






Request for Decision

Title	2017 Distinguished Budget Award
Proposed Motion	That Council receive the 2017 Distinguished Budget Award as information.
Administrative Recommendation	That Sturgeon County's financial documents continue demonstrating a high level of accountability and transparency with Council's support and direction.
Previous Council Direction	<p>December 13, 2016 – Motion 455/16 That Council approve the 2017 Operating and Capital Budget as presented in the 2017 Budget Document.</p> <p>October 11, 2016 – Motion 332/16: That Council receive the 2016 Distinguished Budget Award as information.</p>
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The distinguished budget award is designed to ensure an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device.• The award review ensures that the budget document is fully transparent to our stakeholders and in an easy-to-read format.• The budget document is a tool that is used to communicate with all stakeholders where Sturgeon County is coming from and what we plan to achieve and the plan to get there.• 2017 is the second year that Sturgeon County had submitted its consolidated budget package to GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) for review.• The criteria that must be fulfilled when applying for the award includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Goals and Strategies;• Organization Priorities and Issues;• Budget Overview;• Budget Transparency;• Basis for Budgeting/Budget Process;• Financial Policies;• Performance Measures; and• Statistics and Supplementary Data.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget is reviewed by three independent committee members, and a consolidated ranking is used to determine the overall score of the budget document that has been submitted. Reviewers provide feedback and identify opportunities for improvement which are incorporated in subsequent years. • The Distinguished Budget Award is open to municipalities, colleges and School Districts within Canada and the United States of America. (Note: The list of municipalities that received recognition in 2017 was not available at time of approval of the Agenda and, where possible, will be brought forward to the October 24, 2017 Council Meeting) • Collaboration amongst every department was key to bringing the 2017 budget package together; however, special recognition to Financial Services, Communications and Business Strategy is due for the success of the document. • Part of the success with the 2017 budget package was the complete revision of the budget document in 2016. From the feedback that was received from the peer reviewers, we expanded our 2017 budget package to include our 10-Year Strategic Plan. <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Implication of Administrative Recommendation</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – Prudent financial responsibility and transparency within a region.</p> <p>Operational Excellence – Collaboration amongst all departments to ensure that we are presenting a transparent and fiscally responsible budget that is in-line with our strategic goals.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>The presentation of the Distinguished Budget award has a positive influence on staff engagement and commitment.</p> <p>The preparation and consolidation of the 2017 budget is a collaborative effort by Financial Services, Communications, and Business Strategy.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>A \$425 USD fee is required for the review of a budget document.</p>
<p>Alternatives Considered</p>	<p>None.</p>

Implications of Alternatives	None.
Follow up Action	The Distinguished Budget Award will be advertised in both the weekly <i>Free Press</i> and <i>Redwater Review</i> . A news release will be available online and disseminated to other media outlets.
Attachment(s)	2017 Distinguished Budget Award
Report Reviewed by:	 Manager, Financial Services  Rick Wojtkiw, GM Corporate Support  Peter Tarnawsky, County Commissioner – CAO

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.

Mission: Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans, policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respect the Natural Environment			
<i>We acknowledge the importance of a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ensure effective environmental risk management</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Identity & Spirit			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan, (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe, secure community, where our residents are respected and provided with access to opportunities. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<i>We have the organizational capability to deliver consistent and defined levels of service to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient, and cost effective manner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Staff have the knowledge, skills and capability to perform their jobs</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>