

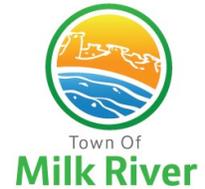


**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:00pm**  
**Council Chambers**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
4. DELEGATIONS – *Sgt. Liam Shiels, Milk River RCMP Detachment 3Q Report*
5. CAO REPORT
6. BYLAWS & POLICIES - None
7. BUSINESS
  - a) Inter-basin Delegation to Minister Hunter
  - b) FCSS Volunteers Awards
  - c) Community History Video
  - d) Bringing Hearts Home – Milk River EHS EMS Cardiac Care Campaign
8. CORRESPONDENCE
  - a) National Police Federation – RCMP Contract Policing Commitment
  - b) Village of Stirling Letter to Minister Ellis – Increased Policing Costs
  - c) Town of Taber Mayor – Invitation to Attend the Play On! Street Hockey Tournament
  - d) Municipal Affairs – Minister Awards for Libraries
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) Organizational Planning – as per Sec 25, 29 of the Access to Information Act
11. ADJOURNMENT

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## Approval of Minutes



March 9, 2026

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### **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 previous meeting for Council's review and consideration.

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

### **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

That the minutes for the February 9, 2026 Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented.



# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers, 240 Main St. Milk River, Alberta

Monday, February 9, 2026

Council Members Present      Mayor Larry Liebelt  
   Councillor Don Cody  
   Councillor Dave Degenstein  
   Councillor Dorothy Fraser

Absent (with regrets)              Deputy Mayor Shayne Johnson

Administration                      Chief Administrative Officer – Ethan Gorner

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Liebelt called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Res. 2026-019**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To adopt the agenda for the February 9, 2026, Regular Council Meeting, amended to add items:

7b) *CARE Conference*

7c) *Curling Club Request*

**Carried.**

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Res. 2026-020**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

That the minutes for January 12, 2026, Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented.

**Carried.**

## **4. DELEGATIONS – Brady Schnell, Western Gateway Initiative**

**Res. 2026-021**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

To thank Brady Schnell of the Western Gateway Initiative for his presentation and to accept it as information.

**Carried.**

**Res. 2026-022**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To approve involvement in the Western Gateway Initiative and contribution of \$1,000 / year over the next three years.

**Carried.**

## **5. CAO REPORT (ADMINISTRATION)**

**Res. 2026-023**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

That the CAO Report be accepted as information.

**Carried.**

## **6. POLICIES & BYLAWS**

### **a) COUNCIL REMUNERATION POLICY L6.3**

**Res. 2026-024**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

To approve Council Remuneration Policy L6.3, effective January 1, 2026.

**Carried.**

### **b) SUBCLASS BYLAW 1076-26**

**Res. 2026-025**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

That the Assessment Subclass Bylaw 1076-26 be approved for first reading and referred to administration for further review and recommendation.

**Carried.**

## **7. BUSINESS**

### **a) COUNTY OF WARNER SPONSORSHIP REQUEST (for door prize)**

- **Emergency Services Volunteer Appreciation Evening**

**Res. 2026-026**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

That administration provides a gift basket door prize that includes \$100 in Milk River bucks.

**Carried.**

### **b) CARE CONFERENCE**

**Res. 2026-027**

**MOVED** by Mayor Liebelt

To accept this as information.

**Carried.**

### **c) CURLING CLUB SPONSORSHIP REQUEST (for raffle prize)**

**Res. 2026-028**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

That administration provides a gift basket raffle prize that includes \$50 in Milk River bucks.

**Carried.**

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE – No Items**

## **9. MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Res 2026-029**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

To accept the Mayor & Council Reports as information.

**Carried.**

*Mayor Liebelt called a recess at 8:03p.m.*

*Mayor Liebelt reconvened the meeting at 8:08p.m.*

## **10. CLOSED SESSION**

### **Res 2026-030**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To go into **CLOSED** meeting at 8:08p.m. for the following items:

- a) *Land Proposal – as per Sec 16, 17 of the Access to Information Act*
- b) *Property Financial Proposal – 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*

**Carried.**

### **Res 2026-031**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cody

To return to **OPEN** meeting at 8:52p.m.

**Carried.**

### **Res 2026-032**

**MOVED** by Councillor Degenstein

To accept the land offer.

**Carried.**

### **Res 2026-033**

**MOVED** by Councillor Fraser

To forgive 40% of the penalties on roll no. 610000 due to the very specific and unique challenges that were faced by the property owner during the last few years.

**Carried.**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

### **Res 2026-034**

**MOVED** by Councillor Fraser

To adjourn the meeting at 8:54p.m.

**Carried.**

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

**DELEGATIONS** – Sgt. Liam Shiels  
Milk River RCMP Detachment 9Q Report



March 9, 2026

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## **BACKGROUND**

We recently received the 3rd Quarter statistical report from our RCMP detachment, which is attached below. Sergeant Liam Shiels, our chief of police, and head of the detachment will be here to present the report and answer any questions from Council.

## **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

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



2026 Feb 6

Sgt. Liam Shiels  
Detachment Commander  
Milk River, AB

Mayor and Councils for the Town of Milk River, Village of Coutts, Town of Warner, and Warner County,

Please find attached the quarterly Community Policing Report for the third quarter of 2025-26 fiscal year. It outlines staffing, financial information, and crime trends for the Milk River Detachment, and supports our commitment to transparency and ongoing collaboration with our community partners.

Through both provincial and municipal policing contracts, the RCMP serves roughly 40% of Albertans across 95% of the province, including your community. That is why it is so important that our work is centered on people — the frontline members serving your community, the support teams behind the scenes, and the Albertans who rely on us every day.

The Government of Alberta's Police Funding Model (PFM) has strengthened our ability to meet those needs. With your contributions, we have added 279 police officers, 136 directly to detachments, along with 242 civilian staff, including 77 supporting detachment operations. These investments have also enabled the development of a Real-Time Operations Centre to support frontline officers, the expansion of our drone program, enhanced investigative capacity, and the addition of a third specialized Emergency Response Team.

These resources, along with the dedication of our employees and the support of your community, have helped bring Alberta's crime rates to their lowest point in five years — and we are committed to building on this progress together.

I welcome continued conversations about your community's policing priorities and any ideas that can help us strengthen our service. Working collaboratively is essential to maintaining this forward progress, and I encourage you to reach out at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Liam Shiels  
Detachment Commander  
Milk River Detachment



## Milk River Provincial Detachment Crime Statistics (Actual) October - December: 2021 - 2025

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

January 13, 2026

CATEGORY	Trend	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 2021 - 2025	% Change 2024 - 2025	Avg File +/- per Year
Offences Related to Death		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Robbery		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Sexual Assaults		0	0	2	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.2
Other Sexual Offences		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Assault		1	3	5	0	3	200%	N/A	0.1
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Extortion		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Criminal Harassment		0	6	1	0	4	N/A	N/A	0.2
Uttering Threats		2	2	2	2	0	-100%	-100%	-0.4
<b>TOTAL PERSONS</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>167%</b>	<b>300%</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Break & Enter		2	3	2	0	3	50%	N/A	-0.1
Theft of Motor Vehicle		1	0	0	0	1	0%	N/A	0.0
Theft Over \$5,000		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Theft Under \$5,000		0	3	1	1	5	N/A	400%	0.8
Possn Stn Goods		0	0	2	0	2	N/A	N/A	0.4
Fraud		4	5	4	1	2	-50%	100%	-0.8
Arson		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Mischief - Damage To Property		1	0	4	1	1	0%	0%	0.1
Mischief - Other		1	0	3	0	2	100%	N/A	0.2
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>433%</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Offensive Weapons		0	1	0	1	0	N/A	-100%	0.0
Disturbing the peace		0	2	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.2
Fail to Comply & Breaches		0	5	3	2	2	N/A	0%	0.1
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-100%</b>	<b>-100%</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
<b>TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-60%</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>160%</b>	<b>0.0</b>



## Milk River Provincial Detachment Crime Statistics (Actual) October - December: 2021 - 2025

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed"

January 13, 2026

CATEGORY	Trend	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 2021 - 2025	% Change 2024 - 2025	Avg File +/- per Year
Drug Enforcement - Production		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Drug Enforcement - Possession		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Drug Enforcement - Trafficking		0	0	2	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.2
Drug Enforcement - Other		0	0	1	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.2
<b>Total Drugs</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Cannabis Enforcement		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Federal - General		0	6	1	3	4	N/A	33%	0.5
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Liquor Act		0	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.1
Cannabis Act		0	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.1
Mental Health Act		1	6	10	7	3	200%	-57%	0.5
Other Provincial Stats		10	3	4	4	6	-40%	50%	-0.7
<b>Total Provincial Stats</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Municipal By-laws Traffic		0	0	0	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.2
Municipal By-laws		0	0	0	2	5	N/A	150%	1.2
<b>Total Municipal</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>200%</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Fatals		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Injury MVC		0	2	0	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.0
Property Damage MVC (Reportable)		18	15	17	11	8	-56%	-27%	-2.4
Property Damage MVC (Non Reportable)		0	4	3	4	0	N/A	-100%	0.0
<b>TOTAL MVC</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-50%</b>	<b>-40%</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
Roadside Suspension - Alcohol (Prov)		1	1	4	0	0	-100%	N/A	-0.3
Roadside Suspension - Drugs (Prov)		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
<b>Total Provincial Traffic</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-69%</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>-22.9</b>
Other Traffic		0	0	2	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Criminal Code Traffic		1	0	0	1	0	-100%	-100%	-0.1
<b>Common Police Activities</b>									
False Alarms		0	2	3	1	2	N/A	100%	0.3
False/Abandoned 911 Call and 911 Act		2	4	1	2	4	100%	100%	0.2
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property		7	6	13	7	10	43%	43%	0.7
Persons Reported Missing		1	1	1	0	0	-100%	N/A	-0.3
Search Warrants		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Spousal Abuse - Survey Code (Reported)		3	1	2	6	3	0%	-50%	0.5
Form 10 (MHA) (Reported)		0	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.1



## Alberta RCMP - Provincial Policing Report

### Detachment Information

**Detachment Name**

Milk River

**Detachment Commander**

Sgt. Liam Shiels

**Report Date**

February 6, 2026

**Fiscal Year**

2025-26

**Quarter**

Q3 (October - December)

### Community Priorities

**Priority #1: Traffic - Safety (motor vehicles, roads)****Updates and Comments:**

Daily proactive patrols are conducted each shift by all members. This includes patrols on the major Hwy 4 from the Coutts border to Warner. Patrols are regularly conducted on 501 west and east (including Writing-on-stone provincial park) as well as secondary highways/roads in our detachment area. This helps to ensure visibility/police presence throughout our area.

3 Violation tickets issued this period.

Members of the RCMP Border Enforcement Team regularly are in the area conducting patrols of the highways and the border.





## Community Consultations

### Consultation #1

Date	Meeting Type
December 18, 2025	Meeting with Elected Officials
<b>Topics Discussed</b>	
Discussion of Detachment responses and community perceptions with Town of Milk River and Village of Warner	
<b>Notes/Comments:</b>	



## Provincial Service Composition

Staffing Category	Established Positions	Working	Soft Vacancies	Hard Vacancies
Regular Members	4	4	0	0
Detachment Support	2	2	0	0

**Notes:**

1. Data extracted on December 31, 2025 and is subject to change.
2. Soft Vacancies are positions that are filled but vacant due to maternity/paternity leave, medical leave, etc. and are still included in the overall FTE count.
3. Hard Vacancies reflect positions that do not have an employee attached and need to be filled.

**Comments:**

Police Officers: Of the four established positions, four officers are working and none is on special leave. There are no hard vacancies at this time.

Detachment Support: Of the two established positions, two resources are currently working, and none is on special leave. There are no hard vacancies at this time.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Commanding Officer  
Alberta



Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Commandant  
de l'Alberta

February 4, 2026

Good day,

As we begin a new year, I would like to take the opportunity to share an update on the work the Alberta RCMP is doing to support safe, resilient communities across the province.

Like you, and the communities you serve, crime remains a primary concern for the Alberta RCMP. We recognize the significant impacts crime has on residents, businesses, and overall community well-being. Policing in Alberta presents unique and real challenges, including vast geographic areas, long response distances, and a relatively small number of repeat offenders who cause a disproportionate amount of harm. Addressing these challenges requires responses that are intelligence-led, fiscally responsible, and built on strong partnerships.

We remain focused on addressing crime through continual reassessment of operational approaches, responsible deployment of resources, and close collaboration with municipal and community partners. We also recognize the significant cost of policing for communities and remain committed to ensuring available resources are deployed strategically and efficiently to deliver effective policing services to Albertans.

As part of this commitment, we are investing in modernization initiatives, including the development of the Real-Time Operations Centre, the expansion of the Emergency Response Team, increased investigative capacity and resources focused on working in partnership with communities and government on prevention initiatives and address the root causes of crime.

I want to highlight for you some of the initiatives we have underway, some of the results we've realized and some of the opportunities we remain focused on.

Despite fiscal pressures, we continue to focus resources where they will have the greatest impact. One of our key strategies is concentrating on the relatively small number of offenders responsible for the greatest harm across the province through tracking and prioritizing the Top 100 offenders. Using data compiled from RCMP and municipal police services across Alberta our Strategic Research and Analysis Unit, has assessed nearly 100,000 unique offenders and ranked them to identify those causing the most significant harm. This intelligence directly informs the work of Crime Reduction Units located across the province that can be deployed where and when emerging crime trends demand to target those offenders causing the most harm. These units work in close coordination with local detachments and partner agencies, including municipal police services and Alberta Sheriffs.

We have countless examples of successful operations targeting property crime offenders across Alberta where significant seizures of stolen property including vehicles, ATV's heavy construction equipment, and copper wire, have been recovered and offenders have been arrested to face prosecution. This includes well coordinated investigations involving teams of investigators located strategically throughout the four districts working in concert and utilizing sophisticated investigative techniques and tools including the leveraging of cutting-edge surveillance assets from our federal RCMP partners.

We know that addiction to illicit drugs is a huge driver of the types of crime that victimize Albertans. To that end, we have also utilized enhanced investigative resources to compliment local detachments in combatting the drug trade in communities across the province. We have made significant seizures of fentanyl, methamphetamines, cocaine and illegal firearms in numerous investigations across the province. These successes impact the availability of these harmful drugs through disruption of supply and act as a deterrent by holding accountable those who are profiting from the distribution of substances that deprive Albertans of their safety and security.

We are embracing technology to make policing more effective, efficient, and safer for both the public and police. The policing landscape is changing; yesterday's solutions won't solve today's challenges. As such, modern policing requires that frontline officers be supported by layers of expertise, coordination, and technology. The Real-Time Operations Centre does exactly that and is a critical component of police modernization. Operating twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the Real-Time Operations Centre provides operational support to every Alberta RCMP officer in the province. It enhances officer and public safety, coordinates specialized resources, and ensures informed decision-making during complex and evolving incidents. For our officers, the Real-Time Operations Centre ensures they are never working alone, regardless of location. For Alberta communities, this means every officer on their street is supported by a robust network of specialized units ready to respond at any moment. Ratepayers aren't funding just one uniformed member, but a comprehensive system of expertise and technology working behind that officer to keep their community safe.

Advanced investigative resources and practices represent another essential component of modernized policing as do resources such as the Emergency Response Teams. Emergency Response Teams are teams of highly skilled and trained individuals, bringing together experienced members, specialized tactics, advanced technology, and trained negotiators as a complete operational package, essentially bringing the right resource to the most volatile and dangerous calls. Their role is to safely resolve high-risk incidents involving armed or barricaded individuals, hostage situations and high-risk arrests. By deploying the appropriate expertise, equipment, and techniques, Emergency Response Teams have consistently led to safer outcomes for community members, suspects, and police officers. Demand for these specialized responses has increased significantly, with a sixty-one per cent increase in calls requiring Emergency Response Team involvement over the past four years. In response we have increased our capacity in this area enhancing overall public safety throughout the province. These specialized units place the Alberta RCMP on the leading edge of modern policing in Canada and directly support community safety. Combined with the dedication of our employees and the partnership of the communities we serve, these efforts have helped reduce crime rates in Alberta to the lowest in five years.

We recognize that police visibility and staffing levels remain key concerns for our clients and stakeholders. We continue to focus on recruiting Albertans to serve Albertans, strengthening experienced police officer recruitment. Since April 1, 2024, we have seen 5,450 applications in Alberta and 22 Experienced Police Officers have joined the Alberta RCMP since April 1, 2025. While these recruiting numbers are encouraging, we recognize the ongoing urgency to fill vacancies which is why we continually look inward at our hiring processes to remove barriers, find efficiencies and ensure the most qualified applicants are finding their way to service in communities across Alberta as quickly as possible.

Like all police services, we experience short-term human resource pressures at frontline detachments and have developed several strategies that enable a flexible response to these pressures. We have established a Relief Team based out of Leduc and Cochrane that is comprised of 30 members who

support detachments throughout the province. Since the start of 2026, the Relief Team has deployed 34 times to various detachments in the province. In addition, we currently have 33 Reservists who are retired police officers available as and when required to deploy where the greatest needs are. This provides another option of flexible deployment of highly experienced resources.

We are continually assessing our service delivery models to ensure our resources are deployed in the most effective and efficient way. This includes assessing resource levels at detachments, monitoring our response times, reviewing and adapting our policies and piloting initiatives to improve member visibility in communities. Just recently, we approved a pilot project that leverages technology to reduce the administrative burden placed on our front-line members, so that they can spend more time engaged in proactive patrolling and community engagement.

We continually engage in consultation with our community partners and stakeholders to identify whether changes to service delivery are needed. We assess and discuss impacts with our stakeholders and prioritize flexibility to ensure we are responsive to community priorities and needs.

Municipal leadership plays a critical role in advocating for safer communities. Your collective voice—grounded in firsthand knowledge of how crime affects residents, businesses, and community well-being—is essential in advancing meaningful change related to bail practices and court capacity.

I would like to highlight some of the broader challenges we encounter in this space.

First, let me share an example of a single prolific offender whose repeated releases resulted in significant harm across multiple communities:

- In February 2025, he committed a firearm-related robbery and stole a vehicle containing a one-year-old child, receiving a 90-day sentence.
- In June 2025, he was sentenced to 21 days time served after being located in a stolen vehicle.
- In July 2025, he was arrested again in a stolen vehicle, charged with 11 offences, and released on bail with conditions.
- In September 2025, he pled guilty to theft under \$5,000 and served 30 days.
- In November 2025, he rammed an unmarked police vehicle with a stolen vehicle and was taken into custody.
- He now faces 11 charges, including failure to comply and assaulting a police officer with a weapon, and remains in custody.

This individual committed offences across Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Parkland County, Lac Ste. Anne County, and Sturgeon County. His apprehension was the result of coordinated efforts between the Central Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit, a Community Response Team, and Parkland Detachment resources.

Examples such as this are not isolated. They demonstrate how a single prolific offender, repeatedly released back into the community, can cause significant harm to multiple municipalities in a short period of time. These cases underscore rural Albertans' concerns around repeat offending, bail, and court capacity.

We work closely with Crown Prosecutors to address repeat offending by ensuring priority offenders are supported by comprehensive bail packages that clearly outline criminal history, risk to public safety, and the broader community impacts of continued release. We also actively support the use of Community

Impact Statements, which allow communities and municipal leaders to articulate the cumulative harm crime causes beyond individual victims.

We remain compassionate toward individuals experiencing mental health challenges, addictions, and social vulnerability, and we continue to support partnerships that improve access to treatment and recovery services. This requires that adequate treatment be available and accessible. At the same time, there *are* individuals whose repeated, violent, or high-risk behaviour necessitates incarceration. Some people simply need to go to jail in order to protect the public and prevent further victimization.

Court capacity remains a significant challenge across the province, especially in rural Alberta. Limited court time, shortages of judges and clerks, and resulting delays undermine the effectiveness of the justice system. We will continue to advocate for improvements through multiple forums, consistently raising the impacts these pressures have on victims, communities, and frontline policing.

When policing data, operational experience, and municipal advocacy align, they provide a powerful foundation for justice system reform. Effective crime reduction cannot be achieved by policing alone. Long-term success depends on strong partnerships with municipalities, community organizations, government, and social service providers. We value our relationship with you and those you represent and recognize the essential role you play in shaping community safety priorities.

Modernization, fiscal responsibility, and collaboration will continue to guide our efforts. We are committed to leveraging technology, applying best practices, and deploying the right resources in the right places to support shared public safety goals.

Effective policing depends on strong partnerships, and I want to assure you that we remain committed to working closely with elected officials, municipal administrators, and community leaders to ensure policing services align with local priorities and needs. That is why I encourage you to reach out to your local Detachment Commander to discuss your policing services and explore opportunities to strengthen collaboration in support of your community priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Daroux', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Trevor Daroux  
Deputy Commissioner  
Commanding Officer Alberta RCMP

111140 - 109 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5G 2T4

Telephone: 780-412-5444  
Fax: 780-412-5445

## **Community Priorities Plan Leadership Invitation Letter**

February 6th, 2026

Mayor and Councils for the Town of Milk River, Village of Coutts, Town of Warner, and Warner County,

As Alberta's provincial police service, the RCMP is continually working to modernize and strengthen the way we partner with communities to address local public safety needs. This letter is being shared to provide early awareness of an upcoming change to the community priority planning process and to support timely engagement with local leadership ahead of the next planning cycle.

Beginning in February 2026, Alberta RCMP detachments will be transitioning to a new Community Priorities Plan (CPP) for the 2026–2027 cycle. This updated approach replaces the previous Annual Performance Plan (APP) and is intended to serve as the primary framework for identifying and tracking policing priorities at the community level.

The CPP is intentionally community-led. It was developed to strengthen collaboration with municipal and Indigenous leadership and to ensure that the priorities of your police service are directly informed by the communities we serve. The CPP is designed to support meaningful dialogue, shared understanding, and clear, achievable priorities that reflect local realities.

This early communication is intended to allow community leaders sufficient time to begin considering local priorities and engaging with constituents before formal planning begins.

### **Community Priorities Plan Overview**

Step One: Preparation and Consultation (February 2026)

Community leaders consult with their constituents in advance of meeting with the RCMP to gather ideas, concerns, and objectives related to community safety. This initial consultation is the first of two points of engagement and is an important step in ensuring that policing priorities are built with the community, not for the community.

Should community leaders wish to involve their Detachment Commander in these early community discussions, requests can be made directly to the detachment and support will be provided.

The purpose of this stage is to develop a clear understanding of community-specific concerns and objectives to inform upcoming discussions.

## Step Two: Engagement Meeting (March 2026)

An engagement meeting is held between community representatives and the Detachment Commander. This meeting provides an opportunity for community representatives to share feedback gathered during consultations and to discuss community perspectives openly.

All relevant concerns, ideas, and objectives are welcome for discussion at this stage. These conversations help build a shared understanding between the community and the detachment and support alignment as priorities begin to take shape.

Following this initial engagement meeting, the Detachment Commander will take the identified community priorities and meet with their leadership team to develop an operational plan outlining how the RCMP will work to deliver on those priorities.

## Step Three: Finalizing Priorities

A subsequent meeting will be held between community representatives and the Detachment Commander where possible, during which the proposed plan will be presented to the community for review. This meeting will provide an opportunity for community leaders to offer feedback, seek clarification, and confirm alignment before priorities are finalized.

Following engagement and discussion, the Community Priorities Plan is finalized. The goal of this stage is to confirm a consolidated list of up to three community policing priorities that accurately reflects and encompasses the concerns and objectives raised through earlier engagement.

Once confirmed, the plan is endorsed by the Detachment Commander and community leadership. Progress will be monitored through regular reporting, with adjustments made as required to ensure priorities remain responsive and aligned over time.

## **Detachments Serving Multiple Communities**

For detachments that serve multiple municipalities, this CPP process will be conducted with each community group. Engagement, consultation, and feedback will be gathered independently to ensure each community's unique needs and perspectives are understood. Overall, detachment priorities will then be developed based on the totality of feedback received across all participating communities.

## **Next Steps - Community Consultation and Engagement**

As part of the CPP process, community leaders are encouraged to begin consulting with their constituents to gather input on local safety concerns, emerging issues, and opportunities for collaboration. Community leaders may choose the consultation methods that best suit their communities, such as surveys, town halls, meetings, or other engagement activities. Detachment Commanders may be invited to attend these conversations where appropriate, or consultations may be conducted independently, with feedback shared at a later stage.

This early engagement will help inform discussions with your Detachment Commander as CPP development progresses. Your partnership is essential to ensuring policing priorities reflect the unique needs of your community. Further information and guidance will be provided by your local detachment as the CPP process moves forward.

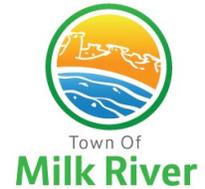
Thank you for your continued partnership and leadership in supporting community safety.

Sincerely,  
Sgt. Liam Shiels  
Detachment Commander  
Milk River Detachment

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## CAO REPORT

March 9, 2026



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### **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 – March 9, 2026



- 1. Prepayments** – As per our incentive program to generate early revenue, we commenced the tax & utility pre-payment program in January and several residents pre-paid their taxes and received a 5% rebate in January and 4% in February. In January we had \$251,069 prepaid in taxes for a savings to residents (investment by the town) of \$12,429. In February, we had \$8,407 prepaid for a savings of \$336. Residents who pre-pay in March will receive a savings of 3%.

There’s also a utility savings for prepaying for the year. If paid in full for the year in January, then utility account holders receive one month free. As a result we received \$47,437 in early utility payments for a combined savings to users of \$4,312

- 2. Land Sales** – we have recently sold two more lots up on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, lots 429 and 505.



- 3. Progressive West Grant Writing Update**

See attached below. Of note, we have been approved for the \$12,000 federal accessibility grant. We are working on the logistics for the project.

- 4. Public Works Update**

See attached below.

- 5. Financial Update**

See attached below.

- 6. Bylaw Enforcement Update**

## RRCPO / MILK RIVER

Offence ID	Offence Description	Reporting District	Total
BARK	DOG BARKING	RRPSS	3
STRAY ANIMAL -	STRAY ANIMAL	RRPSS	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>4</b>

# Monthly Progress Report — Town of Milk River

**Reporting Period:** February 2026

**Prepared by:** Progressive West Consulting

**Consultant:** Penny D'Agnone

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## Project Activity Summary

### 1. Notifications received

- **Enabling Accessibility Fund Youth Innovation Component**
  - Status: Approved
  - Applicant: Town of Milk River
  - Project: Milk River Pool Ramp
  - Amount requested: \$12,000
  - Amount approved: TBC - waiting on funding agreement
  - Reporting requirements: TBC
  -

### 2. Submitted Grant Applications

- **Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation**
  - Status: Pending
  - Applicant: Milk River Fire Department
  - Project: Breathing apparatus
  - Amount requested: \$29,908.20
  - Total project cost: \$29,908.20
  - Date submitted: Feb 12, 2026

### 3. Grants in Development

**Mitacs Wage Subsidy** - work on a grant to support work similar to the Municipal Intern Program application.

#### Milk River Town Office

- **Community Energy Conservation Program (due Mar 31, 2026)** - is there a project on the simplified retrofit list that we can apply for funding to support? List: [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgiclfefindmkaj/https://mccac.ca/wp-content/uploads/CEC-Simplified-Retrofits-List.pdf](https://mccac.ca/wp-content/uploads/CEC-Simplified-Retrofits-List.pdf)
- ATCO - they may have funds to support a feasibility study for these projects.

#### Milk River Fire Department

- **TC Energy Grants (opens week of Feb 23)** - projects to support purchase of needed equipment for the firehall. Discussions being started with the Fire Chief.

#### Milk River Curling Club

- **Fortis Save Energy grant** - Quote received for the lighting (included with CFEP small). Starting development of application to Fortis for lighting replacement.

## Milk River Swimming Pool Projects

- **Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwestern Alberta - due Mar 16, 2026.**
  - Purpose: Original idea was for ramp but that is now funded. Is there another project for the pool?
  - Status: *In progress*
  - *Matching funds*: Pool Society may contribute \$2,000–\$3,000
- **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: May 15, 2025
- **Fortis Save Energy Grant (due Apr 30, 2026) - inquiring as to reason it was declined in 2025. Consider reapplying based on feedback.**

## 4. Other

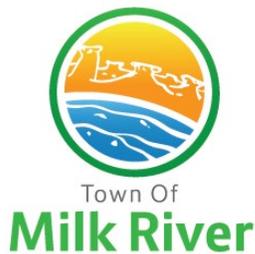
- **MR Society Registration** - Start with identifying the 5 members to serve on the society
  - The next step is to complete forms and submit.
- **Alberta Agricultural Societies Program** - Operating - due Feb 15 Followed up a number of times with MR AG Society. Laurie indicated that they have applied for this on their own.

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## Upcoming Opportunities

- Opens week of February 23, 2026 - TC Energy Grants
- Due Feb 27 - Canada Post Community Foundation Grants
- Due Mar 1 - TransCanada Trails Grants
- Due Mar 16 - Community Foundation of Lethbridge & SW Alberta
- Due Mar 27 - Oreo Stay Playful for All (hockey equipment grant)
- Due Mar 31 - Community Futures Blackfoot Signage Project
- Due Apr 30 - Fortis Save Energy Grant
- Due Apr 30 - Alberta Blue Cross Community Wellbeing Grant
- Due May 15 - CFEP Small
- Due May 15 - CFEP Large
- Due Jul 15 - TD Friends of the Environment (green space grants)





## Public Works Report February 2026

### General:

- Monthly generator preventative maintenance runs completed (Sewage lift station, Booster station, Water Treatment Plant, & Firehall.)
- Installed construction fencing around debris pile and entry to the pool.

### Parks and Rec:

- Blue and Green garbage bin pickup every Thursday morning.
- Dug 1 grave on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> and buried on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Roads:

- Plowed streets and sidewalks when needed. Picked up all windrows. Removed all piles of snow.

### Water & Wastewater:

- **WATER:**
  - Daily water rounds and data collection.
  - Water Main break in 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Cul-de-sac. Repaired on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Meter Reads done on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **WTP:**
  - Reservoir levels are at 100%
  - Filled chlorine
  - Data collection
- **SEWER WORK:**
  - Daily checks and documentation.
  - Sewer lift station pump #3 repaired and now working.

### Garbage:

- Weekly garbage pickup: Milk River residential on Tuesday, Coutts on Wednesday, Warner on Thursday & Milk River businesses on Friday
- Pushed up Wood burn pit at the transfer station.
- Cleaned Ditches on Railway St. on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. 38 jugs of urine, 3 bags of poop, and lots of garbage.

### Swimming Pool:

- Closed pool on September 12<sup>th</sup>
- Kiddie pool removal is a work in progress through the Winter and Spring.

### Airport:

- Weekly run to airport to check condition of road in and runways, for unwanted activity. (When checking sewage lagoons).
- Plow snow when needed.

### Education & Training:

- Weekly safety meeting every Wednesday morning.



**TOWN OF MILK RIVER**  
For the Period Ending February 28, 2026

<b>General Ledger</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2026 Opening Balance</b>	<b>2026 YTD Balance</b>
<b>CHEQUING ACCOUNTS</b>			
3-12-00-120-00	General Bank Chequing Account (ATB)	(247,687.70)	(30,345.11)
3-12-00-130-00	General Savings Account (ATB)	1,133.21	34.29
3-12-00-150-00	AMWWP Savings Account (ATB)	350,463.41	689.76
4-00-00-323-00	Short Term Borrowing	0.00	(300,000.00)
* <b>TOTAL CHEQUING ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>103,908.92</b>	<b>(329,621.06)</b>
<b>TOWN TERM DEPOSITS</b>			
3-41-00-310-00	Water Capital GIC	4,176.66	4,195.58
3-43-00-310-00	Equipment Replacement Capital GIC	399,852.56	401,664.34
3-97-00-315-00	General Capital GIC	584,605.66	587,254.59
* <b>TOTAL TOWN TERM DEPOSITS</b>		<b>988,634.88</b>	<b>993,114.51</b>
<b>ARMS LENGTH TERM DEPOSITS</b>			
3-43-00-315-00	Transfer Station Operating GIC	5,825.85	5,852.24
* <b>TOTAL ARMS LENGTH TERM DEPOSIT</b>		<b>5,825.85</b>	<b>5,852.24</b>
<b>**P TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>1,098,369.65</b>	<b>669,345.69</b>

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

**Operating Revenue/Expenditures by Department for the 2 Months Ended February 28, 2026**

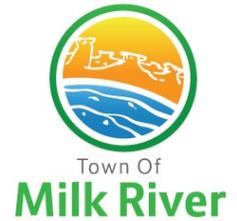
Department	REVENUES				EXPENDITURES				Actual
	Interim Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Dollars	% Collected	Interim Budget	YTD Actual	Remaining Dollars	% Used	Contribution to Surplus
0 General Government	(1,733,885)	(50,468)	(1,683,417)	2.9	283,670	12,742	270,928	4.5	(37,726)
11 Council	0	0	0	0.0	97,807	16,605	81,202	17.0	16,605
12 Administration	(286,424)	(5,793)	(280,631)	2.0	442,618	105,168	337,450	23.8	99,375
23/24 Fire/Disaster Services	(20,000)	0	(20,000)	0.0	86,106	12,077	74,029	14.0	12,077
26 Bylaw Enforcement	(3,900)	(2,240)	(1,660)	57.4	77,570	8,260	69,310	10.6	6,020
31 Common Services	(300)	(60)	(240)	0.0	189,409	30,619	158,790	16.2	30,559
32 Roads	(25,380)	(51)	(25,329)	0.2	310,883	21,224	289,659	6.8	21,173
33 Airport	(465)	0	(465)	0.0	5,106	2,898	2,208	56.8	2,898
4101 Water Supply/Distribution	(267,800)	(43,478)	(224,322)	16.2	381,854	76,560	305,294	20.0	33,082
42 Wastewater	(97,000)	(15,269)	(81,731)	15.7	75,670	11,350	64,320	15.0	(3,919)
43 Solid Waste	(127,105)	(23,397)	(103,708)	18.4	125,758	11,231	114,527	8.9	(12,166)
43 Transfer Station	(12,405)	(26)	(12,379)	0.2	25,100	3,882	21,218	15.5	3,856
56 Cemetery	(3,000)	(1,300)	(1,700)	43.3	5,000	5,000	0	100.0	3,700
61 Planning & Development	(7,200)	(4,600)	(2,600)	63.9	85,000	9,887	75,113	11.6	5,287
62 Economic Development	(29,500)	0	(29,500)	0.0	5,915	4,890	1,025	82.7	4,890
72 General Recreation	(5,400)	0	(5,400)	0.0	215,018	30,127	184,891	14.0	30,127
7201 Campground	(17,000)	(1,786)	(15,214)	10.5	37,440	6,392	31,048	17.1	4,606
7202 Pool	(151,650)	0	(151,650)	0.0	239,415	7,430	231,985	3.1	7,430
7203 Golf Course	0	(180)	180	0.0	78,774	-297	79,071	-0.4	(477)
74 Culture & Library	0	0	0	0.0	20,301	3,197	17,104	15.7	3,197
									0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>(2,788,414)</b>	<b>(148,648)</b>	<b>(2,639,766)</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>2,788,414</b>	<b>379,242</b>	<b>2,409,172</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>230,594</b>

**Revenue and Expenses - by Funtion  
for the 2 Months Ended February 28, 2026**

	2025 Actual	2026 Interim Budget	2026 YTD Actual	Remaining Dollars	% Collected/ Used
<b>Operating</b>					
<b>Revenues</b>					
Taxation	(1,344,891.71)	(1,347,955.00)	0.00	(1,347,955.00)	0.00
Sale of Goods and Services	(663,824.92)	(616,815.00)	(96,207.01)	(520,607.99)	15.60
Other Revenue/Franchise Fees	(299,884.76)	(381,560.00)	(51,187.73)	(330,372.27)	13.42
Conditional Grants	(2,836,482.97)	(207,360.00)	(1,253.33)	(206,106.67)	0.60
Transfer from other Functions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Reserves	0.00	(234,724.00)	0.00	(234,724.00)	0.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>(5,145,084.36)</b>	<b>(2,788,414.00)</b>	<b>(148,648.07)</b>	<b>(2,639,765.93)</b>	<b>5.33</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	794,092.78	779,306.00	111,485.79	667,820.21	14.31
Contracted & General Services	827,073.95	1,069,363.00	160,861.44	908,501.56	15.04
Materials, Goods & Utilities	438,435.12	480,315.00	65,838.64	414,476.36	13.71
Government Requisitions	311,739.88	311,740.00	0.00	311,740.00	0.00
Transfers to Local Boards	47,847.70	49,326.00	3,197.12	46,128.88	6.48
Transfers to Ind/Organizations	22,959.16	36,614.00	14,262.10	22,351.90	38.95
Bank Charges	11,153.85	10,000.00	6,533.20	3,466.80	65.33
Interest on Capital Long Term	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Transactions	24,375.18	26,570.00	17,064.07	9,505.93	64.22
Transfer from Capital	0.00	25,180.00	0.00	25,180.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,477,677.62</b>	<b>2,788,414.00</b>	<b>379,242.36</b>	<b>2,383,991.64</b>	<b>13.60</b>

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## Middle Coulee Creek Water Pipeline Project - Delegation to Minister Hunter



March 9, 2026

### BACKGROUND

Southgrow has supported and advocated for the enhanced water infrastructure needed for our region and the benefit of the Middle Coulee Creek Water Pipeline Project, which will provide an essential backup water source for residents and water users here and lessen our sole reliance on the Milk River.

Peter Casurella, Executive Director of Southgrow, who took care of the indigenous consultation on our behalf for the new proposed water line project, has set up a meeting in Edmonton for us with Grant Hunter, our MLA and the new Environment Minister, to discuss the following with regards to this project:

1. Update the Minister on completion of public engagement for the water line project.
2. Request his support to action legislative approval of the inter-basin transfer.
3. Solicit his support in finalizing the water license that we have to acquire from the *St. Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID)*
4. Discuss avenues for securing funding for the complete project.

The date of the meeting is Thursday, April 16 and we feel this will be an important opportunity for us to help move this important project forward and that doing so in person will allow us to engage more meaningfully and effectively.

Southgrow is also willing to attend this meeting with us to support us in these important discussions.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council appoint a delegation to attend to this engagement on their behalf. It is recommended that Mayor Liebelt and Deputy Mayor Johnson, as our Southgrow member, be appointed as this delegation.

### RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

1. To appoint Mayor Liebelt and Deputy Mayor Johnson as the Middle Coulee Creek Water Pipeline delegation to meet with Minister Hunter on Council's behalf and engage on this topic.

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## FCSS Volunteer Awards

March 9, 2026



### BACKGROUND

FCSS has contacted us about their upcoming volunteer awards asking if there is anyone we'd like to nominate. Nominations may be made for individuals, youths or organizations who have *"made a significant impact in our community."*

Information about the awards is attached below. Nominations are confidential.

### CONSIDERATIONS

Council may simply accept this as information and leave nominations to the individuals and groups in the community to make. We have helped to promote these awards in the community at the town office and on social media.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION OPTIONS

1. To accept this as information

OR

2. That \_\_\_\_\_ (individual or group), be nominated by the Town of Milk River for the following: \_\_\_\_\_.

OR

3. That this item be deferred to closed session for further consideration.



# CHEERS TO VOLUNTEERS AWARDS

Nominate an **individual, youth, or group** who has made a significant positive impact in your community

For one of THREE  
**Outstanding Volunteer Awards!**

Nomination Deadline: Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.



## ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ Live and volunteer within the FCSS service area, including the communities within the MD of Taber, County of Warner, and Lethbridge County.
  - Please note that City of Lethbridge residents are **not** eligible to receive this award.
- ✓ Exemplify a spirit of volunteerism and the ability to inspire others.

## INFORMATION

**Cindy Lauwen**  
403-915-7063 (call/text)  
volunteerservices@fcsc.ca

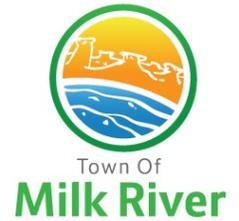
## SUBMIT NOMINATION



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## Community History Video

March 9, 2026



### BACKGROUND

Attached below is an offer to produce and distribute a community history and promotional video for the town. The video will be a 10-20 minute video focused on our history, heritage and preservation efforts. Once approved by us it will then be distributed through a variety of social media outlets.

The cost is \$500

### CONSIDERATIONS

This is a low-cost opportunity to have our community showcased as part of the producers cross-Canada promotional tour. We also will have a video out of it that can be used on our website and other promotional mediums for the town. It is recommended that Council consider this as it is very reasonably priced for the opportunity.

### RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

1. To approve participation in the Community History Partnership.

OR

Accept this as information.

## Telling Your Story: A Community History Video Partnership

Dear Council Members,

My name is Craig Baird, and I am the creator and host of *Canadian History Ehx*, one of Canada's leading history podcasts and radio programs.

I launched *Canadian History Ehx* in 2019 with the goal of exploring and sharing Canada's rich past. What began as a small podcast has grown into one of the most-listened-to history shows in the country, now reaching over one million downloads per year and airing nationally on the Corus Radio Network. Alongside the show, I manage social media channels with a combined audience of more than 300,000 followers, and I am the author of the best-selling book *Canada's Main Street: The Epic Story of the Trans-Canada Highway*.

This year, I am embarking on an ambitious coast-to-coast-to-coast journey across Canada to document our country's past and present. The stories, interviews, and experiences from this trip will become a series of videos and a future book focused on the people, places, and communities that shape Canada.

With my background in journalism and video production, my goal is to visit communities like yours to tell your story—highlighting your history, heritage, and the ways you preserve it for future generations. These videos are designed not only to celebrate local history, but also to serve as lasting, shareable promotional pieces for your community.

To help fund this journey, I am offering communities the opportunity to partner with me for the creation of a dedicated feature video about their history and heritage.

What I'm offering:

- A 10–20 minute professionally produced video focused on your community's history, heritage, and preservation efforts
- Distribution across my social media platforms, YouTube channel, and TikTok, reaching hundreds of thousands of history-interested viewers. My follower count is as follows:
  - Twitter (65,000): <https://x.com/CraigBaird>
  - Instagram (48,000): @cdnhistoryehx
  - Threads (40,000): <https://www.threads.com/@cdnhistoryehx>
  - Bluesky (25,000): <https://bsky.app/profile/cdnhistoryehx.bsky.social>
  - TikTok (35,000): @cdnhistoryehx
  - YouTube (6,800): <https://www.youtube.com/@CanadianHistoryEhx>
  - Facebook (106,000): <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianHistoryEhx>
- A collaborative process: no video will be published without your approval after review
- A two-week turnaround: all videos will be delivered for review within two weeks of filming

- Filming will take place during my journey between June and September (although some can be done earlier than June due to proximity to my location of Stony Plain, Alberta).

Cost:

- \$500 total
- \$250 upon acceptance
- \$250 once the video has been delivered for your review

My aim is to create something that your community can be proud of—an engaging, accurate, and accessible story that showcases what makes your town unique, while also introducing it to a large, Canada-wide audience interested in history, travel, and heritage.

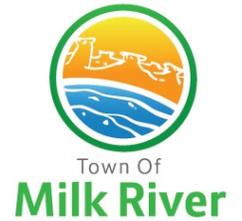
Thank you very much for considering this proposal. I would be happy to answer any questions or discuss how we can tailor this project to best serve your community.

Sincerely,  
Craig Baird  
*Canadian History Ehx*

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## Bringing Hearts Home – Milk River EMS Cardiac Fundraiser

March 9, 2026



### BACKGROUND

Attached below is a request from Milk River EMS for a donation for their silent auction for their upcoming “Bringing Hearts Home” BBQ fundraiser event, which will be held May 21 at the Milk River Fire Hall.

### CONSIDERATIONS

This is an event to support cardiac care in southern Alberta. If Council is interested, administration could assemble a gift basket like what we have previously done.

### RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

1. To provide a gift basket for the *Bringing Hearts Home* silent auction.

OR

Something else at the discretion of Council

OR

Accept this as information.



To Whom It May Concern,

Milk River EHS EMS is proud to host Grilling Up Support for Bringing Hearts Home, a community BBQ and Silent Auction in support of the Bringing Hearts Home campaign through the Chinook Regional Health Foundation. The event will take place on May 21 at the Milk River Fire Hall.

We are reaching out to ask if you would consider supporting our fundraising efforts by donating a product or service for our silent auction. Your contribution would play an important role in helping us make this event a success and in raising funds for this meaningful cause.

We chose to support the Bringing Hearts Home campaign because we see firsthand how individuals and families are impacted by the lack of cardiac care services in southern Alberta. Access to care often requires travel far from home during critical and stressful times. We believe in being part of the change to bring this vital healthcare service closer to the communities we serve.

Your generosity would not only help us reach our fundraising goal but would also directly support improved cardiac care for residents across southern Alberta. In appreciation of your support, we would be pleased to recognize your business at the event.

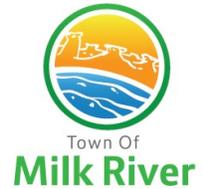
Thank you for considering our request. Please feel free to contact Lauren Struth at 403-894-2141 if you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,  
Milk River EHS EMS

**Bringing Hearts Home**  
The Road to Southern Alberta's Cardiac Centre of Excellence

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

## CORRESPONDENCE



March 9, 2026

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### **BACKGROUND**

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

1. National Police Federation – RCMP Contract Policing Commitment
2. Village of Stirling Letter to Minister Ellis – Increased Policing Costs
3. Town of Taber Mayor – Invitation to Attend the Play On! Street Hockey Tournament
4. Municipal Affairs – Minister Awards for Libraries

### **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.

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**From:** Maryanne King <mking@npf-fpn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 10:20 AM  
**To:** Trudi Sutherland <main@milkriver.ca>  
**Cc:** jdoris@mclennan.ca  
**Subject:** National Police Federation | Contract Policing Commitment

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

Dear Mayor Liebelt,

On behalf of the National Police Federation (NPF), we are pleased to share that the Federal Minister of Public Safety has confirmed once again the Government of Canada's ongoing commitment to RCMP contract policing in provinces and municipalities beyond 2032.

Please see a [statement from the NPF](#) highlighting the significance of this confirmation and the certainty it provides to contract partners for public safety planning purposes going forward.

The NPF has been actively working with all levels of government to demonstrate our Members' world-class policing service and to seek clarity on the future of contract policing beyond 2032. This confirmation is welcome news, verifying the expert local policing services the RCMP provides which provinces and municipalities can continue to rely on in the years ahead.

Should you have any questions or like additional information, please feel free to contact the NPF at [GVTRelations@npf-fpn.com](mailto:GVTRelations@npf-fpn.com).

Sincerely,

**Maryanne King**

Advisor, Government Relations | Conseiller, relations gouvernementales

**Pronouns: She/Her**

**National Police Federation | Fédération de la Police Nationale**

[\(587\) 672-0695](tel:(587)672-0695)

[npf-fpn.com](http://npf-fpn.com)

**NATIONAL  
POLICE  
FEDERATION**



**FÉDÉRATION  
DE LA POLICE  
NATIONALE**™



The mission of the National Police Federation is to provide strong, professional, fair and progressive representation to promote and enhance the rights of RCMP Members. La mission de la Fédération de la police nationale est de fournir une représentation forte, professionnelle, juste et progressive afin de promouvoir et faire avancer les droits des Membres de la GRC.

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STIRLING

February 11, 2026

Honourable Mike Ellis – Deputy Premier of Alberta  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services  
404 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

\*\*\* RE: Small Municipality Policing Costs \*\*\*

Minister Ellis,

On behalf of Mayor and Council for the Village of Stirling, we are writing in response to your December 18, 2025, correspondence regarding the renewed Police Funding Model (PFM), as well as the supporting implementation materials provided by your ministry.

Council recognizes the Province's efforts to modernize the PFM following the independent review conducted by MNP LLP, and being one of the communities which participated in the review, there appeared to be a resounding request for the funding model to form a requisition, similar to that of education tax. The intent to improve transparency would be met by a model that the taxpayer to clearly see what part of their taxes are being utilized for paying for policing. The proposed new model still provides the municipality a bill, which they must absorb through their property taxes.

The financial sustainability of small municipalities is at question, as more and more costs are being passed forward to the municipality to directly absorb via their main form of revenue generation. This means the municipality has to make choices on services they provide to their residents; which in small municipalities are not a robust amount; or increasing the taxes to the ratepayers through mill rate increases.

The Village of Stirling has gone from paying \$17,190.75 in 2019 to \$68,811.00 in 2025. This amounts to a 75% increase over those six years. The average for taxes across all taxable parcels in the Village of Stirling in 2025 was \$2,543.00, meaning just over 27 of the total parcel's taxes went directly to policing. We have approximately 450 taxable parcels in the Village so almost 6% of our parcel's taxes were directly absorbed by the PFM. This becomes a larger impact as the overall costs are slated to rise by up to 130% over the next five years (2030/2031) and our ability to grow will not match pace with the increases in policing. This means more of our overall dollars used to fund the Municipal Operation will be absorbed into policing. The proposed figure of \$158,554.81 for 2030/2031 would account for the full municipal taxes of 62 dwellings of our current taxable properties, based off of today's average. This would mean approximately 14% of all our taxable parcels dollars would be spent on policing by that date.

Council also considers the fact the Village has a very small crime severity index (CSI), with our CSI for the 2024-2025 PFM model being 17.16. Couple our low CSI with the lack of increased members to



## STIRLING

our detachment area and we appear to be paying more for those communities who have a higher CSI in the PFM and receive the increased resources as funding is released for new officers.

As the Minister and the Government of Alberta recognizes, all Albertan's are under financial pressure from increased costs, but those pressures are also factors for small municipalities like the Village of Stirling who have to pay the same increased costs for service delivery for the most basic of infrastructure services, outside of other services like recreation.

We appreciate the Minister has pressure to try and deliver the most equitable model possible, but as these costs rise the ability for the smaller municipalities to absorb them right out of their main source of revenue, while taking into account the financial strains of their residents, will become so complex it could have broader consequences on the already substantial infrastructure deficit faced by the province as Municipal Councils are forced to make trade offs to afford to pay the PFM.

Council respectfully requests that the Province continue to work with municipalities to monitor the real-world impacts of the renewed PFM and to exercise all available regulatory discretion to moderate disproportionate cost increases for small communities. Targeted relief; caps, or further refinement of the model would help ensure that policing remains both effective and financially sustainable.

We appreciate the Province's commitment to collaboration with their municipal partners and hope through continued dialogue, we might find the path which balances the financial realities faced by Alberta's small communities and the ability to provide effective policing to Alberta's citizens.

Respectfully,

Scott Barton  
Mayor, Village of Stirling

cc.

Honourable Grant Hunter,  
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, MLA Taber-Warner  
Town of Cardston  
Town of Magrath  
Town of Raymond  
Town of Milk River  
Town of Warner  
Village of Coutts  
County of Warner

February 23, 2026

File: 100-G03

Mayor Larry Liebelt  
\*sent by email: [cao@milkriver.ca](mailto:cao@milkriver.ca)

**Re: Invitation to Attend the Play On! Street Hockey Tournament**

Dear Mayor Liebelt,

On behalf of the Town of Taber, we are pleased to extend an invitation for you and your Council to participate in the upcoming **Play On! Street Hockey Tournament**, taking place March 27 and 28, 2026, in support of the **Community Centre and Arena Rebuild Project**.

Play On! is recognized across Canada as the world's largest street hockey festival and holds the Guinness World Record for its scale and community impact. This year's event in Taber is expected to welcome approximately **500 players**, along with families, supporters, and visitors, creating a vibrant atmosphere for our community.

We would be honored to have you join us as invited officials. Opportunities to participate include attending the event to engage with spectators and cheer on teams. Your support and attendance would be deeply appreciated. Your presence helps highlight the importance of community recreation, youth engagement, and regional collaboration.

In addition to the tournament itself, the event will feature a special performance by **The Road Hammers**, presented by Spider Entertainment at 7:00pm on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, with tickets available through the event organizer.

If you have any questions at all or would like further details, please contact Amy Allred, Economic Development Manager by telephone at 403-223-5514 or by email at [amy.allred@taber.ca](mailto:amy.allred@taber.ca) and she would be happy to help.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to welcome you.

Sincerely,



Mayor Andrew Prokop  
Cc: Council of the Town of Taber



ALBERTA  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Peace River*

AR121350

January 8, 2026

Dear Chief Elected Official or Library Board Chair:

I am pleased to invite your municipality or library board to provide submissions for the 2026 Minister's Awards for Municipal and Public Library Excellence (MAMPLE). This program recognizes excellence in municipal government initiatives and the 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.

The 2026 program features four municipal and two library award categories. For each municipal category, one award will be given for municipalities with populations under 10,000, and one for municipalities with populations over 10,000. For each library category, two awards will be given to library boards serving populations under 10,000, and two for library boards serving populations over 10,000.

Submissions will be accepted in the following categories:

- **Building Economic Strength (open to all municipalities)**

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- building the economic capacity and/or resiliency of the community; and/or
- improving the attractiveness of the community to businesses, investors, and visitors.

- **Enhancing Community Engagement or Livability (open to all municipalities)**

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- increasing accessibility of community services;
- fostering inclusive and welcoming communities;
- improving engagement opportunities for community members; and/or
- strengthening wellness and safety responsiveness.

- **Partnership (open to all municipalities)**

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- enabling a local or regional partnership\* that achieves results that could not have been accomplished by the municipality alone;
- generating lasting relationships between partners; and/or
- leveraging the unique skill sets or resources of each partner.

\*Partners may include municipalities, businesses, First Nations, non-profit organizations, community groups, and other orders of government.

.../2

- **Red Tape Reduction or Service Delivery Enhancement (open to all municipalities)**

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- improving upon or presenting a new approach to how a municipality can deliver a program or service;
- streamlining processes and reducing administrative requirements, leading to more efficient service delivery;
- saving time, money, and/or resources by implementing practices that enhance operational effectiveness;
- reducing regulatory, policy, or procedural requirements to simplify access to municipal services for residents and businesses; and/or
- promoting transparency and accountability in municipal operations, fostering trust within the community.

- **Public Library Services (open to all library boards, serving a population under 10,000)**

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- demonstrating responsiveness to community need(s); and
- providing direct benefit to the public.

- **Public Library Services (open to all library boards, serving a population over 10,000)**

Awarded for an initiative that exemplifies:

- demonstrating responsiveness to community need(s); and
- providing direct benefit to the public.

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-municipal-public-library-excellence](http://www.alberta.ca/ministers-awards-municipal-public-library-excellence). **The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2026.**

Questions about the program from municipalities can be sent to [municipalexcellence@gov.ab.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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 success stories, and I look forward to celebrating these achievements with your communities.

Sincerely,



Dan Williams, ECA  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

# Request for Decision

## Mayor & Council Reports (Roundtable)

March 9, 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

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Town Council (2025-2029 Term)

Mayor Larry Liebelt

Deputy Mayor Shayne Johnson

Councillor Don Cody

Councillor Dave Degenstein

Councillor Dorothy Fraser

### **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 <b>(alt) D. Cody</b>
<b>Chinook Arch Regional Library Board</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Agreement (2021)</li> </ul>	1 Councillor	<b>D. Fraser</b>
<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	<b>D. Fraser</b>
<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 <b>(alt) D. Cody</b>
<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	<b>D. Cody</b> and D. Degenstein <b>(alt) D. Fraser</b>
<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	<b>D. Fraser</b>
<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	<b>D. Fraser</b>
<b>Milk River Watershed Council Canada</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watershed Bylaw</li> </ul>	1 Councillor	<b>D. Fraser</b>
<b>MPC (SubD &amp; Dev Authority)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Bylaw 803</li> </ul>	2 Councillors	D. Degenstein; <b>D. Cody</b>



## 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	D. Cody (alt) S. Johnson
<b>[ORRSC] Chinook ISDAB (Appal Board)</b> • Town Bylaw 1018	1 Councillor 2 At Large	L. Liebelt Peggy Losey
<b>[ORRSC] Regional ARB</b> • Town Bylaw 1039-23 / 3 year term	1 Councillor 1 At Large	D. Cody 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	D. Degenstein D. Cody
<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) D. Degenstein
<b>Veteran's Memorial Highway Highway 36</b>	1 Councillor	D. Degenstein (alt) S. Johnson
<b>SouthGrow Border Wall Exploratory Ad Hoc Committee</b>	2 Councillors	S. Johnson; D. Degenstein
<b>Snow Clearing Ad Hoc Policy Committee</b>	2 Councillors	L. Liebelt; D. Fraser

### Deputy Mayor Schedule

**2026 Councillor Johnson;** 2027 Councillor Degenstein; 2028 Councillor Fraser; 2029 Councillor Cody

### At Large Appointments

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

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

#### **Milk River Library Board (terms expire 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).