

	Cost of Governance	
	Policy Type:	Governance Process
	Number:	GP-C-2.0
	To be Reviewed:	Once per term
	Approval Date:	April 26, 2021
	Motion Number:	21.C.167
	Revised Date(s):	

Policy Statement:

The Town of Okotoks believes in the direct correlation of the quality of governance and the investment of resources to increase the Town’s governance foundation. Due to the principle that poor governance costs more than learning to govern well, Council will invest in its governance capacity.

1. Accordingly:
 - 1.1. Council skills, methods, and supports will be sufficient to assure governing with excellence.
 - 1.2. New Council members will receive an orientation to ensure familiarity with the governance framework, their roles and responsibilities, relevant acts, policies and bylaws, master plans and major community and organizational issues.
 - 1.3. Council members will be trained and retrained to maintain and increase existing Council members’ skills, understandings, and governance capabilities.
 - 1.3.1. Council members are encouraged to attend workshops.
 - 1.3.2. Council members may attend the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Conference annually and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference once per term. The Mayor may attend the Federation of Canadian Municipality Conference annually if desired.
 - 1.3.3. Council members are encouraged to undertake some form of development opportunity annually. Each Council member is entitled to spend \$2,500 annually on learning opportunities directly related to Council roles and responsibilities as the governing body.
 - 1.4. Public engagement will be used at a minimum of once per year to ensure Council’s ability to listen to the community’s viewpoints and values.
2. Workshops, at which Council decisions are not allowed, may be held to provide the opportunity for Council to have informal dialogue regarding:
 - Obtaining detailed information on a specific subject of importance;
 - Identifying emerging issues;
 - Conducting environmental scans;
 - Exploring options;
 - Evaluating the progress of long-term goals and objectives;
 - Setting goals through strategic planning;
 - Informing future policy developments.