

Winter Control Update – November 2024

Presented To:	Operations Committee
Meeting Date:	January 27, 2025
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
Prepared by:	Joe Rocca Linear Infrastructure Services
Recommended by:	General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure

Report Summary

This report provides information regarding an overview of winter maintenance activities for the 2024/2025 winter control season and includes the month of November 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 November 30, 2024. The estimated result for November 2024 is a surplus of approximately \$2,510,000 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 November 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 November, there was one winter event that required the full deployment of City crews and subcontractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending November 30, 2024. The estimated

result, for the period ending November 2024, is a surplus of approximately \$2,510,000 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 November there was one major winter event which required the deployment of all available City and contractor snow plowing equipment. As of the end of November 2024, there have been six winter events requiring the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment in 2024.

Table 1 also highlights the statistical information for the winter months of 2024 from Environment Canada, including the 10-year average (2014-2023) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation for November 2024 was approximately 48 per cent less than the 10-year average for the same period. The total snow accumulation for 2024 is approximately 27 per cent less than the 10-year average of 2.55 metres or 8.4 feet.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (January 2024 to November 2024)

Month	Snow Accumulation (cm)	10 Year Average (cm) (2014-2023)	Percentage Increase/(Decrease) Compared to 10-Year Average	Snow Events	Rain/Freezing Rain Events
Jan	74.90	73.0	2.6%	2	0
Feb	33.10	67.9	-51.3%	2	1
Mar	19.30	38.6	-50.0%	0	0
Apr	37.70	27.7	36.2%	0	0
May	-	2.8	-100.0%	0	0
Jun-Sep	-	-		0	0
Oct	1.40	6.6	-78.9%	0	0
Nov	20.10	38.4	-47.7%	1	0
Dec					
Totals	186.50	255.1	-26.9%	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 November 2024 reporting period, there was one winter event that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and minimal snowfall throughout the remainder of the month. This resulted in approximately 48 per cent 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

No snow removal was completed during the month of November 2024.

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 November 2024 reporting period, there was one winter event that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and minimal snowfall throughout the remainder of the month. This has resulted in 40 per cent less winter sidewalk maintenance activities than the anticipated levels for the month. The enhanced sidewalk maintenance pilot project completed spot sidewalk plowing and sanding as needed throughout the community during the month.

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 November 2024 reporting period, there was one winter event that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. This resulted in snow plowing activities that were 53 per cent 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

While no winter ditching was completed during the November 2024 reporting period, crews spent time marking culvert ends to help minimize the damaging of culverts during winter ditching operations. The costs incurred during this reporting period were as anticipated 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 health and safety training are the main activities that have been utilized under this category during the November 2024 reporting period. This resulted in 9 per cent 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 November 30, 2024, are summarized below. As shown in Table 2, November 2024 is estimating a surplus of approximately \$2,510,000 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.

It is important to note that since staff last reported on the 2023/2024 Winter Season in June 2024, an additional \$884,000 of costs, predominantly related to Street Sweeping and Health and Safety Training, were incurred. Table 3 provides a breakdown of the budgeted expenses included within Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance.

Table 2 – Financial Results

2024 Winter Summary					
As at Nov 30, 2024					
	Annual	2024 YTD			% Spent YTD
	Budget	Budget	Actual	Variance	
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	8,568,135	6,601,549	5,394,959	831,589	87%
Winter Control Risk	(500,000)	(375,000)			
Snow Removal	1,281,383	1,011,198	526,972	484,227	47%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,368,470	996,359	769,482	226,877	73%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,866,543	1,410,320	498,535	911,785	34%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	3,751,462	3,702,299	3,011,414	690,885	77%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	8,771,523	7,497,219	8,129,286	(632,067)	105%
Total	25,107,516	20,843,944	18,330,649	2,513,295	84%

Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown

2024 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	
Expense Type	Annual Budget (millions)
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
Total	\$ 8.77

Table 4 portrays a summary of winter maintenance activities for the 2024/2025 winter season which shows an estimated under expenditure of approximately \$490,000.

Table 4 – 2024/2025 Winter Season Financial Summary

2024/2025 Winter Season Summary			
As of Nov 30, 2024			
	Season Budget	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	962,204	611,924	300,280
Winter Control Risk	(50,000)		
Snow Removal	17,752	15,270	2,482
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	139,847	100,329	39,518
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	78,810	37,237	41,573
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	2,500	16,710	(14,210)
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	1,319,443	1,199,934	119,509
Total	2,470,556	1,981,404	489,152

In summary, weather conditions have caused costs attributable to winter maintenance for the 2024 fiscal year to track approximately 16 per cent under budget allocations.