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Analysis: INCOME REPORT - SOUTH VIEW

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Description	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL FEB 29
INCOME REPORT - SOUTH VIEW	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
--- Begin	01Jan2023	01Jan2023	01Jan2024	01Jan2024
Period 1: - End	31Dec2023	31Dec2023	31Dec2024	31Dec2024
--- Type	B	A	B	A
(less) --- Begin	000000000	000000000	000000000	000000000
Period 2: - End	000000000	000000000	000000000	000000000
--- Type				
Ratios: % of Account				
Graphs: # of Columns,Scale	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0

Description	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL FEB 29
DRAFT BUDGET 2024				

(MUN TAXES 2023 - \$210,298)				
* (MUN TAXES 2024 - \$221,831)				
* (5.48% INCREASE)				
* (EACH % IS \$2,105)				
*WILL CHANGE WITH EACH DRAFT				
CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING:\$449,545				
RESERVES: \$183,604				
(RESERVE BALANCE WILL CHANGE				
ONCE AUDIT IS COMPLETE				
DEPENDING ON SURPLUS\DEFICIT)				
*MSI-C- MUST SPEND IN 2024:				
\$65,922.15				
*CCBF- MUST SPEND IN 2024:				
\$44,474.00				
NOTE: AUDITOR RECOMMENDS				
HAVING ONE YEAR				
OPERATING IN RESERVES				
2023 OPERATING- \$250,053				
CURR.RESERVES- \$183,604				

REVENUE				
TAXATION				
RESIDENTIAL TAX- (MUNICIPAL)	171,590.40	171,414.02	0.00	0.00
RESIDENTIAL TAX- (SCHOOL)***	48,339.60	48,289.93	48,872.60	0.00
VACANT RES TAX- (MUNICIPAL)	7,267.62	7,267.60	0.00	0.00
VACANT RES TAX- (SCHOOL)***	2,047.40	2,047.38	1,937.40	0.00
LINEAR TAX- (MUNICIPAL)	2,607.46	2,607.46	0.00	0.00
LINEAR TAX- (SCHOOL)***	466.00	466.00	498.00	0.00
LINEAR TAX-(DIP)	9.89	9.89	0.00	0.00
SENIOR'S FOUNDATION	4,287.27	4,283.07	5,023.78	0.00
MINIMUM TAX (2023- \$1,125)	28,832.53	28,832.56	0.00	0.00
(2021- \$1,050)(2022- \$1,075)				
SPECIAL TAX	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL TAXES	265,448.17	265,217.91	56,331.78	0.00
OTHER INCOME\GRANTS				
PENALTIES & COSTS ON TAXES	3,000.00	2,500.35	2,500.00	1,038.85
INVESTMENT INCOME (INTEREST)	6,707.99	10,402.60	7,500.00	1,284.06
GRANT (MSI-O)\(LGFF-OP)	11,784.00	11,784.00	11,784.00	0.00

Description	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL FEB 29
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GRANT (MSI-C) (\$291,775)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*MUST SPEND \$65,922 MSI-C-'24				
GRANT (LGFF) (\$68,409 '24)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANT (CCBF) (\$89,361 END'23)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*MUST SPEND \$44,474 '24)				
GRANT (FIRESMART)	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
GRANT-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RESERVES	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS	18,215.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS INCOME	109,003.00	100,610.65	130,000.00	0.00
('24-DRAINAGE, BOAT LAUNCH, GAZEBO\PARK OFFSET)				
UNRESTRICTED	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ADMIN				
SALES OF GOODS & SERVICES	0.00	26.32	0.00	0.00
TAX CERTIFICATES	100.00	325.00	100.00	50.00
N.S.F. FEES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FORTIS FRANCHISE FEE (3%)	2,400.00	2,259.77	2,400.00	161.70
OTHER (2024 COURT COSTS)	0.00	0.00	15,021.00	0.00
TRANS FR RESERV (MAP REVIEW)	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
ANIMAL CONTROL\CPO\BYLAW				
BY-LAW FINES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRE INCIDENT RECOVERY (NEW)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL POLICING (FR.RES)	0.00	0.00	1,629.00	0.00
PUBLIC WORKS\COMMON SERVICES				
LARGE BIN (EVERY 2ND YR) (RES)	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00
SALE OF TCA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSFER FROM RESERVE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PARKS & RECREATION				
LAKE WEEDS COST RECOVERY	3,700.00	5,912.50	5,912.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANT FCSS	3,508.00	3,626.40	3,665.00	916.48
GRANT FCSS (VOL.PICNIC\ALLNET)	1,555.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSFER FROM RESERVE (TREES)	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT				
SAFETY CODE PERMIT FEES	1,000.00	1,298.29	1,000.00	652.53
DEVELOPMENT PERMITS	1,500.00	600.00	1,500.00	0.00
DEVELOPMENT APPEAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
TOTAL REVENUE	432,421.16	406,063.79	249,842.78	4,653.62
REQUISITIONS				
SENIOR FOUNDATION	4,287.27	4,287.27	5,023.78	0.00
UNDER\OVER UTILIZED LEVY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SCHOOL	50,853.00	50,853.29	51,308.00	0.00
UNDER\OVER UTILIZED LEVY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DIP	9.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNDER\OVER UTILIZED LEVY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL REQUISITIONS	55,150.16	55,140.56	56,331.78	0.00
NET REVENUE FOR MUN PURPOSES	377,271.00	350,923.23	193,511.00	4,653.62

Description	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL-FEB 29
EXPENSE REPORT- SOUTH VIEW	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
--- Begin	01Jan2023	01Jan2023	01Jan2024	01Jan2024
Period 1: - End	31Dec2023	31Dec2023	31Dec2024	31Dec2024
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(less) --- Begin	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000
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--- Type				
Ratios: % of Account				
Graphs: # of Columns, Scale	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Description	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL-FEB 29
DRAFT BUDGET 2024				

COUNCIL				
DEVELOPMENT	1,000.00	1,707.00	2,500.00	590.00
MEETING FEES	6,500.00	7,425.00	7,000.00	850.00
MONTHLY REIMBURSE(\$240\MTH)	5,040.00	3,570.00	8,640.00	960.00
TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE	4,000.00	5,709.97	5,000.00	404.84
SVLSACE COMMITTEE FEES	600.00	578.76	625.00	0.00
EMERGENCY MGMT FEE-MOVE '23	8,000.00	9,644.23	0.00	80.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS & PROMO	300.00	585.14	500.00	0.00
COUNCIL EMAILS (NEW)	0.00	0.00	250.00	255.00
INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER	0.00	0.00	1,036.00	0.00
TOTAL	25,440.00	29,220.10	25,551.00	3,139.84
ADMINISTRATION				
ELECTION & CENSUS	0.00	5,166.26	0.00	27.72
ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT	54,315.00	54,314.96	56,244.00	9,253.30
ADMIN ADDITIONAL WORK (MAP)	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
ADMIN DEVELOPMENT	0.00	500.00	1,000.00	0.00
WCB	525.00	566.72	550.00	0.00
TRAVEL & SUBSISTANCE	2,000.00	2,304.00	2,300.00	490.81
POSTAGE\PHONE\STORAGE	4,500.00	4,654.55	4,600.00	976.58
ADVERTISING & PRINTING	2,500.00	2,672.80	2,600.00	424.50
MEMBERSHIP DUES	1,650.00	1,653.18	1,700.00	1,589.60
AUDITOR	3,700.00	3,985.00	4,270.00	0.00
ASSESSMT('25)5520\5680\5840	5,520.00	5,520.00	5,680.00	0.00
ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD	850.00	835.40	850.00	0.00
SDAB BOARD (\$300+\$4000)	300.00	300.00	4,300.00	300.00
LEGAL FEES	15,000.00	20,930.09	20,000.00	2,180.00
INSURANCE	4,500.00	4,442.00	5,000.00	3,676.00
COMPUTER SUPPORT\WEBSITE	1,600.00	1,854.94	1,850.00	0.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS & PROMO	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
MEETING ROOM FEES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BANK CHARGES\PENALTIES	400.00	50.00	100.00	8.50
LAND TITLE CHARGES	50.00	20.00	50.00	0.00
TAX REBATES\CANCELLATIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	98,410.00	111,269.90	116,594.00	18,927.01
PUBLIC WORKS\ROADS				
CONTRACTED SERVICES	3,000.00	3,772.54	3,500.00	0.00
SNOW REMOVAL\GRADING\SANDIN	7,500.00	1,955.00	7,500.00	1,000.00
STREET SWEEPING	1,500.00	1,350.00	1,500.00	0.00
REPAIRS\POTHOLES\CRACKFILL	3,000.00	4,432.92	3,000.00	0.00
SUPPLIES	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
SIGNS	300.00	45.70	300.00	0.00
STREET LIGHTS	14,000.00	14,317.28	15,200.00	1,335.30
Description	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL-FEB 29

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Description	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL-FEB 29
WAGES (INCL.STEP)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	29,550.00	25,873.44	31,250.00	2,335.30
DRAINAGE				
GENERAL SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DRAINAGE STUDY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAGOON\SEWER				
LAGOON\SEWER CAPITAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAGOON\SEWER OPERATING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION				
COLLECTION (CALAHOO)	7,500.00	6,887.97	7,500.00	1,980.00
LARGE BIN (EVERY 2 YEARS)	3,000.00	3,718.75	0.00	0.00
COMMISSION (HWY 43)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	10,500.00	10,606.72	7,500.00	1,980.00
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT				
D.O. CONTRACT (ANNUAL)	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	400.00
D.O. MEETINGS\MILEAGE	650.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
DEVELOPMENT PERMITS	1,000.00	1,250.00	1,000.00	0.00
DEVELOPMENT ENFORCEMENT	2,000.00	2,597.52	2,500.00	0.00
MUNICIPAL PLANNING	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAFETY CODES ADMIN	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,071.00	0.00
TOTAL	10,950.00	10,647.52	10,871.00	400.00
LIBRARIES				
LIBRARY (YRL)	358.00	276.94	319.00	137.28
TOTAL	358.00	276.94	319.00	137.28
FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SER				
FCSS (\$3,727)(\$657 ADMIN)	4,385.00	3,168.40	4,583.00	500.00
FCSS (VOL.PICNIC\ALL-NET)	1,555.00	1,364.60	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	5,940.00	4,533.00	4,583.00	500.00
RECREATION & PARKS				
TREE REMOVAL	5,000.00	3,875.00	5,000.00	0.00
GRASS CUT\CLEAN UP (2026)	30,000.00	29,938.74	31,065.00	0.00
SPRING\FALL CLEAN UP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PORTA-POTTY (JUN-OCT)	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EQUIP & SUPPLY (FUEL)	500.00	1,034.98	500.00	0.00
WEED INSPECTIONS	250.00	238.50	250.00	0.00
LAKE WEED CUTTING (LIAMS)	3,000.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	0.00
EAST END BUS	350.00	350.00	350.00	0.00
BOAT LAUNCH (NEW)	0.00	5,990.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	39,900.00	48,027.22	43,765.00	0.00
EMERGENCY & SHARED SERVICES				
LIBRARY (LOCAL)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
RECREATION-LSA CONTRIBUTION	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
FIRE SUPP (2021-2025)	13,440.00	13,400.52	14,500.00	3,318.27
FIRE INCIDENT RECOVERY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CPO (\$6,615 & MILEAGE)	7,000.00	8,398.51	8,500.00	668.67
EMERGENCY RELIEF (COVID)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FEES	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	0.00
PROV POLICING(20\21 1ST YR)	3,252.00	3,207.00	4,881.00	0.00
YR 1 -B 1,626 A(1,621)				
Description	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL-FEB 29

Analysis: EXPENSE REPORT- SOUTH VIEW

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Description	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	ACTUAL-FEB 29
YR 2 -B 2,441 A(2,434)				
YR 3 -B 3,252 A(3,207)				
YR 4 -B 4,881				
YR 5 -B 4,881				
(AVG OVER 5 YEARS)\$3,417				
TOTAL	24,692.00	26,006.03	38,381.00	3,986.94
RESERVE ACCOUNTS (5% INC)				
PROVINCIAL POLICING RESERVE	165.00	165.00	0.00	0.00
SUSTAIN.RESERVE(1\2 MSI-O)	0.00	0.00	171.00	0.00
TREE REMOVAL RESERVE	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,103.00	0.00
SNOW REMOVAL RESERVE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGAL RESERVE	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,103.00	0.00
ELECTIONS RESERVE	788.00	788.00	828.00	0.00
LARGE BIN RESERVE	1,260.00	1,260.00	1,323.00	0.00
MAP REVIEW	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
APPEAL RESERVE	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
TOTAL	4,313.00	4,313.00	6,028.00	0.00
YEAR-END AUDIT ACCOUNTS				
ANNUAL AMORTIZATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GAIN\LOSS ON SALE OF TCA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS				
PARK RESERVE SUBDIVISION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BYLAW\POLICY\BUDGETS\MDP'S	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FLOWER RUSH-2019\2020\2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BRUSH CLEARING (FIRESMART)	5,000.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
LAND USE BYLAW (20K BUDGET)	13,215.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50TH & CANADA DAY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ENTRANCE SIGNS REFURB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	18,215.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS				
2024 PROJECT- DRAINAGE	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
2024 PROJECT- BOAT LAUNCH	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00
2024 PROJECT- GAZEBO\PARK	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
PROJECT-PAVING LAKE ST\LOOP	0.00	79,200.00	0.00	0.00
PROJECT-PARK RECOG-\$2,410	4,000.00	2,410.00	0.00	0.00
PROJECT-ENTRANCE RDS (LSA)	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROJECT-REGRAVEL RD 91&95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROJECT-BASKETBALL CT (NET)	5,003.00	19,000.65	0.00	0.00
PROJECT-REGIONAL SEWER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROJECT-WILD H2O (\$43,541)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROJECT-WATER TANK	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROJECT- LAGOON EXP MTGS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRANS. TO RESERVES\DEF.REV	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	109,003.00	100,610.65	130,000.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	377,271.00	371,384.52	415,342.00	31,406.37

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svsouthview@outlook.com

From: webmaster@greathat.ca@mg.firesmartcanada.ca on behalf of FireSmart Canada
<webmaster@greathat.ca>
Sent: January 23, 2024 12:37 PM
To: svsouthview@outlook.com
Subject: Confirmation - Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Application – 2024

Thank you for applying for the Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Award. For details on the review process and timing, please review the Official Rules on our website.

Name

Angela Duncan

Email

svsouthview@outlook.com

Phone

(780) 967-0271

Are you a legal Canadian Citizen?

Yes

Are you the age of majority in your province/territory?

Yes

Neighbourhood name or location that will benefit from this award

Summer Village of South View

Province or territory where the project will take place

Alberta

Organization planning the event

Summer Village of South View

Organization type (check all that apply)

- Municipality

Who will participate in the event? (check all that apply)

- Home/property owners
- Community/neighbourhood residents
- Fire Department personnel or volunteers
- Elected Representatives

Project Type (check all that apply)

- Neighbourhood clean up (yards, streets, parks, etc)
- Chipping event
- FireSmart public education activity

What is the planned date of your event?

07/13/2024

How many people do you expect will participate?

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What are the goals of the event? (check all that apply)

- Reduce fuel in common neighbourhood areas
- Educate neighbours about FireSmart and making their homes and properties more resilient to forest or grass fires

How do you intend on using the award funds? (check all that apply)

- Chipper rental
- Gas/fuel for required tools
- BBQ supplies/food for an educational event or clean up
- Printing of standardized educational materials provided by FireSmart Canada

Provide a brief description of your planned event.

The Summer Village of South View intends to host a community clean-up day to clear underbrush and debris from common areas in the community. We plan to rent a woodchipper and utilize community volunteers to do the clean-up. This would be followed by an educational community BBQ/wiener roast. The local emergency management agency and fire department would be in attendance to hand out information and answer questions. Any costs not funded by the grant will be funded through other municipal means.

Has your neighbourhood received a Wildfire Community Preparedness Day award previously?

Yes

If yes, in what years?

2020, we had to return the grant due to Covid

How will you promote your 2024 Prep Day event within your neighbourhood? (check all that apply)

- Email
- Word of mouth
- Posters or signage
- Materials from FireSmart Canada toolkit

How did you hear about Wildfire Community Preparedness Day? (check all that apply)

- FireSmart Canada website
- Provincial/territorial wildfire agency

Terms and conditions



I agree to the terms and conditions

By submitting this application, you confirm that you have read and agree to the Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Award [Official Rules](#).



svsouthview@outlook.com

From: david.ives@firerescueinternational.net
Sent: February 17, 2024 12:55 PM
To: david.ives@firerescueinternational.net
Subject: Paper on Enriched Medical Co-Response
Attachments: Enriched Medical Response - Member Communities Pre-Release .pdf

Member Communities,

Please find attached the final draft version of our paper detailing exactly what enriched medical co-response means. This paper should help you understand that the level of service enjoyed by our ten-member communities surpasses anything provided within our region or even that of the five additional counties surrounding our area. Additionally, we hope this paper will assist you when explaining to your ratepayers what it means to have enriched medical co-response.

Enriched Medical Response: Evidence-Based

Support and Implications



Fire Rescue International

Operating as Onoway Regional Fire Services

February 10, 2024

Shari-Ives

Assistant Chief – Liaison & Medical Response

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Enriched Medical Response: Evidence-Based Support and Implications

Enriched Medical Response

In an age where a holistic approach to emergency preparedness and response have become an integral part of our daily lives, the role of first responders, particularly those affiliated with Fire Rescue International (FRI), has evolved beyond the traditional scope of firefighting. This paper delves into the multifaceted nature of FRI, highlighting not only its cadre of firefighters, trained and certified to the stringent standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), but also its comprehensive approach to pre-hospital medical care. With a significant portion of emergency calls being medical—ranging from minor ailments to life-threatening conditions like heart attacks, strokes, and traumatic injuries— Fire Service Providers are expected to adapt to meet these challenges head-on, and FRI has.

This exploration will unfold the concept of enriched medical response, elucidating the critical aspects of dispatch prioritization, from minor to critical situations. It will examine the nuanced decision-making process behind the dispatch to specific calls, decode the meanings behind triage assignments, and shed light on the rigorous certification processes required for members to respond to these medical emergencies effectively. Furthermore, it will detail the ongoing education governance mandated by the Alberta College of Paramedics (ACP) for



maintaining an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) level of care. By unpacking these layers, this paper aims to illustrate how FRI's scope of care profoundly benefits the community, positioning itself as more than just a fire department— but also as a model for comprehensive emergency response and care that our stakeholders can have confidence in.

Enriched medical response is a critical aspect of FRI and in turn has been enshrined in their core municipal offering through the Onoway Regional Fire Services (ORFS). Operating at the EMR level, FRI stands out in our industry by responding to an extensive range of over 1400 different call types. This comprehensive approach sets them apart from traditional fire service providers and sets FRI as a leader among neighboring fire departments. For reference, the closest peer organization in the region handles just 550 different service level call types and deploys mostly standard first aiders. Notably, FRI also responds to time-dependent calls where the EMS is 15 or more minutes away from a scene. The emphasis on inclusivity in responding to various emergencies positions FRI as a versatile and dependable force in emergency medical services.

One notable distinction in FRI's enriched medical response strategy is our commitment to addressing a broad spectrum of medical issues. Unlike many peer departments that may exclude specific call types (for various reasons, including cost, staffing, training, etc.), FRI does not shy away from any challenge and instead invests in its personnel and equipment to have both the breadth and depth to do the job, no matter the job. For instance, FRI responds to chest pain, heart problems, stroke and breathing difficulties, recognizing the significance of all medical emergencies.

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This all-encompassing approach ensures that the communities served by FRI receive optimal emergency medical care, regardless of the nature or severity of the incident. A department's ability to exercise this holistic approach requires the effective and consistent application of call prioritization protocols. The prioritization of calls based on severity further exemplifies the enriched medical response provided by FRI. Based on responses, the caller will fall into one of six internationally standardized and industry recognized priority categories: Echo (emergent and immediately life-threatening), Delta (emergent and potentially life-threatening), Charlie (urgent and potentially life-threatening), Bravo (non-urgent, potentially serious with no immediate threat to life), Alpha and Omega, both which are non-urgent (Fitz-Gerald, 2023). Categorizing calls demonstrates a greater understanding of the urgency and severity associated with each call type. By responding to all Delta and Echo calls, FRI adheres to the principle of not picking and choosing in cases of life or death. This commitment to addressing all critical situations underscores the dedication and professionalism of FRI in providing enriched medical response services to the community.

Simply put, FRI's enriched medical response goes beyond the basic first response by encompassing a truly comprehensive array of call types. Their commitment to inclusivity, regardless of call severity, sets them apart from many departments, ensuring that the community receives comprehensive and top-notch emergency medical care. FRI's commitment to responding to all Delta and Echo calls underscores their professional devotion to the well-being of the communities they serve.



Fire Rescue International (FRI) Dispatch Protocols:

Enhancing Emergency Medical Response

In Alberta, FRI, alongside many peer fire departments, serves a pivotal role in emergency medical response due to its strategic community placement and the advanced training of its personnel. FRI's dispatch protocols underscore the organization's commitment to public safety, particularly in providing immediate medical assistance during emergencies.

Strategic Response and Advanced Training

FRI's infrastructure and training are designed to ensure rapid and efficient medical emergency responses. With fire stations strategically located for optimal coverage, FRI leverages its accessibility to significantly reduce response times to medical emergencies. FRI has an average chute time (time to leave the station) of 2 minutes and an average time of 7 minutes to get to a scene. Time is of the essence in emergencies, whether the community is near or far, our crews pride themselves on a proven record of fast and safe response times. FRI has fire stations in Onoway, AB as well as Alberta Beach, AB allowing them to serve 10 regional client municipalities with remarkable efficiency, as well as offering top-notch and professional level mutual aid and emergency response support to other municipal neighbours when invited to do so. FRI is also reviewing the potential of adding two-more stations in order to further improve response performance. Personnel trained as Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) are equipped to provide initial medical care, often critical in the process of stabilizing a scene and preserving life. This includes administering CPR, oxygen therapy, controlling bleeding, and stabilizing patients, bridging the critical gap until specialized medical services arrive.



Ensuring Competency through Frequency

FRI adheres to the principle that frequent engagement in emergency responses is vital for maintaining competency. This philosophy underpins the organization's decision to respond to a wide array of emergency call types, ensuring that personnel remain adept and prepared to handle various medical emergencies efficiently as an instinctive second nature response.

Diverse Response Model

FRI's dispatch protocol adopts a diverse response model, choosing to engage in a broader spectrum of emergencies compared to other fire departments. This decision is motivated by the intent to augment provincial ambulance responses, especially in urgent situations like cardiac arrests or when ambulance availability is delayed. FRI's response categories extend beyond traditional fire department calls to include urgent emergencies such as animal attacks, serious falls, and traumatic injuries, as well as situations where there are significant time delays in ambulance response. This service is viewed as an essential stopgap to the often intermittent rural or remote community service network.

The Significance of Professional Recognition and Licensing for Emergency Medical Responders in Alberta:

In the province of Alberta, the role of Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) is critical to the emergency services framework, particularly within organizations such as FRI. The path to becoming a recognized or licensed EMR is marked by rigorous standards and processes, overseen by the Alberta College of Paramedics. The multifaceted aspects of achieving



professional recognition as an EMR in Alberta, highlight the implications for training, ethical conduct, continuing education, legal recognition, and accountability.

Education and Training Foundations

As outlined by the Alberta College of Paramedics (2024) the journey of an EMR begins with comprehensive education and training, which is pivotal to acquiring the requisite knowledge and skills. Prospective EMRs must enroll in specific educational programs accredited by a select list of approved schools. This foundational phase is critical, as it lays the groundwork for all subsequent medical and ethical decision-making capabilities. Following their education, EMRs undergo practical training and testing, ensuring their readiness to face the myriad of challenges presented in emergency medical situations.

Examinations: A Gateway to Competence

Upon completing their training, EMR candidates face standardized examinations set by the Alberta College of Paramedics. These exams are designed to assess a candidate's theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and ethical reasoning. Passing these examinations is a testament to the candidate's competence and readiness to serve as a professional EMR, marking a significant milestone in their professional journey.

FRI operates at the EMR level, showcasing its commitment to providing immediate medical assistance in emergencies. Notably, their members hold licenses from the Alberta College of Paramedics as healthcare professionals, signaling an elevated level of expertise and ensuring a high standard of care. This EMR professional accreditation signifies that FRI





personnel possess the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate diverse medical emergencies. To uphold and enhance their skills, FRI members actively engage in mandatory continuing education throughout the year. This commitment to ongoing learning ensures that responders stay abreast of the latest medical advancements, protocols, and technologies. Adherence to a rigorous code of conduct and standards further solidifies the professionalism of FRI, emphasizing ethical behaviour and the delivery of high-quality emergency medical services. FRI has third-party oversight and governance as well as a medical director who provides guidance and direction when needed.

In addition to individual licensure, FRI places a strong emphasis on accountability and risk management. Each team member is individually insured, and the fire department itself carries malpractice and general liability insurance, providing a comprehensive safety net for both responders and the community. This dual layer of insurance helps to mitigate potential risks associated with emergency response, ensuring that both responders and those in need of assistance are protected.

Accountability is a core tenet of FRI's operational framework. Beyond being answerable to the municipalities they serve, the fire department operates within the regulatory framework defined by the Alberta Health Professions Act and the Ministry of Health. This dual governance structure ensures that FRI not only meets local expectations but also aligns with provincial health regulations, emphasizing a broader commitment to public health and safety. Furthermore, FRI's approach to emergency medical response is characterized by a robust foundation of professional qualifications, individual and departmental insurance, ongoing

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education, and strict adherence to codes of conduct. FRI is an important partner of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the delivery of health care, putting patient care and comfort at the forefront.

Training and Certification

Licensed EMRs undergo extensive training over 200 hours (Emergency Services Academy) of theoretical and applied education, covering a wide range of medical topics including anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and specialized emergency care skills. This training prepares them for a broad scope of emergency responses and requires registration through the Alberta College of Paramedics. In contrast, First Aiders receive basic training over a weekend, focusing on immediate response techniques like CPR, wound care, and stabilization until professional help arrives. While First Aid level training remains a staple of traditional fire service models, FRI is dedicated to moving beyond this basic standard based on “good faith” and is committed to continuing to deliver a professional and accredited standard of service, including medical response support. To this end, FRI is taking the necessary steps to increase practitioner training to include the application of nitrous oxide (happy gas) to improve the patient experience through pain and anxiety management. FRI is also exploring the possibility of increasing level of care to the Primary Care Paramedic Level to further improve the outcomes of medical callouts.

Legislation

EMRs are regulated under the Health Professions Act (HPA), ensuring they meet standards for competent and ethical practice within Alberta's healthcare system. The HPA encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and specifies restricted activities that only qualified



practitioners can perform. First Aiders operate at a basic level of care, guided by standard first aid practices.

Responsibilities

EMRs bear a higher level of responsibility, making critical decisions, prioritizing interventions, and collaborating with healthcare professionals as part of an emergency medical team. First Aiders play a supportive role, offering immediate care and comfort until advanced medical help arrives, often in community, workplace, or public event settings.

FRI exhibits a high level of preparedness by ensuring that their units are equipped to the basic life support (BLS) ambulance standard. This signifies that their personnel possess the fundamental skills necessary to provide immediate assistance in emergencies. Members go beyond basic life support, demonstrating their capability to deliver critical life-saving interventions. These include administering oxygen therapy, utilizing airway adjuncts, and providing vital medications as needed. The ability to offer such interventions enhances the level of care provided on scene. Having the ability to do this helps to provide a seamless delivery of care to the patient.

Moreover, members are adept at performing vital tasks such as monitoring and recording vital signs. This meticulous attention to detail allows for a thorough assessment of the patient's condition, ensuring that appropriate medical interventions are administered promptly. The ability to relay accurate information and provide a proper patch-over to paramedics further streamlines the continuum of care, facilitating a smooth transition when additional medical assistance is



required. In addition to their advanced capabilities, personnel are skilled in spinal immobilization techniques. This crucial skill ensures the safety and well-being of patients with potential spinal injuries, showcasing their dedication to thorough and effective emergency medical response beyond the basic. High-level Health Care Provider continuous Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) proficiency is yet another notable skill set. Members are trained to deliver CPR with precision, contributing to the immediate stabilization of patients in cardiac arrest.

Beyond the Basic: Emergency Medical Response vs. First Aid Training

FRI's units are not only equipped to the basic life support standard but also excel in delivering advanced life-saving interventions. From administering medications to performing spinal immobilization and high-level CPR, members demonstrate a comprehensive and proficient approach to emergency medical response, ensuring the well-being of those in need within the communities they serve.

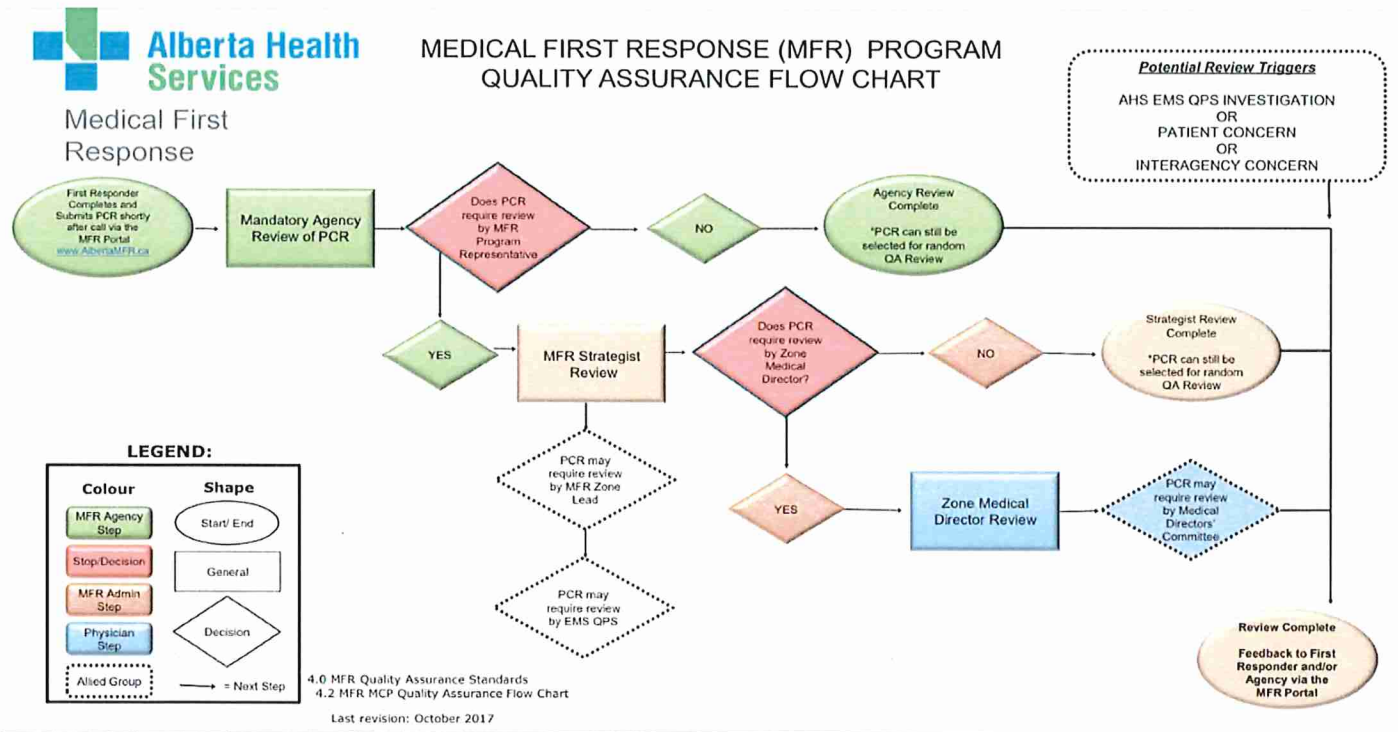
One of the key differences between a licensed EMR and a first aider in Alberta lies in the level of training and certification required. Emergency Medical Responders undergo comprehensive training programs that are typically more extensive and in-depth than those for basic first aid. EMR training covers a wide range of topics, including anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and specialized skills such as airway management, oxygen administration, and basic life support.



In contrast, first aid training is generally more basic and focuses on immediate response and stabilization until professional help arrives. First aid courses typically cover fundamental skills such as CPR, wound care, and basic injury management. First aiders may not possess the same level of medical knowledge or specialized skills as licensed EMRs.

Figure 1.

MFR Quality Assurance Flow Chart



Both licensed EMRs and First Aiders play crucial but distinctly different roles in emergency care in Alberta, highlighting the need for a diverse range of responders with varying skill sets to ensure comprehensive community well-being.

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Upholding Ethical Standards

Professional EMRs are bound by a stringent set of ethical guidelines and standards of conduct established by the College of Paramedics. These ethical standards are essential for maintaining the integrity and reputation of the profession. They guide EMRs in delivering care that is not only effective but also respectful of patients' rights and dignity. The Code of Ethics, an integral component of the Canadian Medics Profile, applies across various settings, from clinical to operational, guiding public expectations of professional practice.

The Imperative of Continuing Education

The field of emergency medical services is dynamic, with continuous advancements in medical knowledge and practices. As such, licensed EMRs are required to engage in ongoing professional development. This commitment to lifelong learning ensures that EMRs remain at the forefront of medical practice, equipped with the latest knowledge and techniques to serve their communities effectively.

Legal Recognition and Accountability

Obtaining a license from the College of Paramedics is not merely a formality; it signifies legal recognition and the right to practice as an EMR in Alberta. This legal status comes with the responsibility to adhere to professional standards and the obligation to maintain adequate personal insurance. Moreover, licensed EMRs are subject to regulatory oversight, ensuring accountability and adherence to ethical standards. Failure to comply with these standards may lead to disciplinary actions, reinforcing the importance of professionalism in every aspect of an EMR's duties.



The process of becoming a licensed EMR in Alberta is comprehensive and demanding, reflecting the critical role EMRs play in the healthcare system. Through stringent education and training, rigorous examinations, adherence to ethical standards, commitment to continuing education, and accountability under legal and professional oversight, EMRs are prepared to fulfill their duties with competence and integrity. This rigorous path ensures that when faced with emergencies, Alberta's EMRs are not only ready to respond but also equipped to provide care that is both effective and ethically sound, upholding the trust placed in them by the communities they serve.

One of the most unique and advantageous features of FRI, is their ability to directly contact their medical director for consultation and authorization to perform more advanced medical procedures. This capability enables FRI personnel on-scene to seek expert guidance and potentially expand the scope of medical interventions beyond the standard protocols. This dynamic communication channel with the medical director ensures a swift and informed response, further enhancing the level of care provided in critical situations. Additionally, all FRI members are equipped with Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) radios, allowing direct communication not only with 911 dispatch but also with the ambulance units enroute to the emergency call. This dual communication pathway facilitates real-time information exchange between fire rescue personnel and advanced medical crews. Such direct communication proves invaluable in providing patient updates, sharing vital information, and coordinating efforts seamlessly. This collaborative approach enhances the overall efficiency of the emergency response, contributing to a smoother transition of care and ultimately optimizing patient outcomes.



The ability of FRI crews to communicate directly with incoming advanced medical units provides a patient-centric approach. By offering timely updates and relevant details, FRI ensures that the transition of care is not only swift but also well-informed, providing the incoming advanced medical teams with the necessary insights for an effective continuation of treatment. This unique communication sets a high standard for comprehensive and coordinated emergency medical response.

Specialized Equipment and Collaboration

FRI's approach is enhanced by the availability of specialized medical equipment on their vehicles, including advanced life support tools like defibrillators, oxygen delivery systems, and airway management tools. Such equipment, allows FRI to offer substantial medical assistance on-site. The collaboration between FRI and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) further ensures a cohesive response to emergencies, maximizing the chances of positive outcomes.

FRI's dispatch protocols are a testament to the organization's integral role in emergency medical response within Alberta. By combining strategic station placement, advanced training, specialized equipment, and a diverse response model, FRI significantly contributes to public safety. This proactive and prepared approach to medical emergencies helps to complement the services provided by EMS and further assists the people in the community.

FRI stands as a strong example in the realm of emergency medical care, serving as a guiding model for fire departments widely. Its blend of professionalism, skill, and quick response plays a key role in advancing community welfare. FRI's team, through their thorough EMR-level



training and ongoing skill enhancement, demonstrates commitment and proficiency. Their collaboration with Alberta Health Services through the Medical First Response Program and licensure by the Alberta College of Paramedics ensures that services are both effective and adhere to a high standard of care, which benefits all community members. This dedication to professional excellence, paired with the right skills and resources, highlights the significant impact FRI has on those it assists. Moving forward, FRI's focus on innovation, education, and regulatory compliance serves as a testament to how well-organized teamwork and continuous learning can improve emergency services, making it a vital support system for the community.



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[tiered-](https://www.firefightingincanada.com/a-tiered-transition/#:~:text=Based%20on%20responses%2C%20the%20caller,life)%2C%20Alpha%20and%20Omega%2C)

[transition/#:~:text=Based%20on%20responses%2C%20the%20caller,life\)%2C%20Alpha](https://www.firefightingincanada.com/a-tiered-transition/#:~:text=Based%20on%20responses%2C%20the%20caller,life)%2C%20Alpha%20and%20Omega%2C)

[%20and%20Omega%2C](https://www.firefightingincanada.com/a-tiered-transition/#:~:text=Based%20on%20responses%2C%20the%20caller,life)%2C%20Alpha%20and%20Omega%2C)

Emergency Services Academy

<https://www.esacanada.com/emr-emergency-medical-responder>



FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL (DIVISION 7801)

MEDIA RELEASE:

Val Quentin, AB – March 10, 2024
RE: Small Structure Fire Lakeview Drive

At 0102 this morning Fire Rescue International – a non profit “P3” corporation (FRI) was paged to a structure fire in within the Summer Village of Val Quentin. Initial reports stated one or more outbuildings were engulfed in flames while others were threatened as well as several spruce trees.

One minute later FRI’s first unit was rolling towards the scene with three others departing immediately behind it. Within six-minutes of the page out fire units were arriving on scene. Crews found a fully involved outbuilding and spruce on fire with a vehicle and additional outbuilding threatened. Due to the quick action of the firefighters, water was applied to the fire within four-minutes of arrival and total knock-down achieved shortly thereafter.



www.firerescueinternational.net **855-710-3473** info@firerescueinternational.net
4935-50th Ave P.O. Box 278 Alberta Beach, Alberta T0E-0A0

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FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL (DIVISION 7801)



Luckily with snow-cover, the fire did not spread to further vegetation or the homes within the community. Out of an abundance of caution, four apparatus and nine members responded to the scene as well as RCMP and Alberta Health Services EMS. No members of the public or firefighters were injured during this event. Citizens are reminded to ensure proper space around heating appliances or lights and only use approved equipment.

For more information about this incident or Fire Rescue International, please contact Fire Chief Ives at 780-777-4688

www.firerescueinternational.net **855-710-3473** info@firerescueinternational.net
4935-50th Ave P.O. Box 278 Alberta Beach, Alberta T0E-0A0

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News Release
For Immediate Release

Friday, March 8, 2024

Town Council Approves Change in Approach to Fire Services

Onoway, AB – On Thursday, February 22, 2024, Onoway Town Council voted in favour of changing the Town's approach to Fire Services.

Until this point, the Town of Onoway has offered Fire Services through a private contractor, rather than through the more typical structure of a public Emergency Services Department. With this change, Council has approved a one-year transition period, maintaining the current service delivery model while working on a new agreement for public service delivery.

The Town will also transition out of providing services to nine municipalities that currently have an agreement with the Town for Fire Service provision.

"We're excited to move forward in this process of modernizing the delivery of Fire Services for our community," said Onoway Mayor Len Kwasny. "This change will help ensure a high level of service throughout the entire region, while eliminating potential jurisdictional confusion amongst departments."

This model of service is quite typical across the province, and is considered best practice amongst municipalities and regions comparable to the Town of Onoway across Alberta.

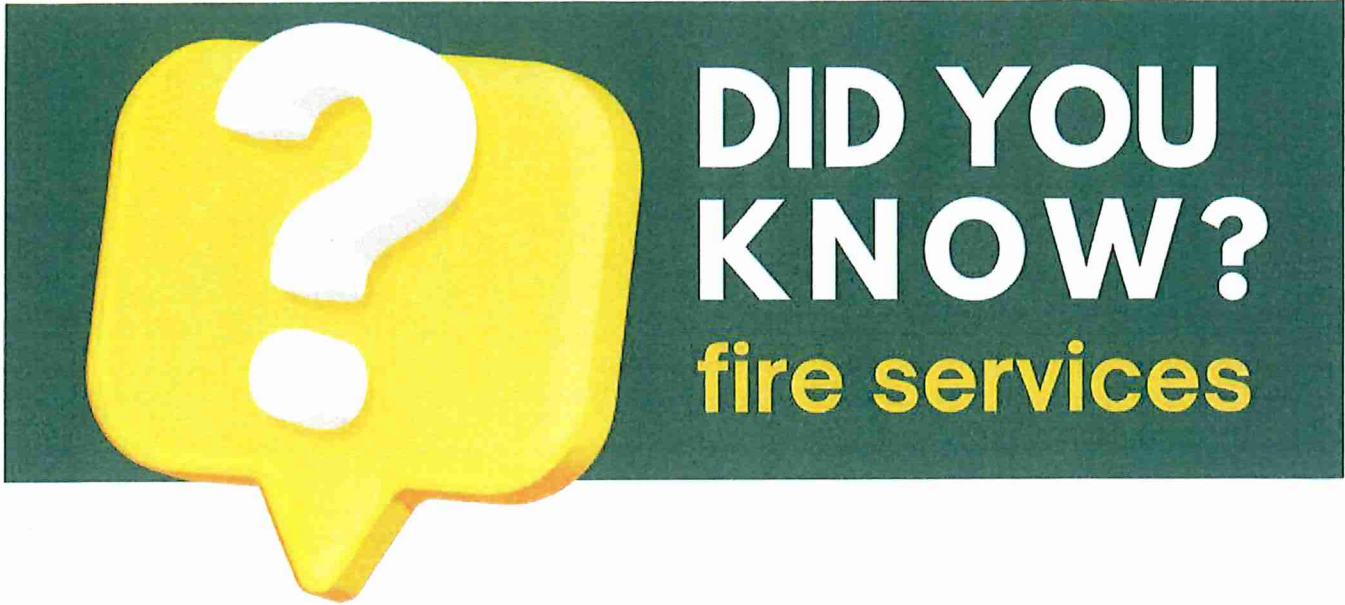
"We appreciate the efforts of the current contractors serving Onoway and our regional partners, who work diligently to keep our community safe," Mayor Kwasny said. "This change is not a reflection of that dedication, but rather to align our efforts with best practice and sustainability of service."

Media contact:

Jennifer Thompson, Chief Administrative Officer

cao@onoway.ca

780-967-5338



Town Council has approved a change in our approach in Fire Services, and we want to bring you into the conversation!

Until now, the Town of Onoway has offered Fire Services through a private contractor, rather than through the more typical structure of a public Emergency Services Department. This has resulted in a number of challenges for the municipality, compounded by the fact that the Town of Onoway provides Fire Services to nine other municipalities, each of which depends on us when an emergency hits.

This change was also made to ensure that residents continue to receive a high level of service, and to eliminate potential jurisdictional confusion amongst departments. The Town will also transition out of providing services to nine municipalities that currently have an agreement with the Town for Fire Services provision.

What Now?

Council has approved a one-year transition period to move from a private contractor to a public-sector department. During this time, we will continue to be served by the awesome firefighters who have been so dedicated to keeping our community safe to date.

We're in the process of negotiating terms of service with Lac Ste. Anne County for regional Fire Service delivery.

We commit to keeping you in the loop as this process continues. In the meantime, we are excited to be able to find efficiencies for our residents, and we are so thankful for all our emergency personnel.

Thank you!

www.onoway.ca



4812 51 St, Onoway, AB, T0E 1V0

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FEB 08 2024

Town of Mayerthorpe

Report Title : SOUTHVIEW TOTAL CONTRACT HRS
Report Range **Start:** 2024/01/01 0000 **End:** 2024/01/31 2359

Man Hour Report by User

TOWN OF MAYERTHORPE

KASAMBA, GERVAIS

Event start: 2024/01/05 1430 **Event end:** 2024/01/05 1600 **Time:** (90) Minutes

Address: SUMMER VILLAGE

Activity Type: GENERAL PATROL

Total Time on Call for this Event : 1 Hours 30 Minutes

Event start: 2024/01/12 1130 **Event end:** 2024/01/12 1300 **Time:** (90) Minutes

Address: SUMMER VILLAGE

Activity Type: GENERAL PATROL

Total Time on Call for this Event : 1 Hours 30 Minutes

Event start: 2024/01/19 1030 **Event end:** 2024/01/19 1200 **Time:** (90) Minutes

Address: SUMMER VILLAGE

Activity Type: GENERAL PATROL

Total Time on Call for this Event : 1 Hours 30 Minutes

Event start: 2024/01/26 1400 **Event end:** 2024/01/26 1530 **Time:** (90) Minutes

Address: SUMMER VILLAGE

Activity Type: GENERAL PATROL

Total Time on Call for this Event : 1 Hours 30 Minutes

KASAMBA, GERVAIS : Total Time On Calls 6 Hours 0 Minutes

Total Group Time: 6 Hours 0 Minutes

All Officers: Total Time On Calls 6 Hours 0 Minutes

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Town of Mayerthorpe

Report Title : SOUTHVIEW TOTAL CONTRACT HRS

Report Range

Start: 2024/02/01 0000

End: 2024/02/29 2359

Man Hour Report by User

TOWN OF MAYERTHORPE

KASAMBA, GERVAIS

Event start: 2024/02/02 1400 Event end: 2024/02/02 1530 Time: (90) Minutes

Address: SUMMER VILLAGE

Activity Type: GENERAL PATROL

Total Time on Call for this Event : 1 Hours 30 Minutes

Event start: 2024/02/09 1300 Event end: 2024/02/09 1430 Time: (90) Minutes

Address: SUMMER VILLAGE

Activity Type: GENERAL PATROL

Total Time on Call for this Event : 1 Hours 30 Minutes

Event start: 2024/02/15 1130 Event end: 2024/02/15 1300 Time: (90) Minutes

Address: SUMMER VILLAGE

Activity Type: GENERAL PATROL

Total Time on Call for this Event : 1 Hours 30 Minutes

Event start: 2024/02/22 1000 Event end: 2024/02/22 1130 Time: (90) Minutes

Address: SUMMER VILLAGE

Activity Type: GENERAL PATROL

Total Time on Call for this Event : 1 Hours 30 Minutes

KASAMBA, GERVAIS : Total Time On Calls 6 Hours 0 Minutes

Total Group Time: 6 Hours 0 Minutes

All Officers: Total Time On Calls 6 Hours 0 Minutes

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ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister
M.A., Calgary-Flays

AR113944

February 29, 2024

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

I am writing to share information with you about *Budget 2024*, which my colleague, the Honourable Nate Horner, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, has tabled in the Alberta Legislature. You will find below some details about *Budget 2024* that are most closely related to Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Budget 2024 is a responsible plan for a growing province that invests more than \$1 billion to build stronger communities across Alberta. Through these important investments, my ministry will continue to support local governments in providing fiscally responsible, collaborative, and accountable services to Albertans.

I am particularly excited about the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), which will deliver predictable capital infrastructure funding to municipalities and Metis Settlements across Alberta for many years to come. As we are all aware, the LGFF represents years of collaboration between the province and local governments, and the LGFF replaces the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) with a more sustainable model. We set the initial capital funding baseline for the LGFF at \$722 million to remain consistent with the average amount municipalities have received annually over the last three years of the MSI Capital program.

We now have a true partnership in place through the Revenue Index Factor, which will see municipal funding rise and fall at a one-to-one ratio that is based on changes in provincial revenue from three years prior. Our new framework will deliver the predictability and partnership that municipalities have long been asking for, and I would like to thank you once again for your input to the development of the LGFF to ensure it effectively supports communities and residents provincewide. The MSI Operating program will continue as LGFF Operating funding and will provide \$60 million in 2024/25 to local governments to assist with your operational costs and help to respond to inflationary pressures. More information about the LGFF and the 2024 allocations can be found online.

Additionally, *Budget 2024* includes \$60 million over three years for the Local Growth and Sustainability Grant, a new grant to help relieve some of the pressures facing fast-growing communities. This new grant will help address acute infrastructure priorities and economic development opportunities. More details about the program will be shared with you later this year.

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As with previous years, our budget includes capital support through the federal Canada Community-Building Fund and Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. We are also pleased to maintain the strong support we have for public libraries with more than \$33 million going towards operating grants for libraries across the province.

Budget 2024 puts Albertans and Alberta families first by investing in strong health care, a modern education system, and supports to keep life affordable. This budget also invests in safe and supportive communities in Alberta by managing our resources wisely.

I look forward to continuing our work together over this next year as we continue to build strong and vibrant communities that contribute to a stronger province and a brighter future for Albertans and their families.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays

AR113898

To All Chief Elected Officials:

I am inviting your municipality to participate in the review of the *Municipal Government Act* requirements related to Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (ICFs). ICFs encourage integrated and strategic planning, delivery, and funding of inter-municipal services.

Municipal Affairs welcomes your insight and feedback to ensure any future legislative changes consider the needs of municipalities. The scope of this engagement covers the following topics:

- required content of ICFs;
- ICF agreement duration;
- cost calculations;
- mediation and arbitration; and
- enforcement.

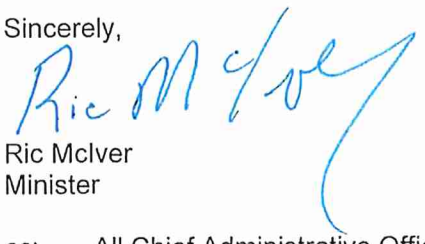
I encourage you to complete the survey and share your perspectives on these important matters. The survey is available at extranet.gov.ab.ca/opinio6//s?s=ICFReview and should take 15 to 20 minutes to complete. The survey is available until **April 12, 2024**.

Ministry staff will also be seeking input from chief administrative officers through discussion sessions to supplement the survey and focus on practical implementation considerations. The collective outcomes of the engagement will inform future legislative changes targeted for 2025.

If you have any questions about this review or the collection and use of this information, please email ma.engagement@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister

cc: All Chief Administrative Officers



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR113651

Dear Chief Elected Official or Library Board Chair:

I am pleased to invite your municipality or library board to provide submissions for the 2024 Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence. This program recognizes excellence in municipal government initiatives and provision of library services, and promotes knowledge-sharing to build capacity. These awards offer an opportunity to recognize the truly great work happening in communities across Alberta.

Submissions will be accepted in the following categories:

- **Building Economic Strength (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative that builds the economic capacity and/or resiliency of the community, and/or improves the attractiveness of the community to businesses, investors, and visitors.
- **Enhancing Community Safety (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative that engages the community to address a safety issue. This could involve crime prevention, infrastructure enhancements (for example: lighting, accessibility, traffic calming measures), and community services initiatives.
- **Partnership (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative involving a local or regional partnership that achieves results that could not have otherwise been accomplished by the municipality alone. This could involve cooperation, coordination and collaboration with other municipalities, businesses, Indigenous communities, non-profit organizations, community groups, and other orders of government to achieve a specific outcome.
- **Public Library Services (open to Library Boards serving a population over 10,000)** – Two awards will be given for library service initiatives that demonstrate excellence and/or innovation. The initiatives should demonstrate responsiveness to community needs and provide direct benefit to the public.

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- **Public Library Services (open to Library Boards serving a population under 10,000)** – Two awards will be given for library service initiatives that demonstrate excellence and/or innovation. The initiatives should demonstrate responsiveness to community need(s) and provide direct benefit to the public.
- **Red Tape Reduction (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative that improves a municipal program or service by saving time, money, and resources, or impacts municipal operations by reducing regulatory, policy, or process requirements.
- **Service Delivery Enhancement (open to all municipalities)** – An award will be given for an innovative initiative that improves, or presents a new approach to, how a municipality can deliver a program or service.
- **Smaller Municipalities (open to municipalities with populations less than 5,000)** – An award will be given for a municipal initiative that demonstrates leadership, resourcefulness or innovation, or both, to better the community.

Details regarding eligibility and submission requirements are available on the Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence webpage at www.alberta.ca/ministers-awards-for-municipal-excellence.aspx. The deadline for submission is **April 15, 2024**.

Questions about the program from municipalities can be sent to municipalexcellence@gov.ab.ca or program advisors may be reached at 780-427-2225 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Questions about the program from library boards can be sent to libraries@gov.ab.ca or program advisors can be reached at 780-427-4871 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

I encourage you to share your stories, and I look forward to celebrating these successes with your communities.

Sincerely,



Ric McIver
Minister

11-5

svsouthview@outlook.com

From: Tyler Gandam <president@abmunis.ca>
Sent: February 22, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Wendy Wildman
Subject: Join the Call to Keep Political Parties Out of Local Elections
Attachments: Government of Alberta Survey Results.png; 2023-02-22 Key Messages on Political Parties for MLAs citizens etc.docx; Political Parties - Media Event - Social Post Examples.docx

Dear Mayors, Councillors, and CAOs,

A public survey, an ABmunis resolution, and results of the province’s own consultation processes indicate that Albertans do not want to see the encroachment of political parties at the local level. Despite this, the Government of Alberta has not committed to abandoning plans to enable parties to be included on local election ballots.

Today, ABmunis hosted a media availability calling for a commitment from the Government of Alberta to listen to Albertans. We need your help to amplify our call so that all political parties know Albertans’ local leaders want local elections to be independent.

Attached for you to adapt and use are:

- Messages you can select from and adapt for local media; for email, letters or conversations with your local MLA; or for conversations with interested Albertans. (There are more messages than you would likely use in one communication so you can select and adapt the ones that will resonate best with your audience)
- Social media post examples and images.

We also encourage you to follow and share ABmunis’ social media posts on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

Don’t hesitate to reach out if you have questions or ideas related to ABmunis’ campaign to keep local elections independent.

Thank you,
Tyler Gandam | President

E: president@abmunis.ca
300-8616 51 Ave Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6
Toll Free: 310-MUNI | 877-421-6644 | www.abmunis.ca



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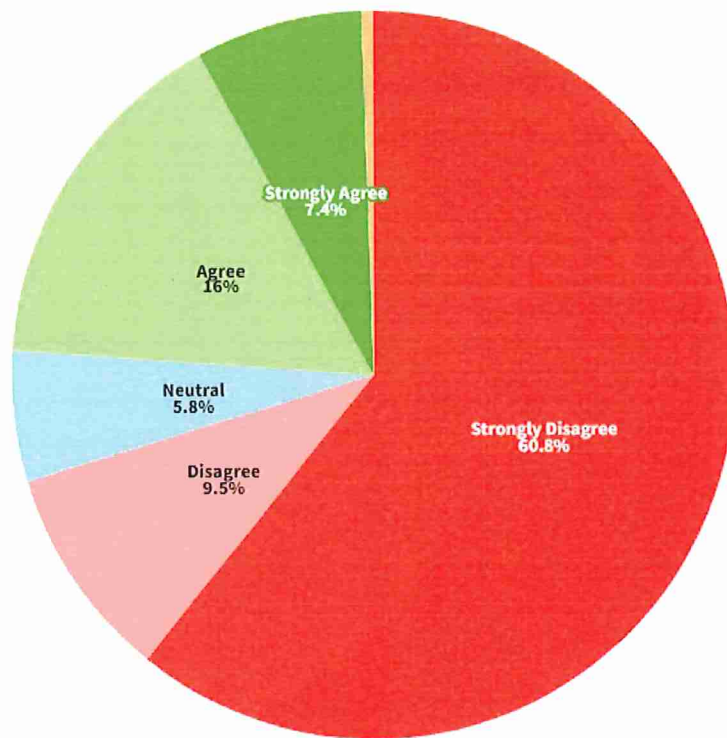
We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the traditional and ancestral territories of many Indigenous, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We acknowledge that what we call Alberta is the traditional and ancestral territory of many peoples, presently subject to Treaties 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and Six Regions of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

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Survey Shows Little Appetite for Adding Parties to Municipal Election Ballots

Responses to Alberta government's online survey

"The electoral ballot should be amended to allow political parties to be listed by municipal candidates"



Source: Government of Alberta survey - 7,680 responses from Nov. 7, 2023 to Dec. 6, 2023 • [Graphic: Matthew Black/Postmedia](#)



Messages on keeping local elections independent.

The following messages are provided for you to adapt and use in letters, emails or conversations with your MLA or communication with other interested Albertans. The messages are grouped into themes, and you are encouraged to select a couple that are most relevant to your audience.

- We all represent Albertans.
- Given the size of Alberta and Canada, political parties are necessary at the provincial and federal levels.
- However, at the local level, Albertans don't see political parties as adding value.

Survey Results

- Since 2020, Albertans have indicated through three surveys, two of which were conducted by the provincial government, that they do not want to see political parties introduced in local elections.
- Through a 2020 provincial government survey on the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA), Albertans commented that they do not want to see increased partisanship or increased influence of campaign donations at the local level.
- The results of a public survey, conducted by Janet Brown Opinion Research on behalf of ABmunis in early September 2023, indicate that most Albertans do not support the introduction of political parties at the local level. Specifically:
 - Sixty-eight per cent (68%) of respondents indicated that they would prefer to see municipal candidates run as individuals. Only 24 per cent of respondents would prefer to see municipal candidates run as members of a political party.
 - More than 80 per cent (81%) agree that municipal officials who are part of a political party would vote along party lines and not necessarily in the best interest of the community.
 - Sixty-nine per cent (69%) of respondents think that political parties would make municipal governments more divisive and less effective.
- Results from the Government of Alberta's November 2023 survey on proposed changes to the LAEA show that 70 per cent of Albertans are opposed to the introduction of political parties at the local level.

Good Governance

- While political parties are an important part of the parliamentary system at the provincial and federal level, they are not a good fit with local government legislation and processes in Alberta.
- Political parties could contravene the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) where it requires a councillor to consider the interests of the municipality as a whole and not the interests of the success of the party in decision making.

- Political parties would create an environment where all issues are discussed in private by party members resulting in a whipped vote versus the current system which encourages debate and openness to changing your mind based on public hearings and council discussion.
- In the United Kingdom, local elections are seen as referendums for higher levels of government, and we don't want to create that environment here.
- Parties could also lead to money being raised in one part of the province being used to influence the election in another region. This would again take the focus away from keeping local elections local.
- The Government of Alberta has spent years encouraging municipal governments to collaborate at a regional level to save money for Albertans. Introducing political parties at the local level could make regional collaboration an even more difficult task.
- Some councils have struggled with good governance, but political parties could make problems like split councils worse, not better.

Voter Turnout

- Vancouver and Montreal have political parties but have similar or sometimes lower voter turnout than comparable Canadian cities where political parties are not featured in local elections.

Trust and Integrity

- We recognize there is currently nothing preventing candidates from running on slates or for political parties, other than an historic lack of success.
- However, changes to legislation could be made that might make it easier for political parties or slates of candidates to raise funds. We know from previous reviews of the election rules that Albertans want to see less money involved in local elections, not more.
- The [mandate letter](#) from Premier Danielle Smith to Minister of Municipal Affairs Ric McIver instructed him to collaborate with Minister of Justice Mickey Amery to review the *Local Authorities Election Act* (LAEA) and make recommendations for any necessary amendments to “strengthen public trust in and the integrity of our municipal election laws”.
- We believe the best way to strengthen trust and integrity is to listen to Albertans when they say they do not want political parties at the local level.

Social Media Post Examples

Example 1

The province's survey shows that over 70% of Albertans don't want political parties in municipal elections. To date, no one from the provincial government has explained what real or perceived problems the introduction of political parties to municipal elections would fix.

That is why I encourage you to write to our MLA <<NAME>> and tell <<her or him>> to listen to the majority of voters.

#ABmunis #ABpoli #ABleg

Example 2

70% of Albertans have said they do not want the divisiveness of political parties disrupting their communities. Municipal elected officials need to continue to work on local challenges and not focus on the interests of their parties.

I encourage you to write to our MLA <<NAME>> and tell <<her or him>> to listen to the majority of voters.

#ABmunis #ABpoli #ABleg

Example 3

Albertans don't want political parties in their municipal elections. Elected officials should stay focused on their community's challenges and not on political agendas.

That is why I encourage you to share this information with your network and write to our MLA <<NAME>> and tell <<her or him>> to listen to Albertans.

#ABmunis #ABpoli #ABleg

Example 4

Albertans don't want political parties in their municipal elections. Elected officials should stay focused on their community's challenges and not on political agendas.

Learn more about this topic in this Edmonton Journal article: [Opinion: Albertans don't want party politics in local elections | Edmonton Journal](#)

#ABmunis #ABpoli #ABleg

11.k

svsouthview@outlook.com

From: Tyler Gandam <president@abmunis.ca>
Sent: March 1, 2024 4:52 PM
To: Wendy Wildman
Subject: ABmunis' Preliminary Report on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Dear Mayors, Councillors, and CAOs:

Yesterday, the Government of Alberta released its budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Our ABmunis team dived into the numbers to learn how municipalities will be supported and we are now pleased to share our [Preliminary Report on Alberta's 2024 Budget](#).

If you missed this afternoon's webinar where we went over the numbers, the link to the video recording will be shared in our March 6 issue of The Weekly newsletter. If you aren't subscribed to the newsletter, go to abmunis.ca/news and click "subscribe to a newsletter" at the bottom of the page.

Thank you,
Tyler Gandam | President

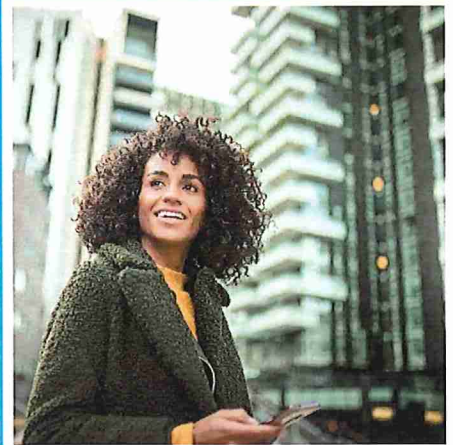
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We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the traditional and ancestral territories of many Indigenous, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. We acknowledge that what we call Alberta is the traditional and ancestral territory of many peoples, presently subject to Treaties 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and Six Regions of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Preliminary Analysis of Alberta's 2024 Budget



 **Alberta
Municipalities**
Strength
In Members

March 1, 2024

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Introduction

Alberta Municipalities is pleased to provide our members with this preliminary analysis of the 2024-25 Alberta Budget. The budget is focused on the impacts that a growing population will have on Alberta. As the order of government closest to the people, municipalities must be prepared to offer adequate services for their new residents, while also addressing significant infrastructure deficits. Our analysis examines how the provincial government is meeting the needs of communities, and areas that could be improved. It is our hope that this will lead to ongoing conversations between municipal councils and the Alberta Government on the various challenges facing communities.

What you will find in this document

This document includes ABmunis' preliminary analysis of Alberta's 2024-25 budget as it relates to:

- municipal priorities,
- details of provincial funding for municipal governments,
- potential impacts on provincial education property taxes and municipal property taxes,
- decisions that may impact the financial future of Alberta's municipal governments,
- a summary of the province's fiscal outlook, and
- highlights of individual ministry business plans that most impact Albertans at the local level.

Priorities for Alberta's Municipal Governments

Infrastructure Funding

The 2024 fiscal year marks the launch of the new Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Capital funding program, which replaces the long-standing Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) as the primary funding program for municipal infrastructure. While the starting funding amount of LGFF Capital is higher than last year's MSI Capital funding, the Government of Alberta has ignored [ABmunis call for LGFF Capital to start at \\$1.75 billion](#). Instead, it will start at \$722 million, which continues the trend where provincial investments in community infrastructure is well below historical levels.

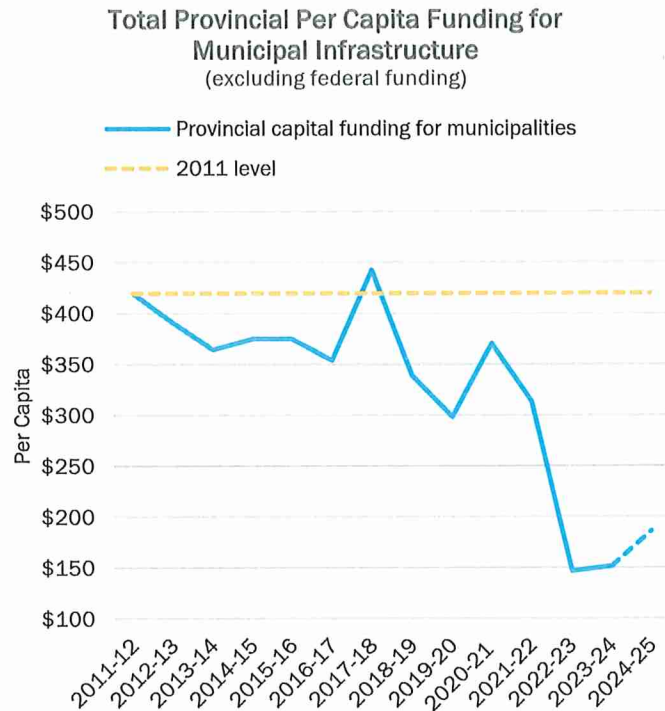
Provincial funding for community infrastructure has not kept pace with Alberta's population growth, nor changes in inflation. In 2011, the Government of Alberta was investing \$420 per Albertan into municipal infrastructure programs but that has trended downwards over the years and will only be \$186 per capita in 2024.¹

The Government of Alberta consistently promotes how MSI Capital averaged \$722 million per year over the last three years and that LGFF Capital continues at the same amount this year. The problem is inflation cuts into every municipal government's purchasing power for construction costs. If LGFF Capital had been adjusted to account for Alberta's inflation over the last three years, then the starting amount of LGFF Capital should have been almost \$100 million more at \$819 million.²

The reality is that Alberta's community infrastructure will continue to deteriorate, and new infrastructure will be needed. With the province's choice to underfund LGFF Capital, the province is passing the tax burden onto property owners through significant property tax increases. The other option is that Albertans will be forced to accept a lower standard for their community roads, sidewalks, pathways, parks, recreation facilities, water systems, fire equipment, and other local services.

New Local Growth and Sustainability Grant

Alberta Municipal Affairs is launching a new Local Growth and Sustainability Grant intended to support local infrastructure in high growth communities. According to Budget 2024-25, \$20 million per year will be provided over the next three years. Municipal Affairs indicates it worked hard to make the case for this additional grant to be included in the budget and will be releasing further details later this fall on how the funding will be allocated. It appears the grant may partially align with the intent of ABmunis' [2023 resolution that calls for a dedicated funding program to support the capital investment pressures of growth](#), though the amount is dwarfed by the need.



¹ Figures are based on ABmunis' calculations using the total of capital funding programs delivered by the Government of Alberta that are available to most municipalities, excluding funding from the Government of Canada that flows through the Government of Alberta. Figures are sourced from the Government of Alberta's annual fiscal plans and consist of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative Capital, Basic Municipal Transportation Grant, Water for Life, Municipal Water and Wastewater Partnership, Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program, Local Growth and Sustainability Grant, First Nations Water Tie-In Program, GreenTRIP, Alberta Community Resiliency Program, and the Municipal Stimulus Program. Population is based on Statistics Canada Table 17-10-0005-01 and 2024-25 population is estimated at 4.3% growth over 2023 based on Statistic Canada's quarterly estimated changes from Q4 2022 to Q4 2023.

² ABmunis calculations based on changes in Alberta's consumer price index from 2021 to 2023. Statistics Canada Table 18-10-0005-01.

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Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Provincial Property Taxes Increase

The Government of Alberta has opted to maintain the same education property tax rates as in 2023-24. Due to strong growth in property values and increased development over the past year, the result is the Government of Alberta will collect an additional \$229 million, a 9.2 per cent increase, in provincial education property taxes in 2024-25. The province indicates that this revenue will help mitigate the cost pressures of rising enrolment in schools, but the tax increase will far surpass the 4.7 per cent year-over-year change in Alberta Education's budgeted expenditures.

The substantial increase in provincial education property taxes will place political pressure on municipal councils to lower any planned increases in municipal property taxes. ABmunis awaits the outcome of Alberta Municipal Affairs' work to determine the feasibility of amendments to the education property tax system to allow municipalities to retain more funding for local priorities.

Grants in Place of Taxes

Budget 2024-25 includes an increase of \$2.1 million to the Grants in Place of Property Taxes (GIPOT) funding to reflect rising assessment values and construction of new government infrastructure. Despite increases in Budget 2023 and Budget 2024, GIPOT's 2024 budget of \$38.1 million is still well below past funding levels of \$60 million before the province cut the program budget in 2019-20. The gap in GIPOT funding points to the need for the province to recognize the essential role that day-to-day municipal services play in supporting provincial buildings.

Community Recreation Centre Infrastructure Program

A new \$10 million per year program will fund small and mid-size recreation infrastructure projects. When more details are known about the program and whether municipalities are eligible, we will share that information with members.

Natural Disaster Preparation

ABmunis appreciates that Budget 2024-25 provides municipalities with additional support to prepare for natural disasters. The measures include investment in wildfire preparedness, water management, and water infrastructure. The province has increased their contingency fund from \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion to address unanticipated costs related to disasters and emergencies.

2024 Drought Preparations

The Government of Alberta began engaging with major water users, including municipalities, in the fall of 2023 to communicate the possibility of a severe drought in 2024. Minister of Environment and Protected Areas Rebecca Schulz has requested that Alberta Municipalities and our members proactively prepare for water shortages.

The Renewed Flood and Drought Mitigation Grant Program has \$125 million over five years to support municipalities prepare for extreme weather. The Strategy to Increase Water Availability is funded by \$19 million over three years. This strategy aims to improve water storage infrastructure, the water license application process, data collection and support water conservation, efficiency and productivity initiatives. These align with ABmunis' goals.

The province's Water Advisory Committee is a new independent committee providing high level feedback to the government. One of the six members is Tanya Thorn, Mayor of Okotoks and ABmunis Board member.

Wildfires

\$151 million over three years has been allocated to improve our wildfire readiness and \$55 million in capital investment for new firefighting equipment and facilities.

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Affordable Housing

ABmunis appreciates that the province is investing nearly \$1 billion in seniors' facilities and housing, as there is an urgent need to develop and upgrade all housing stock, particularly if Alberta continues to welcome high numbers of migrants. While the capital plan includes \$254 million in new funding to build approximately 3,300 new affordable housing units and complete 1,800 units already under development, it is important to note that according to Statistics Canada, nearly 162,000 households in Alberta were in core housing need in 2021. The province currently assists 58,600 households with their housing costs, but this represents only 36 per cent of households in core housing need. While Budget 2024 proposes expanding assistance to an additional 5,650 households over the next three years, this would still leave over 60 per cent of households in core housing need without any support.

Mental Health and Addiction

Budget 2024-25 includes welcome increases for mental health and addiction facilities and programs, with details to come as to exactly how the funding will be rolled out. The budget does reinforce the focus on recovery.

The Ministry's business plan identifies harm reduction services as an area of focus under *Outcome 3: Albertans have access to high-quality, person-centred mental health and addiction programs and services*. However, the budget documents do not specify how much will be spent on harm reduction initiatives this year or in future years. With a record number of opioid poisoning occurring in Alberta in 2023, ABmunis is concerned that a focus on only recovery will result to an even higher number of overdose deaths in 2024.

Emergency Medical Services

As emergency medical services (EMS) remain a key priority for municipalities, ABmunis was pleased to see that Budget 2024-25 will allocate a total of \$730 million to increase EMS system capacity and implement recommendations from the Alberta EMS Provincial Advisory Committee and Alberta EMS Dispatch Review. We also note \$35 million in capital funding over the next three years to purchase new emergency medical services vehicles and ambulances, upgrade the existing fleet, and acquire additional equipment. Last year, the Minister of Health established a new Alberta EMS standing committee that will provide feedback directly to the Minister on EMS performance, opportunities, and challenges. ABmunis is pleased to have representation on this Board and will continue to monitor provincial investments and initiatives to improve response times.

Libraries

The 2024 budget for public library operating funding has increased by 0.5 per cent to \$39.9 million.

Family and Community Support Services

Budget 2024-25 allocates \$105 million through Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) to communities and Metis Settlements to develop and deliver preventative social services programming. The funding is unchanged from last year.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Tax

The Alberta Government announced it will be adding an annual \$200 tax for all EVs registered in Alberta. The intent of this tax is to offset wear and tear to roads caused by electric vehicles as EV drivers are not paying into the taxes collected from fuel sales. As significant owners and operators of roads throughout the province, this revenue should be shared with municipalities to offset their road maintenance costs.

PLANNING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY'S FINANCIAL FUTURE

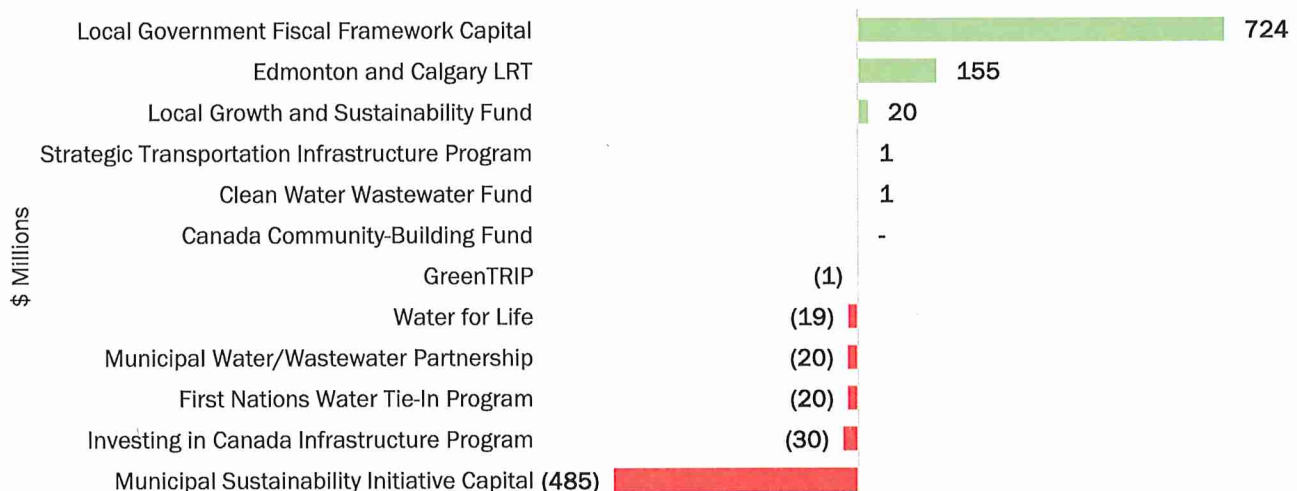
**HOW BUDGET 2024
SUPPORTS
MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENTS**

How Budget 2024-25 Supports Municipalities

Core Capital Funding for Municipal Governments

\$ millions	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast	2024 vs. 2023
Provincial Capital Funding					
Municipal Sustainability Initiative – Capital	485	-	-	-	(485)
Local Government Fiscal Framework - Capital	-	724	820	808	724
Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership	86	66	85	56	(20)
Water for Life	69	50	81	106	(19)
Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program	43	44	33	35	1
Local Growth and Sustainability Grant	-	20	20	20	20
Green Transit Incentives Program (GreenTRIP)	1	-	-	-	(1)
First Nations Water Tie-In Program	28	8	15	14	(20)
	712	912	1,054	1,039	200
Year-over-year change (%)		28.1%	15.6%	-1.4%	
Federal Capital Funding Delivered by the Government of Alberta					
Canada Community-Building Fund	266	266	266	266	-
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	103	73	25	8	(30)
Clean Water Wastewater Fund	-	1	-	-	1
Edmonton and Calgary LRT (incl. provincial funds)	694	849	878	1,221	155
	1,064	1,189	1,169	1,495	125
Year-over-year change (%)		11.7%	9.9%	2.0%	
Total Provincial & Federal Capital Funding	1,776	2,101	2,223	2,534	325
		18.3%	5.8%	14.0%	

Year-over-year change in municipal capital funding: Budget 2024 vs. Budget 2023³



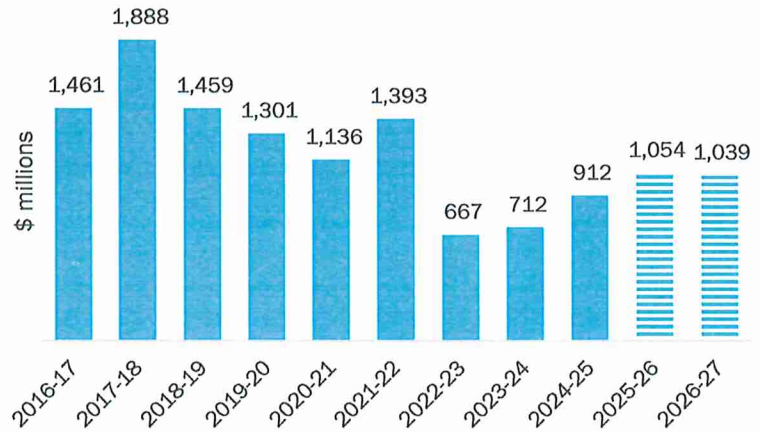
³ The Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital program replaces the Municipal Sustainability Initiative Capital program.

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Prelliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

While it appears that provincial capital funding has significantly increased in 2024-25, the funding level has been relatively flat as part of a four-year plan leading into the implementation of LGFF Capital. In 2021-22, the Government of Alberta opted to front-load a large proportion of the remaining three years of MSI Capital at an average of \$722 million per year. This resulted in abnormally low funding in 2022-23 and 2023-24 leading into this year where the province has maintained that level of funding with LGFF Capital set at the same annual average of \$722 million. The total of \$912 million includes the \$722 million in LGFF Capital plus funding from five other programs.

Total Provincial Infrastructure Funding for Municipalities
(budgeted amounts excluding federal funding and single community funding programs)



The provincial portion of capital funding (excluding federal funding) for municipalities is \$52 million higher than was forecasted in Budget 2023. This is primarily due to the introduction of a new \$20 million Local Growth and Sustainability Grant and the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program will be \$19 million higher than the Budget 2023 forecast for 2024-25.

Despite this increase, the province's level of investment is still well below the expectations of Alberta's municipal governments and well below historical funding levels as highlighted in this graph⁴. The lower level of funding is shifting the tax burden for community infrastructure onto property owners through their property taxes. The following provides details about budget changes in each provincial funding program.

Provincial Capital Funding

- Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP)**
 - AMWWP was forecasted to be \$63 million this year but the 2024 budget came in at \$66 million. A portion of the 2024 budget may be a rollover of unspent funding from 2023 as the province planned to spend \$86 million in 2023 but only \$42 million is estimated to be spent in the year.
- Water for Life**
 - Water for Life was forecasted to be \$50 million this year and that promise was met. A portion of the 2024 budget may be a rollover of unspent funding from 2023 as the province planned to spend \$50 million in 2023 but only \$14 million is estimated to be used.
- Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP)**
 - STIP funding was forecasted to be \$25 million but the 2024 budget is increased to \$44 million. A portion of the 2024 budget may be a rollover of unspent funding from 2023 as the province planned to spend \$43 million in 2023 but only \$32 million is estimated to be spent in the year.
- Local Growth and Sustainability Grant**
 - A new and unexpected program that will fund infrastructure projects that support economic development and unique and emergent needs. Funding will be granted based on a competitive application process. Eligibility and project types will be announced later this year.

⁴ Figures are based on the Government of Alberta's annual fiscal plan budget amounts for provincial capital funding programs for municipalities excluding programs delivered by the Government of Canada that flow through the Government of Alberta and excluding programs that are specific to only one or two municipalities. The graphed figures represent the budgeted figures for the Municipal Sustainability Initiative, Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital, Local Growth and Sustainability Grant, Water for Life, Municipal Water and Wastewater Partnership, Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program, Alberta Community Resilience Program, GreenTRIP, and the First Nations Water Tie-In Program.

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Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

GreenTRIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GreenTRIP program closed to applications in 2016. The last remaining funding of that program was expended in 2023-24.
First Nations Water Tie-In Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2023, the province budgeted to spend \$28 million with no further spending in 2024 or 2025. After only \$1 million was spent in 2023-24, the province has changed its plan with \$8 million budgeted in 2024-25, \$15 million in 2025-26 and \$14 million in 2026-27.



Federal Capital Funding Delivered by the Government of Alberta

Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCBF only increases when the Government of Canada's two per cent indexation increases the funding pot by at least a \$100 million increment. The funding increased in 2023, so the funding remains at \$266 million this year. The Alberta Government is currently negotiating a new CCBF agreement with the federal government. ABmunis recently sent a letter to the federal government in conjunction with RMA and the municipal associations from Saskatchewan and Manitoba calling on the federal government to double the fund and increase the indexation from 2% to 3.5%.
Clean Water Wastewater Fund (CWWF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABmunis assumes that the budget of \$1 million represents the remaining project dollars to be spent to close out the program.
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Fund (ICIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta's ICIP funding is fully allocated so the change in budget is driven by the timing of expenditures for the approved projects.
Edmonton and Calgary Light Rail Transit (LRT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Edmonton and Calgary LRT was forecasted to be \$1.176 billion this year but the 2024 budget came in at \$849 million. ABmunis assumes the change is due to the project status and timing of expenditures related to this multi-year funding agreement between Canada and Alberta.

Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital

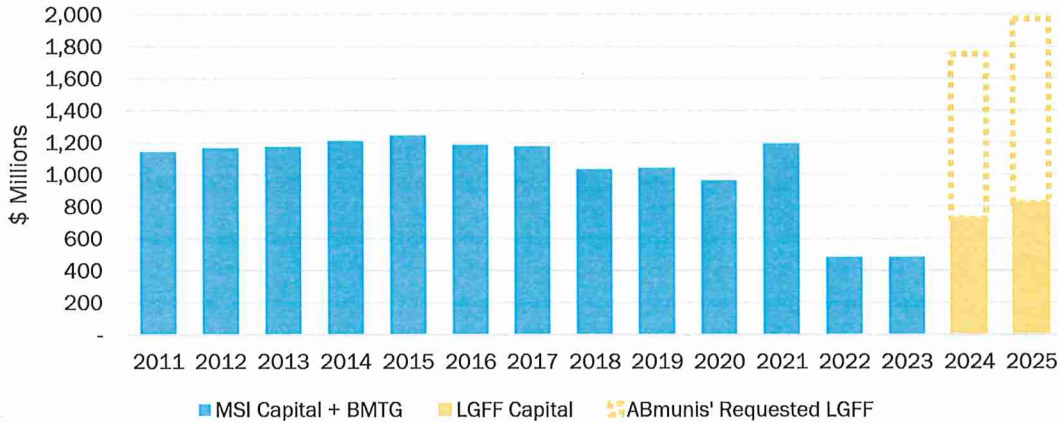
Since the Local Government Fiscal Framework Capital program was announced in 2019, ABmunis' goal was to seek two changes to the program before it was launched this year. ABmunis was successful in getting the Government of Alberta to remove the 50 per cent cap on the revenue index factor calculation so that the funding pot will grow at the same rate as provincial revenues. This change was announced in 2023 and will help ensure that the funding pot keeps pace with inflation and community needs over the long term.

Our second priority was for the starting amount of LGFF Capital to be increased from the planned \$722 million to \$1.75 billion. The justification for that request was presented in a [2023 resolution](#) that was overwhelmingly approved by our members. Unfortunately, the Government of Alberta has ignored this need in favour of other priorities and has proceeded with its plan to start LGFF Capital at only \$722 million, which is well below the historical average of its predecessor program, the Municipal Sustainability Initiative.

Municipalities have called for...	Delivered by the Government of Alberta
1 The starting amount of LGFF Capital in 2024 to be set at \$1.75 billion.	
2 The removal of the 50 per cent cap on the growth of the LGFF funding pot.	

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

If provincial funding for municipal infrastructure kept pace with Alberta's population growth and inflation, then LGFF Capital should have started at \$1.75 billion, not \$722 million.



To be clear, ABmunis is supportive of the new LGFF Capital program as we played a key role in the design of the program. However, the starting amount of the funding pot has been a major concern for municipalities since the *Local Government Fiscal Framework Act* was first introduced in 2019.

Despite ABmunis' significant disappointment that LGFF Capital was not increased, ABmunis plans to conduct additional research and engage provincial leaders to explore the projected long-term outcomes to Alberta's communities if provincial support for community infrastructure is not increased.

Annual Changes in the Funding Pot

The forecasted increase in 2025-26 is based on LGFF's design where the funding pot will increase or decrease annually based on changes in the Government of Alberta's actual revenues from three years prior. Therefore, the increase in the 2025 LGFF Capital will be calculated based on the change in the Government of Alberta's revenue from 2021-22 to the 2022-23 fiscal year. The 2026 amount for LGFF Capital will be confirmed by this fall once the province closes its books for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Transition Funding

Budget 2024 includes a one-time allocation of \$2.2 million under LGFF Capital that will be split among nine municipalities. This meets a promise made in Budget 2023 where municipalities will receive a one-time top-up if their 2024 LGFF Capital allocation is less than their 2023 MSI Capital allocation due to the change in the allocation formula.

\$ millions	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast
Capital Component							
MSI Capital (incl. BMTG)	963	1,196	485	485	-	-	-
LGFF Capital	-	-	-	-	722	820	808
LGFF Capital transition funding ⁵	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Total	963	1,196	485	485	724	820	808
Year-over-year change		233	(711)	-	239	96	(12)

⁵ In Budget 2023, the Government of Alberta committed to provide one-time transition funding to municipalities that would receive less funding under their 2024 LGFF Capital allocation compared to their 2023 MSI Capital allocation. The result is nine municipalities will receive a portion of a one-time allocation \$2.2 million in transition funding.

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Core Operating Funding for Municipal Governments

\$ millions	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	% Change	Note
Alberta Community Partnership	15.4	15.4	15.4	-	
Emergency Management Preparedness Program	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	
Family and Community Support Services	100.0	105.0	105.0	-	1
Fire Services Training Program	-	0.5	0.5	-	
Grants in Place of Taxes	30.0	36.0	38.1	5.8%	2
Local Government Fiscal Framework Operating	-	-	60.0	New	3
Municipal Sustainability Initiative – Operating	30.0	60.0	-	-100.0%	3
Policing Support Grant (formerly MPAG and POG)	89.2	98.8	98.8	-	4
	264.8	300.3	302.4		

Notes on Core Operating Funding for Municipalities

1. In 2023, the province reported Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding at \$115 million, but that included a new \$10 million allocation for Food Banks. The actual amount municipalities received for FCSS programs in 2023 was \$105 million and that amount is unchanged for 2024.
2. The Grants in Place of Taxes (GIPOT) funding increased from \$36 million to \$38.1 million in 2024-25, which is due to rising property values plus new provincial properties. Despite the increase, GIPOT is still well below past funding levels of \$60 million before the budget was cut in 2019-20. ABmunis continues to advocate that the province should cover the full cost of municipal services to provincial properties just like any other property owner.
3. In 2023, the budget for MSI Operating was doubled from \$30 million to \$60 million. In 2024, MSI Operating is replaced by the new Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) Operating program at the same \$60 million budget. Each municipality's 2024 LGFF Operating allocation will match their 2023 MSI Operating allocation and Alberta Municipal Affairs plans to develop a new allocation formula for LGFF Operating for implementation in 2025.
4. This funding is for any municipality with a population over 5,000 that provides their own police service and were eligible for the former Municipal Policing Assistance Grant and Police Officer Grant.

Notable Funding to Community Entities

\$ millions	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	% Change
Agricultural Service Boards	8.9	11.9	11.9	-
Agricultural Societies and Exhibition Grants	11.5	11.5	11.5	-
Agricultural Societies Infrastructure Revitalization	-	2.5	2.5	-
Community Facility Enhancement Program	38.5	50.0	50.0	-
Community Recreation Centre Infrastructure Program ⁶	-	-	10.0	New
Library Services – Operating	37.0	39.7	39.9	0.5%
Legal Aid	94.3	134.6	110.0	-18.3%
Regional Economic Development Alliances	0.5	1.1	1.1	-
	190.7	251.3	226.9	

⁶ ABmunis will seek to find out if this new program will be eligible for municipal governments to apply.

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Provincial Education Property Tax

Over the last decade, the Government of Alberta has frequently changed its approach to how it determines the amount of provincial education property taxes to be collected from Alberta's property owners.

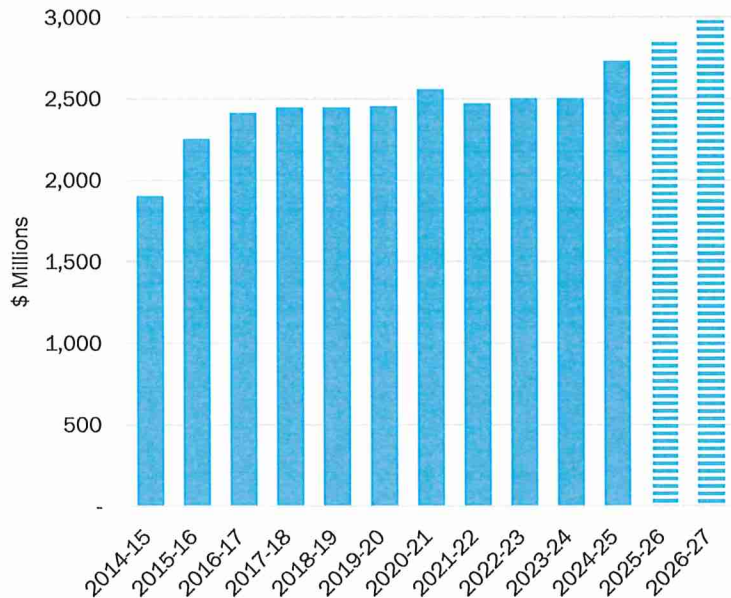
- **2015-16** – Set at 32 per cent of Alberta Education's budgeted operating expense.
- **2016-17** – Set at 32 per cent of Alberta Education's budgeted operating expense.
- **2017-18** – Maintained the 2016-17 mill rates resulting in a 1.3 per cent increase in the tax revenue amount.
- **2018-19** – Frozen at the 2016-17 tax revenue amount.
- **2019-20** – Maintained the 2018-19 mill rates resulting in a 0.5 per cent increase in the tax revenue amount.
- **2020-21** – Planned to link to changes in population plus inflation but abandoned due to the pandemic.
- **2021-22** – Frozen at the 2020-21 tax revenue amount.
- **2022-23** – Linked to percentage change in Alberta Education's budgeted operating expense.
- **2023-24** – Frozen at the 2022-23 tax revenue amount.
- **2024-25** – Maintained the 2023-24 mill rates resulting in a 9.2 per cent increase in the tax revenue amount.

In Budget 2023, the Government of Alberta communicated its plan to link provincial education property taxes to changes in Alberta's population plus inflation beginning in 2024. Recognizing the public's limited understanding of the difference between provincial education property taxes and municipal property taxes and affordability challenges, ABmunis once again suggested to provincial ministers that the provincial education property tax amount should be maintained at \$2.5 billion.

Instead, the province has opted to maintain the provincial education property tax rates from the 2023-24 year and because of the growth in property assessment in Alberta's communities over the last year, the province will collect an additional \$229 million from Albertans through property tax bills. The total amount will increase from \$2.5 billion in 2023-24 to \$2.73 billion in 2024-25, representing a significant 9.2% increase in provincial education property taxes.

Once again, municipal governments will be responsible to collect this tax on behalf of the Government of Alberta and as a result, will wear much of the political blame for this tax increase despite municipal councils having no control over the decision.

Provincial Education Property Tax
(budgeted figures)



\$ millions	2022-23 Budget	2023-24 Budget	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast
Provincial education property tax	2,504	2,504	2,733	2,856	2,979
Year-over-year change (%)	1.0%	0.0%	9.2%	4.5%	4.3%

ABmunis is disappointed that the Government of Alberta will collect an additional \$229 million in provincial property taxes from municipalities while delivering no increase in LGFF Capital funding in return.

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GOOD TO KNOW

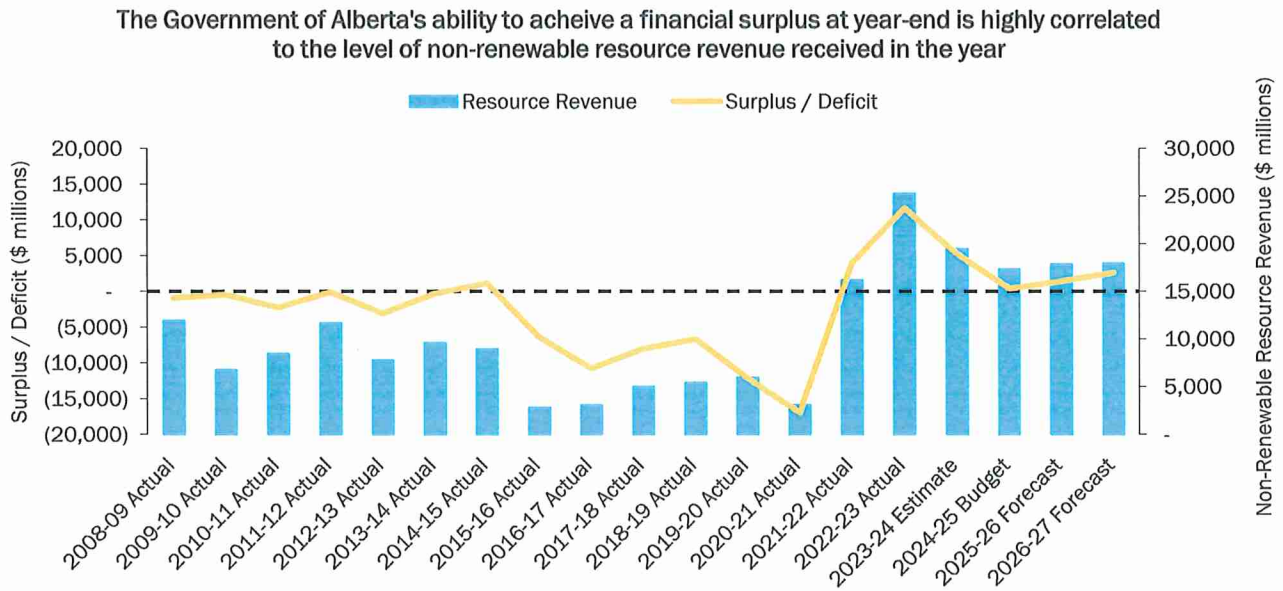
AN OVERVIEW OF ALBERTA'S 2024 FISCAL PLAN

An Overview of the 2024 Fiscal Plan

The Government of Alberta is projecting a \$367 million surplus in 2024-25. This follows three years of multi-billion surpluses including \$11.6 billion in 2022-23 and a forecasted \$5.2 billion surplus in 2023-24. The sizeable surpluses can be attributed to substantial non-renewable resource revenues, driven by geopolitical tensions and unexpectedly high oil and gas commodity prices.

Unlike many Canadian provinces, Alberta earns substantial revenues from its natural resources. While there are diverse revenue streams that typically provide consistent volumes of income, non-renewable resource revenue can contribute anywhere from 10 per cent to upwards of 30 per cent of the Government of Alberta's annual revenues. As Alberta's population continues to grow, so will the demand for infrastructure and government services (both municipal and provincial). Alberta's dependence on resource revenue raises questions regarding Alberta's long-term financial sustainability. Moreover, Albertans will likely face questions in the future regarding the levels of service they expect versus the amount of provincial and property taxes required to sustain them.

The graph below shows the trend of non-renewable resource revenues in comparison to the Government of Alberta's year-end operational surplus or deficit. The trend indicates a direct correlation between the provincial government's financial position and the volume of non-renewable resource revenue earned year-to-year.



Source: Government of Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan, Schedule 26: Historical Fiscal Summary, page 165.

The Plan for Alberta Revenues Needs to Include Municipal Governments

ABmunis provides this context as the Government of Alberta has announced a plan to make significant investments in the Heritage Fund to achieve a vision of building intergenerational wealth. Based on the Government of Alberta's plans to maintain its offer as a low tax province, the success of its plan will depend on the rate of non-renewable resource revenues and cautious choices in public spending.

Municipal councils are highly aware of how provincial choices in spending can impact municipal government budgets based on the hundreds of millions of dollars of costs that the provincial government downloaded onto municipal governments between 2017 and 2022. For this reason, ABmunis will be advocating for the Government of Alberta to engage municipalities in frank discussions about the plan for future revenue generation in Alberta and how that will impact municipal budgets and property taxes.

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Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Statement of Operations

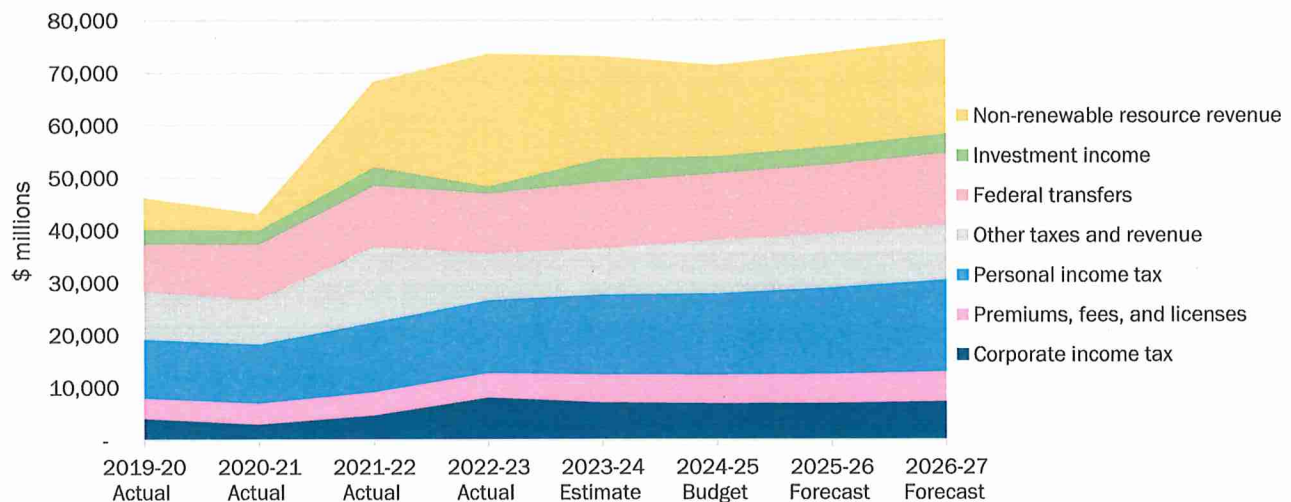
\$ millions	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Estimate	2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast
Revenue					
Personal income tax	13,925	15,239	15,604	16,514	17,512
Corporate income tax	8,167	7,204	7,028	7,052	7,320
Other tax revenue	4,432	4,470	6,013	6,329	6,535
Resource revenue	25,242	19,416	17,315	17,839	17,939
Investment income	1,326	4,467	3,267	3,433	3,672
Premiums, fees, and licenses	4,657	5,300	5,384	5,551	5,752
Other own-source revenues	7,008	6,876	6,287	6,172	6,441
Federal transfers	11,363	12,656	12,640	13,161	13,644
Total revenue	76,120	75,628	73,537	76,051	78,816
Expenditures					
Health	25,486	26,676	28,732	29,363	30,250
Basic/Advanced education	15,220	16,005	16,957	17,338	17,538
Social services	7,222	8,236	8,121	8,424	8,591
Other program expenses	13,743	16,699	16,359	16,741	17,001
Total program expense	61,671	67,616	70,169	71,866	73,380
Debt servicing costs	2,829	3,136	3,365	3,121	3,174
Pension provisions	(21)	(358)	(364)	(373)	(378)
Total expense	64,479	70,394	73,170	74,614	76,176
Surplus / (Deficit)	11,641	5,234	367	1,437	2,640

Source: Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan, Schedule 26: Historical Fiscal Summary, page 165.

Revenues

Total revenues are estimated to be \$73.5 billion in 2024-25, a 4.1 per cent increase over the 2023 budget. In 2024-25, 24 per cent of total government revenue is forecast to come from non-renewable resource revenues. After 2024-25, revenue sources will remain either stable or increase nominally, apart from personal income tax revenue, which will increase 6 per cent year-over-year.

Government of Alberta revenues by source



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Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

The Government of Alberta is projecting a reduction in nearly all its taxable revenue sources in 2024-25, with the exception of personal income tax, which will increase by 2 per cent. Other tax revenue will increase by 20 per cent, and premiums, fees and licenses by 2 per cent. The increase for other tax revenue is primarily driven by the fuel tax, which was paused for the first three quarters of 2023-24 but is budgeted to be in full effect throughout 2024-25 and onward. The Government of Alberta looks to be progressively shifting its revenue generation focus away from non-renewable resource revenue and towards personal income tax to take advantage of continued population growth while limiting volatility in government revenues. In 2024-25, an estimated 54.5 per cent of all tax revenue is from personal income taxes. Alberta is projected to reach a population of 5 million by 2026, an increase of more than half a million Albertans from 2022.

Expenditures

Total expenditures are estimated to increase by \$4.9 billion, a 7 per cent increase over the 2023-24 budget. The Government of Alberta is projecting to spend more on:

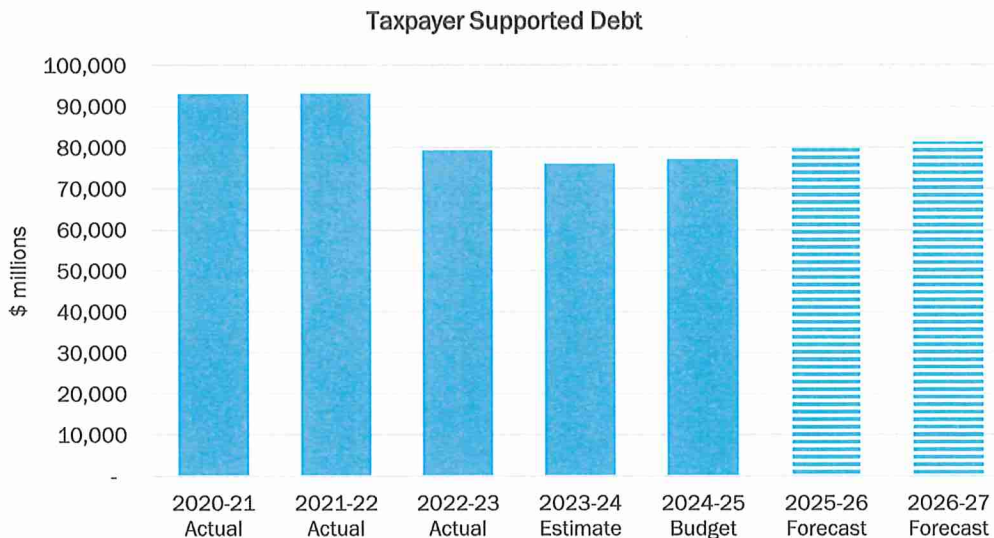
- healthcare (4%),
- K-12 education (4%),
- post-secondary education (3%),
- operating expenses (4%),
- capital grants (46%), and
- debt servicing costs (7%).

Notably, it plans to spend 2 per cent less on social services ministries. The increase in capital grants can be attributed to programs to build affordable housing, the transition to the LGFF Capital program, and reprofiling of capital projects.

Taxpayer Supported Debt and Debt Servicing Costs

Debt servicing costs increased by \$229 million in 2024-25 to \$3.4 billion, which is the result of the high interest rates maintained by the Bank of Canada and pre-borrowing in 2024-25 to prepare for maturing debt.

Total taxpayer supported debt is estimated to be \$76.1 billion at the end of 2023-24, and \$78.4 billion at the end of 2024-25. Debt servicing costs on taxpayer supported debt is budgeted to increase by \$300 million from 2023-24, to \$2.6 billion in 2024-25. As the provincial government is required to be in a surplus cash position to reduce its taxpayer support debt, it is not expected to reduce this debt over the next three years.



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Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Contingency for Disasters

It is also worth noting that the budgeted contingency has increased by 33 per cent to \$2 billion. This is due to the \$2.9 billion spent in 2023 on disaster and emergency response for drought, wildfires, and floods and the need to be prepared for the possible disasters this year.

Key Energy and Economic Assumptions

\$ millions	2023-24 Estimate	2024-25 Forecast	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Forecast
Crude Oil Prices				
WTI (US\$/bbl)	76.50	74.00	74.00	74.00
Light-Heavy Differential (US\$/bbl)	17.30	16.00	14.90	13.60
WCS @ Hardisty (Cdn\$/bbl)	80.20	76.80	75.60	75.80
Natural Gas Price				
Alberta Reference Price (Cdn\$/GJ)	2.20	2.90	3.70	3.80
Production				
Conventional Crude Oil (000s barrels/day)	500	507	508	505
Raw Bitumen (000s barrels/day)	3,324	3,429	3,539	3,650
Interest Rates				
10-year Canada Bonds (%)	3.50	3.70	3.60	3.40
Exchange Rate (US\$/Cdn\$)				

Source: Alberta's 2024-27 Fiscal Plan, Energy and Economic Assumptions, page 10.

Ministry Highlights

Advanced Education

The Ministry's budget will increase by \$500 million from 2023-24 to \$7 billion in 2024-25. This includes \$2.5 billion in direct operating support to Alberta post-secondary institutions. The provincial government expects post-secondary institutions to finance a reasonable share of their operations from non-government sources, including tuition, fees and private support. In 2022-23, own-source revenue of Alberta's post-secondary institutions averaged 53 per cent of operating expenses. By 2026-27 this share is projected to increase to 58 per cent, reducing the share funded by government to 42 per cent.

The 2024 budget also allocates \$62.4 million over three years to create two Rural Health Professional Training Centres and expand physician education, to address critical shortages of medical professionals, particularly in rural areas. The training centres will support local educational and clinical rotations, with the goal of retaining medical professionals in the rural areas where they train.

Affordability and Utilities

The Ministry of Affordability and Utilities is charged with making life more affordable for Albertans. The Ministry delivers the Natural Gas Rebate Program to provide natural gas price stability. The Ministry's budget has decreased from \$139 million in 2023 to \$92 million mostly due to significant reductions in utility rebate grants. Affordability

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

and Utilities is also currently reviewing the regulated rate option and other regulatory issues impacting utilities to increase affordability. This aligns with ABmunis' resolutions on the disparity in transmission and distribution rates.

Agriculture and Irrigation

The agricultural sector faced challenges in 2023. Crop exports declined due to lower yields from the drought. The drought also led to reduced livestock numbers. Increased funding to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation aims to support growth, diversification, and sustainability.

The Ministry has an operating budget of \$870 million for 2024-25, an increase of \$77 million or 9.7 per cent. Investments in irrigation and agri-processing are priorities in the ministry's business plan. Several municipalities are supplied with water via irrigation canals and infrastructure.

The budget includes \$9 million for water management and \$400 million over three years for water management infrastructure, irrigation projects and rehabilitation.

The Capital Plan invests \$147 million in the Water Management Infrastructure Program to repair and upgrade water infrastructure such as water canals, dams, spillways, and reservoirs. The Capital Plan also includes \$5 million for planning studies to assess the feasibility of developing new water reservoirs in Alberta. \$54 million is budgeted for the Agriculture Sector Strategy – Irrigation Projects, \$19 million for the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program, \$9 million for Southern Alberta Irrigation Projects, \$1 million for a water management feasibility study, and \$47 million for water management infrastructure.

The new Alberta Agri-Processing Investment Tax Credit provides a 12 per cent tax credit (up to \$175 million per project) for projects of at least \$10 million to build or expand agri-processing facilities in Alberta.

Arts, Culture and Status of Women

The Ministry's overall budget decreased from \$278.6 million in 2023-24 to \$262.5 million for 2024-25. Non-profit organizations have access to \$75.8 million through community grant programs. \$5.4 million has been made available to the Alberta Made Screen Industries Program to eligible Alberta-made film productions. The Ministry will also develop a 10-year strategic plan to end gender-based violence and support survivors and is allocating \$47 million over the next 3 years towards this objective.

Children and Family Services

The budget for Children and Family Services is expected to decrease from \$1.6 billion in 2023-24 to \$1.5 billion in 2024-25 (6.3 per cent decrease). This decrease results primarily from the transfer of childcare to the Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade as well as the expiry of the 2023 Affordability Payments Program, which allocated a one-time payment of \$600 over six months to seniors, families with children, and Albertans on core supports. Funding for the Alberta Child and Family Benefit will increase from \$324 million in 2023-24 to \$355 million in 2024-25 (9.6% increase) and funding for early child and youth intervention services will increase from \$149 million in 2023-24 to \$153 million in 2024-25 (2.7% increase).

Other Children and Family Services budget highlights include:

- In 2024-25, \$981.3 million will support youth with child intervention involvement, transition to adulthood, mentoring supports, and the Advancing Futures Bursary program.
- In 2024-25, \$66.7 million is allocated to support prevention and early intervention services through the Family Resource Networks.
- In 2024-25, \$84.6 million is allocated to support a continuum of programming through funded community-based organizations that provide family violence and sexual violence supports.
- An additional \$22 million over the next three years to support foster caregivers by indexing foster care rates to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Education

The Ministry of Education's budget for 2024-25 is \$9.3 billion, an increase of \$393 million from the 2023 budget. It is projected to grow to \$9.6 billion by 2026-27.

A significant portion of this budget, \$1.9 billion, is dedicated to the design and construction of new schools and the modernization of existing ones. This investment covers 98 projects at various stages of development across the province. Out of this, \$681 million is earmarked for 43 new priority projects, which are expected to create 35,000 additional spaces for students.

\$842 million has been allocated to Alberta's school boards to recruit over 3,000 teachers and educational staff members within the next three years, highlighting the ministry's commitment to enhancing educational infrastructure and workforce to meet the growing needs of students.

Energy and Minerals

The Ministry of Energy and Minerals is responsible for ensuring Albertans benefit from the province's natural resources. In 2024, expected royalties from crude oil and bitumen are down slightly from \$3.1 billion to \$2.7 billion and \$14.3 billion to \$12.5 billion respectively.

In 2024 the ministry intends to position Alberta as an integral partner in the global energy market, supporting the regulatory environment for products such as hydrogen, lithium, geothermal and small modular reactor technology.

The Alberta Energy Regulator will provide the Orphan Well Association with \$135 million to support the cleanup of sites with no viable owner. This is the same amount in last year's budget.

Environment and Protected Areas

The Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas' mandate is to conserve our landscape and biodiversity to ensure a sustainable future. The Ministry's budget of \$512 million is an increase over 2023-24's forecasted budget for 2024-25.

ABmunis is actively working to support 2024 drought preparations and the budget reflects this priority. The Renewed Flood and Drought Mitigation Grant Program has \$125 million over five years to support municipalities to prepare for extreme weather. The Ministry has budgeted \$19 million over three years for the Strategy to Increase Water Availability. This strategy aims to improve water storage infrastructure, improve the water license application process, improve data collection and support water conservation, efficiency and productivity initiatives. \$3.5 million is budgeted for Watershed Resiliency and Restoration.

Funding for caribou habitat recovery at \$27 million continues similar to 2023 funding (\$35.9 million) for this priority issue. \$31.7 million over three years for the Designated Industrial Zone Pilot Project to establish a best-in-class regulatory framework. This Industrial Zone, northeast of Edmonton, borders the City of Edmonton and Ft. Saskatchewan, and the Counties of Lamont, Strathcona and Sturgeon.

ABmunis appreciates the ongoing partnership with the Government of Alberta through the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC).

Executive Council

Executive Council's budget will increase by 4 per cent in 2024-25 to \$56 million. Notable objectives include building and maintaining strong relationships with priority international partners, leading the planning of official visits by foreign dignitaries to develop new markets in Alberta and collaborating with jurisdictions to reduce red tape and barriers to internal trade. This includes reviewing Alberta's exceptions under its trade agreements to reduce red tape and working with other governments to reconcile existing regulatory measures that act as a barrier to trade.

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Forestry and Parks

The Ministry of Forestry and Parks manages public lands in Alberta. The Ministry's budget has increased by \$52 million or 17.4 per cent to \$351 million. Most of the increase is directed towards preparing for wildfires.

Health

The province announced a refocusing of Alberta's health care system to improve health outcomes for Albertans and empower health care workers to deliver quality care across the province. The costs associated with this reorganization are not clear from the budget documents; however, the total operating budget for Health will increase from \$27.0 billion in 2023-24 to \$28.4 billion in 2024-25 (5.2% increase). This increase will be partially offset by an additional \$997 million from the federal government in the recently augmented Canada Health Transfer.

The 2024-25 budget allocates \$475 million for primary care, including \$200 million for access to family physicians and \$15 million to support the new compensation model for nurse practitioners. A further \$300 million is allocated for primary care networks. A total of \$730 million will be allocated to emergency medical services (EMS) to increase system capacity and implement the Alberta EMS Provincial Advisory Committee and Alberta EMS Dispatch Review recommendations.

Other Health budget highlights include:

- \$140 million per year over three years under the yet-to-be-signed Aging with Dignity federal-provincial agreement. These funds will be allocated to support caregivers and health workers, as well as expand access to palliative and end of life care at home or in hospice.
- \$1 billion over three years to transform the continuing care system in response to the Facility-Based Continuing Care Review.
- \$126 million over three years for the Rural Physician Expansion Program.
- \$6.6 billion in 2024-25, increasing to \$6.9 billion by 2026-27, for physician compensation and development. This includes \$129 million annually for recruitment and retention of physicians who practice full-time in underserved areas, a \$12 million increase for the existing Rural Remote Northern Program, and \$12 million annually for physician support programs.
- \$129 million annually for recruitment and retention of physicians who practice full-time in underserved areas.
- \$35 million in capital funding over the next three years to purchase new emergency medical services vehicles and ambulances, upgrade the existing fleet and acquire additional equipment.

Immigration and Multiculturalism

\$25.3 million in funding over three fiscal years is devoted to the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program to attract newcomers to support economic growth and the province's labour market needs. \$13.5 million in funding over three fiscal years is provided for grants to ethnocultural communities and organizations to provide supports and services to help address racism and build diverse and inclusive multicultural communities throughout the province.

Overall, funding for newcomer supports and multiculturalism increases to an estimated \$41.8 million in 2024-25 from a forecast of \$32.5 million in 2023-24.

Indigenous Relations

The Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation (AIOC) is a provincial corporation that enables access to capital funding for Alberta-based Indigenous groups investing in medium to large-scale natural resource, agriculture, transportation, and other related infrastructure. AIOC had an increase in funding from \$8.5 million to \$9.1 million. The total budget for Indigenous Relations in 2024-25 is \$220 million, a decrease of almost \$10 million from 2023-24's fiscal plan.

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Infrastructure

Responsible for provincial infrastructure projects, the Ministry of Infrastructure anticipates delivering nearly \$1.5 billion in capital projects in 2024-25. In addition to constructing government infrastructure, the Ministry is also aiming to optimize the value of infrastructure through efficient operations and disposal of assets no longer required by the province. ABmunis has been advocating for our members to have better coordination with Alberta Infrastructure to realize efficiencies and better coordination on municipal capital projects.

Jobs, Economy and Trade

The newly constituted ministry takes on expanded responsibility in Budget 2024-25 with the addition of the childcare file. Budget 2024-25 provides \$1.1 billion for childcare affordability and access and \$304 million for childcare quality and worker supports. The Government of Alberta has committed to supporting the creation of up to 68,700 additional spaces in childcare programs by 2026.

In Budget 2024-25, \$105 million is allocated for the Film and Television Tax Credit program.

Budget 2024-25 contains \$125,000 in funding for each of the nine Regional Economic Development Associations (REDAs), however the Minister has indicated that the province will transition away from providing operational funding to REDAs by 2027.

The Ministry maintains responsibility for targeted labour attraction and retention strategies, including the 'Alberta is Calling' campaign and a new \$5,000 refundable tax credit attraction bonus to recruit skilled labour to the province.

Justice

Justice's operating expense for 2024-25 is budgeted at \$681 million, an increase of \$15 million or 2.3 per cent from the 2023-24 forecast. Operating expenses for Court and Justice Services is \$282 million, an increase of \$16 million from 2023-24 to help address growth in the volume of court cases and backlogs in the justice system. Similarly, funding for the Alberta Crown Prosecution Services has increased from \$129 million in 2023-24 to \$139 million in 2024-25 (7.8% increase). Other Justice budget highlights include:

- \$12 million in 2024-25 for enhanced online services, digital platforms and video conferencing that will better meet the needs of citizens, court users and the judiciary.
- \$3.3 million in 2024-25 to fund the direct delivery of restorative justice programs and youth justice committees.
- \$4 million in 2024-25 for Alberta's seven drug treatment courts.

Mental Health and Addiction

As part of the health care refocusing, over the next two years, Mental Health and Addiction will establish a service delivery organization that will manage over 500 contracts for providing mental health and addiction programs and services previously managed by Alberta Health Services. A total of \$1.13 billion is allocated to support this service delivery through the new organization.

Mental Health and Addiction's operating expense will increase from \$230 million in 2023-24 to \$306 million in 2024-25 (33% increase). The increase includes \$27 million for expanded mental health and addiction programs, partially funded by revenue from the new federal-provincial agreement that allocates \$287 million over four years for new mental health and addiction facilities, and targeted supports for children and youth, adults, and Indigenous communities.

Other Mental Health and Addiction budget highlights include:

- \$5 million in 2024-25 to establish a centre of recovery excellence to evaluate and research recovery-oriented care and inform the future delivery of mental health and addiction services.
- \$183.3 million in 2024-25 to deliver community-based mental health and addiction programs and services focused

Municipal Affairs

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs 2024-25 budget has been set at \$1.04 billion, marking a \$30 million increase from 2023-24. \$724.2 million has been allocated to LGFF Capital with an additional \$266.2 million earmarked for the federal Canada Community-Building Fund. The budget includes \$20 million for a new Local Growth and Sustainability Grant, aimed at assisting municipalities in handling growth pressures, strengthening local economies, and addressing urgent infrastructure and community resilience needs. \$60 million has been designated for the LGFF Operating program to aid in the delivery of municipal services.

In addition to these allocations, the 2024-25 budget has maintained Alberta Community Partnership grant funding at \$15.4 million, which seeks to foster intermunicipal collaboration and capacity building. Another \$39.9 million has been budgeted for public library operating grants, reinforcing the commitment to community learning and access to information.

The Ministry is also focused on enhancing regulatory frameworks and protections for Alberta residents, including working with the Safety Codes Council. In response to a review of new home buyer protections, there is a push to improve homeowners' ability to navigate the home warranty system. This includes clarifying program terms, streamlining claims resolution, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and elevating the construction quality of new homes.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Public Safety and Emergency Services' operating expense has increased from \$1.23 billion in 2023-24 to \$1.25 billion in 2024-25 (1.8% increase).

Funding through the Police Support Grant, which replaced the former Municipal Policing Assistance and Police Officer Grants in 2023, remains the same as in 2024-25. Any municipality with a population over 5,000 that provides their own police service and was eligible for the previous two grants remains eligible for the Police Support Grant. Municipalities do not need to apply for this funding but do need to report on how the grant funds were spent.

In 2024-25, \$12 million is allocated to the Victims of Crime Assistance Program to facilitate direct and timely supports and services to victims, including emergency expenses and recovery. An additional \$22 million is allocated to external partner organizations to provide supports and services to victims of crime and tragedy, including implementing the new regional model for police-based victim services.

Other Public Safety and Emergency Services budget highlights include:

- \$10 million in 2024-25 to support 100 police officers deployed to high-crime areas in Calgary and Edmonton through the Safe Streets Action Plan.
- \$8.2 million in 2024-25 to combat human trafficking, including the establishment of the Alberta Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons.
- \$3 million in 2024-25 for municipalities and Indigenous communities seeking to explore alternative policing models.
- \$85 million in 2024-25 for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence program, an increase of \$5 million from the 2023-24 budget, to support victims and women at risk of assault.
- The Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) base budget will increase by \$3 million in 2024-25.

Seniors, Community and Social Services

The Ministry's operating expense will increase by 3 per cent to \$151 million in 2024-25. \$2.7 billion, which includes indexing for inflation, is allocated to Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped, Income Support, and seniors' benefits in 2023-24.

Alberta currently provides housing support services to over 58,600 households through affordable housing, rental supplements, and other programs. Operating support for the Seniors Lodge, Social Housing, and Specialized

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Housing and Rental Assistance programs is being increased by \$38 million in 2024-25, and \$61 million over 2024-25 to 2026-27. These increases will support housing providers to address cost pressures and enable the expansion of affordable housing programs to support an additional 550 Alberta households in need.

The capital plan for Seniors, Community and Social Services allocates \$717 million in capital grants over the next three years. This includes \$254 million in new funding to build approximately 3,300 new affordable housing units, as well as to complete 1,800 units already under development.

Other Seniors, Community and Social Services budget highlights include:

- \$5 million in 2024-25 for community organizations that support food security for Albertans in need.
- \$105 million in 2024-25 for Family and Community Support Services to municipalities and Metis Settlements to develop and deliver preventative social services programming.
- \$108.1 million in 2024-25 for homeless shelters to provide safe temporary accommodations and basic needs services, and \$101.5 million to provide safe housing and supports to those experiencing homelessness.
- \$198.4 million in 2024-25 to build, renew and maintain affordable housing in Alberta, including \$62.1 million for the Affordable Housing Partnership Program and \$70.0 million for seniors housing development and renewal.

Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

In Budget 2024-25 \$60.7 million is allocated to maintain and modernize Land Titles services, Motor Vehicles and other registry systems and \$16.6 million is allocated to Senior's Discount for personal registry services and driver's medical exams to support Alberta seniors with affordability.

There is no reference in the ministry business plan to potential changes to the charitable gaming model or distribution of lottery funds.

Technology and Innovation

The Ministry of Technology and Innovation is responsible for implementing the Alberta Broadband Strategy and investing in broadband internet. Announced in 2021, Alberta has committed to invest \$390 million by the end of fiscal year 2026-27. With matching federal funds, the amount invested will total \$780 million for broadband projects in Alberta. The ministry has forecasted that \$98.3 million of this funding will be allocated in 2024-25. ABmunis is hopeful that this funding will see more broadband projects completed in 2024.

Tourism and Sport

Budget 2024-25 provides the department of Tourism and Sport with \$135.7 million in operating funding, including an increase of \$7.6 million to Travel Alberta to support a new Tourism Strategy. The Tourism Strategy will focus on:

- increased air access for visitors;
- recovery of air routes lost in previous years;
- developing new routes;
- developing year-round experiences in areas outside legacy destinations such as Banff/Lake Louise, Canmore, Jasper, Edmonton, Calgary, and;
- establishing niche tourism destinations in rural areas of the province.

The Government of Alberta has created a new \$10 million Community Recreation Centre Infrastructure Program. ABmunis awaits to learn if municipalities will be eligible applicants.

Preliminary Analysis on Alberta's 2024 Budget

Transportation and Economic Corridors

The Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors delivers significant grant funding and transportation projects that impact municipalities. In 2024 the ministry will allocate \$708 million for provincial highway projects, new construction and ring roads. Page 115 of the fiscal plan has a breakdown of projects to be funded in 2024. The Municipal Water Wastewater Program will be \$66 million in 2024. A portion of the 2024 budget may be unspent funds from 2023 as the province planned to spend \$86 million in 2023 but only \$42 million is estimated to be spent by the 2023-24 fiscal year end.

Treasury Board and Finance

Treasury Board and Finance is responsible for budget planning, financial management, administering tax and revenue programs and economic analysis for the Government of Alberta. Of particular interest for municipalities is the ministry's role in providing loans to municipalities for capital projects. ABmunis has been advocating for a return to the model where municipalities could access capital loans at the same low rates the Government of Alberta could access in the market. Budget 2024-25 offers no response to our [resolution on loan rates](#) but ABmunis will continue to raise this issue and the opportunity to lower costs for community infrastructure.



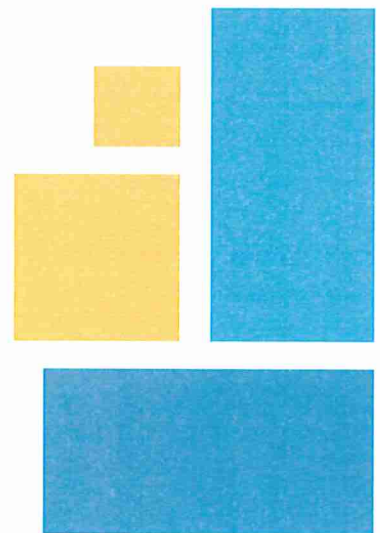
Alberta Municipalities Strength In Members



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11.1

svsouthview@outlook.com

From: Laura Stewart (AF) <Laura.A.Stewart@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: March 8, 2024 10:10 AM
To: svsouthview@outlook.com
Subject: Congratulations!! Wildfire Community Preparedness Day 2024
Attachments: CIFFC FSC Award Acceptance Consent and Release Form 2024 Final.pdf; Letters_Prep Day 2024 50.pdf

Hello,

I hope you're doing extremely well! Congratulations! Your application for Wildfire Community Preparedness Day 2024 has been successful! You will receive \$500 to support your event, along with a kit of FireSmart goodies. 😊

I have attached a letter of congratulations from FireSmart Canada and the Award Acceptance, Consent, and Release Form.

Please review, sign, and return the Award Acceptance, Consent, and Release Form to me via email by Monday, March 18, 2024.

Email: laura.a.stewart@gov.ab.ca

Once we have received the completed and signed Acceptance Form along with the Award Recipient Information, you will receive the \$500 award via E-transfer sent to the email address you specify on the Acceptance Form. In addition to the \$500, you will receive a resource in mid-April.

Thank you for your efforts to strengthen your neighbourhood, community, and Alberta's resilience to wildfire! We know that FireSmart works best when people work together, and your event demonstrates the importance of a collaborative approach to reducing risk.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions!! Congratulations again and thank you!! 😊

Cheers,
Laura

Laura A. Stewart *(she/her)* | **Provincial FireSmart Specialist**
Wildfire Management Branch
Forestry Division
Alberta Forestry and Parks
Main Floor, J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 113 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 5T6
laura.a.stewart@gov.ab.ca
587-985-2095 (mobile)

Classification: Protected A

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Congratulations!

Your Wildfire Community Preparedness Day 2024 application for Summer Village of South View was successful! You will receive \$500 to support your event along with a kit of FireSmart goodies.

WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY PARTNERS

As FireSmart™ Canada Wildfire Community Preparedness Day partners, The Co-operators Group Ltd., the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, the National Fire Protection Association, and the provincial and territorial wildfire agencies are committed to bringing neighbours together to help reduce risk to homes and neighbourhoods from wildfire.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

1. Please review, sign, and return the *Award Acceptance, Consent and Release Form* which was attached along with this letter to the congratulations email you received. **Return the signed form to laura.a.stewart@gov.ab.ca.**
2. Please complete Step 1 by Monday, March 18th, 2024!

Once we receive the completed and signed Acceptance Form and the Award Recipient Information, you will receive the \$500 award via E-transfer sent to the email address you identify on the Acceptance form. In addition to the \$500, a resource kit will be sent in mid April.

Additionally, upon permission and subject to availability, a Co-operators Insurance advisor may be interested in attending your event to show support and commitment to wildfire resilience.

SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP US SHARE WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

1. We urge you to invite local media and elected representatives to participate in your event. Visit our website for a sample media advisory.
2. Visit our [Facebook](#) page to connect with other communities and share stories about your Wildfire Community Preparedness Day event.
3. Participate in FireSmart Canada's Prep Day contest to win prizes! Details will be included in your Prep Day kit.

Thank you for your application and for working with your community to help reduce risk from wildfire!

FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc. (CIFFC).

llm

svsouthview@outlook.com

From: Community Engagement <Community.Engagement@albertahealthservices.ca>
Sent: March 12, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Community Engagement
Subject: You are Invited to a Conversation with AHS about Healthcare and Wildfire Response
Importance: High

Good morning,

As AHS prepares for what is anticipated to be another busy wildfire season, we would like to open a conversation with community leaders about how we work together to respond to wildfires in our province. While our area of responsibility is healthcare, we know that the work we do, such as in the evacuation of healthcare facilities, impacts your planning and response.

This conversation will provide an opportunity to discuss the findings of the debriefs conducted following the 2023 wildfire season, and to hear your thoughts on the actions that are being taken to prepare for the 2024 season.

Click this [link](#) to register for this conversation. Please choose one of the dates that works for your schedule. Through the registration process we invite you to identify questions you may have, and topics you would like to see covered, as part of this conversation.

If you have any questions in advance of the conversation, please email community.engagement@ahs.ca.

I look forward to meeting with you on March 19 or 21.

Sincerely,

Stacy Greening
Chief Zone Officer, North Zone Clinical Operations



This message and any attached documents are only for the use of the intended recipient(s), are confidential and may contain privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, retransmission, or other disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately, and then delete the original message. Thank you.

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