BONFIELD TOWNSHIP
365 HIGHWAY 531
BONFIELD ON P0H 1E0
Telephone: 705-776-2641
Website: http://www.bonfieldtownship.com

2026 Budget Report – Year to Date
(June 30, 2026)

The 2026 Budget reflects Council's continued emphasis on maintaining core municipal services while investing in infrastructure, emergency services, health care, and responsible community growth. Over one-third of all operating expenditures are dedicated to roads and infrastructure, while another significant portion funds provincially mandated services such as social housing, public health, long-term care, policing, and emergency response. The remaining budget supports the day-to-day municipal services that residents rely on, including administration, planning, parks, recreation, libraries, and local health care.

Overall, the Township of Bonfield's 2026 Operating Budget totals $5,869,936. After accounting for $1,649,324 in revenues from grants, user fees, permits, and other sources, the Township required a municipal tax levy of $4,220,612 to fund municipal services. In addition, the Township collects $663,444 on behalf of local school boards through the property tax bill.

2026 will be the second consecutive year where the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund was not used to offset operating budget expenses. This term of Council saw an annual incremental decrease in this practice and is now no longer required to meet operating demands. With this, and despite completing several road projects and using the Emergency Contingency Reserve (which will be replenished with the provincial MDRA funding) Council grew the reserves from $1.7M in 2022 to $2.2M in 2025. Continuing the growth of the reserves is critical to the long-term investment needed as outlined in the Asset Management Plan.

1. Capital

The 2026 capital projects are ambitious and located throughout the community. Each project implements the long-term Asset Management Plan. Using this Plan based on evidence, engineer reports and sustainable financial decisions sets the Township up for success. While there is much to be done, the project planning is maximizing the resource capacity within the Township. The specific projects are outlined below with a progress report.

A. Development Road - Rutherglen to McNutt

Development Road is a priority road and Council has spent the term of Council improving this road. Each year there are capital dollars allocated to improving the road that was identified as one of the highest travelled roads with a low condition rating. Funds have been spent in past terms to repair some of the larger culverts that enable surface repairs to move forward. For 2026 the portion of Development Road from Rutherglen Line to McNutt Road will receive the double surface treatment, known as tar and chip. The project budget was $136,950 and the tender was awarded to Miller Paving. The work is expected to be complete in early August.

B. Development Road Seal – South Shore to Line 3

The single surface treatment of the 4kms of Development Road that was treated in 2023 has been completed. The seal is a widely accepted preventative maintenance approach for the condition of this section and to prolong the life of the treatment. Spending a relatively small amount on a seal now can significantly postpone the need for a much more expensive reconstruction in future years. The seal is typically applied within the first five years of the treatment to maximize the investment and should ensure the road lasts ten additional years. The budget for the project was $165,000 and the final costs were $177,455, with additional application at the intersections of South Shore and Line 3. Laneway tie-ins were also a contributing factor as it was not done during the initial application.

C. Trunk Road Hill

The Trunk Road Hill project consists of rebuilding the roadway for a length of 800 meters. The ditches will be realigned and culverts installed or replaced as appropriate during construction. Originally, the surface was going to be tar and chip, but due to the road pitch and traffic counts Council decided to apply asphalt to prolong the life of the construction. Road rehabilitation is on-going and expected to be completed this week. The Public Works Crew did uncover a OVR line that was placed on top of one of the culverts near the surface. This resulted in a day and a half delay and there will be costs billed to the Township from OVR for the final repair. The full costs are unknown. There is also a culvert along the highway that Fowlers maintains that requires a clean out to finalize the work completed on the municipal road. While Fowlers is aware, verbally they indicated it is not in any workplan currently. The asphalt application is expected to be completed early August.

D. Gagnon Street

The Gagnon Street project was to repair a 550-meter section of the road near Eric Street due to its condition. While the work was necessary, the spring thaw coupled with the heavy spring rains this year deteriorated the road further. The section of road was stripped and dug out to replace culverts, as well the ditching in the area was redone. The asphalt application is expected to be completed early August. This section has also received additional watering on weekends to aid in the dust suppression.

E. Sunnyside Road

Sunnyside Road, at the boundary with East Ferris is slated to begin next week. This project will see approximately 50 meters stripped and dug up to replace the road base and capped with a double surface treatment.

F. Gravel Farmers Line - Quarry A

In keeping with the Asset Management Plan and Council's gravel road rehabilitation program, Farmers Line will receive new quarry granular A to rebuild the road surface. This is expected to be completed mid-August, with work starting August 4. This section was the only roadway to not receive the typical calcium application as it would negatively affect the expected surface treatment planned. The PW Crew have been focused on all road construction all season and this will be completed along with road preparation works to coincide with Sunnyside Road Treatment application.

For all projects Public Works is scheduling and timing contractors to ensure maximum benefit and the lowest costs. All road rehabilitation work is being completed so the asphalt is laid at the same time, reducing mobilization and delivery fees. Double surface treatment will be completed together for Development Road and Sunnyside Road. The road rehabilitation projects are being funded through the Canada Community Building Fund and the Ontario Community Infrastructure Program. The projects are at targeted budget numbers to date, except as stated, but they are not yet finalized for true final numbers.

G. Financial Software

The administration of the Township relies on having the right software. In 2025 the Township tendered the financial software again and Munisoft Software was awarded the contract. Implementation started in March of 2026. However, administration staff have been working short for three months, so the process on switching over is behind, but continues to move forward. There is now an advertisement for a temporary administrative assistant to help staff. The plan is to be on track in September. At that time, staff will also look to improve the payroll processing with new software as well.

2. Operating Budget: Revenues

Revenues for 2026 are on target. Council received a report regarding grant applications that may increase the non-tax income for the year. These grants are tied to specific costs/projects and are not generally applied to the entire budget. There are a few items to highlight.

- Final tax bills are sent out at the end of July and are due September 29th
- In sale of surplus equipment there are amounts from Shore Road Allowance sale files closed from 2024/25 and accounts settled.
- Supplementary levies are processed after the final taxes are levied at the end of July.
- For Recreation LCBO returns, the landfill site has been vandalized more than once this year and the offenders have taken the returns that were accepted as donations to the recreation program. Revenues will not reach targets for 2026.

3. Operating Budget: Expenses

The expenses are as of July 8, 2026 bill registers that have been provided to Council. Expenses are generally on target for year to date as well with some exceptions as detailed below. Where accounts are over budget, Department Heads will work within the remainder of their budget to ensure they do not exceed the department’s overall final budget.

A. General Government

- The Munisoft software purchase price is in the current Computer Supplies account for IT. It is within budget but was planned for through the Modernization Grant and when done will move to capital account currently at $44,500.
- For legal and consulting the budgets are par with expectations. One workplace bullying inspection was completed with no findings of misconduct. The RFP for the Integrity Commissioner will be completed by end of summer.

B. Fire

- Fire bunker gear account is below budget however; the Chief has ordered three but they are not in yet.
- Small equipment is over budget. The AutoX tools have never been serviced as required along with the accessory tools and they are now 16 years old. The fire hoses are tested annually and failed the 2026 testing so new ones have been purchased.
- Internet account is over budget but Station 1 is now hooked up to Starlink and is getting much better service. This greatly improves training and normal administration services.
- In 2025 Council started a Training Officer Pilot Program. The program was created to achieve and maintain the new training requirements for volunteer firefighters. There was much work to be done to create training plans, training manuals and other documentation. A firefighter was moved into this position. However, the firefighter has resigned as of July 1, 2026 as it was an overwhelming workload. The Pilot Program was for three years to complete the set up of the training office. The Fire Chief is now creating the training manual and has developed an annual training calendar to assist the new – yet-to-be appointed – Training Officer. The Chief will continue to complete the training manuals and thus the Pilot Program can be cancelled.
- Donations have been received as a "thank you" to the Department. With this account the Chief has purchased leather firefighters' boots to help with the response to future emergencies.

C. Medical Centre

- The Medical Centre budget included a part time staff member and this position has yet to be filled. There is a second posting currently out to fill the position. Building improvements included new cabinets, carpets removed and new flooring in the exam rooms and outside cement work. The flower garden also needs some TLC. It was originally hoped that some of the cement removed from the Trunk Road Bridge could be repurposed and restored here to showcase the history of Bonfield but that is no longer feasible due to cost and engineering.

D. <u>Public Works</u>

- Answering service costs have increased from 2024 but are on target with 2025 numbers and the current budget. The highest month with calls was June of 2025 (47) and April 2026 (41) which is when there were significant rain events.
- The Township has been working to be shovel ready with engineer drawings for the rehabilitation of Railway Street and the drainage infrastructure. The drawings and preparation work for the project is expected to go slightly over budget. At this point it may be approximately $4,000. The profile was completed in 2025 and the draft drawings are ready for review in 2026.
- The Miscellaneous account is over budget due to the recent MTO fines related to the CVOR and inspection paperwork. The Township did email the Officer to dispute that the inspection report was presented at the scene but there has not been any reply. The Township was working with the Ministry to renew the CVOR but there were technical difficulties and it was not processed. Those issues have since been resolved as well.
- Capital for the Public Works Department is recorded all in one account then broken out at year end. The account will appear overbudget but the details are listed above in the capital section.
- There is still a shortage of salt in the province to pickle the winter sand so it has not been delivered. The PW Manager has entered into an agreement with Compass Minerals to ensure salt will be delivered when it is available. The overall budget for the winter control is $87,870 and the tender for the sand was awarded to Miller Paving in the amount of $62,104. Salt is expected to use the remainder of the budget.
- Vehicles and fuel are on target with the budget. Truck #1 did sustain additional wear and tear damage, and as discussed previously, is now approved for replacement this month. The truck is not in useable condition to be repurposed but could be stripped, declared surplus and sold as is.

E. <u>Environmental</u>

- Pinchin will attend the landfill site in 2026 to complete the volume survey and review the monitoring wells per the Ministry recommendations. The account is on target for the expected expenditures.
- Compactor cleats still need to be completed. The Public Works Manager will finalize the repairs to the cleats this fall.
- Expenses for Circular Materials is only for 3 months, not six. By year end they will catch up on invoicing and the Township will have a better understanding of budget-to-actual then.

F. <u>Parks</u>

- The Township was no successful with the Tree Grant application. The planned revenue was $18,745 with expected expenses of $21,505; leaving $2,760 in the budget to be used. There are over 50 ash trees in the park that need to be removed.

The trees surrounding the water require a professional to cut and the remaining budget can be used for those services. However, Public Works could cut the other trees. Staff have suggested that once cut the trees could be given away for firewood. There will not be sufficient budget to replant trees. Other suggestions are to transplant trees from other municipal properties. There is consideration to be given for disease and environmental impacts in giving the trees away and replanting so professional advice will be requested. Otherwise, future years budgets will have to include tree replacement.

- Canada Day expenses are below the budgeted amount. The event was cancelled at the last minute due to weather and power outages. The municipal office was opened as a cooling centre and the food for the event was still served to residents who came out. Entertainment contracts were still honoured. The fireworks are now going to be held at the movie night event on September 6, 2026.
- Summer Camp is on budget. Week 1 has 40 campers and Week 2 currently has 43 registrations.
- Rutherglen Park work to replace the old gazebo will be done later this summer.
- Cenotaph cement work to be done with the tender for all cement work needed within the Township. Bollards must be installed at the Public Works garage and both Fire Halls, and improvements to the pathway at the medical centre. One tender for all work will be issued for completion of work by September 30, 2026.

G. <u>Planning</u>

- The Official Plan update is ongoing. The goal was to have the statutory public meeting by the end of July 2026. However, JL Richards, the province and Conservation are still reviewing the flood zone mapping. There was thought to include a flood way and a fringe flood zone to better reflect the hazard, but it is legislated that the Township shall use the Timmins Flood mapping from 1961. Staff have not received a draft of the new Plan, after the Ministers Comments and the additional information required due to the new Provincial Policies adopted during this project. Staff are in constant contact with JL Richards to ensure the project continues to move forward.
- Consent applications are down from past years as well. This is expected due to economy, much like building permits. However, inquires for shore road allowances have increased. To date the Township has given draft approval for 6 new lots, from 4 consent applications. There are two additional consent applications being considered by property owners currently; one has submitted their application. Staff continue to work on the draft Talon Cres. subdivision agreement with the engineers indicating storm management drawings will be received by the end of the month.
- Building permits are also down. By July 2025 there were a total of 34 permits with 7 new homes. To date for 2026 there are 21 permits with 7 new homes and 7 new garages, the remainder of the permits are for renovations and smaller accessory buildings. There has been one permit for a secondary dwelling since the 2025 bylaw was passed to allow additional dwelling units.

H. Economic Development

- This is a new function for the Township with the last Economic Strategy completed in 2003. Funding was received to assist in a new Economic Development Strategy and it is currently underway. The Strategy is expected to be completed and presented to Council the end of September. As part of this the Business Retention and Expansion wrap up meeting was also held. The Township has interviewed 24 businesses as part of that program and met with many more businesses as part of the large public consultation component of the Strategy. The final results will provide the Township will immediate and long-term actions to promote and encourage the business environment in the community.
- To assist with the economic development function, the Township was also successful in funding for an Intern. The posting is currently active and closes on July 20th. This position is for one year and will assist in the implementation of the EcDev Strategy as well as improving communication tools for the Township. As an example, improvements to the website and community branding signage as indicated in the budget.

The work completed to date, together with Council's continued focus on achieving value for every tax dollar, demonstrates the Township's commitment to providing high-quality municipal services while making strategic, evidence-based investments that strengthen the community. Every expenditure within the 2026 Budget has been carefully considered to balance today's operational needs with the long-term sustainability of Bonfield's infrastructure, services, and financial health.

The 2026 Budget continues to prioritize the delivery of essential municipal services, investment in roads and infrastructure, support for emergency and health services, and fulfillment of legislated responsibilities. Through responsible financial management and prudent planning, Council remains committed to protecting taxpayer dollars while building a strong, resilient, and sustainable future for the Township of Bonfield.