

From: Wayne Ferguson Kim Chapman
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Pribil, Jerry <jpribil@london.ca>
Cc: Budget Committee <BudgetCommittee@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2024 Budget Questions and Input

Dear Mr. Pribil...

I've attached the email I sent to you on December 30th regarding my support of the LPL budget. Thank you for your response and giving my email consideration. In the light of the upcoming budget, I have some questions for you. I'm aware that the budget is practically finalized and I feel a bit helpless as to see any changes at this time, but as a taxpayer and London resident, I feel I needed to get my questions to you and my thoughts on paper. Here goes.

The changes to our property taxes are predominantly due to the changes in the approval of the London Police budget's approval (>50%). I would like to know:

* why so little debate on the acceptance of this budget? Where did you, as my elected official, stand on the London Police budget's approval.

* why such a gigantic ticket price on a training centre and facilities? (According to the London Police force's presentation, \$49 million in 2024 and \$74 million in 2025). While I can find a lot of information on the rationale for increased personnel and technology, I can find very little information on the rationale for this HUGE cost to taxpayers. Please help me understand this gigantic cost. In my opinion, cost savings to help support the library could have come from these funds. I've done some research and while I understand that council is not allowed to dictate operations of the police force and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission Tribunal could be used to weigh in on cuts, a \$ amount could be cut and the Police Force would need to figure out how to allocate the remaining \$ funded.

* Please note that I do understand the need for more FTE, as we are understaffed on a per capita basis compared to other larger Canadian cities; however, London's crime rate hit a 20 year low in 2022 and I do not feel that the council has completely looked into the research regarding police funding and crime rates. Taxpayers are squeezed with rising costs for housing and food...where's the "judicial creativity" in looking at this huge expenditure and increase to our taxes?

Thank you for your time and consideration of my questions.

Sincerely,

Kim Chapman

Email sent December 30th 2023

First of all, I hope you and your family are having a wonderful holiday season, and I wish you all the best for the upcoming year.

Thank you for representing Ward 5 on council - I voted for you - and I am now writing to you for the very first time as I and my husband would like to advise you that we strongly support LPL's request to an increase in their budget allotment for the 2024-2027 budget increase. I have read their proposal and support it. I agree that local **libraries** are the cornerstone of healthy communities, and that a thriving local **library** can, in so many ways, support the needs of a diverse municipality. I agree that our **library** also supports the various needs as addressed in our overall budget (as mentioned in their proposal). And when I see a facebook post from LPL stating that the roofs are leaking in several branches, I feel a visceral tug in my heart - we need to fix it!

For me personally, I have had a longstanding love of literature and, consequently, **libraries**. I've used a **library** for information, sanctuary, meetings and esthetic pleasure and just to pass the time and I've shared my love of them with my family and friends. It's easy to forget about the necessary budgets that are needed to keep our **libraries** in tip top shape. Let's show our **library** that we NEED them and we SUPPORT them FULLY regarding their proposed budget.