



AGENDA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
Council Chambers, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore AB

| | | Page |
|------|--|---------|
| 1. | CALL TO ORDER | |
| 2. | CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA | |
| 3. | PUBLIC COMMENTS | |
| 4. | DELEGATIONS | |
| 4.1. | 2025-2026 RCMP Q3 Municipal Policing Report Agenda Item - AIR-26-066 - Pdf | 2 - 16 |
| 5. | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES | |
| 5.1. | Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2026 Agenda Item - AIR-26-035 - Pdf | 17 - 22 |
| 6. | BUSINESS | |
| 6.1. | Medical Services Update Agenda Item - AIR-26-069 - Pdf | 23 - 49 |
| 7. | QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD | |
| 8. | CLOSED MEETING | |
| 8.1. | Council CAO Dialogue – Advice from officials – ATIA S. 29(1)(b)(iii) | |
| 8.2. | 2025 Human Resources and Safety Review – Advice from officials – ATIA S. 29(1)(b)(iii) | |
| 9. | ADJOURNMENT | |



Report for Council

To: Council

Staff Contact: Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

Date Prepared: March 2, 2026

Meeting Date: March 11, 2026

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 RCMP Q3 Municipal Policing Report

RECOMMENDATION: Information for Council

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:



Affordable Living



Climate Resiliency



Community Development



Community Wellness



Economic Development



Financial Sustainability

HOW THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE MET:

The Policing Report outlines the numerous priorities for the community and provides an overview of the various accomplishments throughout the year.

SUSTAINABILITY

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY:

N/A

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

N/A

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION:

GENERAL:

N/A

ORGANIZATIONAL:

N/A

OPERATIONAL:

N/A

FINANCIAL:

N/A

POLICY:

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Strathmore RCMP detachment commander, Staff Sergeant Wielgosz will report and provide an update on the activities within the RCMP detachment area from October 2025 to December 2025.

KEY ISSUE(S)/CONCEPT(S):

N/A

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

That this report be reviewed by Council.

COMMUNICATIONS:

This report will be posted on the Town's website.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS/MOTIONS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

[Attachment I: 2025-2026 RCMP Q3 Municipal Policing Report](#)

Mark Pretzlaff, Director of Community and Protective Services

Approved
- 05 Mar
2026

Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved
- 05 Mar
2026

Veronica Anderson, Legislative Services Officer

Approved
- 05 Mar
2026

Johnathan Strathdee, Manager of Legislative Services

Approved
- 05 Mar
2026

STRATHMORE MUNICIPAL POLICING REPORT

QUARTER 3

October 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025



Prepared by:
Staff Sergeant Mark Wielgosz
Detachment Commander
Strathmore – Langdon RCMP



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada



2025-2026 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN INITIATIVES - QUARTERLY RESULTS

1. Reduce Property Crimes – Reduction in theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles, and break and enter by 5% from the six-year historical average.

The goal of this priority is to maintain or reduce the historical six-year crime levels through use of the following strategies.

Habitual Offender Management

A habitual offender management program (HOM) remains in effect to target habitual or high impact offenders residing in our Detachment area. Enforcement and monitoring efforts are undertaken to ensure offenders comply with ordered conditions or face consequence for non-compliance. Offenders are selected based upon the following factors:

- Volume of crime they commit;
- Seriousness of the crimes they commit;
- Likelihood of reoffending; and
- Impact of their crime on the community.

During this quarter, Strathmore Detachment monitored 12 habitual offenders, 5 of which resided in Strathmore. Compliance checks during this time did not identify any violations.

Persons of Interest Program

Outside of the offender management program, Strathmore RCMP monitors persons in the community involved in organized crime or at large on various types of release such as parole, probation, and interim release on open criminal matters. Persons are identified on the potential risk to the community, severity of offences they are accused of, or likelihood to reoffend.

Partnerships with Calgary Police Service, Federal Parole Board, Provincial Probation Officers, and RCMP intelligence units are leveraged to remain cognizant of offenders moving in and out of Strathmore and the surrounding area.

This program is carried out by Strathmore General Investigation Section (GIS), which has been expanded to include rural areas with the addition of a rural resource. The unit consists of three members strategically focused on:

- Drug trafficking activity;
- Serious persons crimes;
- Habitual offender management; and
- High value property crime in both rural and municipal areas.





Security Screw Program

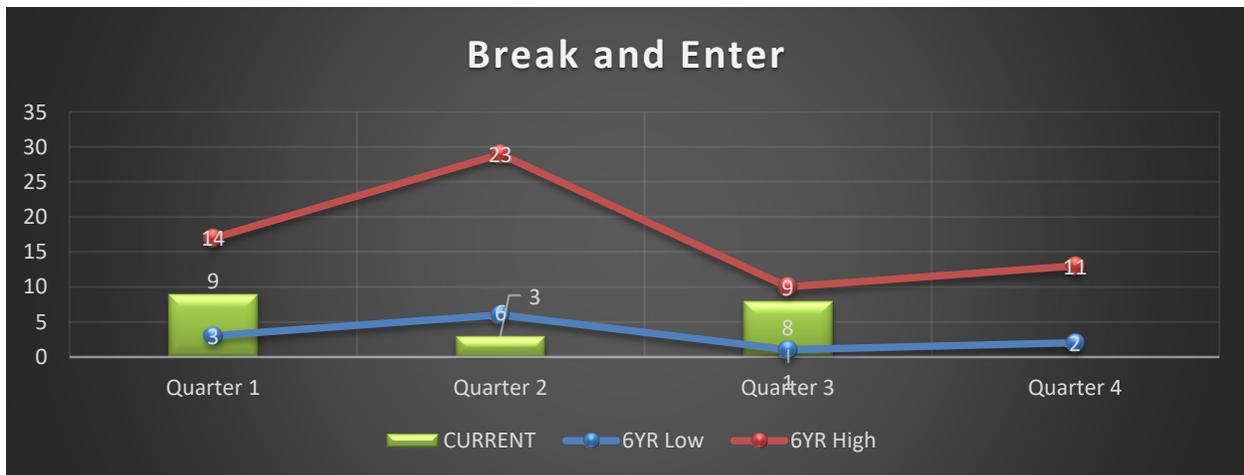
The Security Screw Program is now active for Strathmore and surrounding communities. The program involves provision of security fasteners to area residents without charge at select locations. Current locations are:

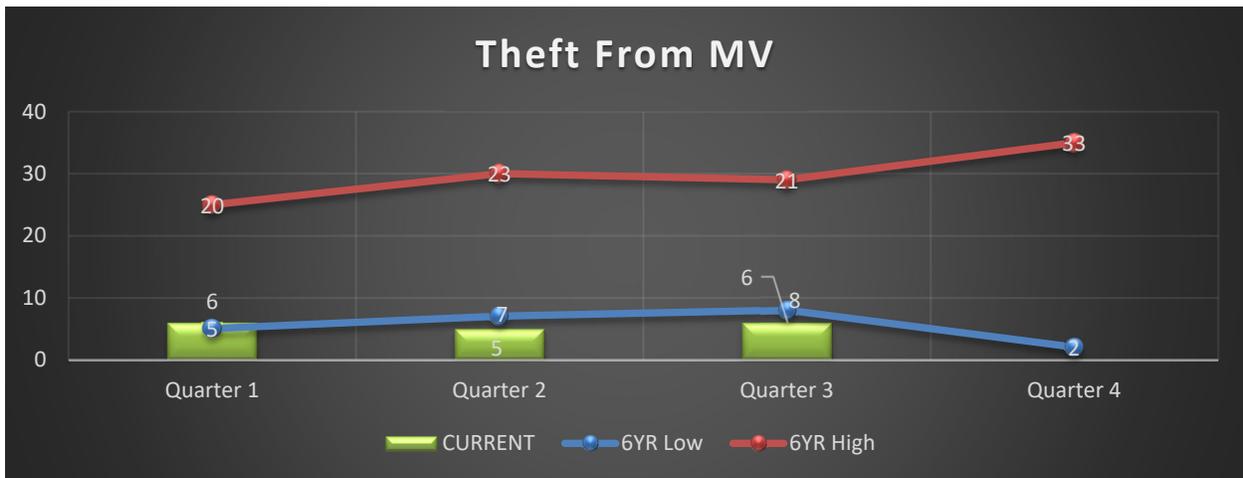
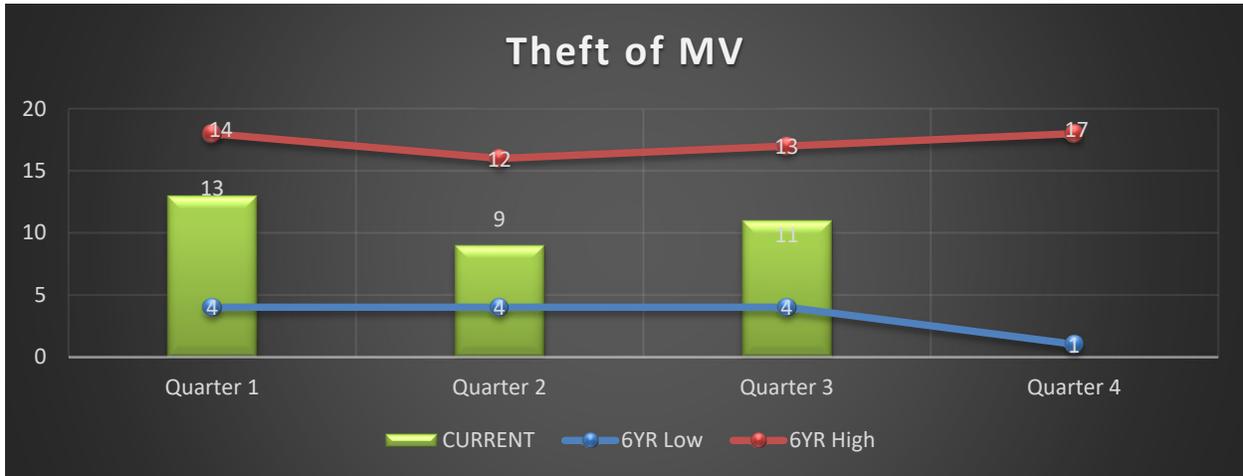
- Strathmore RCMP Detachment;
- Strathmore Fire Department:
- Strathmore Ford;
- Strathmore Motor Products; and
- Strathmore Dodge.
- Rocky View County – Langdon Detachment

Community response has been positive and several fasteners have been installed at all locations.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Business Outreach Program

At present, this program is available upon request or referral by front line members to assess properties to help prevent and deter victimization.





Results for Q3 in the selected areas in comparison to the same time frame last year including comparisons to the preceding six fiscal year average:

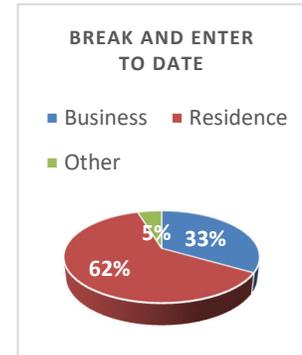
| | FY24/25 to FY25/26 | 6 Year Average |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Break and Enter</u> | | |
| Q3 | Down from 9 to 8 (-11%) | Up from 5 to 8 (+60%) |
| <u>Theft of Motor Vehicle</u> | | |
| Q3 | Up from 6 to 11 (+83%) | Up from 9 to 11 (+22%) |
| <u>Theft from Motor Vehicle</u> | | |
| Q3 | Down from 9 to 6 (-33%) | Down from 13 to 6 (-54%) |



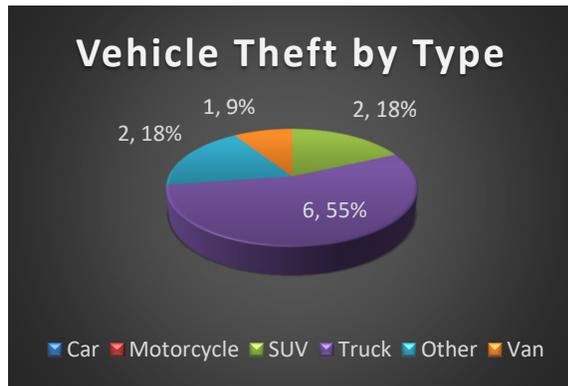


Break and Enter: Occurrences this quarter are slightly reduced from last year and are generally trending lower than the historical average. Business: One break in occurred at a shop where tools were taken. The other occurred at a storage facility. A suspect was identified in this occurrence which remains open.

Residence: Three reports were unsubstantiated, two were vacant homes with little to no damage, and one was suspected to have been committed by a family member.



Theft of MV: Theft of motor vehicles remain elevated mainly attributed to area habitual offenders. Of the 11 thefts in this period:



- 1 was an attempted theft and 1 was an unsubstantiated report;
- 2 were recovered in Calgary;
- 5 were recovered in other areas;
- 4 were crimes of opportunity;
- Offenders were charged in connection to seven occurrences; and
- 2 were charged in connection to a vehicle theft and recovery of another stolen vehicle. Both were non resident habitual offenders.

Theft from MV: Theft from motor vehicle reports continue to decline into this quarter. Four of six occurrences were license plates.

2. Traffic Safety – Reduction of both injury and overall collisions.

The goal of this priority is to maintain or reduce the historical five-year crime levels through use of the following strategies.

Traffic Safety/Enforcement

ENFORCEMENT RESULTS THIS PERIOD

Violations: 139 (871 YTD)

Suspensions in both municipal and rural areas:

- IRS: 9
- Drive while Disqualified: 2
- 72hr: 3
- Criminal Impaired: 3
- 24hr: 0
- GDL AZAT: 0





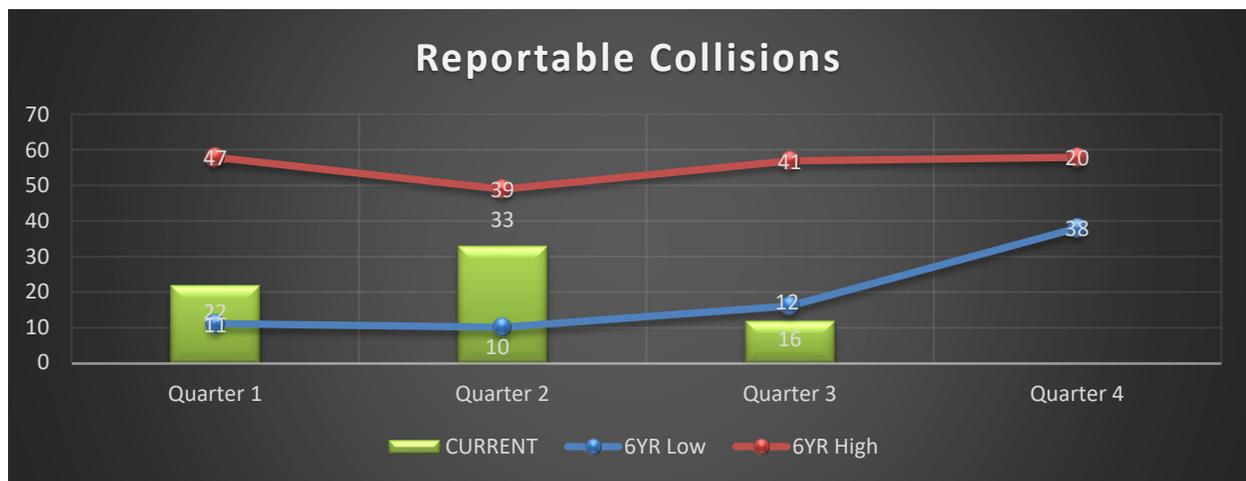
Check Stop Program *(in and around Strathmore)*

This period four documented check stops were conducted in Strathmore and the Surrounding areas which resulted in one 72hr suspension. 450 vehicles were checked.

Bar Walk Program

Strathmore members conduct foot patrols through licensed establishments to maximize visibility to prevent, detect, and deter criminal activities. Criminal activity may include Gaming Liquor and Cannabis Act infractions, Illicit drug offences, or impaired driving. During this period Strathmore members documented over 21 bar walks in local establishments.

Collision Comparisons



Results for this quarter in the selected areas in comparison to the same time frame last year including comparisons to the preceding four fiscal year average:





FY24/25 to FY25/26

6yr. Fiscal YR Avg.

Reportable Collisions:

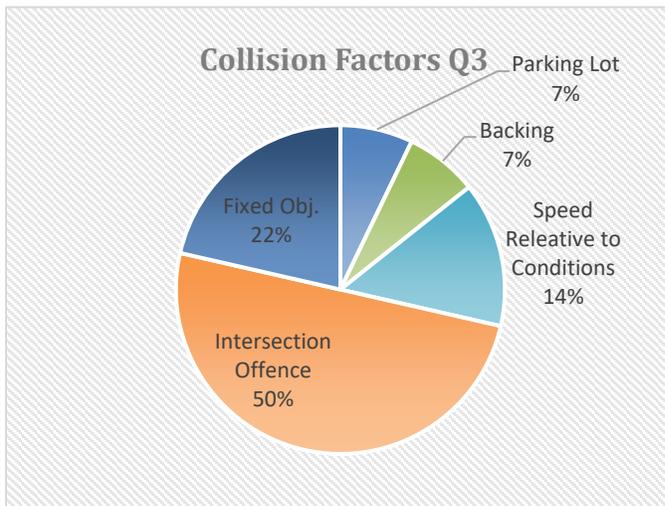
Q3 Down from 16 to 12 (-25%)

Down from 32 to 12 (-63%)

Injury Collisions:

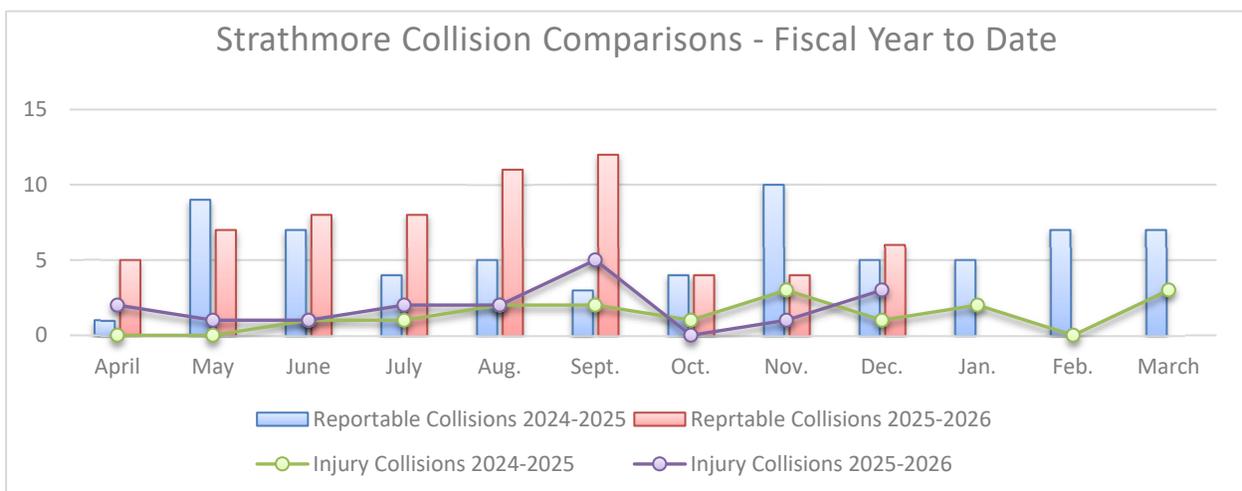
Q3 Unchanged at 4 (=%)

Unchanged at 4 (=%)



Reportable collisions have decreased this quarter over this period last year and from historical averages. Leading causes for collisions were intersection offences followed by striking fixed/parked objects.

Injury collisions were unchanged from this period last year and from historical averages with similar causation as the collective reportable collisions .





3. Community Engagement and Indigenous Community Engagement

Fostering positive relationships within our community and seeking ways to improve engagement with our residents and indigenous communities is a priority this year. Community support and engagement is essential to the success of crime reduction and community safety initiatives. This is achieved through open communication, trust, and emersion into Strathmore and the surrounding communities as community members.

School Visits

During this quarter, Strathmore members documented 16 visits at Strathmore Schools to interact with students, provide school talks on community safety topics, and to promote summer youth programs.

Attendance at Community Events

Oct. 16: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ donated blood at the Civic Center as part of the sirens for life campaign.

Oct. 29: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ and Sgt. SALMON attended the swearing in ceremony for Strathmore Town Council.

Oct. 31: Strathmore members handed out candy to children during Halloween safety patrols.

Nov. 8: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ, Sgt. SALMON, Cst. SOCKETT and members of the RCMP Veterans Association attended the Strathmore Legion Veterans Dinner. S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ presented the Legion with a Strathmore RCMP Centennial coin.



Nov. 11: S/Sgt. WIELGOSZ, Sgt. SALMON, Cpl. PROUSE, and Cst. PLANETS attended Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Strathmore Legion, and in Rockyford. Members participated in the ceremonies and met with community members in attendance.





Nov. 29: Cpl. KUEHN, Cst. LARSEN and Cst. KIM participated in and led the Santa Clause Parade.



Community Liaison Program

A community liaison program is in place with a member is assigned to a community group. The purpose of this program is to form a link with community groups to seek feedback on concerns and open channels of communication with respect to education, how to reduce or prevent victimization, and early identification of community cultural issues. There are 17 community groups with liaison members assigned in Strathmore. If a community group would like to request an RCMP liaison, please contact S/Sgt. Mark WIELGOSZ at Strathmore Detachment.

4. Other Initiatives

Strathmore Youth and Indigenous Youth Diversion Program

Strathmore Detachment has implemented a youth and Indigenous youth diversion program to give young persons a chance to redeem themselves through restorative justice. The goals of the program include educating and deterring youth from entering the criminal justice system, to provide an opportunity to make recompense for wrongdoing through restorative justice principles, and give young persons an opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

Eligible criminal cases involve first time minor offences such as property crimes. Candidate eligibility is determined on four criteria:

1. Admission of wrongdoing;
2. Expression of legitimate remorse;
3. Willingness to make recompense and participate in youth justice forums; and
4. Victim consent to allow the matter to proceed toward diversion.

Investigating members will determine eligibility as an option to find the best outcome in response to minor criminal matters and prevent repetition of offenses. Activities typically involve volunteerism and soft labour tasks within the community (picking up litter, removing graffiti, shovelling snow for seniors, etc.)

Partnerships have been created with the Town of Strathmore and Siksika Nation to facilitate and monitor restorative measures.





Rural Alberta CAPTURE Program

On June 12, 2023 The Alberta RCMP announced the voluntary surveillance camera registry program, called CAPTURE (Community Assisted Policing Through the Use of Recorded Evidence) was available Province wide.

Residents and businesses who have video surveillance, and are willing to share video camera footage when requested, can sign up. This initiative won't replace officers from knocking on doors, but it will help officers track down video evidence in ongoing criminal investigations in RCMP jurisdictions.

The program aims to reduce the time an officer needs to search for and gather video evidence when investigating. The CAPTURE program allows a person or business to upload a portion of the video requested. This allows the officer to evaluate the video footage before deciding to ask for a copy.

Strathmore Detachment is now active with the CAPTURE program. To get started, visit www.ruralalbertacapture.ca and create an account. From there you can enter your contact information and video cameras on the secure site. Your information is not available to the public. If an officer needs to contact you, they will do so by the information provided.

Things to know about the program:

- This is completely voluntary and consent can be withdrawn at any time;
- Registering a camera and contact information allows the RCMP to see a list of security cameras so they can contact the owners during an investigation;
- The video footage on your camera remains your property;
- The RCMP will not have live access to your camera feed. We will only ask for videos already recorded;
- You can share your video footage through the website for an officer to view before they decide if the video will help in their investigation; and
- An officer can provide you with a USB thumb drive to copy your video. An officer can not download the video; they can only view it.

Online Crime Reporting

Online crime reporting is also available to report minor property crimes or non-emergent matters without the need to call the police or Visit the Detachment. These reports are routed through the Alberta RCMP Call Back Unit who will follow up with complainants. Depending on the complexity of the incident, the report can be forwarded to the appropriate Detachment to



Register your security camera
 Help police investigate crimes and keep your community safe.
 The registry is voluntary and secure. Sign up and help protect your property, your family and your community.

Enregistrez votre caméra de sécurité
 Aidez la police à enquêter sur des crimes et à assurer la sécurité de votre collectivité.
 L'inscription au registre est volontaire et sécurisée. Inscrivez-vous pour aider à protéger votre propriété, votre famille et votre collectivité.

www.ruralalbertacapture.ca www.ruralalbertacapture.ca/fr



RCMP ONLINE CRIME REPORTING
 Report it online!

YOU CAN FILE A REPORT IF:

- The crime occurred within the last 90 days
- Offenses are limited to reporting non-emergency crimes (e.g. theft, vandalism, mischief, etc.)
- Offenses are limited to property crimes (e.g. theft, vandalism, mischief, etc.)
- The report does not affect the ability to file a police report
- Offenses are limited to reporting non-emergency crimes (e.g. theft, vandalism, mischief, etc.)

YOU CANNOT FILE ONLINE CRIME REPORTS IF:

- This is a weapon offense
- The report involves child sexual abuse or exploitation

ALL REPORTS FILED ONLINE TO THE RCMP CALL BACK UNIT will be followed up with the appropriate Detachment.

[HTTPS://OCRC-SBRC.RCMP-GRC.GC.CA/ALBERTA](https://ocrc-sbrc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta)

Canada



continue with the investigation.

The online reporting tool can be accessed at <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta> or through the Alberta RCMP App

Alberta RCMP App

The Alberta RCMP App is available through the most app stores. It is free and provides users access to a variety of community safety programs such as the Online Crime Reporting tool, Crime Mapping, Crime Statistics, and media releases to name a few.

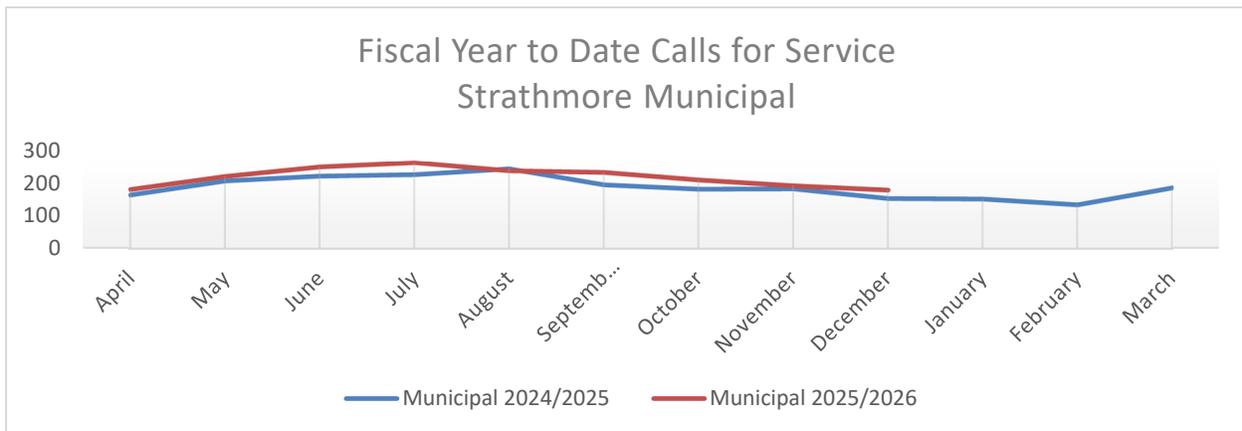
Watch Clerk Program

With support from the Town of Strathmore, Wheatland County and Rocky View County a watch clerk program was created in late 2017 early 2018. Watch clerks are support staff employees dedicated to supporting front line policing activities within Strathmore and in the Rural areas by completing administrative tasks on behalf of front-line members thereby maximizing their ability to actively patrol our area. This program is a valuable investment in community safety.

All positions are occupied and are currently providing valued support to our operational police officers.



Fiscal Year to Date Calls for Service



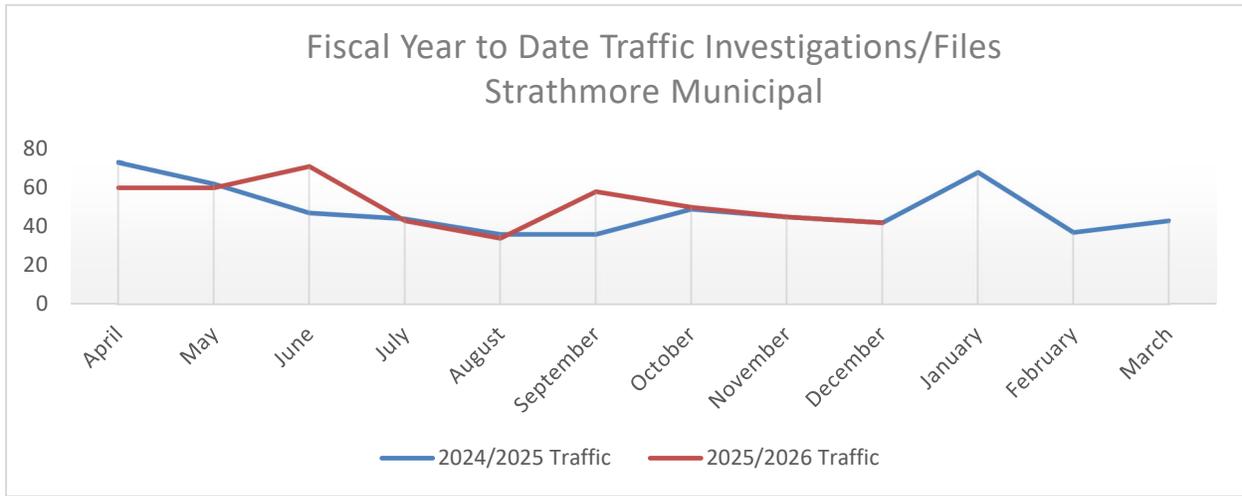
*** Traffic offences/complaints/investigations were removed as Strathmore Detachment continues use of e-ticketing. E-ticketing creates a file for each roadside stop. Separation of traffic complaints and self generated enforcement was not done. Inclusion of traffic stats may give the appearance of artificially high occurrence numbers.
*** The numbers shown are occurrences within the Town of Strathmore which do not include rural or Langdon files.

In Q3 Strathmore Detachment responded to 581 calls for service within Town limits, up from 518 the year prior, an increase of 12%.





Fiscal Year to Date Traffic Offences and Reports



Traffic files in Q3 increased from 136 to 137 compared to the same time frame last year (=%).

Staff Sergeant Mark Wielgosz 2026-01-08
Detachment Commander
Strathmore-Langdon Detachment





Request for Decision

To: Council

Staff Contact: Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

Date Prepared: February 11, 2026

Meeting Date: March 11, 2026

SUBJECT: Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2026

RECOMMENDATION: THAT Council adopt the February 11, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes as presented in Attachment I.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:



Affordable Living



Climate Resiliency



Community Development



Community Wellness



Economic Development



Financial Sustainability

HOW THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE MET:

N/A

SUSTAINABILITY

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY:

N/A

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

N/A

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION:

GENERAL:

Pursuant to Section 208(1)(iii) of the *Municipal Government Act*, the minutes of the February 11, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting are given to Council for adoption.

ORGANIZATIONAL:

N/A

OPERATIONAL:

N/A

FINANCIAL:

N/A

POLICY:

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

N/A

KEY ISSUE(S)/CONCEPT(S):

N/A

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

N/A

COMMUNICATIONS:

Once signed, the February 11, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes will be posted on the Town's website.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS/MOTIONS:

1. Council may adopt the recommended motion.

2. Council may provide further direction regarding the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Attachment I: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 11 Feb 2026 - Minutes](#)

Claudette Thorhaug, Legislative Services Officer

Approved
- 12 Feb
2026

Johnathan Strathdee, Manager of Legislative Services

Approved
- 12 Feb
2026



MINUTES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

6:00 PM - Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Council Chambers, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore AB

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Pat Fule, Councillor Claude Brown, Councillor Jim Chrisholm, Councillor Matt Hyde, Councillor Melissa Langmaid, Councillor Richard Wegener, and Deputy Mayor Brent Wiley

STAFF PRESENT: Kevin Scoble (Chief Administrative Officer), Jamie Dugdale (Director of Infrastructure, Operations, and Development Services), Mark Pretzlaff (Director of Community and Protective Services), Kara Rusk (Director of Strategic, Administrative, and Financial Services), and Johnathan Stratheed (Manager of Legislative Services)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fule called the February 11, 2026 Committee of the Whole to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

Resolution No. 005.02.26A

Moved by Councillor Wegener

THAT Council adopt the February 11, 2026 Committee of the Whole Agenda as amended:

ADDITION:

8.2 Council CAO Dialogue – Advice from officials – ATIA S. 29(1)(b)(iii)

FOR: Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Councillor Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

AGAINST: None.

CARRIED

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

4.1. **MLA Chantelle de Jonge**

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2026

Resolution No. 006.02.26A

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council adopt the January 14, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes as presented in Attachment I.

FOR: Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Council Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

AGAINST: None.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS

None.

7. QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

None.

8. CLOSED MEETING

Resolution No. 007.02.26A

Moved by Councillor Chisholm

THAT Council move In Camera to discuss items related to sections 26(1)(a)(ii), 29(1)(a) and 29(1)(b)(iii) of the *Access to Information Act* at 6:51 p.m.

FOR: Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Council Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

AGAINST: None.

CARRIED

8.1. Advocacy Strategy – Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations – ATIA S. 26(1)(a)(ii)

8.2. Council CAO Dialogue – Advice from officials – ATIA S. 29(1)(b)(iii)

8.3 Draft 2026 - 2030 Strategic Plan – Advice from officials – ATIA S. 29(1)(a)

Resolution No.008.02.26A

Moved by Councillor Langmaid

THAT Council move out of Camera at 10:02 p.m.

FOR: Mayor Fule, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chisholm, Councillor Hyde, Councillor Langmaid, Council Wegener, and Councillor Wiley

AGAINST: None.

CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fule adjourned the February 11, 2026 Committee of the Whole at 10:02 p.m.

Mayor

Director of Strategic, Administrative,
and Financial Services



Request for Further Direction

To: Committee of the Whole

Staff Contact: Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

Date Prepared: March 2, 2026

Meeting Date: March 11, 2026

SUBJECT: Medical Services Update

RECOMMENDATION: For Council to provide further direction to Administration regarding medical services attraction.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:



Affordable Living



Climate Resiliency



Community Development



Community Wellness



Economic Development



Financial Sustainability

HOW THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE MET:

One of Council's 2021-2025 strategic priorities was *Community Wellness*, focusing on the maintenance, protection, and improvement of services that support optimum lifestyles.

As a part of this priority, Council has explored ways to attract medical services to the Town.

SUSTAINABILITY

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY:

N/A

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

N/A

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION:

FINANCIAL:

In 2026, Council has \$90,000 in the budget plus the \$120,000 (includes \$90,000 that was approved for the 2025 award recipients under Policy No. 1113) in carryforwards for a total of \$210,000 (\$120,000 can be used for 2026).

Included in the budget is \$30,000 that was awarded to the successful Physician Sponsorship Grant (Policy No. 1111) applicant.

Furthermore, Council has awarded two (2) grants valued at \$45,000 each for the establishment of two (2) new medical offices in town. To date, Administration has disbursed one (1) grant of \$45,000 and is finalizing the grant agreement with the second grant recipient.

Should Council wish to establish Medical Services Committee, the Town will need to devote a significant amount of resources to support the committee depending on the committee's mandate. Depending on the committee's membership, it is likely that it will need to meet in the evening, which would require staff to work overtime to coordinate meetings, support with meeting procedures, and support committee reports.

POLICY:

The Town of Strathmore provides [incentives](#) for the recruitment of primary care physicians.

- *Physician Sponsorship Grant Policy No. 1111* (adopted May 15, 2024).
- *Physician Incentive Program Policy No. 1113* (adopted July 23, 2025).

Council will need to pass a new bylaw to establish a medical services committee, which will include the committee's mandate, membership, and resources.

IMPLEMENTATION:

If needed, Administration will develop a terms of reference for Council to consider at a future Council meeting.

Similarly, Administration can bring potential amendments to Policy No. 1111 & Policy No. 1113 to a future meeting for consideration.

BACKGROUND:

During the March 4, 2026 Regular Council Meeting, Council passed a motion to direct Administration to bring Policy No. 1111, Policy No. 1113, and a potential terms of reference for a medical services committee. The resolution reads as follows:

That Council direct Administration to bring Policy No. 1111 and Policy No. 1113 to the March 11, 2026 Committee of the Whole for Council consideration;

AND THAT Council direct Administration to bring a report on the potential of a medical services committee to the March 11, 2026 Committee of the Whole for Council consideration.

Healthcare falls under provincial authority. Alberta's medical system is experiencing long wait times and a physician shortage and the Town of Strathmore has been impacted by this reality. To minimize the impact on residents, the Town has been very active in its effort to attract new medical services to the Town. This includes lobbying the province for increased medical services and supports, as well as establishing new programs to attract primary care physicians to the community. (A sample of the correspondence between the Town and Province is attached to this RFD).

The Physician Incentive Program and Physician Sponsorship Program have been successful in attracting five (5) new primary care physicians to the community. These were novel programs that were established with the understanding that the Town would need to revisit them and amend accordingly.

The Town of Strathmore has finite resources and authority over healthcare belongs to the Province. Furthermore, there is high demand for medical services and the allocation of services is competitive.

Recommended amendments:

Physician Sponsorship Grant Policy (adopted May 15, 2024).

Since the physician sponsorship grant was established, the Town has only awarded one grant. Administration is recommending changing the sponsorship grant total from 3 awards totaling \$90,000 to one (1) grants totaling \$30,000.

Physician Incentive Program Policy (adopted July 23, 2025)

Administration is recommending that the program be changed to offer further flexibility when disbursing grants, including the possibility of awarding more grants if the Town receives greater interest in the program going forward. The policy statement and purpose as been amended to read as follows: "The Town may award up to three (3) grants for a total awarded value of \$90,000 (e.g., 1 grant at \$90,000, 2 grants at \$45,000, or 3 grants at \$30,000). The grant(s) will be awarded to successful Applicants based on the costs incurred for the establishment of a primary medical care office and as determined by the Town's Chief Administrative Officer."

Medical Services Committee:

The establishment of a medical services committee could support the Town in understanding gaps in the services provided, soliciting support for lobbying efforts, and communicating the importance of these services to external stakeholders. However, there would be a substantial cost to this committee due to the staff time needed to support meetings and initiatives. Also, it is important that the mandate for this committee be clearly defined (e.g., the purpose of the committee to support the pursuit for diagnostic imaging equipment in the community or to support the attraction of physicians).

KEY ISSUE(S)/CONCEPT(S):

The key issues for Council's consideration are as follows:

Physician Sponsorship Grant Policy:

Council has awarded one grant under this policy. This policy was established after consulting with medical offices in the community. While this program can be considered a success as it did bring a new physician to the community and supported an existing medical offices expansion, this policy has not garnered new interest since it was established. If Council wishes to continue this program, Administration is recommending decreasing the number of awards to one (1) per year.

Physician Incentive Program Policy

Council has awarded two (2) grants through this program with total value of \$90,000. While this program is more expensive than the Physician Sponsorship Program, it has resulted in more physicians practicing in Strathmore. The grants went to support the establishment of two (2) new medical offices in Town, resulting in four (4) new doctors accepting patients in the community (with the possibility each office expanding their practice to include more doctors in the future). Administration is recommending that this program continue for at least two (2) more years to see if it will garner more interest. However, this program is ultimately dependent physicians believing there is enough demand in Strathmore for them to open a new medical office.

Medical Services Committee:

During the Committee of the Whole meeting, Administration will give a presentation to Council to facilitate discussion on a medical services committee.

Should Council wish to establish this committee, it will need to determine the following:

1. Mandate: what purpose will the committee serve?
 - Will it be tasked with supporting Town's efforts to attract new physicians to the community?
 - Will it be tasked with identifying gaps in the services provided?
 - Will it be tasked with supporting the Town's efforts to attract diagnostic imaging equipment (e.g., CT Scanner)?

2. Membership: Who should be a member of the committee?

- How many councillors will be appointed?
- What skill/attributes do you want members to possess (this will likely be related to the committee's mandate)?
- Do you want other municipalities in the region to have representation? If so, will we ask those municipalities to make a financial contribution to the committee's mandate?

3. What resources will Council give the committee?

- Staff time will be required to support the committee, but will Council give the committee a budget? If so, how will expenses be approved (i.e., by Council resolution)?

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

For Council to provide Administration with further direction regarding medical services attraction for the Town.

COMMUNICATIONS:

N/A

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS/MOTIONS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

[Attachment I: Physician Incentive Program Policy No. 1113](#)

[Attachment II: Physician Incentive Program Policy No. 1113-Redlined \(1\)](#)

[Attachment III: Physician Sponsorship Grant Policy No. 1111](#)

[Attachment IV: Physician Sponsorship Grant Policy No. 1111-Redlined](#)

[Attachment V: Letter to Minister LaGrange - May 26, 2025](#)

[Attachment VI: Letter from Minister LaGrange - January 31, 2025](#)

[Attachment VII: Letter of Support for Frontier Diagnostics - November 20, 2024](#)

[Attachment VIII: Letter from the Minister of Health - Received October 31, 2023](#)

[Attachment IX: Letter to Mr. Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Strathmore - December 19, 2022](#)

[Attachment X: Letter to Dr Aaron Low - November 24, 2022](#)

[Attachment XI: Letter to Minister Copping - Physician Shortage \(ID 65081\) - June 15, 2022](#)

Veronica Anderson, Legislative Services Officer

Approved
- 05 Mar
2026

Johnathan Strathdee, Manager of Legislative Services

Approved
- 05 Mar
2026

Kara Rusk, Director of Strategic, Administrative, and Financial Services

Approved
- 06 Mar
2026

Kevin Scoble, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved
- 06 Mar
2026



TOWN POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 1113

REFERENCE:

Resolution No. 244.07.25

ADOPTED BY:

Town Council

PREPARED BY: Strategic, Administrative & Financial Services

DATE: July 23, 2025

TITLE: Physician Incentive Program Policy No. 1113

Policy Statement & Purpose

While medical services are a Provincial responsibility, the Town has identified physician attraction as a community need. Since Strathmore needs physicians in the community, the Town will be offering a grant(s) to support the establishment of new primary medical care offices in the Town of Strathmore. The grant will be for up to \$90,000 and will be awarded to successful Applicants based on the costs incurred for the establishment of a primary medical care office and as determined by the Town's Chief Administrative Officer.

1.0 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **"Applicant"** means the professional corporation that has applied to receive the Physician Attraction Grant.
- 1.2 **"Grant"** means a grant of up to \$90,000 provided by the Town of Strathmore for the Physician Attraction Grant for the purpose of supporting Applicants establishing a new primary medical care office in the Town.
- 1.3 **"Program"** means the Physician Incentive Program Grant offered by the Town.
- 1.4 **"Town"** means the Town of Strathmore, a municipal corporation in the Province of Alberta, and where the context so requires, means the area of land within the corporate boundaries thereof.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Town Council shall:
 - a. Develop the terms of the Physician Incentive Program Grant.
 - b. Ensure that the Town's budget supports the implementation and continuation of the Grant.

- 2.2 The Chief Administrative Officer shall:
 - a. Ensure that the program is implemented and communicated to all relevant stakeholders.
 - b. Ensure that the program is discussed during the budget deliberation process and program updates are presented to Council.
 - c. The CAO will be responsible for approving applications for the Physician Incentive Grant.

3.0 PROGRAM

- 3.1. The Town will offer a grant for the establishment of a local primary medical care offices for practising physicians.
- 3.2. Grants will be disbursed on a first come first served basis. Applications can be received from January 1 – December 31 of each year, with only one grant being awarded per year.
- 3.3. If approved, the successful applicant may receive a grant of up to \$90,000. The value of the grant will be dependent on the costs incurred by the Applicant. The final grant amount awarded to the successful Applicant will be determined by the Town’s Chief Administrative Officer after a review of each application.
- 3.4. Successful applicants agree to pay the grant back to the Town, should the primary medical care office operate in the Town for less than 5 years.
- 3.5. Successful applicants should prioritize Strathmore residents when considering new patients. Applicants will agree to provide annual metrics on how many patients live in Strathmore.

4.0 REFERENCES

- 5.1. The Physician Incentive Program regulations are reflected in the grant agreements signed by the applicant and Town.

END OF POLICY

APPROVAL

Signed copy on file

Mayor

Signed copy on file

Director of Strategic, Administrative
and Financial Services



TOWN POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 1113

REFERENCE:

Resolution No. 244.07.25

[Resolution No. TBD.03.26](#)

ADOPTED BY:

Town Council

PREPARED BY: Strategic, Administrative & Financial Services

DATE: July 23, 2025

[Revised: March 4, 2026](#)

TITLE: Physician Incentive Program Policy No. 1113

Policy Statement & Purpose

While medical services are a Provincial responsibility, the Town has identified physician attraction as a community need. Since Strathmore needs physicians in the community, the Town will be offering a grant(s) to support the establishment of new primary medical care offices in the Town of Strathmore. ~~The grant~~[The Town may award up to three \(3\) grants will be for up to for an a total awarded value of \\$90,000 \(e.g., 1 grant at \\$90,000, 2 grants at \\$45,000, or 3 grants at \\$30,000\).](#) The grant(s)and will be awarded to successful Applicants based on the costs incurred for the establishment of a primary medical care office and as determined by the Town's Chief Administrative Officer.

1.0 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **"Applicant"** means the professional corporation that has applied to receive the Physician Attraction Grant.
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- 1.3 **"Program"** means the Physician Incentive Program Grant offered by the Town.
- 1.4 **"Town"** means the Town of Strathmore, a municipal corporation in the Province of Alberta, and where the context so requires, means the area of land within the corporate boundaries thereof.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Town Council shall:
 - a. Develop the terms of the Physician Incentive Program Grant.
 - b. Ensure that the Town's budget supports the implementation and continuation of the Grant.
- 2.2 The Chief Administrative Officer shall:
 - a. Ensure that the program is implemented and communicated to all relevant stakeholders.
 - b. Ensure that the program is discussed during the budget deliberation process and program updates are presented to Council.
 - c. The CAO will be responsible for approving applications for the Physician Incentive Grant.

3.0 PROGRAM

- 3.1. The Town will offer a grant for the establishment of a local primary medical care offices for practicing physicians.
- 3.2. Grants will be disbursed on a first come first served basis. Applications can be received from January 1 – December 31 of each year, with only one grant being awarded per year.
- 3.3. If approved, the successful applicant may receive a grant of up to \$90,000. The value of the grant will be dependent on the costs incurred by the Applicant. The final grant amount awarded to the successful Applicant will be determined by the Town's Chief Administrative Officer after a review of each application.
- 3.4. Successful applicants agree to pay the grant back to the Town, should the primary medical care office operate in the Town for less than 5 years.
- 3.5. Successful applicants should prioritize Strathmore residents when considering new patients. Applicants will agree to provide annual metrics on how many patients live in Strathmore.

4.0 REFERENCES

- 5.1. The Physician Incentive Program regulations are reflected in the grant agreements signed by the applicant and Town.

END OF POLICY

APPROVAL

Mayor

Director of Strategic, Administrative
and Financial Services



TOWN POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 1111

REFERENCE:

Resolution No. 114.05.24

ADOPTED BY:

Town Council

PREPARED BY: Strategic, Administrative & Financial Services

DATE: April 8, 2024

TITLE: Physician Sponsorship Grant

Policy Statement & Purpose

Sponsorships are a way to bring internationally trained physicians into Alberta. Since Strathmore is in need of physicians in the community, the Town will be offering a grant to local medical offices to support the medical offices in their sponsorship of internationally trained physicians through the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) assessment process. The Town will offer a total of three (3) grants (up to \$30,000 each) to eligible applicants on a first come first served basis.

1.0 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **"Applicant"** means the for-profit corporation that has entered into a sponsorship contract with CPSA and is applying for the Physician Sponsorship Grant.
- 1.2 **"CPSA"** means the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta. The CPSA oversee the sponsorship program and applicants must follow the CPSA's process in order to be eligible for the Town's grant.
- 1.3 **"Grant"** means the three (3) grants (totaling \$90,000) provided to the Town of Strathmore for the Physician Sponsorship Grant for the purpose of supporting Applicants who are sponsoring internationally trained physicians through the CPSA Assessment Process.
- 1.4 **"Program"** means the Physician Sponsorship Grant offered by the Town.
- 1.5 **"Town"** means the Town of Strathmore, a municipal corporation in the Province of Alberta, and where the context so requires, means the area of land within the corporate boundaries thereof.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Town Council shall:
 - a. Develop the terms of the Physician Sponsorship Grant.
 - b. Ensure that the Town's budget supports the implementation and continuation of the Grant.
 - c. Consider applicants for the Physician Sponsorship Grant. Applicants must be approved by a resolution of Council.
- 2.2 The Chief Administrative Officer shall:
 - a. Ensure that the program is implemented and communicated to all relevant stakeholders.
 - b. Ensure that the program is discussed during the budget deliberation process and the policy is reviewed prior to April 1, 2025.

3.0 PROGRAM

- 3.1. The Town will offer a total of three (3) grants to support local medical offices sponsorship of internationally trained physicians through the CPSA assessment process.
- 3.2. Grants will be disbursed on a first come first served basis. Applications will be accepted starting June 1, 2024.
- 3.3. If approved by a resolution of Council, successful applicants may receive a grant of up to \$30,000.
- 3.4. Successful applicants agree to pay the grant back to the Town, should the internationally trained doctor practice in the Town for less than 5 years.
- 3.5. Applicants agree to:
 - a. Be committed to sponsoring the international trained physician for up to six (6) years.
 - b. Ensure the sponsored physician completes the required orientation for international medical graduates.
 - c. Be committed to financially supporting the sponsored physician through the registration process, practice readiness assessment (PRA), and into independent practice.
 - i. This includes living expenses, transportation costs, and remuneration for PRA assessors and supervisors.
 - d. Offer sponsored physician independent legal counsel to review all sponsorship and employment contracts.
 - e. Recognize that CPSA's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics & Professionalism supersede any arrangements made between the sponsored physician and the sponsor.
- 3.6. Applicants must have signed a sponsorship contract with CPSA prior to applying for the Town's Physician Sponsorship Grant.

4.0 PILOT PROGRAM REGULATIONS

- 4.1 The Physician Sponsorship Grant will be piloted for one year ending April 1, 2025.
- 4.2 Council will review the funding for the program during the Budget process and formally review this policy no later than April 1, 2025.

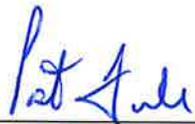
5.0 REFERENCES

- 5.1. The Physician Sponsorship Program regulations are consistent with the process set out for sponsorship by the CPSA.

| Date Reviewed | Next Review Date | Revisions |
|---------------|------------------|-----------|
| May 15, 2024 | April 1, 2025 | |

END OF POLICY

APPROVAL



Mayor



Director of Strategic, Administrative
and Financial Services



TOWN POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 1111

REFERENCE:

Resolution No. 114.05.24

Resolution No. TBD.03.26

ADOPTED BY:

Town Council

PREPARED BY: Strategic, Administrative & Financial Services

DATE: April 8, 2024

Revised: March 4, 2026

TITLE: Physician Sponsorship Grant

Policy Statement & Purpose

Sponsorships are a way to bring internationally trained physicians into Alberta. Since Strathmore is in need of physicians in the community, the Town will be offering a grant to local medical offices to support the medical offices in their sponsorship of internationally trained physicians through the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) assessment process. The Town will offer ~~a total of three-one~~ (13) grants (up to \$30,000-~~each~~) to an eligible applicants on a first come first served basis.

1.0 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **"Applicant"** means the for-profit corporation that has entered into a sponsorship contract with CPSA and is applying for the Physician Sponsorship Grant.
- 1.2 **"CPSA"** means the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta. The CPSA oversee the sponsorship program and applicants must follow the CPSA's process in order to be eligible for the Town's grant.
- 1.3 **"Grant"** means the ~~three-one~~ (13) grants (~~up to totaling \$390,000~~) provided to the Town of Strathmore for the Physician Sponsorship Grant for the purpose of supporting Applicants who are sponsoring internationally trained physicians through the CPSA Assessment Process.
- 1.4 **"Program"** means the Physician Sponsorship Grant offered by the Town.
- 1.5 **"Town"** means the Town of Strathmore, a municipal corporation in the Province of

Alberta, and where the context so requires, means the area of land within the corporate boundaries thereof.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Town Council shall:
- a. Develop the terms of the Physician Sponsorship Grant.
 - b. Ensure that the Town's budget supports the implementation and continuation of the Grant.
 - c. Consider applicants for the Physician Sponsorship Grant. Applicants must be approved by a resolution of Council.
- 2.2 The Chief Administrative Officer shall:
- a. Ensure that the program is implemented and communicated to all relevant stakeholders.
 - b. Ensure that the program is discussed during the budget deliberation process and the policy is reviewed prior to April 1, 2025.

3.0 PROGRAM

- 3.1. The Town will offer ~~a total of three~~ one (1) grants to support local medical offices sponsorship of internationally trained physicians through the CPSA assessment process.
- 3.2. ~~Grants~~ The grant will be disbursed on a first come first served basis. Applications will be accepted starting June 1, 2024.
- 3.3. If approved by a resolution of Council, successful applicants may receive a grant of up to \$30,000.
- 3.4. Successful applicants agree to pay the grant back to the Town, should the internationally trained doctor practice in the Town for less than 5 years.
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 - a. Be committed to sponsoring the international trained physician for up to six (6) years.
 - b. Ensure the sponsored physician completes the required orientation for international medical graduates.
 - c. Be committed to financially supporting the sponsored physician through the registration process, practice readiness assessment (PRA), and into independent practice.
 - i. This includes living expenses, transportation costs, and remuneration for PRA assessors and supervisors.
 - d. Offer sponsored physician independent legal counsel to review all sponsorship and employment contracts.
 - e. Recognize that CPSA's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics & Professionalism supersede any arrangements made between the sponsored physician and the sponsor.

- 3.6. Applicants must have signed a sponsorship contract with CPSA prior to applying for the Town’s Physician Sponsorship Grant.

4.0 — PILOT PROGRAM REGULATIONS

- 4.1—The Physician Sponsorship Grant will be piloted for one year ending April 1, 2025.
- 4.2—Council will review the funding for the program during the Budget process and formally review this policy no later than April 1, 2025.

5.04.0 REFERENCES

- 5.1. The Physician Sponsorship Program regulations are consistent with the process set out for sponsorship by the CPSA.

| Date Reviewed | Next Review Date | Revisions |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| May 15, 2024 | April 1, 2025 | |
| March 4, 2026 | March 2028 | |

END OF POLICY

APPROVAL

Mayor

Director of Strategic, Administrative
and Financial Services

The Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services

424 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister LaGrange,

On behalf of the Town of Strathmore Council, congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Health responsible for Primary and Preventative Health Services.

Primary care access remains a pressing issue for many rural and mid-sized municipalities, including Strathmore. Your leadership in this role will be critical in ensuring Albertans have equitable access to family doctors, preventative care, and mental health supports.

We are encouraged by the province's commitment to reform and investment in this area and look forward to working with your office to address gaps in care and support healthier communities.

Sincerely,



Pat Fule
Mayor, Town of Strathmore

Strathmore.ca



1 Parklane Dr. (Box 2280)
Strathmore AB T1P 1K2



(403) 934-3133





ALBERTA
HEALTH

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Red Deer-North*

AR 227758

January 31, 2025

His Worship Pat Fule
Mayor
Town of Strathmore
Box 2280, 1 Parklane Drive
Strathmore AB T1P 1K2

Sent via email: pat.fule@strathmore.ca

Dear Mayor Fule:

Thank you for your letter of support for the Frontier Diagnostics proposal to add CT scanning equipment at Strathmore Hospital. I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of the Town of Strathmore and welcome the opportunity to respond. I apologize for the delay in my reply.

Please know that Alberta's government shares your desire to improve access to health services and recognizes how important diagnostic imaging is to Alberta's health care system. As you may be aware, all diagnostic imaging in Alberta is managed by Alberta Health Services (AHS). If you would like to continue your support, I encourage you to direct Frontier Diagnostics to the [Doing Business with Alberta Health Services](#) website for more information about contracting, procurement, and supply management with AHS. The Contracting, Procurement and Supply Management department is the most appropriate team to consider this proposal.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your thoughts on this important matter. I appreciate your commitment to help improve health care services for Albertans.

Sincerely,

Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Health

cc: Chantelle de Jonge, Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities, MLA,
Chestermere-Strathmore
Martin Long, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health

224 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone
780-427-3665 #202, 5913 - 50 Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 4C4 Canada Telephone 403-342-2263

To:
Hon. Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Health
423 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Sent Via Email: health.minister@gov.ab.ca

Re: Partnership & Service Expansion Proposal Between Frontier Diagnostics and Strathmore Hospital

Dear Minister LaGrange,

The Town of Strathmore would like to express support of Frontier Diagnostics' proposal for partnership and service expansion in Strathmore. The proposal provides operational efficiency of Frontier Diagnostics and cost savings for the Government of Alberta; while ensuring the best possible care for residents of Strathmore.

Our Town's strategic plan has six priorities: affordable living, financial sustainability, intentional community development, climate resiliency and environmental stewardship, economic development, and community wellness. We see these as essential elements to creating a prosperous community. The addition of essential equipment that diagnoses strokes, fractures, urgent gastrointestinal abnormalities, cancers, cardiovascular disease and lung disease would be of immense benefit to residents who would no longer need to travel long distances to access this care.

Advanced imaging is a catalyst for creating a healthcare hub necessary for future population growth. The addition of CT scanning equipment to the Town brings health and economic benefits, including more family doctors, a more productive community, and increased employment.

As per the proposal, Frontier would invest capital required for startup costs, \$1,643,266. Frontier would cover operating costs of clinic, \$996,067 annually, which would include CT technologists, nurses, secretary, service costs and image viewer software. The request is for Alberta to provide Frontier Diagnostics with a contract for CT interpretation and operational fees. This will provide cost savings for government, with no start-up costs, and reduced costs of patient transfers to Calgary, with a reduction in medical complications.



Strathmore is thrilled to support ideas that help to achieve the goals of your government in health care delivery, to ensure our rural community has the health care supports needed by both a growing and aging population. Together we will build a more prosperous future for Alberta, the place we love and are privileged to call home.

If you have questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our offices at 403-934-3133 or by email at lsadmin@strathmore.ca.

Sincerely,



Pat Fule
Mayor, Town of Strathmore

CC:

Nicole Williams
Chief of Staff to Minister LaGrange
Nicole.williams@gov.ab.ca

Andre Tremblay
Deputy Minister of Health
Andre.tremblay@gov.ab.ca

Darren Hedley
Associate Deputy Minister of Health
Darren.hedley@gov.ab.ca

Martin Long
Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health
Martin.long@assembly.ab.ca

Chantelle de Jonge
Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities and MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore
chantelle.dejonge@assembly.ab.ca





ALBERTA
HEALTH

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Red Deer - North*

OCT 31 2023

AR 214346

His Worship Pat Fule
Mayor
Town of Strathmore
1 Parklane Drive
PO Box 2280
Strathmore AB T1P 1K2
pat.fule@strathmore.ca

Dear Mayor Fule:

I am in receipt of your letter to the Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, regarding health care services in Strathmore. As Minister of Health, I welcome the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta. I regret the delay in responding.

I appreciate your commitment to advancing health care services for the residents of your community. As you may know, when I took the position of Minister of Health, I was given a [mandate letter](#) by Premier Smith to improve Alberta's health care system. This includes collaborating with municipalities to attract health care professionals to rural Alberta and focusing on the decentralization of health care decision-making and resources to local communities. My mandate also includes supporting primary care as the foundation of our health care system and improving emergency medical services' response times, surgical backlogs and emergency department wait times. These key system reforms will foster an environment within Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the entire health community that welcomes innovation and incentivizes the best patient care.

I can assure you that we are actively working to attract, train and retain health care professionals in areas of need. This includes devoting \$158 million in [Budget 2023](#) toward workforce planning, with an aim to strengthen programs to attract and retain physicians and support targeted recruitment of internationally educated nurses, especially in rural and remote areas.

Earlier this year, Alberta's government also released a [Health Workforce Strategy](#) to manage the challenges facing health care professionals in the province. The strategy identifies current actions and future initiatives, such as Rural Capacity Investment Funds, to attract and support Alberta's health care workers, including rural staff, through long-term planning, education and professional development.

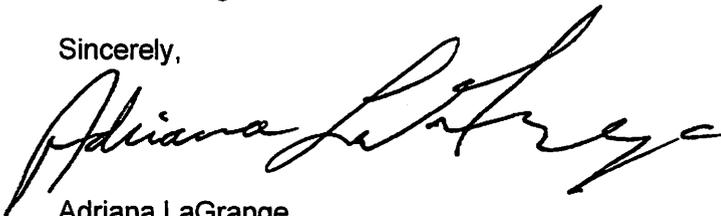
.../2

Further, I understand you are seeking a CT scanner and a full-time Indigenous liaison for Strathmore District Health Services. AHS has advised that, while this site currently provides general X-ray services, other diagnostic imaging scans will continue to be referred to Calgary, as this facility sits within Calgary Zone's catchment area. AHS has also advised that a full-time Indigenous Wellness Co-ordinator has been on staff with Strathmore District Health Services since February 2022, and a full-time Indigenous Hospital Liaison has also been in place since June 26, 2023. Both staff members provide a range of services, such as assisting with navigating the health care system, advocating for patients and families, and facilitating culturally safe practices and activities.

Under my oversight and guidance, AHS aligns the population's health needs with available resources to ensure our health system is sustainable now and into the future. As part of this planning process in rural communities, AHS works closely with community members, health care providers, First Nations, Métis communities and municipalities. With that in mind, I encourage you to connect with AHS directly to discuss further collaboration. You may wish to reach out to Val Austen-Wiebe, Senior Provincial Director, Indigenous Wellness Core, AHS, at Val.Austen-Wiebe@ahs.ca and Lori Anderson, Chief Zone Officer, AHS Calgary Zone, at Lori.Anderson@ahs.ca.

Thank you again for writing. I commend your enthusiasm and support for advancing health care services in southern Alberta and your willingness to contribute expertise and resources to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,



Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Health

cc: Val Austen-Wiebe, Senior Provincial Director, Indigenous Wellness Core, AHS
Lori Anderson, Chief Zone Officer, Calgary Zone, AHS

Mark Anselmo, M.D.
Calgary Zone Medical Director
Alberta Health Services

December 19, 2022

Mr. Kevin Scoble,
Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Strathmore

RE: Response to the Letter of Request for a CT Scanner at the Strathmore Hospital

Dear Mr. Scoble,

Thank you for your letter concerning the purchase of a CT Scanner at the Strathmore Hospital. The provision of accessible, high-quality patient care is what we strive for in the Calgary Zone, and we appreciate your request to explore this matter.

We undertook a review with our Diagnostic Imaging team and find that, at this time, the request does not meet the Diagnostic Imaging Access Guidelines that all newly proposed sites within the province are required to meet in order to qualify for a CT scanner. These guidelines have been developed to ensure that all new requests across the province are evaluated equitably and that decisions are based on available data. The available utilization data also do not demonstrate a pressing need for this resource at the Strathmore Hospital at present.

Current data shows the population of Strathmore is 14,810, growing 0.4% annually, with a distance of 44km to the nearest CT scanner (Peter Lougheed Hospital). The Diagnostic Imaging Guidelines for CT requests state that the catchment population must be greater than 20,000, with a distance of more than 100km to the nearest CT scanner. Over the past two fiscal years, our data shows that provincially, we have averaged 2300 CT patients per year with Strathmore area codes, with the majority taking place in Calgary and the remaining, taking place within other Zones. Using the averaged number and basing it on 248 working days per year would equate to 9 scans per day. The current expectation for a site like Strathmore would be to complete 9 scans within a 3-hour timeframe; establishing the request for a CT scanner in the Strathmore Hospital at this point in time would not be an efficient use of resources.

The Calgary Zone currently has capacity at all priority levels, with the present Calgary CT scan data represented in the table below:

| <u>Priority Levels</u> | <u>90th Percentile Days</u> | <u>Expected Days</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| P1 | 11 | 7 |
| P2 | 36 | 30 |
| P3 | 62 | 60 |

10301 Southport Lane SW
Calgary, AB T2W 1S7
Phone: 403-943-1879
mark.anselmo@ahs.ca

The Calgary Zone will continue to evaluate the need for Diagnostic Imaging resources throughout the zone and will advocate for any site or region that meets the necessary criteria to ensure that we provide the best support to our people and community. Again, thank you for your request and please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,



Mark Anselmo, M.D. FRCP
Calgary Zone Medical Director
Alberta Health Services

cc

Dr. Manish Joshi, MD, Department Head, Diagnostic Imaging
Mr. Peter Froese, Senior Operating Officer, Diagnostic Imaging
Mr. Craig Vines, Executive Director, Diagnostic Imaging
Ms. Lori Anderson, Chief Zone Officer, Calgary Zone

Dr. Aaron Low
South Zone Medical Director
Alberta Health Services

Via Email: Aaron.low@albertahealthservices.ca

Dear Dr. Low:

Devoted to the health and well-being of our community, the Town of Strathmore does its best to ensure high-quality health care for our residents. As a critical hub servicing our neighbours, we are also responsible for the health care needs of nearby rural municipalities. Without our facilities, those in need of medical treatment must travel to Calgary or Lethbridge, which in many cases can be hours away. The services we provide are vital in ensuring a high quality of life for those outside the major metropolitan centres.

Critical diagnostic tools are needed in Strathmore if we are to continue to maintain this kind of healthcare coverage for our Town and the communities around us. This includes a sizeable rural community, and an Indigenous one in nearby Siksika. Community wellness is a pillar of our strategic planning, and we work every day to ensure we can provide it to those communities we serve.

As the Town of Strathmore embarks on growing the medical services available in our community, so that we can continue to build a healthy and thriving community, our council has decided to explore the possibility of purchasing a CT Scanner. It would be housed at the Strathmore Hospital and run by AHS technicians. We are prepared to work towards funding the procurement of a scanner.

We understand that municipalities have purchased diagnostic tools in the past, and we would like to work with you to develop a plan and move forward on this issue. At your earliest convenience, I would like to meet with you to discuss a path forward, and how Strathmore can work with AHS on this issue.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Kevin Scoble
Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Strathmore

Strathmore.ca



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Strathmore AB T1P 1K2



(403) 934-3133



Honourable Jason Copping
Minister of Health

Office of the Minister of Health
423 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Jason Copping:

RE: Physician Shortage

On behalf of Strathmore Town Council, I am writing to you to bring awareness to the issue of a severe shortage of physicians in the Town of Strathmore. We have recently lost a critical number of doctors in our community and the situation in our Town is becoming dire as those who require a physician are unable to find one within a reasonable distance. This forces residents, many of whom do not have easy access to transportation, to travel an hour into Calgary to get medical care. As a result, many individuals may not get the care they need or will be forced to visit the emergency room to get medical care. In some cases, residents may not get the care they need until they are forced to into hospitals stays, adding additional patients to the already strained healthcare system.

As you know, the number of physicians practicing in rural Alberta dropped by 4% from 2019 to 2020 and the province is struggling with an imbalance between where physicians are practicing and where they are needed. The lack of practicing physicians in rural communities in a time where strong health care has become increasingly important, and the cost of transportation is exceedingly high is creating a dangerous public health situation for our residents.

We appreciate the many resources and programs that are funded by the provincial government to work through these problems. As we work to improve the situation surrounding physician shortages in the Town of Strathmore, we are **asking** for the help of Alberta Health Services and the Alberta Medical Association to work together **to incentivize Family Practice and long-term physician commitment**. Without these physicians, our residents and the residents of surrounding communities will not get the health care that they deserve, which is why it is imperative that we work together to solve this problem. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Pat Fule, Mayor

CC: Alberta Health Services
Alberta Medical Association

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