

December 18, 2023 Blog

Both Zorra and Oxford have completed very difficult 2024 budgets.

These were not fun or easy budgets to deliver. But they are necessary budgets. Councils felt that the only thing worse than the increase would be cutting the services to reduce it. (Roads and road safety, affordable housing, homelessness response, paramedic services, and long-term care).

Municipalities experience inflation and interest rates just like we all do, and this has an impact on budgets. Over the past five years every tax increase has been less than inflation, but eventually that bill comes due.

Along with that, residents have told us (through the election, and the strategic plan and budget consultations) that you want service improvements in some areas, such as roads and road safety, long term care homes, ambulance, and of course housing.

Population growth, combined with slow building, means that there is an increased demand for service, without the same increase in property tax to pay for it.

All of this costs money.

The increase per single family detached residential with an average current value assessment of \$275,022 for Zorra is \$132, and Oxford is \$154.

The Zorra budget can be found here:

<https://zorra.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=267>

The Oxford budget can be found here:

<https://www.oxfordcounty.ca/en/news/oxford-county-approves-2024-business-plan-and-budget.aspx>

As always, feel free to contact me on any issue:

Marcus Ryan
Mayor, Zorra Township (and Warden, Oxford County)
email: mryan@zorra.ca
Phone: 1.519.425.2338