

Winter Control Update – December 2024

Presented To:	Operations Committee
Meeting Date:	February 10, 2025
Type:	Presentations
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Report Summary

This report and presentation provides information regarding winter maintenance activities for the 2024/2025 winter control season up to and including the month of December 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 December 31, 2024. The estimated result for 2024 is a surplus of approximately \$2,519,000 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.

The balance of the Winter Control Reserve Fund as of November 2024 was \$3,955,000 with a target balance of \$10,191,000. In accordance with the Reserve and Reserve Fund Bylaw, any winter control surplus shall be contributed to the Winter Control Reserve Fund depending on the overall year-end corporate position.

Background

This report is intended to provide a summary of winter maintenance activities for the month of December 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 December, there were three winter event that required the full deployment of City crews

and subcontractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending December 31, 2024. The estimated result for 2024 is a surplus of approximately \$2,519,000 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 December there were three major winter events which required the deployment of all available City and contractor snow plowing equipment. For 2024, there were nine winter events requiring the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment.

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 December 2024 was approximately 6 per cent more than the 10-year average for the same period. The total snow accumulation for 2024 is approximately 21 per cent less than the 10-year average of 3.15 metres or 10.3 feet.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (January 2024 to December 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	63.70	60.0	6.1%	3	0
Totals	250.20	315.1	-20.6%	8	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 December 2024 reporting period, there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and snowfall throughout the remainder of the month. This resulted in approximately 30 per cent more snow plowing/sanding/salting activities than the anticipated levels for the month.

Challenges

From December 3 to December 11 there was over 50 centimeters of snow accumulation which resulted in two separate full deployments of City staff and contractors. In addition, the timing of the snowfall resulted in a continuous plowing operation over this period. Over this time period, approximately \$1.4 million was spent on snow plowing, sanding, and salting activities.

2) Snow Removal

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

Status Update

Snow removal was completed at transit stops as part of the three winter events in December. In addition, snowbank removal was completed in the downtown. These activities resulted in approximately 37 per cent less than the anticipated levels for the month.

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

During the December 2024 reporting period, there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors and additional snowfall throughout the remainder of the month. This resulted in five 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

As previously noted, during the December 2024 reporting period there were three winter events that required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. This resulted in snow plowing activities that were 34 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 December 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 38 per cent less than 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 was the main activity that was utilized under this category during the December 2024 reporting period. This resulted in 36 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 December 31, 2024, are summarized below. As shown in Table 2, there is an estimated surplus of approximately \$2,519,000 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

2024 Winter Summary						
As of Dec 31, 2024						
	Annual Budget	2024 YTD				% Spent YTD
		Budget	Risk	Actual	Variance	
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	8,568,135	8,568,135	(500,000)	7,950,847	117,288	93%
Snow Removal	1,281,383	1,281,383		701,671	579,713	55%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,368,470	1,368,470		1,131,620	236,850	83%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,866,543	1,866,543		798,030	1,068,513	43%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	3,751,462	3,751,462		3,054,685	696,777	81%
Asphalt Patching Winter	1,627,810	1,627,810		1,719,613	(91,803)	106%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	7,143,713	7,143,713		7,232,039	(88,327)	101%
Total	25,607,516	25,607,516	(500,000)	22,588,506	2,519,010	88%

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 \$526,000.

Table 4 – 2024/2025 Winter Season Financial Summary

2024/2025 Winter Season Summary				
As of Dec 31, 2024				
	Season Budget	Risk	Season Actual	Variance
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	2,928,790	(175,000)	3,167,812	(414,022)
Snow Removal	287,937		185,464	102,473
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	511,958		454,358	57,600
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	535,033		336,118	198,915
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	51,663		47,198	4,465
Asphalt Patching Winter	419,769		448,586	(28,817)
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	2,173,978		1,568,116	605,862
Total	6,909,128	(175,000)	6,207,652	526,476

In summary, weather conditions have caused costs attributable to winter maintenance for the 2024 fiscal year to track approximately 12 per cent under budget allocations.