -	52,880	, -	2,379,289	· -	, -	3,143,207
Transfers to individuals/organizations		325,510	1,684,621	, -	62,783	469,993	-	42,631	2,585,538
Asset retirement obligation expense	-	· -	-	10,249	-	-	478,679	· -	488,928
Other expenses	5,511	_	-	3,505	-	-	-	261,683	270,699
Bad debts	144,182	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	144,182
Interest on long-term debt		38,147	-						38,147
	7,885,908	847,327	6,146,962	13,409,292	2,200,001	3,569,721	3,267,698	2,720,052	40,046,961
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT)									
BEFORE AMORTIZATION	49,512,397	(847,327)	(3,177,843)	(12,796,894)	(1,085,976)	(3,569,721)	(2,061,224)	(2,000,346)	23,973,066
Amortization	516,229	11,564	512,756	20,236,428	123,293	81,085	1,881,558	207,587	23,570,500
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT)	\$ 48,996,168	\$ (858,891)	\$ (3,690,599)	\$(33,033,322)	\$ (1,209,269)	\$ (3,650,806)	\$ (3,942,782)	\$ (2,207,933)	\$ 402,566

Clearwater County (the "County") is a municipality in the Province of Alberta, Canada and operates under the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A., 2000, c. M-26, as amended.

#### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These consolidated financial statements are the representations of the County management prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the County are as follows:

#### (a) Reporting Entity

These consolidated financial statements include the assets, liabilities, non-financial assets, revenues, expenses and accumulated surplus of the County which comprises all the organizations that are owned or controlled by the County and are, therefore, accountable to the County for the administration of their financial affairs and resources.

Rocky Mountain House Airport Commission	50.0%
Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services	77.0%

The County accounts for government partnerships using the proportionate consolidation method. Under this method, the County's proportionate share of assets, liabilities, non-financial assets, revenues, expenses and accumulated surplus are included in the consolidated financial statements.

The schedule of taxes levied includes requisitions for education and senior foundations that are not part of the municipal reporting entity.

The financial statements exclude trust assets that are administered for the benefit of external parties. Interdepartmental and organizational transactions and balances are eliminated.

#### (b) Basis of Accounting

The consolidated financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are accounted for in the period in which the transactions or events occurred that gave rise to the revenues. Expenses are recognized in the period the goods and services are acquired and a liability is incurred or transfers are due.

Funds from external parties and earnings thereon restricted by agreement or legislation are accounted for as deferred revenue until used for the purpose specified.

Government transfers are recognized in the consolidated financial statements as revenue in the period in which the events giving rise to the transfer occurred, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met by the municipality, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made.

#### (c) Use of Estimates

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Where measurement uncertainty exists, the consolidated financial statements have been prepared within reasonable limits of materiality. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The County has used estimates to determine an allowance for doubtful accounts, accrued liabilities, asset retirement obligations and the useful lives of tangible capital assets.

#### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

#### (d) Valuation of financial assets and liabilities

The County's financial assets and liabilities are measured as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents Cost and amortized cost

Accounts receivables Lower of cost or net recoverable value

Investments Fair value and amortized cost

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Cost Deposit liabilities Cost

Asset retirement obligations Present value Long-term debt Amortized cost

For financial assets and liabilities measured at amortized cost, the effective interest rate method is used to determine interest revenue or expense. Transaction costs are a component of cost for financial assets and liabilities that are measured at cost or amortized cost and expensed when measured at fair value.

#### (e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and temporary investments include items that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash, are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value, and have a maturity of 90 days or less at acquisition.

#### (f) Investments

Investments in interest bearing securities are recorded at amortized cost. Investment premiums and discounts are amortized on over the term of the respective investments. When there has been a loss in value that is other than a temporary decline, the respective investment is written down to recognize the loss. Investment income is recorded as revenue in the period it is earned.

#### (g) Land Held for Resale

Land held for resale is recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Cost includes costs for land acquisition and improvements required to prepare the land for servicing such as clearing, stripping, and levelling charges. Related development costs incurred to provide infrastructure such as water and wastewater services, roads, sidewalks, and street lighting are recorded as tangible capital assets under their respective function.

#### (h) Requisition Over-levy and Under-levy

Over-levies and under-levies arise from the difference between the actual school tax originally levied on behalf of the province and the levy after all adjustments have been processed throughout the year. If the difference is an over-levy or over-collection, the overage is accrued as a liability and property tax revenue is reduced in the following year. If the difference is an under-levy or under-collection, the underage is accrued as a receivable and reflected as property tax revenue in the following year.

#### (i) Tax Revenue

Property tax revenue is based on assessed value determined in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*. Tax rates are established annually. Taxation revenues are recorded at the time tax notices are issued. Assessments are subject to appeal.

Construction and borrowing costs associated with local improvement projects are recovered through annual special property tax assessments during the period of the related borrowings. These levies are collectible from property owners for work performed by the County and are recognized as revenue in the year they are levied.

#### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

#### (i) Pensions

The County participates in two multi-employer defined benefit pension plans. Contributions for current and past service pension benefits are recorded as expenses in the year in which they become due. See *Note 15* for details of these pension plans.

#### (k) Asset retirement obligations

Asset retirement obligations are legal obligations associated with the retirement of tangible capital assets. Asset retirement activities include all activities relating to an asset retirement obligation including, but not limited to, decommissioning or dismantling, remediation of contamination, post-retirement activities such as monitoring, and constructing other tangible capital assets to perform post-retirement activities.

A liability for asset retirement obligation is recognized when there is a legal obligation to incur retirement costs, the past transaction or event giving rise to the liability has occurred, it is expected that future economic benefits will be given up, and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

When a liability for asset retirement obligation is recognized, asset retirement costs related to recognized tangible capital assets in productive use are capitalized by increasing the carrying value of the related asset and are amortized over the estimated useful life of the underlying tangible capital asset. Asset retirement costs related to unrecognized tangible capital assets and those not in productive use are expensed.

#### (I) Contaminated Sites

Contaminated sites are a result of contamination being introduced into air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic or radioactive material or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard. The liability is recorded net of any expected recoveries. A liability for remediation of a contaminated site is recognized when a site is not in productive use and is management's estimate of the cost of post-remediation including operation, maintenance and monitoring.

#### (m) Non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the normal course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenues over expenses, provides the Change in Net Financial Assets for the year.

#### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT'D)

#### i) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets is amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Buildings	10 - 50 years
Engineered structures	•
Roadway systems	3- 80 years
Water systems	45 - 75 years
Wastewater systems	34 - 75 years
Cell development	10 - 15 years
Machinery and equipment	5 - 40 years
Vehicles	10 - 25 years

One-half of the annual amortization is charged in the year of acquisition and in the year of disposal. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at fair value at the date of receipt and also are recorded as revenue.

Works of art for display are not recorded as tangible capital assets but are disclosed.

Leases are classified as capital or operating leases. Leases which transfer substantially all the benefits and risks incidental to ownership are accounted for as capital leases. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related lease payments are charged to expenses.

#### ii) Inventories for Consumption

Inventories held for consumption are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value with cost determined by the average cost method for gravel and sign inventory and the first-in first-out method for shop inventory.

2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS				
Savings accounts	_ \$	2024 27,607,806	<u>¢</u>	2023 10,629,162
Notice on amount accounts	Ψ	23,008,078	Φ	36,602,799
Operating accounts		5,117,239		5,330,571
Cash on hand		500		500
	_	FF 722 CO2	Φ	F0 F62 022
	<u>Þ</u>	55,733,623	Ф	52,563,032
The above amounts include grant funding of \$7,542,850 (2023 - restricted per <i>Note 6</i> .	\$13	,542,306) wh	ich	is externally
3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		0004		0000
	_	2024		2023
Trade and other	\$	6,120,286	\$	10,637,553
Taxes and grants in place of taxes	•	1,815,033	Ψ	2,248,769
Goods and Services Tax		840,898		1,012,442
		8,776,217		13,898,764
Less: Allowance for doubtful accounts		(925,093)		(746,799)
	\$	7,851,124	\$	13,151,965
The aging of receivables that are not impaired is as follows:		2024		2023
	_	2024		2023
Current	\$	6,816,010	\$	8,657,323
1 year	·	960,609	·	877,196
2 years		41,064		1,584,040
3 years		25,981		683,389
Over 3 years	_	7,460		1,350,017
	\$	7,851,124	\$	13,151,965
4. INVESTMENTS				
	_	2024		2023
Government and corporate bonds	\$	50,025,049	\$	49,972,209
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	Ψ	-	Ψ	2,000,000
Rocky Mountain House Co-op Association Limited		7,501		7,501
·	_ \$	50,032,550	\$	51,979,710
		, ,	-	, -, -,

The stated coupon interest rates on government and corporate bonds range between 1.59% - 5.43% per annum, maturing at dates rangeing between 2025 - 2035. The market value of the government and corporate bonds at December 31, 2024 was \$48,715,007 (2023 - \$47,586,275).

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	 2024	2023
Trade payables and accrued liabilities Accrued wages and benefits Deposits	\$ 5,832,943 1,436,782 38,255	\$ 5,942,346 1,167,630 25,000
	\$ 7,307,980	\$ 7,134,976

#### 6. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue is comprised of the following amounts which have been received from third parties for specified purposes. Additions are comprised of both contributions and interest earned during the year. These amounts are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related costs are incurred.

_	2023	Additions	Revenue Recognized	2024
Canada Community-Building Fund	4,550,802	\$ 2,787,346 760,328	\$ - <b>\$</b> (3,766,046)	2,787,346 1,545,084
Municipal Sustainability Initiative Strategic Transportation Infrastructur		67,852	(3,588,441)	1,424,900
Program Other Alberta Environment and Parks -	308 533,306	820,000 663,212	(308) (623,267)	820,000 573,251
Watercourse Crossing Remediation Program	3,512,401	132,362	(3,252,494)	392,269
	13,542,306	\$ 5,231,100	\$ (11,230,556) \$	7,542,850

# 7. LONG-TERM DEBT 2024 2023 Alberta Capital Finance Authority debenture repayable in semi-annual installments of \$227,808 including interest at a fixed rate of 4.006% maturing in 2025. \$2034 2024 2023

#### 8. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS

#### Landfill

The County operates a landfill site and is legally required to perform closure and post-closure activities upon retirement of this site. Closure and post-closure activities include the final clay cover, landscaping, as well as surface and ground water monitoring, leachate control, and visual inspection. A liability for the total obligation, which was incurred when the site started accepting waste, irrespective of volume of waste accepted has been accrued. The County's undiscounted future cash flows expected are a closure cost in year 2033 of \$4,979,401 with annual post-closure activities starting in year 2036 of \$315,844 increasing at an annual inflation rate of 2.31%, for 25 years to year 2061. The estimated total liability is based on the sum of discounted future cash flows for closure and post-closure activities using a discount rate of 4.91%. The County has not designated assets for settling closure and post-closure liabilities.

#### **Buildings**

The County has asset retirement obligations to remove various hazardous materials including, asbestos, lead, mercury, and mold from various buildings under its control. Regulations require the County to handle and dispose of these materials in a prescribed manner when it is disturbed, such as when the building undergoes renovations or being demolished. Although the timing of the removal is conditional on the building undergoing renovations or being demolished, regulations create an existing obligation for the County to remove the materials when the asset retirement activities occur. The total County's undiscounted future cash flows expected on buildings is \$280,000 to be realized between 2034 and 2058. The estimated liability is based on the sum of discounted future cash flows using a discount rate of 4.91% and inflation rate of 2.3% The County has not designated assets for settling these liabilities.

	_	2024	2023
Balance, beginning of the year Accretion expense Revisions in estimate	\$	9,759,788 514,715 (1,607,384)	\$ 9,270,860 488,928 -
Balance, end of the year	\$	8,667,119	\$ 9,759,788
Asset retirement obligations are comprised of the following:		2024	2023
Landfill Buildings	\$	8,461,966 205,153	\$ 9,544,568 215,220
	\$	8,667,119	\$ 9,759,788

9.

TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASS	SETS							
						2024		2023
						Net Book		Net Book
						Value		Value
Engineered structures								
Roadways and bridges					:	\$ 231,072,254	\$	233,132,121
Wastewater systems						30,309,067		30,658,188
Water systems All other						5,366,255 36,448,884		5,457,439 35,981,090
All other						30,440,004		33,301,030
						303,196,460		305,228,838
Land and land improvement	ents					44,324,937		44,177,626
Buildings						23,102,869		23,057,245
Machinery and equipmen	t					18,575,892		16,050,669
Vehicles					,	3,029,141		2,637,802
						\$ 392,229,299	\$	391,152,180
	Cost							Cost
	Beginning of							End of
	Year		Additions		Disposals	Transfers		Year
Engineered structures								
Roadways and bridges	\$ 673,771,275	\$	20,091,564	\$	(9,249,187)	· \$ -	\$	684,613,652
Water systems	6,747,442	*	31,022	*	(0,= :0, :0: )	-	Ψ	6,778,464
Wastewater systems	34,255,990		-		-	-		34,255,990
All other	48,046,350		1,810,034		(56,210)	6,887		49,807,061
	762,821,057		21,932,620		(9,305,397)	6,887		775,455,167
Machinery and	21 564 106		5 601 707		(1 105 502)	(261 941	`	25 710 620
equipment Vehicles	31,564,196 5,137,528		5,601,787 650,416		(1,185,503) (96,828)			35,718,639 5,881,957
Buildings	28,205,968		660,838		(14,121)			28,852,685
Land	44,177,626		83,198			64,113		44,324,937
:	\$ 871,906,375	\$	28,928,859	\$	(10,601,849)	\$ -	\$	890,233,385
	Accumulated							Accumulated
	Amortization							Amortization
	Beginning of		Current					End of
	Year		Amortization		Disposals	Transfers		Year
Engineered structures								
Engineered structures Roadways and bridges	\$ 440,639,154	\$	19,140,853	\$	(6,238,609)	. \$ -	\$	453,541,398
Water systems	1,290,003	Ψ	122,206	Ψ	(0,200,000)	-	Ψ	1,412,209
Wastewater systems	3,597,802		349,121		-	_		3,946,923
All other	12,065,260		1,292,917		-	-		13,358,177
	457,592,219		20,905,097		(6,238,609)	-		472,258,707
Machinery, equipment,								
and furnishings	15,513,527		2,192,580		(563,360)			17,142,747
Vehicles Buildings	2,499,726 5,148,723		435,659 607,338		(82,569) (6,245)			2,852,816
Buildings .	ن, ۱40, <i>12</i> 3		007,338		(0,245)	<u>-</u>		5,749,816
:	\$ 480,754,195	\$	24,140,674	\$	(6,890,783)	-	\$	498,004,086

Construction of tangible capital assets in progress for 2024 totals \$46,282,167 (2023 - \$34,204,286). These amounts are not being amortized.

10. II	NVENTORIES FOR CONSUMPTION				
			2024		2023
	Gravel Parts, chemicals, and other	\$	4,351,762 951,913	\$	4,805,271 892,520
		\$	5,303,675	\$	5,697,791
11. <i>A</i>	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		2024		2022
		_	2024		2023
	Unrestricted surplus	\$	110,000	\$	100,000
	Restricted surplus (Note 12)		10,904,136		08,661,115
	Equity in tangible capital assets (Schedule 1)		83,562,180		81,392,392
		<u>\$4</u>	94,576,316	\$4	90,153,507
12. F	RESTRICTED SURPLUS		2024		2022
		_	2024		2023
	Broadband	\$	20,727,140	\$	240,822
	Administration facilities		16,930,639	•	17,067,273
	Bridge reconstruction		9,125,572		8,238,278
	Vehicles and equipment		8,179,851		8,904,393
	Resource roads		8,000,000		7,500,000
	Public works paved infrastructure		7,269,480		4,071,333
	Gravel reclamation		6,577,185		6,102,845
	Nordegg development - municipal funded		6,433,385		47.070.007
	Core infrastructure Ag rec facilities		5,223,350 5,217,000		17,979,007 5,217,000
	Gravel stores		4,407,553		4,407,553
	Transfer station		3,863,274		-
	Fire capital		3,575,046		6,825,629
	West country roads		2,955,723		1,755,723
	Waste capital		2,601,482		2,359,406
	Work in progress		2,219,688		3,716,125
	Fire training		1,478,007		4 202 040
	Emergency prepardness Airport		1,283,010 836,775		1,283,010 887,655
	Leslieville Sewer		736,237		669,505
	Fire facility		602,393		-
	Municipal, recreation, and school		532,024		1,059,298
	GIS - air photos		70,000		-
	NSRP & trail systems		28,218		28,218
	Nordegg development		(7,968,896)		(6,918,330)
	Revenue stabilization		-		10,398,394
	Land development outside Nordegg		-		4,050,000
	General sewer	_	-		2,817,978
		\$1	10,904,136	\$1	08,661,115
		<u>* '</u>	-,,	Τ'	-,,

#### 13. CREDIT FACILITY

The County has a demand revolving operating credit facility to a maximum of \$4,850,000 bearing interest at prime plus 1.00% per annum. The credit facility was not drawn upon as of December 31, 2024 or 2023.

#### 14. CONTINGENCIES

#### (a) Friends of the Corridor Schools

Wild Rose School Division has replaced existing schools in Leslieville and Condor. To augment the essential infrastructure, the Friends of the Corridor Schools, a committee of people working to upgrade schools and educational facilities in the community, was formed (the "Group") and has embarked on a fundraising campaign. In 2019, Clearwater County Council committed to match total funds raised by the Group. As of reporting date of these 2024 financial statements, the Group has raised \$84,095. In 2020, Clearwater County Council made an additional commitment to a minimum of \$200,000 for project upgrades to increase functionality within the new schools. As of the reporting date of their financial statements, Clearwater County has paid \$200,000 to the Wild Rose School Division.

#### (b) Lawsuits

The County is a defendant in various lawsuits. Where the outcome of a claim against the County is considered likely to result in a loss and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, accrued liabilities have been recorded. Where the resulting potential losses, if any, cannot be determined or the occurrence of future events is unknown, accrued liabilities have not been established.

#### 15. PENSION PLANS

#### (a) Local Authorities Pension Plan

Employees of the County participate in the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP), which is one of the plans covered by the *Public Sector Pension Plans Act*. The LAPP is financed by employer and employee contributions and investment earnings of the LAPP Fund.

The County is required to make current service contributions to the LAPP of 8.45% of pensionable earnings up to the year's maximum pensionable earnings under the Canada Pension Plan and 11.65% on pensionable earnings above this amount. Employees of the County are required to make current service contributions of 7.45% of pensionable earnings up to the year's maximum pensionable earnings and 10.65% on pensionable earnings above this amount.

Total current service contributions by the County to the LAPP in 2024 were \$1,094,341 (2023 - \$942,218). Total current service contributions by the employees of the County to the LAPP in 2024 were \$956,588 (2023 - \$844,568).

At December 31, 2023 the Plan disclosed an actuarial surplus of \$15.057 billion (2022 - \$12.671 billion).

#### (b) Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Apex Supplementary Pension Plan

Certain employees of the County are eligible to participate in the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Apex Supplementary Pension Plan (APEX), a multi-employer pension plan. This plan provides defined pension benefits to employees based on their length of service and rate of pay.

Contributions by the County to APEX in 2024 were \$5,343 (2023 - \$5,190). Contributions by the employees of the County to APEX in 2024 were \$4,368 (2023 - \$4,243).

#### 16. REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of remuneration and benefits for elected municipal officials, the Chief Administrative Officer and designated officers as required by Alberta Regulation 313/2000 is as follows:

	2024 Benefits and					2023	
		Salary	_	Allowances		Total	Total
Reeve and Councilors							
Division 1	\$	79,488	\$	10,215	\$	89,703	\$ 76,635
Division 2		63,100		8,282		71,382	62,074
Division 3		65,405		7,941		73,346	80,938
Division 4		65,085		8,314		73,399	58,204
Division 5		65,705		8,480		74,185	53,118
Division 6		66,558		8,560		75,118	64,287
Division 7		110,168		14,725		124,893	78,231
	\$	515,509	\$	66,517	\$	582,026	\$ 473,487
Chief Administrative Officer	\$	250,796	\$	38,626	\$	289,422	\$ 273,398

- 1) Salary includes regular base pay, bonuses, overtime, lump sum payments, gross honoraria and any other direct cash remuneration including per diem amounts.
- 2) Employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees, including pension, health care, dental coverage, vision coverage, group life insurance, accidental disability and dismemberment insurance, long and short term disability plans, professional memberships and tuition.
- 3) Benefits and allowances include the employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees, and the employer's share of the costs of any additional taxable benefits.

#### 17. SEGMENTED INFORMATION

The County provides a wide range of services to its ratepayers. For each reported segment, revenues and expenses represent both amounts that are directly attributable to the segment and amounts that are allocated on a reasonable basis. The accounting policies used in these segments are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the financial statements as disclosed in Note 1.

#### (a) General Government

General Government is comprised of Council, the office of the CAO and Corporate Services. Corporate Services includes Financial Services, Communications, Assessment, Geographic Information System, and Information Technology Services. Council makes governance decisions regarding service delivery and service levels on behalf of the County in order to balance the needs and wants of the County residents in a financially responsible manner.

#### (b) Community Services

Community Services consists of seniors' funding, economic development and tourism activities, animal control, shared costs for the airport and special request funding. The Community Services area also provides services mandated by Family and Community Support Services throughout Alberta through a shared funding model between the Province of Alberta, the County, the Town of Rocky Mountain House, and the Village of Caroline.

#### (c) Emergency and Legislative Services

Emergency and Protective Services is comprised of Fire, Emergency Management, and Municipal Enforcement Services. The regional fire service provides fire suppression along with fire prevention training and education programs. The regional emergency management agency prepares for emergency situations in order to maintain safe communities. the Municipal Enforcement Services provides infrastructure protection, bylaw enforcement and education programs as well as provincial statute enforcement with the authorities granted by the Solicitor General of Alberta.

#### (d) Transportation Services

Transportation is comprised of services in the Public Works areas. This includes the County's infrastructure (roads and bridges), facilities and maintenance programs, including paving and gravel.

#### (e) Planning and Development

This area conducts the County's planning and development functions, working with developers to foster sustainable growth within the County. Planning and Development also oversees the ongoing Nordegg development program, as well as the heritage activities, including the Nordegg Museum and Brazeau Collieries Mine Site.

#### (f) Recreation and Culture

The County contributes to the local recreation programs, libraries and museums in partnership with the Town of Rocky Mountain House, and the Village of Caroline. Through cost-sharing partnerships, the Rocky Mountain House Parks, Recreation and Culture provide recreational and cultural services and activities which promote the well-being of its citizens.

#### (g) Environmental Services

Environmental Services are comprised of water, wastewater and regional solid waste management collection and recycling.

#### (h) Agricultural Services and Landcare

Agricultural Services and Landcare administers programs that strengthen relationships in the rural areas as well as relationships with urban communities. This includes vegetation and pest management, environmental stewardship programs, educational workshops, specialized equipment rental, cattle data management and awards such as Century Farms, Farm Family, and Rural Beautification.

#### 18. DEBT LIMITS

Section 276(2) of the *Municipal Government Act* requires that debt and debt limits, as defined by Alberta Regulation 255/00, for the County be disclosed as follows:

	2024	2023
Total debt limit Total debt	\$102,307,772 (223,335)	\$ 96,030,041 (656,935)
Amount of debt limit unused	\$102,084,437	\$ 95,373,106
Debt servicing limit Service on debt	\$ 17,051,295 (227,808)	\$ 16,005,007 (455,617)
Amount of debt servicing limit unused	\$ 16,823,487	\$ 15,549,390

The debt limit is calculated at 1.5 times revenue of the County (as defined in Alberta Regulation 255/00) and the debt servicing limit is calculated at 0.25 times such revenue. Incurring debt beyond these limits requires approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. These thresholds are guidelines used by Alberta Municipal Affairs to identify municipalities, which could be at financial risk if further debt is acquired. The calculation taken alone does not represent the financial stability of the County. Rather, the financial statements must be interpreted as a whole.

#### 19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The County's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and long-term debt. It is management's opinion that the County is not exposed to significant market or currency risk arising from these financial instruments. The following analysis provides information about the County's risk exposure and concentration as of December 31, 2024.

#### (a) Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the possibility that customers may experience financial difficulty and be unable to fulfill their obligations. The County is exposed to the credit risk associated with fluctuations in the oil and gas industry as a significant portion of the property taxes outstanding relate to linear property and are receivable from companies in the oil and gas industry. The large number and diversity of customers minimizes the County's credit risk.

#### (b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Interest rate risk arises when the County invests in interest-bearing financial instruments. Interest rate risk on the County's long-term debt is managed through fixed-rate debentures.

#### (c) Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The County is exposed to price risk on its investments in fixed income securities.

#### 20. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

Effective January 1, 2025, Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline ("Old Municipalities") were amalgamated per Ministerial Order 358/2024.

Per the terms of the Order, the Old Municipalities were dissolved and a new municipal district, having the name Clearwater County, was formed as at the effective date. The Hamlet of Caroline resides within the boundaries of the new municipal district.

The Order also states "All liabilities, whether arising under a debenture or otherwise, and all assets, rights, duties, functions and obligations of the Old Municipalities are vested in the New Municipality and may be dealt with in its name".

#### 21. BUDGET FIGURES

The budget figures are presented for information purposes only. The 2024 budget, prepared by the County, reflects all municipal activities including capital projects, debt repayments, and restricted surplus transfers. The reconciliation below is provided to encompass these items.

	2024 (Budget)	2024 (Actual)
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ (1,350,972)	\$ 4,422,809
Add back (deduct): Amortization expense Purchase of tangible capital assets Net transfers from reserves to fund capital projects Net transfers from reserves to fund operations Net transfers to reserve for future purchases Debt principal repayments	23,000,000 (40,366,896) 29,517,596 4,500,545 (14,866,673) (433,600)	24,140,674 (28,928,859) 15,678,457 2,511,376 (20,432,854) (433,600)
	\$ -	\$ (3,041,997)

#### 22. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were accepted by Council as presented.

#### 23. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's financial statement presentation.