

Revised Amendments to Draft Operating Budget
City of London, 2005
(millions)

Detailed Review of Cuts

	Base	“Uncontrollable”	Service Adj.	Growth
CAO’s Office				
Corporate Communications	.639			
Free Press Advertising	.200			
150 th celebration	.050			
Fire Services		1.0		.400
Land Ambulance (de-service code 1s and 2s ¹)	1.76		.085	.455
Total				\$4.589 million

Community Services²

Sell golf courses	12.0			
Eliminate sport programs	1.5			
Child Care ³	2.0			
Social Research & Planning	.159			
Purchased Services ⁴	4.23			
Children Services Funding	.163			
Street Youth Funding	.080			
Community Arts Funding	.013			
Mayor’s Anti-Poverty Group	.065			
Orchestra London, Grand Th.	.853			
London Arts Council	.186			
Fanshawe Pioneer Village	.310			
Total				\$21.559 million

¹ Code 1 and 2 calls by land ambulances in Ontario are non-emergency calls. In this case, I am calling for their removal from public funding under the current contract with Thames EMS -- a contract that is coming due in Spring 2005. Under my plan, non-emergency calls would be paid for privately, presumably to a private patient transfer service firms. There are two major patient transfer services in London.

² Ontario Works (welfare) cases are predicted to rise an additional 47 persons or 0.6%, and yet increased costs are predicted to be \$3.547 million. That’s a marginal cost of \$75,468 per case, which is more than double the median per person income in London. In 2005, therefore, we will be taking \$75,468 worth of taxable income out of the pockets of many Londoners in order to pay for one welfare additional recipient.

On page B94 of the 2005 Budget, under Performance Indicators, the Civic Administration reports that in 2005 as in 2004 there will be a shortfall in the use of the city’s arenas by 29%. Indeed, the Engineering Dept (p. B108) is already contemplating the half-day closure of some arenas in the city. Therefore the city should immediately begin to consider the sale of 30% of its arena capital inventory, and more as the population of the city ages.

³ London taxpayers are subsidizing 3210 children in municipal (non-welfare) daycare. This program needs to be means-tested in order to achieve about a one-third reduction in service.

⁴ “Emergency” hostels (Mission Services, Salvation Army and Unity Project) in 2005 are predicted to shelter 725 individuals. These people tend to be long-term indigents, and this number has increased 22% in the last two years. London’s taxpayer-subsidized shelter system is becoming a regional magnet for unemployables and the mentally ill that should otherwise be looked after in provincial long-term care facilities.

Environmental and Engineering Services		
Parks & Recreation Operations		.150
Downsize parking enforcement	.500	
Remove extended hours – parking (Reduce metered parking space by 1000)		.024
Total		\$0.806 million
Finance and Corporate Services		
Finance services		
Technology services downsizing by 25 person years	.750	
Downsize furniture and equipment purchases	2.0	
Municipal elections	.048	
Advisory committees	.033	
Total		\$2.831 million
Planning and Development Services		
Social Housing reserve fund	1.0	
East London BIA		.100
Social Housing reserve fund		2.0
No employee additions for Finance or Social Housing		.083
Eliminate heritage and façade loans	.175	
Eliminate Smart Growth consultants		.030
Eliminate Research Analyst		.043
Eliminate Landscape Architect “intern”		.051
Total		\$3.482 million
Convention Centre		
Balanced budget Convention Centre ⁵	.669	
Total		\$0.669 million
Police Services		
Eliminate 24 new employee hires	3.146	
Eliminate workload analysis	.369	
Total		\$3.515 million
Public Library Services		
Service Level Reduction		.262
Total		\$0.262 million

⁵ The city needs to find a private management company that can balance the Convention Centre budget. Then the city needs to prepare the facility for sale in 2006.

LTC		
Eliminate Service Growth		.205
Total		\$0.205 million
Tourism London		
Eliminate 50% of program ⁶	.750	
Total		\$0.750 million
Corporate Expenses		
Human Resource Specialist		.100
Tech Alliance, eliminate service growth		.085
LEDC ⁷		.250
Corporate (personnel legal, training)		.185
Total		\$0.620 million
Final Total Tax Savings		\$39.228 million

⁶ In 2006 Tourism London should be shut down and some of its functions transferred to a new Economic Development Dept. of the city, where all advertising can be out-sourced.

⁷ Eliminate LEDC in 2006, after one-year extension contract. Bring LEDC functions into city administration. There has been a complete failure to turn this organization into a public-private partnership. There is next to no private financial commitment to the LEDC after more than five years of operation. Also, new leadership is needed.