

Budget Team and Others,

After another troll through the 2025 budget I could not find one reference to advance the use of AI in the Town, notwithstanding its importance. Even in the Information Technologies Solutions section was there no reference at all. I am astonished that there is no visible recognition nor specific monies allocated to this aspect of current cyber technologies to contribute to the ongoing progress for the administration of the Town and its on-line accessibility.

My last employer, one of the big five Chartered Banks, has 100 people working on AI applications. I know their scale of their operation is many orders larger than the town, but the resources they are applying to AI is indicative of how administrations will need to work in the future. The specific lack of attention to Ai appears to be a major omission in today's world. For example, they have one team setting up an AI search mode to allow easy and immediate access to their multitude of their policy and operating manuals. In the town, for example, I can envisage an AI search capability on all the content of all the by-laws, or the budget.

This is all I can find, and no mention of AI...or, is the IT division going down a dead-end route that will require further attention in a few years.

**Recommended Capital Budget**

The 2025 capital budget for Regulatory Services includes additional funds for By-Law Search and Findability which will improve finding and accessing current, consolidated and historical by-laws. The additional budget is needed for the licensing requirements.

	Classification	Capital Budget 2025	Operating Impacts 2025
Clerks			
32102201 By-Law Search and Findability	Program Initiatives	23,500	
<b>Total</b>		<b>23,500</b>	

As my old teacher used to say, “keep up at the back there”.

On this subject of Searches, I have to report I give the Town’s website a failing grade when it comes to use of the search engine on the Town website. I would put in here that I am not too bad at framing the questions to achieve my objectives. Staff may not realize this weak spot since they rarely have to use the search engine. I challenge you to try, say, five questions on the search engine and see for yourself. I would also add I find the present “modernized” format **much worse** to navigate than the previous iteration of the site.

Michael Young