
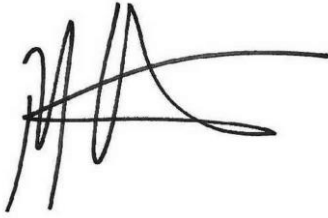


Request for Decision

Title	2016 Distinguished Budget Award
Proposed Motion	That Council receive the 2016 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	N/A
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. • 2016 was the first year that Sturgeon County had submitted their 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 • Organizational Priorities and Issues • Budget Overview • Budget Transparency • Basis for Budgeting/Budget Process • Financial Policies • Performance Measures • Statistics and Supplementary Data. • The budget is reviewed by three committee members, and a consolidated ranking is used to determine the overall score of the budget document that has been submitted. • In 2015, only six municipalities in Alberta received the Budget award. • To date, only five municipalities in Alberta have received the Distinguished Budget Award. • The Distinguished Budget Award is open to municipalities, colleges, and school districts within Canada and the United States of America. • Collaboration amongst every department was key to bringing the 2016 budget package together; however, special recognition to Financial Services, Communications, and Business Strategy is due for the success of the document.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the success with the 2016 budget package was the complete revision of the budget package itself. Sturgeon County went from a 500+ page document that was cumbersome and difficult to understand to an easy to read, consistent and understandable 90-page budget document. <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Implication of Administrative Recommendation	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – Prudent financial responsibility and transparency within the 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 2016 Budget is a collaborative effort by Financial Services, Communications, and Business Strategy.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
Alternatives Considered	None
Implications of Alternatives	N/A
Follow up Action	The Distinguished Budget Award will be advertised in both the weekly Free Press and Redwater Review. A news release will be available online and disseminated to other media outlets.
Attachment(s)	2016 Distinguished Budget Award
Report Reviewed by:	 <p>Ed Kaemingh, Manager, Financial Services</p>



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"/>