

Regional politicians approve 1.94 % tax hike

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If you own a home assessed at \$400,000, you will pay \$37 more this year for regional services.

A 1.94-per-cent property tax increase is contained in the \$2.4-billion regional budget approved this week, which the region says includes more than \$900 million in funding for capital projects and \$1.5 billion to maintain and run regional services.

The budget includes \$239 million in operating costs for York Regional Police, which will hire 28 more officers and 10 new civilian staffers this year.

The total police budget, which includes operating and capital costs, is about \$250 million this year.

Meanwhile, more than \$190 million has been allocated for running transportation services, which provides money for transit and roads.

The budget includes \$239 million in operating costs for York Regional Police, which will hire 28 more officers and 10 new civilian staffers this year.

And more than \$140 million has been set aside for the operation

of community and health services, which will help run more than 6,000 social housing units and 20 York EMS stations and subsidize child care for 3,500 children, according to the region.

The budget, which also includes \$40 million for solid waste management, plans for the future, regional chairperson Bill Fisch said in a media release. He was unavailable for comment Friday.

Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Barrow, chairperson of the region's finance and administration committee, said York is still reaping the rewards of a robust economy with a strong housing market.

The budget enhances services across the region, which contribute to the quality of life in York, he said.

The region also set aside \$12 million for debt reduction.

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