

## Winter Control Update – February 2024

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### Report Summary

This report provides an overview of winter maintenance activities for the 2023/2024 winter control season up to and including the month of February 2024.

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy & Emissions Plan.

### Financial Implications

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending February 29, 2024. The estimated result for February 2024 is a surplus of approximately \$1,690,000 when compared to the 2024 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date result may differ from these estimates as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices.

### Background

This report is intended to provide a summary of winter maintenance activities for the month of February 2024, including financial variances. It is important to note that due to normal lags in receipt of costs related to these activities, final costs for this period may vary from the information reported at this time.

The City of Greater Sudbury's winter maintenance service levels are defined in Council approved winter control service policies as well as guidelines within the Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS), O.Reg. 239-02.

During the month of February, there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City crews and subcontractors. The February 28 winter event was declared a Significant Weather Event due to a flash freeze.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending February 29, 2024. The estimated result, for the period ending February 29, 2024, is a surplus of approximately \$1,690,000 when compared to the 2024 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date results may differ, as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices.

## Weather Statistics

As shown in Table 1, during the month of February there were 3 major winter events which required the deployment of all available City and contractor snow plowing equipment. As of the end of February 2024, there have been five winter events requiring the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment in the winter control season of 2023/2024.

Table 1 also highlights the statistical information for the 2023/2024 winter season from Environment Canada, including the 10-year average (2013-2022) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation for February 2024 was 50.4 percent less than the 10-year average for the same period. In addition, temperatures fluctuated below or above freezing throughout the month. The total snow accumulation for the 2023/2024 winter season is approximately 36 percent less than the 10-year average of 2.5 metres or 8.2 feet.

**Table 1 – Weather Statistics (June 2023 through May 2024)**

Month	Snow Accumulation (cm)	10 Year Average (cm) (2013-2022)	Percentage Increase/(Decrease) Compared to 10-Year Average	Snow Events	Rain/Freezing Rain Events
Jun-Sep	-	-	0.0%	0	0
Oct	8.8	6.0	47.7%	0	0
Nov	26.3	40.3	-34.8%	1	0
Dec	16.3	65.1	-75.0%	0	0
Jan	74.9	72.1	3.9%	2	0
Feb	33.1	66.7	-50.4%	2	1
Mar					
Apr					
May					
Totals	159.4	250.2	-36.3%	5	1

Note: All weather data taken from Environment Canada website for weather station Sudbury A.

## Winter Control Service Categories

### 1) Roadway Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting

Includes work activities such as plowing, sanding, salting, anti-icing roads and winter stockpile management.

#### Status Update

For the February 2024 reporting period, there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and minimal snowfall throughout the remainder of the month. Two winter events were due to snowfall and accounted for approximately 67 percent of the total snowfall for the month. The remaining winter event was a flash freeze event and was declared a Significant Winter Event. This resulted in approximately 11 percent less snow plowing/sanding/salting activities than the anticipated levels for the month.

## Challenges

There were no significant challenges with roadway snow plowing/sanding/salting during the reporting period.

### **2) Snow Removal**

Includes work activities such as bus stop clearing, snow removal with loaders, snow dump operation and snowbank removal in the downtown centres.

## Status Update

During the February 2024 reporting period there was approximately 23 percent less snow removal completed due to significantly below seasonal amounts of snow as well as a number of days of above freezing temperatures and rainfall which helped reduce the size of snowbanks throughout the community.

## Challenges

There were no significant challenges with snow removal during the reporting period.

### **3) Winter Sidewalk Maintenance**

Includes work activities such as sidewalk plowing and sanding.

## Status Update

As previously noted, during the February 2024 reporting period, there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and minimal snowfall throughout the remainder of the month. This has resulted in 27 percent less winter sidewalk maintenance activities than the anticipated levels for the month. The enhanced sidewalk maintenance pilot project continued during February with spot sidewalk plowing and sanding completed as needed throughout the community.

## Challenges

There were no significant challenges with winter sidewalk maintenance during the reporting period.

### **4) Roadway Snow Plowing with Graders/Loaders/4x4s**

Includes work activities such as snow plowing with graders, 4x4s and loaders, municipal parking lot maintenance and snow fence maintenance.

## Status Update

For the February 2024 reporting period, there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. It is important to note that graders and loaders are only deployed during snow events and would not have responded to the flash freeze event. This resulted in snow plowing activities that were 71 percent less than the anticipated levels for the month.

## Challenges

There were no significant challenges with this activity during this reporting period.

### **5) Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up**

Includes work activities such as winter ditch maintenance and spring clean-up with sweepers/flushers on roads and sidewalks.

## Status Update

For the February 2024 reporting period, minimal work was done related to winter ditch maintenance and sweeping. The costs incurred during this reporting period were 75 percent less than the anticipated levels for the month.

## Challenges

There were no significant challenges with this activity during this reporting period.

### **6) Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance**

Includes work activities such as property restoration (plow damage), pothole patching, winter road patrol, employee standby, equipment standby, health and safety training, fringe benefits and tool repairs.

## Status Update

Pothole patching and contractor standby are the main activities that have been utilized under this category during the February 2024 reporting period. This resulted in 11 percent less miscellaneous winter maintenance activities than the anticipated levels for the season.

## Challenges

There were no significant challenges with this group of activities during this reporting period.

## **Financials**

The estimated financial results for the period ending February 29, 2024, are summarized below. As shown in Table 2, February 2024 is estimating a surplus of approximately \$1,690,000 when compared to the 2024 year-to-date budget. The actual year to date may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices. The winter control surplus/deficit will form part of the year-end position. Table 3 provides a breakdown of the budgeted expenses included within Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance.

**Table 2 – Financial Results**

<b>2024 Winter Summary As at February 29, 2024</b>					
	<b>Annual</b>	<b>2024 YTD</b>			
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>% Spent YTD</b>
<b>Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting</b>	8,068,135	3,851,218	3,518,747	332,470	91%
<b>Snow Removal</b>	1,281,383	640,029	495,415	144,614	77%
<b>Winter Sidewalk Maintenance</b>	1,368,470	744,236	596,591	147,645	80%
<b>Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s</b>	1,866,543	933,076	357,861	575,215	38%
<b>Plowing: Municipal Facilities</b>	137,567	75,662	46,202	29,460	61%
<b>Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s</b>	1,728,976	857,414	311,659	545,755	36%
<b>Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up</b>	3,751,462	499,000	115,549	383,450	23%
<b>Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance</b>	8,771,523	2,614,119	2,508,187	105,932	96%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25,107,516</b>	<b>9,281,678</b>	<b>7,592,351</b>	<b>1,689,327</b>	<b>82%</b>

**Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown**

<b>2024 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance</b>	
<b>Expense Type</b>	<b>Annual Budget (millions)</b>
Employee Benefits	1.98
Asphalt Patching	1.63
Internal Recoveries	1.01
Standby (Contractor Services)	0.87
Health & Safety	0.23
Other (Emergency Response, Tool Repair, Property Restoration, etc.)	0.28
Administration & Supervision	2.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8.77</b>

Table 4 portrays a summary of winter maintenance activities for the 2023/2024 winter season which shows an estimated under expenditure of approximately \$3,985,000.

**Table 4 – 2023/2024 Winter Season Financial Summary**

<b>2023/2024 Winter Season Summary as of Feb, 2024</b>			
	<b>Season Budget</b>	<b>Season Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting</b>	6,592,749	5,427,604	<b>1,165,145</b>
<b>Snow Removal</b>	902,656	620,819	<b>281,837</b>
<b>Winter Sidewalk Maintenance</b>	1,211,157	938,367	<b>272,790</b>
<b>Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s</b>	1,352,209	450,322	<b>901,887</b>
<b>Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up</b>	543,942	197,789	<b>346,153</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance</b>	5,840,426	4,822,765	<b>1,017,661</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16,443,139</b>	<b>12,457,666</b>	<b>3,985,473</b>

In summary, weather conditions have caused costs attributable to winter maintenance for the 2024 fiscal year to track approximately 18 percent under budget allocations.