

## Coaldale Town Council Approves 2026 Property Tax Bylaw

*The Bylaw approves a 0% net increase in the municipal portion of residential property taxes while maintaining a non-residential property tax rate of \$10 for every \$1,000 in assessed value.*

During its May 19, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, Coaldale Town Council approved the Town's 2026 Property Tax Bylaw.

In keeping with direction provided by Council during the 2026–2028 budget process, the Bylaw approves a 0% net increase in the municipal portion of residential property taxes while maintaining a non-residential property tax rate of \$10 for every \$1,000 in assessed value.

To achieve a 0% net increase in the municipal portion of residential property taxes, Council lowered the residential mill rate from 6.9017 to 6.2612 (by 9.3%) to offset the cost impact of rising property values. Without that adjustment, the increase in property values alone would have resulted in significantly higher tax bills for residents.

“As a Council, we were very clear during budget deliberations that we wanted to protect residents from unnecessary tax increases wherever possible, including increases due to inflation”, said Town of Coaldale Mayor Jack Van Rijn. “We didn't want rising property values to automatically result in more burdensome tax bills, especially at a time when families and businesses are already facing significant cost pressures.”

On the non-residential side of the equation, meanwhile, Council's decision to maintain Coaldale's non-residential property tax rate at \$10 for every \$1,000 in assessed value will help ensure that Coaldale remains a competitive place to invest, grow, and do business. By comparison, businesses in neighbouring Taber will pay just over \$11 for every \$1,000 in assessed value, or about 10% more than they would in Coaldale. In neighbouring Lethbridge, however, that difference is even more significant: in 2026, the City's non-residential property tax rate will increase to \$21.59 for every \$1,000 in assessed value, meaning businesses there will pay approximately 116% more than they would in Coaldale.

“As a Council, we were also very clear during budget deliberations that we wanted to keep Coaldale competitive for businesses and investors,” said Van Rijn. “By holding the non-residential rate steady, we are providing cost certainty for local businesses while strengthening Coaldale's position as one of the most competitive communities in the region for commercial and industrial investment. It's not a 0% net increase, but it protects our competitive advantage and that's the point.”

Residents across the province are also facing significant increases in Government of Alberta requisitions, including the provincial education requisition, which is increasing from \$3.1 billion in 2025–26 to \$3.6 billion in 2026–27. As a result, homeowners in some of Coaldale's neighbouring municipalities are facing increases on both the municipal and provincial portions of their property tax bills. In the City of Lethbridge, for instance, the average homeowner will see a 5.1% increase in their municipal property taxes *and* a 12.9% increase in their provincial education property taxes. Similarly, in Taber the average homeowner will see a 9.15% increase in their municipal property taxes *and* a 10.5% increase in their provincial education property taxes.

When taken into account, Council's decision to hold the line on the municipal portion of residential property taxes becomes all the more important – and all the more impressive.

“Although Coaldale homeowners are themselves facing a significant increase in their provincial education property taxes, Council's decision ensures the Town is not adding to those pressures through an increase in municipal residential property taxes,” said Van Rijn. “Provincial requisitions for education and seniors' housing are not set or controlled by municipalities, but what we can control is the municipal portion of the tax bill. By approving a 0% net increase in residential property taxes, we are doing what we can at the local level to protect affordability for residents.”

# Town of Coaldale Welcomes New RCMP Detachment Commander

Staff Sergeant Malcolm Callihoo brings more than 27 years of policing and leadership experience to the Coaldale/Picture Butte RCMP Detachment.



The Town of Coaldale is pleased to welcome Staff Sergeant Malcolm Callihoo as the new Detachment Commander for the Coaldale/Picture Butte RCMP Detachment.

Staff Sergeant Callihoo brings more than 27 years of experience with the RCMP, having served in all four RCMP Districts in Alberta. His career has included postings in First Nations communities, rural and remote northern communities, and municipal city-based policing environments, giving him a broad understanding of the different public safety needs and priorities that exist across the province.

For the past five years, Staff Sergeant Callihoo has served as a District Advisory NCO, providing leadership support and strategic oversight to multiple detachments. In that role, he worked closely with Detachment Commanders, municipal councils, and community partners to help guide operational priorities, support member development, and strengthen community policing initiatives.

“On behalf of Coaldale Town Council, I want to extend a warm welcome to Staff Sergeant Callihoo as he takes on this important leadership role,” said Town of Coaldale Mayor, Jack Van Rijn. “The Town of Coaldale places a high value on strong, collaborative relationships with our policing partners, and Staff Sergeant Callihoo’s experience, leadership approach, and commitment to community engagement will serve our community and region well.”

Staff Sergeant Callihoo’s leadership philosophy emphasizes accountability, collaboration, and visible engagement. Throughout his career, he has focused on building strong relationships with local agencies, Indigenous leadership, municipal stakeholders, and community partners to support crime reduction and responsive public safety services.

“It’s a privilege to be joining the Coaldale/Picture Butte RCMP Detachment, and the team here,” said Staff Sergeant Callihoo. “I value the relationships that define community policing, and I look forward to getting to know the local residents, organizations, and partners. Public safety is strongest when built together, and I am committed to building on what has been established in the area as we move forward together.”

## What’s Happening in the Community?

On Monday, June 1st, the Town of Coaldale will host a “Back to School” themed Seniors Day Celebration for residents ages 55+ at the SHIFT Community Recreation Centre and Prairie Winds Secondary School. The event will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

On Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13, Evans HD will hold a free, family-friendly Big Rig Show & Shine. The main event begins Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and will feature an impressive lineup of highway haulers, heavy spec rigs, custom builds, and fully lit-up show trucks, along with a free BBQ, giveaways, and a light show at dusk. The event is open to all ages, and no ticket is required. Anyone with a rig they would like to showcase is encouraged to register in advance at [evanshd.ca/contact](http://evanshd.ca/contact), as spots are limited.

On Saturday, June 13th, the Town of Coaldale’s Big Equipment Petting Zoo returns to the Coaldale Sportsplex Parking Lot from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This free, family-friendly event invites residents to get up close with heavy equipment and vehicles from the Town of Coaldale, Coaldale Fire Department, Coaldale Community Peace Officers, Dennis’ Dirtworx Ltd., ATCO, Alberta Health Services, Fortis Alberta, Ground Breakers Construction Inc., Green For Life Environmental, Red Arrow, Palliser School Division, the Canadian Armed Forces, and more. Guests can also enjoy a free BBQ courtesy of Dennis’ Dirtworx Ltd., free popcorn and temporary tattoos from the Youth Do Crew, food from Mama Lo’s, swag giveaways, prize raffles, games and activities from the Coaldale Public Library, a Jaws of Life demonstration by the Coaldale Fire Department, and a car drop.

On Saturday, June 13th, the Gem of the West Museum will host a live acoustic country music performance by Trevor Panzak. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. Guests can enjoy an intimate evening of live music, storytelling, and prairie country sound, with a cash bar available. Tickets are \$40 in advance until June 12th or \$45 at the door, and can be purchased at the museum or by calling 403-345-1377.