



# **Regular Council Meeting**

**Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:00pm**  
**Council Chambers**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
4. DELEGATIONS – None
5. CAO REPORT
6. BYLAWS & POLICIES
  - a) Council Remuneration Policy L6.2
7. BUSINESS
  - a) Make a Wish – Hospital Activity Books
  - b) Vision Benefits
  - c) Signing Authority
  - d) Asset Management Pilot Project
  - e) Handi-bus Grant – Letter of Support
  - f) Minister Williams Invitation
  - g) Snow Clearing Policy Committee
  - h) Newsletter Protocol
8. CORRESPONDENCE
  - a) MP Glen Motz – Letter on Bill C-9
  - b) Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Williams – Follow Up Letter
  - c) Public Safety Minister Mike Ellis – Police Funding Model Letter
  - d) ORRSC Letter – 2026 Membership Fees
9. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS
10. CLOSED SESSION
  - a) Quad Meeting (with Coutts, Warner, County of Warner) – as per Sec 21, 25 of the AATI
  - b) Land Development Updates – as per Sec 16, 17 of the Access to Information Act
  - c) Organizational Planning – as per Sec 25, 29 of the Access to Information Act
11. ADJOURNMENT

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## Approval of Minutes

January 12, 2026



### BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 208 of the Municipal Government Act and the Procedural Bylaw 1060, Council reviews the minutes from the previous meeting and considers them for approval and adoption.

Attached below are the draft minutes from the following meetings:

1. December 8, 2025, Regular Council Meeting

Council may make any amendments to the minutes prior to their adoption.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

That the minutes for the December 8, 2025 Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented.

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers, 240 Main St. Milk River, Alberta

Monday, December 8, 2025

Council Members Present

Mayor Larry Liebelt  
Deputy Mayor Shayne Johnson  
Councillor Don Cody  
Councillor Dave Degenstein  
Councillor Dorothy Fraser

Administration

Chief Administrative Officer – Ethan Gorner

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Liebelt called the meeting to order at 5:57p.m.

## 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Res. 2025-276

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

To adopt the agenda for the December 8, 2025, Regular Council Meeting

**Carried.**

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Res. 2025-277

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

That the minutes for the November 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented.

**Carried.**

## 4. DELEGATIONS – Sgt. Liam Shiels, RCMP 2Q Report

Res. 2025-278

**MOVED** by Deputy Mayor Johnson

To thank Sgt. Shiels for his presentation and to accept it as information

**Carried.**

## 5. CAO REPORT (ADMINISTRATION)

Res. 2025-279

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

That the CAO Report be accepted as information.

**Carried.**

## **6. POLICIES & BYLAWS**

### **a) CREDIT CARD LIMIT BYLAW 1084-25**

**Res. 2025-280**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

That Bylaw 1084-25 be approved for first reading

**Carried**

**Res. 2025-281**

**MOVED** by Deputy Mayor Johnson

That Bylaw 1084-25 be approved for second reading.

**Carried**

**Res. 2025-282**

**MOVED** by Councillor Fraser

That Bylaw 1084-25 be considered for third reading

**Carried Unanimously.**

**Res. 2025-283**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

That Bylaw 1084-25 be approved for third and final reading

**Carried**

## **7. BUSINESS**

### **a) 2026 INTERIM BUDGET**

**Res. 2025-284**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

To adopt an interim operating budget for 2026 comprised of 60% of the previous year's budget

**Carried.**

### **b) MUNICIPAL AUDITOR**

**Res. 2025-285**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To appoint MWG Chartered Professional Accountants as the Town of Milk River's financial auditor.

**Carried.**

### **c) MAKE A WISH – HOSPITAL ACTIVITY BOOKS**

**Res. 2025-286**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To bring back to the January meeting to consider local benefit at the hospital.

**Carried.**

**d) CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS SUPPORT**

**Res. 2025-287**

**MOVED** by Deputy Mayor Johnson

To approve \$1,400 support for the Canada Day celebration.

**Carried.**

**e) HEARTLAND FARM SAFETY TRAINING SUPPORT**

**Res. 2025-288**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To approve support of the Heartland Training & Support Hub in the amount of \$350.

**Carried.**

**f) COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY**

**Res. 2025-289**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

To approve the contracting of services with Progressive West Consulting for the setup and ongoing management of a community improvement society, as presented, and authorize the CAO to enter into such an agreement with them on behalf of the town.

**Carried.**

*Mayor Liebelt called a recess at 7:40p.m.*

*Mayor Liebelt reconvened the meeting at 7:45p.m.*

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Member of Parliament (MP) Glen Motz – Congratulations & Introduction
- b) City of Lethbridge – Congratulations & Introduction
- c) National Police Federation – Congrats and Introduction
- d) AltaLink – Congrats & Introduction

**Res 2025-290**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To accept the correspondence items as information.

**Carried.**

**9. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Res 2025-291**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To accept the Mayor & Council Reports as information.

**Carried.**

**Res 2025-292**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To set the 2026 enforcement priorities as unsightly properties, animal control, and public safety.

**Carried.**

## **10. CLOSED SESSION**

### **Res 2025-293**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

To go into CLOSED meeting at 8:19p.m. for the following items:

- a) Organizational Planning – as per Sec 25, 29 of the Access to Information Act*

**Carried.**

### **Res 2025-294**

**MOVED** by Deputy Mayor Johnson

To return to OPEN meeting at 9:30p.m.

**Carried.**

### **Res 2025-295**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To close at noon on December 31, 2025 and provide the staff with \$100 Milk River bucks for Christmas.

**Carried.**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

### **Res 2025-296**

**MOVED** by Deputy Mayor Johnson

To adjourn the meeting at 9:33p.m.

**Carried.**

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## CAO REPORT

January 12, 2026



### BACKGROUND

Attached below for Council's information is the CAO Report. Please feel free to ask any questions or request any additional information.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

That the CAO Report be accepted as information.

# CAO Report – January 12, 2026



1. **Civic Centre Generator** – is now operational and we are now working with the Ag Society on a use agreement for times of emergency.
2. **Licence Renewals** – with the start of the new year we are assisting residents with their business and animal licence renewals.
3. **Prepayments** – As per our incentive program to generate early revenue, we have commenced the tax & utility pre-payment program where residents are able to prepay their taxes and receive a 5% rebate. They are similarly able to prepay their utilities for the year and receive a month free. This program allows us to generate an influx of cashflow at the start of the year.
4. **Golf Cart Permit Renewals** – With these renewals this year we will be adding a sticker to their permit showing the current year that has been renewed and requiring this to be placed in a visible location on the cart to assist traffic enforcement officers. This was requested by the RCMP during their recent visit to Council.
5. **120km Highway Speed Limit** – The Province will be trying out a 120km speed limit on some key highways. See the attached notice.
6. **Progressive West Grant Writing Update**  
We are tentatively planning Jan. 27 at 10am for a local meet and greet for our local community groups to come meet Penny and her crew with Progressive West to allow them to connect and provide an overview of this important resource available to them. See attached below for their monthly report. A slight update, they have now connected with the curling club and are working on a grant application for some important repairs and lighting upgrades.
7. **Financial Update**  
See attached below.
8. **Bylaw Enforcement Update**

## RRCPO / MILK RIVER

Offence ID	Offence Description	Reporting District	Total
APA	ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT	RRPSS	1
STRAY ANIMAL -	STRAY ANIMAL	RRPSS	2
TCTRL	TRAFFIC CONTROL	RRPSS	1
Total			4



## **Update on highway speed survey results: Minister Dreeshen**

December 16, 2025

Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors Devin Dreeshen issued the following statement on public support for raising speed limits on divided highways:

“Alberta’s government conducted an online public engagement survey from Nov. 7 to Dec. 12, which received a total of 59,400 responses. The survey gave Albertans the opportunity to share their views on modernizing speed limits on rural divided highways.

“Preliminary results show that 68 per cent of respondents who shared thoughts on the matter support increasing speed limits on these highways from 110 km/h to 120 km/h. It’s clear that Albertans are ready for modern, common-sense rules that better reflect how our roads are built and how people actually drive.

“Alberta’s divided highways were engineered to safely handle 120 kilometres per hour, and advances in vehicle safety and road design make that even more practical today.

“We are also encouraged to see that more than 90 per cent of survey respondents who shared thoughts on the matter support restricting commercial trucks from certain lanes on major highways. This feedback aligns with what we’ve heard from industry, municipal leaders and everyday drivers who want safer, smoother and more predictable traffic flow.

“Our next step is to take this feedback and test it responsibly. Next year, Alberta’s government will launch a controlled 120 km/h mini-trial on select rural divided highways, paired with strong monitoring and safety evaluation. This approach ensures that any future decisions are based on real-world data, local feedback and a clear commitment to keeping our roads safe.

“Albertans have spoken loud and clear. We’re taking that direction seriously, and we will continue to make improvements that support safety, mobility, and economic growth across the province.”

# Monthly Progress Report — Town of Milk River

**Reporting Period:** December 2025

**Prepared by:** Progressive West Consulting

**Consultant:** Penny D'Agnone

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## Project Activity Summary

### 1. Submitted Grant Applications

- **Community Facility Enhancement Program - Riverside Community Golf Society**

- Status: *Pending*
- Applicant: RCGS
- Project: Clubhouse renovations (washrooms, flooring, windows/doors)
- Request: \$79,277.50
- Total Project Cost: \$158,555
- Date Submitted: December 4, 2025
- 

### 2. Grants in Development

#### MR Agricultural Society

- **ADAMA Stomping Grounds**

- Deadline: January 31, 2025
- Purpose: Replace tables
- Status: Need to meet with Laura Balog to discuss and develop proposal for submission.

#### MR Curling Club

- **Ammonia Detection System**

- Quote for project received = \$9,913.62
- Need to find funding opportunity to support this cost
- Ethan to connect us with Don the President.

#### Milk River Swimming Pool Projects

- **Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta**

- Purpose: Construction of a wheelchair ramp into the pool
- Status: *In progress* – submission due October 15, 2025
- *Matching funds:* Pool Society may contribute \$2,000–\$3,000
- We now have a quote so we can submit it in March. Next deadline is March 15, 2026

- **Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) Small – Need to find nonprofit applicant.**

- Purpose: Multiple pool improvements
- Status: Work on proposal initiated but application paused, revisit for January 2026. Need a nonprofit applicant to serve as lead, matching funds 1:1 at a minimum, need quotes, etc.
- Deadline: January 15, 2025

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## Upcoming Opportunities

### January 2026

- Jan 12 - Fortis Save on Energy Grant opens
- Jan 15 - CFEP Small
- Jan 15 - Community Initiatives Project
- Jan 15 - TD Friends of the Environment
- Jan 31 - ADAMA Stomping Grounds
- Jan 31 - Affordable Housing Partnership Program
- Feb 2 - Government of Alberta Heritage Awareness Grants
- Feb 12 - Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant
- TBC - TC Energy Grants - FD safety equipment

LINKED SHEET

\*\*DO NOT EDIT\*\*

Client	Grant	Status	Project	Requested/Awarded	Project Total	Date Submitted
Town of Milk River	RME Ag Society Grant	Declined	Milk River Ag Society (Exterior building painting)	\$10,000.00	\$75,000.00	Tuesday, July 29, 2025
Town of Milk River	Fortis Energy Grant	Declined	Milk River Pool LED Upgrades	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	September 30, 2025
Town of Milk River	Municipal Internship Program	Pending	Administration Stream	\$62,500.00	\$96,000.00	October 22, 2025
Town of Milk River	EAF Youth Innovation Component	Pending	Milk River Pool Ramp	\$12,000.00	\$14,375.00	November 3, 2025
Town of Milk River	Canada Summer Jobs	Pending	3 summer positions (13 placements)	\$37,650.00	\$107,071.80	November 17, 2025
Town of Milk River	Canada Summer Jobs - Riverside Community Golf Society	Pending	2 summer positions (3 placements)	\$31,469.16	\$36,589.16	November 18, 2025
Town of Milk River	Community Facility Enhancement Program - Small	Pending	Riverside Community Golf Society clubhouse improvements	\$79,277.50	\$158,555.00	December 4, 2025
Amount Applied For		\$240,396.66				
Total Successful		\$0.00				
Total Pending		\$222,896.66				



**TOWN OF MILK RIVER**  
For the Period Ending December 31, 2025

Page 1 of 1  
2026-Jan-2  
4:07:02PM

General Ledger	Description	2025 Opening Balance	2025 YTD Balance
<b>CHEQUING ACCOUNTS</b>			
3-12-00-120-00	General Bank Chequing Account (ATB)	28,784.63	(247,687.70)
3-12-00-130-00	General Savings Account (ATB)	299,096.78	1,133.21
3-12-00-150-00	AMWWP Savings Account (ATB)	0.00	347,894.79
* <b>TOTAL CHEQUING ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>327,881.41</b>	<b>101,340.30</b>
<b>TOWN TERM DEPOSITS</b>			
3-41-00-310-00	Water Capital GIC	4,043.15	4,176.66
3-43-00-310-00	Equipment Replacement Capital GIC	387,070.16	399,852.56
3-97-00-315-00	General Capital GIC	565,917.11	584,605.66
* <b>TOTAL TOWN TERM DEPOSITS</b>		<b>957,030.42</b>	<b>988,634.88</b>
<b>ARMS LENGTH TERM DEPOSITS</b>			
3-43-00-315-00	Transfer Station Operating GIC	5,639.62	5,825.85
* <b>TOTAL ARMS LENGTH TERM DEPOSIT</b>		<b>5,639.62</b>	<b>5,825.85</b>
<b>**P   TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>1,290,551.45</b>	<b>1,095,801.03</b>

\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*

# Operating Revenue/Expenditures by Department for the 12 Months Ended December 31, 2025

Unaudited

Department	REVENUES				EXPENDITURES				Actual Contribution to Surplus
	Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Dollars	% Collected	Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Dollars	% Used	
0 General Government	(1,733,885)	(4,265,194)	2,531,309	246.0	283,670	283,676	(6)	100.0	(3,981,518)
11 Council	0	0	0	0.0	97,807	89,122	8,685	91.1	89,122
12 Administration	(286,424)	(171,376)	(115,048)	59.8	442,618	411,370	31,248	92.9	239,994
23/24 Fire/Disaster Services	(20,000)	(22,254)	2,254	111.3	86,106	58,465	27,641	67.9	36,211
26 Bylaw Enforcement	(3,900)	(4,089)	189	104.8	77,570	76,109	1,461	98.1	72,020
31 Common Services	(300)	(2,403)	2,103	0.0	189,409	189,979	(570)	100.3	187,576
32 Roads	(25,380)	(24,530)	(850)	96.7	310,883	288,452	22,431	92.8	263,922
33 Airport	(465)	(465)	0	100.0	5,106	4,329	777	84.8	3,864
4101 Water Supply/Distribution	(2,267,800)	(301,766)	(1,966,034)	13.3	2,381,854	315,784	2,066,070	13.3	14,018
42 Wastewater	(97,000)	(99,168)	2,168	102.2	75,670	84,256	(8,586)	111.3	(14,912)
43 Solid Waste	(127,105)	(133,174)	6,069	104.8	125,758	119,584	6,174	95.1	(13,590)
43 Transfer Station	(12,405)	(13,248)	843	106.8	25,100	22,215	2,885	88.5	8,967
56 Cemetery	(3,000)	(3,740)	740	124.7	5,000	5,000	0	100.0	1,260
61 Planning & Development	(7,200)	(8,236)	1,036	114.4	85,000	20,848	64,152	24.5	12,612
62 Economic Development	(29,500)	(35,100)	5,600	119.0	5,915	5,918	(3)	100.1	(29,182)
72 General Recreation	(5,400)	0	(5,400)	0.0	215,018	185,701	29,317	86.4	185,701
7201 Campground	(17,000)	(15,989)	(1,011)	94.1	37,440	31,453	5,987	84.0	15,464
7202 Pool	(151,650)	(43,692)	(107,958)	28.8	239,415	163,626	75,789	68.3	119,934
7203 Golf Course	0	(660)	660	0.0	78,774	71,451	7,323	90.7	70,791
74 Culture & Library	0	0	0	0.0	20,301	20,394	(93)	100.5	20,394
									0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>(4,788,414)</b>	<b>(5,145,084)</b>	356,670	107.4	<b>4,788,414</b>	<b>2,447,732</b>	2,340,682	51.1	<b>(2,697,352)</b>

**Revenue and Expenses - by Funtion**  
**for the 12 Months Ended December 31, 2025-Unaudited**

	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2025 YTD Actual	Remaining Dollars	% Collected/ Used
<b>Operating Revenues</b>					
Taxation	(1,174,373.87)	(1,347,955.00)	(1,344,891.71)	(3,063.29)	99.77
Sale of Goods and Services	(674,293.67)	(616,815.00)	(663,824.92)	47,009.92	107.62
Other Revenue/Franchise Fees	(307,702.62)	(381,560.00)	(299,884.76)	(81,675.24)	78.59
Conditional Grants	(163,938.95)	(207,360.00)	(2,836,482.97)	2,629,122.97	1367.90
Transfer from other Functions	0.00	(2,000,000.00)	0.00	(2,000,000.00)	0.00
Transfer from Reserves	0.00	(234,724.00)	0.00	(234,724.00)	0.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>(2,320,309.11)</b>	<b>(4,788,414.00)</b>	<b>(5,145,084.36)</b>	356,670.36	107.45
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	800,216.47	779,306.00	794,211.38	(14,905.38)	101.91
Contracted & General Services	600,227.26	3,069,363.00	806,315.05	2,263,047.95	26.27
Materials, Goods & Utilities	469,918.09	480,315.00	429,129.85	51,185.15	89.34
Government Requisitions	270,651.60	311,740.00	311,739.88	0.12	100.00
Transfers to Local Boards	48,535.82	49,326.00	47,847.70	1,478.30	97.00
Transfers to Ind/Organizations	22,561.72	36,614.00	22,959.16	13,654.84	62.71
Bank Charges	9,597.11	10,000.00	11,153.85	(1,153.85)	111.54
Interest on Capital Long Term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Transactions	26,528.66	26,570.00	24,375.18	2,194.82	91.74
Transfer to Capital	0.00	25,180.00	0.00	25,180.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,248,236.73</b>	<b>4,788,414.00</b>	<b>2,447,732.05</b>	2,315,501.95	51.12

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## COUNCIL REMUNERATION POLICY

January 12, 2026



### BACKGROUND

For the start of the new term Council recently reviewed their remuneration policy and directed that comparables from other communities be brought back for consideration.

Attached below are remuneration comparables from communities nearby as well as communities of similar size. In reviewing this information, Milk River is on the low end for remuneration, and it is recommended that Council consider making some revisions.

It is important that Council members are adequately compensated, especially as they spend a lot of time in their role responding to residents and hearing concerns, keeping up to date on the issues, reading information from administration, the province, and so forth, all over and above what they are directly compensated for.

Also attached below is the Remuneration Policy with some recommended changes for Council's consideration to start the conversation. It is recommended that Council consider these revisions, make any adjustments they desire and that this then be approved, effective January 1, 2026, and will be incorporated into this month's timesheets.

This policy will then be reviewed, as outlined therein, at the end of the term prior to the next election.

### RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

To approve Council Remuneration Policy L6.2 as revised, effective January 1, 2026



**Town of Milk River**  
**Council Remuneration Comparative**

**Remuneration for Mayors**

Community	Monthly Honorarium Rate	Meeting Rate	Council and Committee Meetings
Barnwell	\$400	NA	NA
Bashaw	\$475	NA	NA
Castor	\$700	NA	NA
Coronation	\$850	\$100 (1/2 day) : \$200 (full day)	NA
County of Warner	\$2,080	\$95 (1/4 day) : \$165 (1/2 day) : \$270 (full day)	NA
Killam	\$1,167	\$100 (1/2 day) : \$200 (full day)	NA
Magrath	\$833	NA	NA
<b>Milk River</b>	<b>\$375</b>	<b>\$60 (1/4 day) : \$85 (1/2 day) : \$160 (full day)</b>	<b>NA</b>
Nobleford	\$500	\$100 (1/2 day) : \$200 (full day)	\$100
Stirling			
Vauxhall	\$800	\$75 per 1/2 hour to a max of \$280	\$100
Warner	\$350	NA	NA

**Remuneration for Councillors**

Community	Monthly Honorarium Rate	Meeting Rate	
Barnwell	\$400	NA	NA
Bashaw	\$350	NA	NA
Castor	\$500	NA	NA
Coronation	\$650	\$100 (1/2 day) : \$200 (full day)	NA
County of Warner	\$1,804	\$95 (1/4 day) : \$165 (1/2 day) : \$270 (full day)	NA
Killam	\$667	\$100 (1/2 day) : \$200 (full day)	NA
Magrath	\$583	NA	NA
<b>Milk River</b>	<b>\$333</b>	<b>\$60 (1/4 day) : \$85 (1/2 day) : \$160 (full day)</b>	<b>NA</b>
Nobleford	\$250	\$100 (1/2 day) : \$200 (full day)	\$100
Stirling			
Vauxhall	\$450	\$75 per 1/2 hour to a max of \$280	\$100
Warner	\$350	NA	NA

# Council Policy L6.2

## Council Remuneration



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**Responsibility: CAO and Finance**  
**References**

**Effective Date**      January 1, 2026  
**Council Resolution**

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### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Municipal Government Act allows for compensation to be made to Elected Officials for duties performed. The Town of Milk River will provide Remuneration to the Mayor and Councillors that reflects the demands of Council and Council's value to the community.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the type and frequency of Remuneration for the Town of Milk River elected officials.

### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all members of Town of Milk River Council.

### **DEFINITIONS**

"Council" means elected officials of the Town of Milk River, including Mayor and Councillors.

"Computer Work Station" means a laptop or tablet and any other associated computer software or hardware pieces, or any combination thereof, that will assist a member of Council in fulfilling their responsibilities.

"Expenses" means reimbursement made to elected officials for approved Expenses paid out-of-pocket, based on actual submitted receipts, not subject to applicable source deductions.

"Honorarium/Honoraria" means a flat monthly amount paid to elected officials as Remuneration for Council Meetings as outlined in Section 1, subject to applicable source deductions.

"Official Function" means an event, such as a convention, that has an official purpose for one's employment, vocation, or profession, whether run by a person, institution or governmental agency or an official duty.

"Remuneration" includes Expenses and Honoraria.

"Special Event" means a planned public or social occasion to which the Mayor and/or Council have been invited to attend.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of Council are responsible for tracking, recording, and submitting their expenses. Administration is responsible for ensuring proper approvals have been granted, and the processing of remuneration.

### 1. STANDARDS

#### 1.1. Honoraria

1.1.1. Council shall be compensated with an annual Honorarium. As of January 1, 2025, the annual Honorarium for members of Council is:

- Mayor ~~\$550 per month; \$6,600 annually~~ **\$4,500.00**
- Councillor ~~\$500 per month; \$6,000 annually~~ **\$4,000.00**

1.2. The following constitutes an Honorarium:

- Organizational Meeting
- Regular Council Meetings
- Preparation time for meetings
- Meetings with residents
- Correspondence related to Council business
- Public and/or Special Events

1.3. The Mayor and Council Honoraria **shall receive an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in accordance with what the staff receive as set forth in the personnel policy.** ~~is tied to increases in the Alberta Consumer Price Index, shall be reviewed on a yearly basis, and shall not be greater than the Cost of Living Allowance awarded to staff.~~

1.4. Additional Honorarium or fees may be accepted from other organizations by a member of Council where they are received due to the member of Council:

- serving on a regional body, such as a regional Commission, where all members receive an Honorarium or fee, or
- if the number of meetings changes significantly (e.g., 3 meetings per month), the Honorarium will be reviewed at the time of the increase in meetings.

1.5 For each committee meeting, **special council meeting, or planning, orientation, training, or conference session attended**, including travel time for out-of-town meetings, the sum paid is as follows:

**1.5.1 \$40 / hour, minimum amount, to a maximum of \$300**

~~1.5.2 Sixty dollars (\$60) for meeting that is two (2) hours or less in duration,~~

~~1.5.3 Eighty five dollars (\$85) for a meeting that is between two and four hours in duration (2-4), and~~

~~1.5.4 One hundred sixty dollars (\$160) for a meeting that is longer than four hours (4).~~

1.5.5 When two or more meetings which are held consecutively during the same calendar day will be considered as one meeting and shall be paid **in accordance with the amounts in this section** ~~the sum of sixty dollars (\$60).~~

~~1.6 For Special Council meetings, the sum paid is \$110.00 per meeting.~~

## 2. EXPENSES

Expenses paid by an elected official out of pocket may be submitted to Finance for reimbursement. Receipts must accompany the claim.

### 2.1. Meals

2.1.1. While traveling on Town business, meals may be claimed at the amount shown on receipts submitted. Where no receipt is submitted, a maximum amount for meals may be claimed at the rate approved by the Provincial Government. Gratuities on meals may be claimed to a maximum of fifteen (15) percent of the bill.

2.1.1.1. The allowable rate for meal expenses is as follows:

Breakfast	\$15.00
Lunch	\$25.00
Dinner	\$35.00

2.1.2. Meals that are previously paid for by the Town in the registration fees for meetings and conferences or included as part of the venue, are not an allowable expense that can be claimed except in special circumstances such as the mealtime conflicting with travel schedules, dietary considerations or the attendee has another meeting at the same time as the conference meal.

### 2.2. Travel

2.2.1. Travel is authorized for members of Council for a meeting or Official Function related to the appointment of that member of Council to a committee or regional body.

2.2.2. Travel is authorized for members of Council approved by policy or by resolution to attend a course, conference, or seminar on behalf of the Town of Milk River.

2.2.3. Other travel for members of Council shall be approved by resolution of Council.

2.2.4. Travel may be expensed for meetings of Authorities, Boards, Commissions, Committees in which the member, or alternate has been appointed to that do not Remunerate.

2.2.5. Council members will strive for fiscal responsibility when booking accommodations and travelling. This means standard accommodations and carpool whenever possible. Elected Officials shall not claim personal vehicle mileage inside the community. Travel by commercial carrier such as airlines, rail, taxi or bus may be claimed at the most economical costs of travel where possible. Most economical does not always mean lowest base fare as luggage fees, seat selection fees and air and airport time are also factors.

2.2.6. Travel by personal vehicle , while travelling on Town business, may be claimed at the per kilometre rate approved for Government of Alberta employees, to be reviewed and updated each year in January. ~~may be claimed at the current rate per kilometre as approved by the Provincial Government from time to time while travelling on Town business.~~

2.2.7. Councillors who attend an event or meeting of an Authority, Board, Commission or Committee to which they are not the designated Council representative, or the alternate, will not receive a travel reimbursement.

### 3.1 Miscellaneous

3.1.1 Miscellaneous charges such as parking, secretarial services, photocopying, internet, etc., may be claimed.

3.1.2 Lodging may be claimed.

3.1.3 Registration fees may be claimed.

3.1.4 Liquor is not an allowable expense that can be claimed, except where protocol dictates.

3.1.5 Conference partner programs and accommodation are the only allowable spousal expenses.

3.1.6 Costs will not be reimbursed when attending a political party function of any type.

3.1.7 Council will be provided with an allowance at the start of every term for up to \$2,500 to provide for themselves a computer work station to conduct their business, communicate with residents, conduct town business. They will purchase these items and provide the receipt for reimbursement. They will be the owners of these pieces and may keep them after the term.

3.1.8 Council members will have the opportunity to join the town benefits program as approved by the annual budget.

## 4. EXPENSE SUBMISSION AND REIMBURSEMENT

4.1. Council members will be responsible for reimbursing the Town the registration fee(s) for non-attendance unless due to extenuating circumstances as approved by the Mayor.

4.2. Procedures and forms for the submission and processing of claims shall be provided by the Chief Administrative Officer.

4.3. All expenses are required to be submitted to Finance before December 15th, annually.

- 4.4. Reimbursement will be paid by cheque.
- 4.5. Claims submitted by Councillors shall be approved by the Mayor.
- 4.6. Claims submitted by the Mayor shall be approved by the Deputy Mayor or an alternate member of Council in the absence of an assigned Deputy Mayor.

## **5. FORMAL POLICY REVIEW AND REVISION**

- 5.1 This policy will be formally reviewed and revised at the discretion of Council in the year of the next election, with all changes to take affect following said election.

DRAFT

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## HOSPITAL ACTIVITY BOOKS



January 12, 2026

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### BACKGROUND

At their December 8, 2025 meeting, Council considered a request from the *Hospital Activity Book for Children Ltd* for sponsorship of the upcoming activity book that is distributed to hospitals. Council deferred the item to this meeting so that local hospital workers could be consulted about their awareness of the usefulness of such books.

A variety of hospital workers were consulted, including nurses and an ACP. No one that we consulted were even aware of the books. We shared this with the organization who put us in touch with the AHS administration for the distribution of these books.

We discovered that these books hadn't yet been placed in Milk River as they had not been requested to do, likely do to the hospital not being aware of them. They have added us to their distribution list and will now provide these books to Milk River hospital.

Council may consider then waiting to see how useful these books are in Milk River once they've had them for a while before deciding whether to sponsor in the future.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

To accept this as information

OR

Other direction at the discretion of Council

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## STAFF BENEFITS - VISION

January 12, 2026



### BACKGROUND

Council and staff recently attended an info session from AB Munis about our benefits plan for the town. Discussion was had about our vision benefit that currently provides for only \$300 every two years for adults. With the current prices for glasses and the common level of vision benefit provided by neighboring towns, Council considered the need to raise the current benefit level for Milk River.

In raising this benefit level it will help us stay competitive as a desired employer and help ensure our staff received adequate benefits and compensation for their service.

The cost for doing so is very minimal. it would only cost us an additional \$115.93/month (\$1,391 annually) total to increase this benefit for all staff to \$500.

It is recommended that Council approve this increase.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

To approve the increase in the vision benefit to \$500



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## BANK SIGNING AUTHORITY



January 12, 2026

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### BACKGROUND

In accordance with our policy, all members of Council have signing authority on cheques under the direction of Council and utilized as needed by administration. With the recent election it is necessary to update the signing authority for our cheques and it is recommend that Council do so by approving the following motion.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

To approve the bank signing authority as follows and that any names not here listed be removed:

Ethan Gorner, CAO  
Larry Liebelt, Mayor  
Don Cody, Councillor  
Dave Degenstein, Councillor  
Dorothy Fraser, Councillor  
Shayne Johnson, Councillor

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## ASSET MANAGEMENT PILOT PROJECT



January 12, 2026

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### BACKGROUND

The Minister of Municipal Affairs has invited the Town of Milk River along with Raymond, Warner, and Coutts to participate in an Asset Management Pilot Program. This program would provide funding of 75% for resources to help the four of us develop the framework for an asset management plan.

This resource would review the current data points and studies that has been undertaken in each of our communities and help develop a framework to connect them all together into an Asset Management Plan, which would provide context for these data pieces and identify the areas of data that still needs to be collected and compiled into this future plan.

Administration has had initial meetings with their cohorts and with provincial officials, who are guiding us through this process. There are still details to sort out with regards to funding share amongst the partners and the logistics for the implementation of this program, but we have been invited to put together a proposal and submit a collaborative application for this funding, which potentially may be substantial.

We are seeking Council's approval to continue exploring this project with our cohorts and submitting a collaborative application for funding. As the details of funding share and our funding contribution requirements are sorted out, they will be brought back to Council for consideration and approval before any commitments are made.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

To approve participation in principle in the asset management pilot program with Raymond, Warner, and Coutts and approve our collaborative submission for this funding.

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## HANDIBUS LETTER OF SUPPORT



January 12, 2026

### BACKGROUND

The Handi-bus is making an application for funding for a new bus and has requested a letter of support.

From: vilcouth@telus.net <vilcouth@telus.net>  
Subject: agenda - letter of support

Hello All,

Will you please take this attached letter (moved to your letterhead) to your council for support. The Handibus is hoping to secure a grant through the Community Initiatives Program. It has a very tight deadline of the 15th. I'd appreciate it if you could squeeze it in at your meetings next week. It's a matching grant but we aren't asking for any additional money from the communities.

Let me know if you have any questions,

Thx Lori Rolfe

CAO - Village of Coutts

They have requested to utilize the attached letter (see below).

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

To approve Mayor Liebelt sending the attached letter on Council's behalf in support of the Handi-bus application.



# Town of Milk River

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January 12, 2026

**Re: Support for Handibus Association Grant Application**

Dear Grant Review Committee,

I am writing to express our strong support for the Heritage Handibus Society's grant application and to emphasize the importance of this transformative project. As a firm believer in the value of safe and accessible infrastructure for all members of our rural community, our organization is committed to supporting to help bring this vision to life.

This project will provide lasting benefits to our community by adding to their fleet, a new van. They are the only such service in the area and it represents a critical investment in our region's future. An additional van will expand the services offered by providing more rides to various groups, including seniors and the disabled.

I urge your organization to recognize its significance by leveraging our contribution with additional funding. Your support would not only maximize the impact of this initiative but also demonstrate a shared commitment to creating vibrant, well-connected communities.

I sincerely hope you will join us in making a new Handibus a reality by approving the committee's grant request. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Larry Liebelt – Mayor  
(403) 647-4118  
[liebelt@milkriver.ca](mailto:liebelt@milkriver.ca)

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## MINISTER WILLIAMS INVITATION – SPRING CAUCUS



January 12, 2026

### BACKGROUND

Alberta Municipalities will be holding their Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus (MLC) at the Edmonton Convention Centre from March 26 – 27, 2026. The MLC is like a smaller convention and more intimate and personal with more opportunities to engage with partners, leaders and provincial officials.

Minister Williams has extended an invitation to meet at the MLC (see below). In making any request for a meeting they have asked that we identify up to three detailed topics that are directly relevant to the minister.

It is also recommended that Council only pursue this meeting if they can identify something specific and interesting to discuss with the Minister where a perspective or concern can be raised that is unique.

If after considering this opportunity Council chooses to request such a meeting they may do so by motion or if not, they may simply accept this as information.

If Council wishes to pursue this opportunity it is recommended that our contingent be small, which will allow for a more engaging and intimate meeting with the Minister. Therefore, it is recommended that Council appoint a small delegation of Councillors to represent them.

### RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

1. That an invitation to meet with Minister Williams at the AB Munis Spring Caucus be made in accordance with the following discussion topics: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

2. To accept this as information.

AND THEN IF SO CHOOSING TO REQUEST A MEETING

3. That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to represent Council in the MLC engagement with Minister Williams.

## Ethan Gorner

---

**From:** MA Engagement Team <ma.engagement@gov.ab.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:59 PM  
**Cc:** Navroop Tehara; Karen Pottruff  
**Subject:** Meeting request with Minister Williams – ABmunis Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus 2026  
**Attachments:** 2026 ABmunis Meeting Template.xlsx

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Chief Administrative Officer:

I am writing to inform you of a potential opportunity for municipal councils to meet with the Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs, at the 2026 Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus (MLC), scheduled to take place at the Edmonton Convention Centre from March 26 – 27, 2026. These meetings will be in person at the Edmonton Convention Centre or the Alberta Legislature, as scheduling permits.

Should your council wish to meet with Minister Williams during the MLC, please submit a request by email with potential topics for discussion on the attached meeting request template to [ma.engagement@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.engagement@gov.ab.ca) no later than January 30, 2026.

We generally receive more requests than can be reasonably accommodated over the course of the convention. Requests which meet the following criteria will be given priority for meetings during the convention:

- Municipalities that identify up to three discussion topics related to policies or issues directly relevant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the department.
  - It is highly recommended to provide details on the discussion topics.
- Priority will be given to requests from municipalities at a distance from Edmonton and to municipalities with whom Minister Williams has not yet had an opportunity to meet.
- Meeting requests received after the deadline will not be considered for the convention.

All municipalities that submit meeting requests will be notified at least two weeks prior to the convention as to the status of their request.

Municipal Affairs will make every effort to find alternative meeting opportunities throughout the remainder of the year for municipalities the Minister is unable to accommodate during the convention.

If you encounter any issues with the meeting request template, please email the Engagement Team for assistance.

Engagement Team  
Municipal Services Division  
Municipal Affairs

Classification: Protected A

Meeting Request:

## Alberta Municipalities Spring Leaders Caucus 2026 Convention

If you have questions, require support and to submit form, please email:

[ma.engagement@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.engagement@gov.ab.ca)

### Municipal Information

Municipality Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Meeting Topics

Please provide additional details about the topic for discussion

Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3

### Meeting Participants

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor/Reeve
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Chief Administrator
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Councillor
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Councillor
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Councillor
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Councillor
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Councillor
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Councillor
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Councillor

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## SNOW CLEARING POLICY COMMITTEE



January 12, 2026

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### **BACKGROUND**

Council last reviewed and made changes to their snow clearing policy in March 2024. As snow clearing is a top priority for Council and has been a topic of discussion recently, it is recommended that this policy be reviewed again as it should be reviewed every few years.

To this end, it is also recommended that Council appoint an ad hoc policy committee, made up of two members of Council, to review the policy and make recommendations to Council.

It is further recommended that Mayor Liebelt and one other Council member be appointed to this committee for this purpose.

### **RECOMMENDED MOTIONS**

To establish an ad hoc policy committee to review the snow clearing policy and make recommendations to Council.

AND

That Mayor Liebelt and Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed to the Ad Hoc Snow Clearing Policy Committee.



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## NEWSLETTER PROTOCOL



January 12, 2026

### BACKGROUND

Due to the recent mail strike, we recently explored a different approach to the monthly newsletter, which seemed to work well in the community and saved staff time and cut down on waste. Instead of mailing to every individual, we published a digital copy on the website and promoted it on Facebook. We also had copies available at the front counter and provided copies to Heritage Hall, Riverside Market, and Home Hardware. We also facilitated the newsletter for anyone wanting additional copies for any other location.

This new system allowed us to provide the newsletter to everyone so interested in a more efficient way, saving time and resources.

It is recommended that Council consider adopting this updated protocol and direct that this be incorporated into the newsletter policy.

### RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

To establish the newsletter protocol as follows and that this be incorporated into the newsletter policy for further review.

#### **Newsletter Protocol – January 12, 2026**

1. Digital copy made available on the website and promoted on Facebook
2. Printed copies available at the front desk
3. Printed copies made available to Heritage Hall, Riverside Market, Home Hardware
4. Printed copies made available to any individual who would like them for any other location.

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## Correspondence

January 12, 2026



### BACKGROUND

The following Correspondence items were received that may be of interest to Council:

1. Member of Parliament (MP) Glen Motz – Letter on Bill C-9
2. Municipal Affairs Minister Dan Williams – Follow Up Letter
3. Public Safety Minister Mike Ellis – Police Funding Model Letter
4. ORRSC Letter – 2026 Membership Fees

### CONSIDERATIONS

These letters are attached below. Council may provide further direction on any of the issues raised in these items of correspondence.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

To accept the correspondence items as information.



December 15, 2025

Dear Concerned Constituents,

By now, I am sure you have heard about the controversy surrounding the federal government's Bill C-9, the 'Combating Hate Act'. Bill C-9 itself is complicated and problematic. But with a new Bloc Quebecois amendment supported by the Liberals, the Bill proposes, among other things, to amend the hate laws within the Criminal Code (specifically section 319(3)(b)) by suggesting that reading or teaching parts of the Bible or other sacred texts might now be a hate crime. This is especially concerning given that the government is trying to introduce a new definition of 'hate' that could extend to any speech the government finds objectionable. The term 'hate' should be clearly and narrowly defined to prevent broad or unintended applications.

This unprecedented attack on our religious freedoms may expose people of faith to potential criminal prosecution for the simple act of quoting their own sacred texts. The Criminal Code of Canada prohibits promoting hatred to an identifiable group. Canada's hate speech laws currently offer a defence against prosecution for one offence, 'Wilful Promotion of Hatred', for those who express "in good faith" (meaning reasonably and without malicious intent), arguments or opinions on a religious subject or based on belief in a religious text. This defence **does not apply** to any other offence in the Criminal Code, including calls for violence or genocide. Even the Supreme Court of Canada recognized this defence as necessary to keep Canada's hate-speech laws constitutional, understanding how crucial freedom of religion and freedom of expression are. Removing the religious freedom safeguard from the Criminal Code will not make Canadians safer and it will certainly not protect anyone, especially people of faith, from hate.

Multiple faith communities and civil liberties organizations from across Canada have raised serious concerns about Bill C-9's potential impacts. Without this explicit criminal code defence, they worry that ordinary religious speech, like sermons, teaching, or counselling, may put people at criminal risk if someone subjectively finds that speech offensive or hateful, even if that was not the intent.

Just recently, the House of Commons Justice Committee voted to remove that defence, despite Conservative opposition to that amendment. Bill C-9 is still at the Justice Committee but is expected to be returned to Parliament for further debate and a vote at third reading sometime in late January or early February 2026.

Conservatives continue to defend Canadians' Charter rights, ensuring lawful religious expression and freedom of speech are not restricted unnecessarily, **but we desperately need your help.** This Bill C-9



403-528-4698



Glen.motz@parl.gc.ca  
[www.glen.motzmp.com](http://www.glen.motzmp.com)



Suite #306, 2810-13 Avenue SE  
Medicine Hat AB T1A 3P9

correspondence (delivered by email, regular mail, or both) is being distributed to known faith communities and organizations in the riding of Medicine Hat-Cardston-Warner, as well as others who have requested it, as a call to action.

Faith leaders, please share with your members / followers and encourage them to get involved. Below you will see a list of government and Justice Committee MP's who need to hear from you. Please contact them by email or phone or both, and make your concerns known in a polite and respectful manner. Conservative MP's are fully aware and are already carrying this fight.

Additionally, I ask that you show your support by [clicking here](#) to sign the Conservative petition and share it with those in your network. Everyone who signs the petition will be invited to an upcoming virtual townhall meeting on this topic.

- Mark Carney, Prime Minister:
    - o Email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)
    - o Constituency Office: 613-825-3422
  - Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice:
    - o Email: [mcu@justice.gc.ca](mailto:mcu@justice.gc.ca)
    - o Constituency Office: 902-752-0226
    - o Ottawa Office: 613-992-6022
  - Wade Chang (Liberal):
    - o Email: [wade.chang@parl.gc.ca](mailto:wade.chang@parl.gc.ca)
    - o Constituency Office: 778-330-0505
    - o Ottawa Office: 613-996-5597
  - Anju Dhillon (Liberal):
    - o Email: [anju.dhillon@parl.gc.ca](mailto:anju.dhillon@parl.gc.ca)
    - o Constituency Office: 514-639-4497
    - o Ottawa Office: 613-995-2251
  - Anthony Housefather (Liberal):
    - o Email: [anthony.housefather@parl.gc.ca](mailto:anthony.housefather@parl.gc.ca)
    - o Constituency Office: 514-283-0171
    - o Ottawa Office: 613-995-0121
  - Patricia Lattanzio (Liberal), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice:
    - o Email: [patricia.lattanzio@parl.gc.ca](mailto:patricia.lattanzio@parl.gc.ca)
    - o Constituency Office: 514-256-4548
    - o Ottawa Office: 613-995-9414
- Members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights:**
- Jame Maloney (Liberal), Committee Chair:
    - o Email: [james.maloney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:james.maloney@parl.gc.ca)
    - o Constituency Office: 416-251-5510
    - o Ottawa Office: 613-995-9364
  - Rhéal Éloi Fortin (Bloc Québécois), Vice-Chair:
    - o Email: [rheal.fortin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:rheal.fortin@parl.gc.ca)
    - o Constituency Office: 450-565-0061
    - o Ottawa Office: 613-992-3257

If you wish to contact more government MP's, you can find the email of all Liberal MPs here: [Current Members of Parliament - Members of Parliament - House of Commons of Canada](#).

Thank you for partnering with us in this fight for our religious freedoms,



Glen Motz  
Member of Parliament, M.O.M.



403-528-4698



[Glen.motz@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Glen.motz@parl.gc.ca)  
[www.glen.motzmp.com](http://www.glen.motzmp.com)



Suite #306, 2810-13 Avenue SE  
Medicine Hat AB T1A 3Pg



ALBERTA  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Peace River*

AR119973

December 10, 2025

His Worship Larry Liebelt  
Mayor  
Town of Milk River  
PO Box 270  
Milk River AB T0K 1M0

Dear Mayor Liebelt:

Thank you for meeting with me this past summer as I toured areas of our wonderful province. I appreciated our discussion regarding seniors housing shortages, the Bridge Housing Co-Op as a contributor to local efforts as well Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) cash flow and ongoing issues with healthcare access, including pharmacy services.

Municipal Affairs provides annual funding to all municipalities through the LGFF and the Canada Community-Building Fund. Disbursement of LGFF operating allocations were delayed in comparison with last year due to implementing a new IT system for the program. The later disbursement in 2025 reflects a one-time transition to the new LGFF operating system. Be assured, with the system now fully functional, timelines are expected to return to normal.

I understand your concern about a shortage of seniors housing in your community, and I contacted the Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services. I have been informed that The Ridge County Housing has requested funding for enhancing the local Seniors Self-contained Housing program and plans to build an additional 20 units under this program. Ridge Country Housing is also hoping to add 10 units to the north end of the existing Ridgeview Lodge in Raymond, which presently has 40 units. I also understand the chief administrative officer of the housing management body is not aware of a pharmacy concept within these current projects.

I also consulted with the Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services regarding healthcare services and can provide the following information. Please know the province is working to ensure retention and enhance rural access to healthcare services, including:

- expansion of Alberta's medical schools;
- improvement of the registration process for international medical graduates;
- a four-year agreement to provide competitive compensation for medical residents, helping attract more residents and future physicians to the province; and
- a new compensation model launched April 1, 2025, to make Alberta's family and rural generalist physicians the best paid in Canada, with incentives.

.../2

In addition, Alberta is investing over \$28 million into the Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary Pilot Program, the Rural Team Recruitment Grant, and a Municipality Supported Clinics Grant to improve team-based primary health care in rural areas.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet. The work municipal leaders do at the local level is vital to the success of communities and our province. I am committed to ensuring your concerns are heard and collaborating with you to serve Albertans. I look forward to continuing our work together in support of Alberta's communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Williams', with a large, stylized 'D' and 'W'.

Dan Williams, ECA  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

cc: Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services  
Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services  
Kelly Lloyd, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Milk River

## Ethan Gorner

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**From:** PSES Minister <PSES.Minister@gov.ab.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 18, 2025 7:31 AM  
**Subject:** Update on Changes to Alberta's Police Funding Model

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to update you on changes to Alberta's Police Funding Model (PFM) that will affect your municipality beginning on April 1, 2026. The changes resulted from recommendations arising from the independent review of the PFM conducted by MNP LLP during spring and summer 2025, which included comprehensive stakeholder engagement. The changes to the PFM are designed to create a more equitable, transparent, and sustainable approach to funding front-line policing services for communities policed under the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA).

### **Background**

Since 2020, the Police Funding Regulation has enabled communities policed under the PPSA to contribute toward front-line policing costs. This has supported 285 additional Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers and 244 civilian staff to RCMP units across Alberta. However, the original model tied contributions to 2018 policing costs (\$252.3 million) rather than current expenditures. The costs of the PPSA have risen over time to well over \$380.5 million for 2025-26. This increase is due to RCMP contracted salary adjustments and inflation, as well as the additional positions enabled by the PFM.

As Minister, I held the costs to municipalities at approximately 19% of front-line policing costs (which is below the intended 30%), and the province contributed a higher shared of the cost in order to allow for the review of the PFM to occur.

With the review complete, and the Police Funding Regulation expiring in March 2026, Alberta is now updating the model to ensure it reflects the real cost of policing today while maintaining predictability for municipal budgeting.

.../2

### **Key Changes to the Funding Model**

#### **Phased Cost Sharing Implementation**

Beginning on April 1, 2026, municipal contributions will increase to 22% of current front-line policing costs, gradually reaching 30% over the next five years. This phased approach ensures predictable increases that support local fiscal planning. Importantly, contributions will now be based on actual front-line policing costs from the most recently completed fiscal year, rather than historical fixed costs.

To provide flexibility and to address unique circumstances, the Minister will have regulatory discretion to cap costs, remove significant one-time expenditures from municipal obligations, and provide targeted discounts to municipalities facing exceptional or substantial cost increases.



## Modernized Funding Formula

The formula for calculating municipal contributions is being updated to better reflect actual demand for policing services. The base formula updates will be phased-in, with changes to weighted occurrences beginning on April 1, 2028, and reaching full implementation by April 1, 2030. Once complete, the formula will be calculated based on:

- 50% population;
- 30% equalized assessment (reduced from 50%); and
- 20% weighted occurrences (calls for service).

This phased timeline allows the province to work with the RCMP and municipalities to refine the underlying data and ensure it reliably informs the model. The introduction of weighted occurrences reflects actual policing workload and demand which reduces reliance on property values alone.

## Revised Modifiers and Subsidies

Several adjustments are being made to improve equity and better reflect service delivery realities:

- **Removing inequitable subsidies:** The Crime Severity Index and detachment subsidies are being eliminated, as they were widely viewed as unbalanced and not aligned with actual service levels.
- **Updating shadow population:** The shadow population approach has been revised to subtract eligible shadow population directly from total population in calculations, rather than applying it as a separate subsidy (previously up to 5%).
- **New vacancy subsidy:** A vacancy modifier will provide discounts to municipalities experiencing RCMP staffing vacancies higher than the provincial average, acknowledging potential reduced service levels.
- **New population density subsidy:** This subsidy will reduce contributions for rural and remote municipalities with significantly lower than average density, recognizing these unique policing challenges and higher associated costs in these communities.

## Enhanced Transparency and Accountability

A new annual public reporting process will be introduced, providing clear visibility into:

- Amounts collected from municipalities under the model;
- How funds collected under the model are allocated; and
- How reinvestments support front-line policing capacity across Alberta.

The province will continue to look for opportunities to enhance transparency, including through collaboration with the Provincial Police Advisory Board. All funds collected through the PFM will continue to be invested in front-line policing provided under the PPSA to support ongoing costs and future growth where possible.

## Next Steps

Further details regarding implementation timelines and specific impacts to your municipality will be provided in the coming weeks. We are committed to working collaboratively with municipalities throughout this transition to ensure an effective implementation process.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact my ministry at [abpfm@gov.ab.ca](mailto:abpfm@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you for your continued partnership in maintaining safe and well-served communities across Alberta.

Sincerely,

Honourable Mike Ellis



Deputy Premier of Alberta  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Classification: Protected A

December 16, 2025

File:30C-181  
**Sent Via Email**

Chief Administrative Officers & Councils  
All Member Municipalities of ORRSC

Dear Chief Administrative Officer and Council,

**RE: 2026 Membership Fees**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oldman River Regional Services Commission, we wish to inform you that at the Annual Organizational Meeting held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 the Board of Directors approved the 2026 Operating and Capital Budget.

The approved 2026 Operating Budget includes an increase to the rural mill rate by 0.001, an increase to the urban mill rate by 0.005, increasing the Floor to \$5,700 and increasing the Ceiling to \$118,795. In addition there has been an average increase of 12% to GIS Members, and small nominal increases to subdivision fees and annual appeal board fees. We want to assure our Members that the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors have dedicated significant time, discussion, and careful deliberation to considering these increases. We recognize that fee increases are difficult and that all industries, including municipal governments, are experiencing financial pressures. However, an adjustment to the member fees was necessary to ensure the long-term financial stability of the organization. This increase also reflects our commitment to following the three-year financial plan presented to the Board of Directors in December 2024.

Please see the included document which outlines your Municipality's 2025 Membership Fees.

We appreciate the loyalty and support that we have received over ORRSC's 70-year history and want to ensure you know that ORRSC is dedicated to providing exceptional value to our Members. Committed to our promise at last years Annual Organization Meeting, a robust budget presentation was provided by members of the Executive Committee and Administration on the proposed draft Operating Budget on September 4, 2025 and an addition budget presentation outlining the Executives financial plan and the 2026 Operating Budget was presented on December 4, 2025. A copy of this presentation has been included with this correspondence.

We would like to extend an invitation to meet in the New Year to discuss the budget presentation, the membership fee increases, and any other questions or concerns Administration or Council may have. If you would like to have us present to your Council or Administration, please contact Raeanne Keer, Executive Assistant, at 403-329-1344 or by email at [admin@orrsc.com](mailto:admin@orrsc.com) at your convenience who will work with you to coordinate a visit.



*OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION*

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Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 5E8

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E-mail: [admin@orrsc.com](mailto:admin@orrsc.com)  
Website: [www.orrsc.com](http://www.orrsc.com)

Should you have any other questions please do not hesitate to reach out to our office at 403-329-1344 or by email at [admin@orrsc.com](mailto:admin@orrsc.com).

Thank you,

Christopher Northcott  
Chair

Lenze Kuiper  
Chief Administrative Officer

CN/rk  
LK/rk

Enclosed:

2026 Membership Fees  
2026 Budget Presentation

# Request for Decision

## Mayor & Councillor Reports (Roundtable)

January 12, 2026



### **BACKGROUND**

Mayor and Council will each have an opportunity to report on their assignments and any other items of interest to Council.

### **CONSIDERATION**

Attached below is the updated assignments list with all the recent appointments that Council has made since the election. Changes from the previous year are noted in red.

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

That the Mayor and Councillor reports be accepted as information.

## Town of Milk River Appointments to Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees 2025-2026



### COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

<b>Chief Mountain Regional Solid Waste Services Commission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Agreement (2000)</li> </ul>	1 Councillor 1 Alternate	L. Liebelt (alt) D. Cody
<b>Chinook Arch Regional Library Board</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Agreement (2021)</li> </ul>	1 Councillor	D. Fraser
<b>Milk River Municipal Library Board</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Libraries Act</li> <li>Town Bylaw 574</li> </ul>	Max 2 Councillors	D. Fraser
<b>Committee of the Whole</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When required</li> </ul>	5 Councillors	All of Council
<b>Family &amp; Community Support Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Bylaw 625: Agreement (1982)</li> <li>FCSS Governance Policies</li> </ul>	1 Councillor 1 Alternate	D. Degenstein (alt) D. Cody
<b>Heritage Handi-Bus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handi-Bus Bylaws</li> </ul>	1 Councillor	S. Johnson
<b>Canada's Western Gateway</b>	Silent	L. Liebelt
<b>Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICF Agreement (2020)</li> </ul>	2 Councillors 1 Alternate	D. Cody and D. Degenstein (alt) D. Fraser
<b>Mayors and Reeves</b>	Mayor / Dep Mayor	L. Liebelt; Dep Mayor
<b>Milk River and District Ag Society</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ag Society Bylaw (2020)</li> </ul>	1 Councillor (Rep) – nonvoting rights	S. Johnson
<b>Milk River Senior Citizens Society</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Society Bylaws</li> </ul>	Silent	D. Fraser
<b>Milk River Cemetery Board</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cemetery Bylaws</li> </ul>	1 Councillor	L. Liebelt
<b>Milk River Community Business Assoc.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Association Bylaws</li> </ul>	Silent	D. Degenstein
<b>Milk River Health Professionals Attraction and Retention Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee Bylaws</li> </ul>	Designate	D. Fraser
<b>Milk River Watershed Council Canada</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watershed Bylaw</li> </ul>	1 Councillor	D. Fraser
<b>MPC (SubD &amp; Dev Authority)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Bylaw 803</li> </ul>	2 Councillors	D. Degenstein; D. Cody

## Town of Milk River Appointments to Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees 2025-2026



<b>ORRSC BOARD</b> • ORRSC Bylaw 2013-2	1 Councillor 1 Alternate	<b>D. Cody</b> (alt) S. Johnson
<b>[ORRSC] Chinook ISDAB (Appal Board)</b> • Town Bylaw 1018	1 Councillor 2 At Large	<b>L. Liebelt</b> <b>Peggy Losey</b>
<b>[ORRSC] Regional ARB</b> • Town Bylaw 1039-23 / 3 year term	1 Councillor 1 At Large	<b>D. Cody</b> Jon Hood
<b>Quad Council</b>	All of Council	All of Council
<b>Regional Emergency Advisory Committee</b> • Town Bylaw 1030: Terms of Reference	1 Councillor 1 Alternate	S. Johnson (alt) D. Fraser
<b>Ridge Country Housing</b> • Housing Business Plan 2023-2025	1 Councillor	<b>D. Degenstein</b> <b>D. Cody</b>
<b>Ridge Regional Public Safety Services</b> • Ridge Bylaw 001-16	1 Councillor	D. Degenstein
<b>Riverside Community Golf Course Society</b> • Society Bylaws	Silent	L. Liebelt
<b>SouthGrow</b> • Articles of Association (2021)	1 Councillor 1 Alternate	S. Johnson (alt) <b>D. Degenstein</b>
<b>Veteran's Memorial Highway Highway 36</b>	1 Councillor	D. Degenstein (alt) S. Johnson
<b>SouthGrow Border Wall Exploratory Ad Hoc Committee</b>	<b>2 Councillors</b>	<b>S. Johnson; D. Degenstein</b>

## At Large Appointments

### **Municipal Planning Commission (MPC)**

Bob Matlock, John Canaan, Beth Kappelar, Suzanne Liebelt, Melvin Sparks

### **Milk River Library Board (terms expiry April 1 of the noted year)**

Wendy Brown (2027), Darlene Fleming (2028), Scott Harvey (2026), Rita Lodermeier (2026), Lesley Oslanski (2026), Ron Oswald (2028), Jodie Wehlage (2027).