

BYLAW NO. 6.2025

TOWN OF WILLOW BUNCH

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A WATERWORKS CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

WHEREAS

The Council of the Municipality of the Town of Willow Bunch recognizes the importance of maintaining and upgrading municipal waterworks infrastructure to ensure the uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water to residents and businesses;

AND WHEREAS

Section 53(1) of *The Municipalities Act* authorizes Council to pass bylaws respecting public utilities and capital investment planning;

NOW THEREFORE

The Council of the Town of Willow Bunch in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Title

This Bylaw may be cited as the **Waterworks Capital Investment Strategy Bylaw**.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Bylaw is to formally adopt the Waterworks Capital Investment Strategy as a guiding document for the planning, funding, and execution of waterworks infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.

3. Adoption of Strategy

Council hereby adopts the **Waterworks Capital Investment Strategy**, dated July 2025, as attached in **Schedule A** of this Bylaw.

4. Objectives of the Strategy

The Strategy shall serve to:

- Ensure timely maintenance and replacement of waterworks infrastructure
- Prevent service interruptions and safeguard public health
- Establish a sustainable funding model for future capital costs
- Promote transparency and fiscal responsibility in utility management

5. Funding Mechanisms

Council may implement one or more of the following funding mechanisms to support the Strategy:

- Adjustments to municipal water rates
- Introduction or modification of infrastructure fees
- Authorization of municipal loans for capital projects
- Application of a frontage infrastructure tax
- Pursuit of external grants and partnerships

6. Review and Reporting

- The Strategy shall be reviewed by Council at least once every five (5) years.

- Administration shall provide annual updates on waterworks capital planning, expenditures, and funding performance.

7. Effective Date

This Bylaw shall come into force and take effect on the day of its final passing.

8. Repeal of Previous Bylaws

Any previous bylaws inconsistent with the provisions of this Bylaw are hereby repealed.




MAYOR


ADMINISTRATOR

Schedule A

Waterworks Capital Investment Strategy
Town of Willow Bunch

1. Introduction

This Waterworks Capital Investment Strategy outlines the Town of Willow Bunch’s long-term approach to maintaining, upgrading, and funding its waterworks infrastructure. The strategy is designed to ensure the uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water while promoting fiscal sustainability and transparency.

2. Strategic Objectives

The key objectives of this strategy are to:

- Maintain and replace waterworks infrastructure in a timely and proactive manner
- Prevent service disruptions and protect public health
- Establish a diversified and sustainable funding model
- Promote transparency and accountability in utility management
- Align with municipal growth and regulatory requirements

3. Infrastructure Maintenance & Replacement Plan

To achieve these objectives, the Municipality will:

- Conduct regular inspections and condition assessments of water mains, pumps, reservoirs, and treatment systems
- Develop a prioritized list of infrastructure requiring maintenance or replacement
- Schedule upgrades based on risk, age, and service demand
- Maintain emergency protocols for rapid response to system failures or contamination events
- Integrate new technologies and best practices to improve system efficiency and resilience

4. Funding Strategy

To support the capital investment needs of the waterworks system, the Municipality will implement a combination of the following funding mechanisms:

Funding Source	Description
Water Rate Adjustments	Gradual increases in water rates to reflect infrastructure investment needs.
Infrastructure Fee	A dedicated fee applied to water bills to support capital reserve funds.
Municipal Loan	Borrowing for large-scale upgrades, subject to Council approval and terms.
Frontage Infrastructure Tax	A tax based on property frontage to equitably distribute infrastructure costs.
Grants & Partnerships	Pursue provincial/federal funding and regional collaboration opportunities.

These mechanisms may be used individually or in combination, depending on project scope, urgency, and available resources.

5. Financial Oversight & Transparency

To ensure responsible financial management, the Municipality will:

- Maintain a dedicated **Waterworks Capital Reserve Fund**

- Provide annual financial reports detailing revenues, expenditures, and debt obligations
- Engage the public through notices, consultations, and updates on rate changes and capital plans
- Review funding models periodically to ensure alignment with infrastructure needs and community expectations

6. Review & Amendment

This strategy shall be reviewed by Council at least once every five (5) years. Amendments may be made by resolution of Council to reflect changes in infrastructure needs, funding availability, or regulatory requirements.

7. Conclusion

The Town of Willow Bunch is committed to delivering safe, reliable drinking water through responsible infrastructure planning and investment. This strategy provides a clear framework for maintaining public trust, protecting health, and supporting community growth.