



The Corporation of the Town of Blind River **REPORT**

RE: Updated Landfill Expansion Cost Estimate

Date of Creation: November 11, 2024

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OBJECTIVE

To provide updated budget pricing for the expansion of the Blind River landfill to the budget committee and recommendations to account for this cost.

BACKGROUND

In operation since the early 1970s, the existing waste disposal site is nearing its capacity as established by the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for the site. After the evaluation of various options, it was determined that expansion of the current site was the preferred option. The Town is in the late stages of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process and is anticipating to receive final approval in 2025.

An updated estimate was received from Kresin Engineering outlining the costs of the project (attached to this report). The projected cost is \$2,024,638.25 to complete the project. \$100,000 has been transferred annually to the landfill reserve for the expansion. There is currently \$975,000 in the landfill reserve for completion of this project. Which represents a significant shortfall of \$1,050,000.

In 2023, the current landfill was expected to reach capacity as soon as Spring 2024¹. The Town has been able to extend the capacity past this date through work with the site contractor to improve sloping of the banks as well as pushing the landfill face to the full extent of the approved area. An interim expansion has been applied for to provide additional volume in the event that we run out of capacity prior to approval and construction of the expansion.

Figure 1 - Interim Expansion Area



¹ **Kresin Engineering**. 2024 July. Town of Blind River Municipal Landfill Site ANNUAL MONITORING AND OPERATIONS REPORT – 2023,

Option 2
2026 Design – 2027 Construction

\$350,000 would need to be budgeted for this capital project annually in 2025, 2026 and 2027. This would require an increase to the Landfill Expansion reserve transfer of \$250,000 per year. This is an approximately **3.42%** increase each year to the tax levy.

Option 3
2026 Design – 2027 Construction

\$350,000 would need to be budgeted for this capital project annually in 2025, 2026 and 2027. This would require an increase to the Landfill Expansion reserve transfer of \$250,000 per year. The NWMO Community Well-Being Reserve Fund could be utilized to reduce the total contribution required in 2025 to \$150,000. This is an approximately **2.05%** increase in 2025 to the tax levy.

Staff are recommending option 3 based on the remaining available capacity at the landfill and the impact to residents from the cost of this project.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS Waste Disposal is deemed an essential service for the residents of Blind River and the current waste disposal site is approaching maximum capacity;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Budget Committee recommends Option 3 of this report for funding the expansion of the Blind River Landfill;
AND THAT the Budget Committee recommends to Council that the Landfill Expansion project be scheduled for completion in 2027.