



TOWN OF WHITECOURT QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT



JUNE 2024

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOWN OF WHITECOURT

Financial Summary

for the month ended June 30, 2024

CASH POSITION	Savings		Bank General		Total
Previous Balance	\$	31,004,893	\$	19,310,168	\$ 50,315,061
Receipts	\$	122,663	\$	14,891,540	\$ 15,014,203
Disbursements	\$	-	\$	(6,788,340)	\$ (6,788,340)
Transfer from Investments	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Transfer to Investments	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
Net Ledger Balance	\$	31,127,556	\$	27,413,369	\$ 58,540,925

CURRENT SHORT TERM RECEIVABLES

	Current		Arrears	
General Receivables	\$	281,576	\$	1,942,004
Utility Receivables	\$	763,092	\$	77,500

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Current Taxable Assessment	\$	1,900,433,490
2023 Supplemental Assessment	\$	2,725,860

	Levy	% Collected	Outstanding
Arrears Jan 1/24	\$ 915,246	33.37%	\$ 609,855
Current Year Municipal	14,379,699 *	89.73%	1,476,570
Payment Plan	7,946,924	49.03%	4,050,378

* includes Jan 1 Penalty

QUARTERLY OPERATING REPORT

TOWN OF WHITECOURT OPERATING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Variance	Budget Spent	2023 Budget	2023 Actual
	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	\$
REVENUES						
Operational Revenues						
Property Taxes	22,152,866	22,183,283	10,618	100.0%	21,448,750	21,449,877
Less: Education Requisition	(5,014,148)	(2,509,943)	2,504,202	50.1%	(5,082,818)	(2,588,823)
Less: Seniors Requisition	(469,569)	(352,180)	117,409	75.0%	(399,284)	(299,247)
Less: Industrial Property Requisition	(21,982)	-	21,982	0.0%	(21,011)	(21,038)
Net Municipal Taxes	16,646,968	19,301,180	2,654,212	115.9%	15,965,637	18,542,970
Sales and User Charges	11,067,250	4,868,968	(6,398,284)	42.2%	10,481,328	4,454,910
Lienses and Permits	782,430	188,183	(578,287)	24.4%	833,130	261,071
Government Transfers	7,897,588	882,155	(7,035,410)	10.9%	5,824,845	543,277
Penalties and Costs on Taxes	217,584	174,825	(42,759)	80.3%	215,344	140,628
Franchise and Concession Contracts	2,086,788	931,710	(1,135,058)	45.1%	1,794,413	819,860
Investments Income	1,557,000	1,425,874	(131,126)	91.6%	1,370,000	1,161,936
Rentals	515,879	307,788	(208,113)	59.7%	501,458	268,289
Other Revenues	238,510	192,358	(46,154)	80.6%	234,809	181,892
Net Operational Revenues	24,322,984	8,749,814	(15,573,169)	36.0%	21,255,125	26,374,834
Non-operational Revenues						
Plus Transfers from reserves	3,957,570	145,950	(3,811,620)	3.7%	3,820,744	305,328
TOTAL REVENUES	44,927,522	28,196,944	(16,730,578)	62.8%	40,841,506	26,680,162

**TOWN OF WHITECOURT
OPERATING REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

EXPENDITURES

Operational Expenditures						
Legislative	515,329	207,590	(307,739)	40.3%	498,828	203,499
General Government Administration	2,308,395	918,624	(1,389,771)	39.8%	2,241,212	872,838
Other General Government Services	797,874	338,399	(459,474)	42.4%	645,007	302,250
Police Protection	3,113,741	696,110	(2,417,631)	22.4%	3,052,781	969,483
Fire Protection	1,884,956	864,788	(1,020,168)	45.9%	1,508,754	528,051
Disaster	1,590,135	96,794	(1,493,341)	6.1%	387,254	78,235
By-law Enforcement/Animal Control	522,597	226,070	(296,527)	43.3%	401,475	182,699
Common Services	820,238	731,546	(88,693)	89.2%	808,143	648,324
Road Transport	5,285,816	1,180,892	(4,104,924)	22.3%	4,562,283	1,085,171
Airport	44,326	-	(44,326)	0.0%	43,457	-
Transit	646,547	321,541	(325,005)	49.7%	638,230	273,908
Storm Sewers	229,236	93,900	(135,336)	41.0%	274,057	86,340
Water Supply and Distribution	2,728,180	1,348,863	(1,379,317)	49.4%	2,626,548	1,265,681
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	2,050,400	948,926	(1,101,473)	46.3%	1,999,122	1,020,352
Waste Management	1,717,981	176,324	(1,541,657)	10.3%	1,648,628	153,636
F.C.S.S	1,499,257	679,108	(820,148)	45.3%	1,350,179	567,239
Cemetery	75,902	34,284	(41,618)	45.2%	70,359	33,800
Planning and Development	1,089,203	353,702	(735,501)	32.5%	977,284	303,697
Economic Development	923,996	302,708	(621,289)	32.8%	863,463	255,183
Land Sales & Rental Revenue	412,559	100,222	(312,337)	24.3%	384,136	103,041
Parks and Recreation	8,348,193	3,729,483	(4,618,710)	44.7%	7,674,660	3,486,245
Library	941,487	621,460	(320,027)	66.0%	889,208	505,975
Total Operational Expenditures	37,546,348	13,971,333	(23,575,014)	37.2%	33,545,067	12,925,442
Non-operational Expenditures						
Debt Repayment (Principal)	731,330	362,974	(368,356)	49.6%	710,128	352,454
Transfers to Reserves	6,649,844	2,140,317	(4,509,527)	32.2%	6,586,310	2,067,520
Total Non-operational Expenditures	7,381,174	2,503,291	(4,877,883)	33.9%	7,296,438	2,419,974
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	44,927,522	16,474,624	(28,452,898)	36.7%	40,841,506	15,345,416
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		11,722,320				11,334,746

VARIANCE HIGHLIGHTS - REVENUE

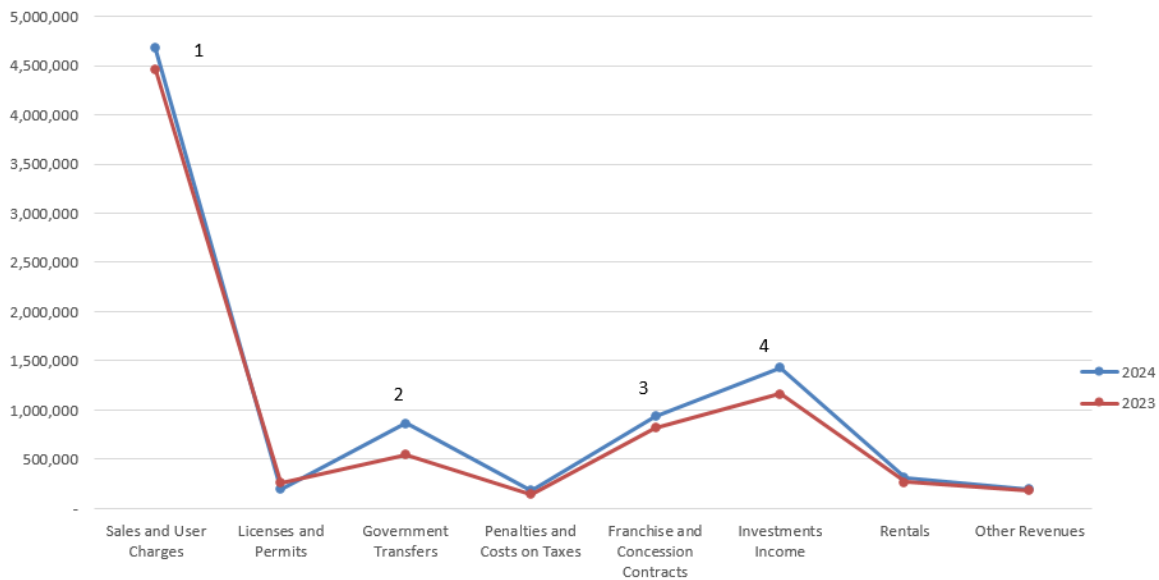
Net Municipal Taxes (115.9%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taxes have been levied for 2024, less three quarterly foundation requisitions, two quarterly public school and separate school requisition payments.
Sales and User Charges (42.2%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and Sewer sales amounts are anticipated to be lower than budget by approximately \$160,000 which will be offset by reduced expenditures and contributions to the Sustainability Reserve. Bulk sales are anticipated to be lower by approximately \$60,000 due to less commercial activity than anticipated. Waste Disposal sales are forecasted to be down \$50,000 that will be offset by some operational savings and a one time out of town revenue source. Land Sales for \$1.0 million have not been realized by the end of June. Recreation membership and fitness program revenue has increased from prior year, but will be lower than budget. This decrease will be partially offset by increased admissions.
Licenses, Permits and Fines (24.4%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police fines reflect five months of revenue and are anticipated to be lower than budget by approximately \$65,000. Photo radar revenue is anticipated to be lower due to transitioning to a new contract.
Government Transfers (10.9%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government grants for the Street Improvement Program, Policing and County Cost share, are recorded as part of the year end process.
Penalties and Costs on Taxes (80.3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penalties are anticipated to be higher than budget due to increase in January 1 penalty revenue for outstanding taxes at the end of 2023.
Franchise Revenue (45.1%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Franchise Fee revenue reflects five months of revenue and is anticipated to be lower than budget for the gas franchise by approximately \$60,000 and lower for Power franchise by approximately \$38,000 but can change depending on consumption/weather.
Investment Income (91.6%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest revenue is anticipated to be on budget. Interest revenue is reduced at year end for an allocation of interest (34.0% estimated at \$802,091) to prepaid grants and reserves.
Rentals (59.7%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental revenue is higher compared to budget due to increased usage at the Forest Interpretive Centre and Millar Centre Fieldhouse.
Other Revenues (80.6%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donations are anticipated to be higher than budget due to Party In The Park donations.
Reserve Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most reserve transfers are generally completed at year end.

VARIANCE HIGHLIGHTS - EXPENDITURES

General Government Administration (39.8%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT modernization project and legal expenses to finalize ICF agreements and claim expected to be complete by end of year.
Police Protection (22.4%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal contract costs lower as only one quarterly invoice has been processed to date. Contracting fees for photo radar anticipated to be lower due to transition to new contract.
Disaster (6.1%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency mock exercise complete. Spur rock replacement, spur signage, and 2023 flood event damage assessments and Phase 1 of repairs expected to be completed by end of year. Expenses are expected to be lower by \$228,500 for the watershed restoration as grant was unsuccessful.
Common Services (89.2%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs higher for unplanned vehicle and equipment repairs to date. Only five months credit for equipment charges are included.
Road Transport (22.3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street Improvement Program (\$2.42 million) for various projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of the year or deferred to 2025. Annual road maintenance, curbs and sidewalks, snow removal, and Christmas lights expenditures etc. are anticipated by year end.
Airport (0.0%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual grant of \$44,326 to be recorded by year end.
Waste Management (10.3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only five months of garbage collection contract recorded. The Annual requisition for operation of the Regional Landfill Authority for \$1.23 million is completed at year end and contributes to the variance.
Planning and Development (32.4%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced costs due to Vitalization Grants, Transportation Master Plan, and Phase One and Two Vitalization projects drawings for the underground utilities to be updated by year end. Major Offsite Levy Bylaw review to be completed in 2025.
Economic Development (32.8%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospice and Habitat for Humanity Grants (\$90,000) developer and external committee driven. Economic Development grants to be issued before year end. Business Support Projects underway for 2024 to be completed by year end.
Land Sales and Development (24.3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost incurred for sale of land to date. Geotech and Resource plan deferred to 2025. 33 Street extension upgrade project on hold pending negotiations with developer.
Library (66.0%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full grant for the year has already been fully paid.
Debt Repayment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debenture payments on track.
Reserve Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most reserve transfers completed at year end once projects have been finalized.

2023/2024 REVENUE COMPARISON GRAPH

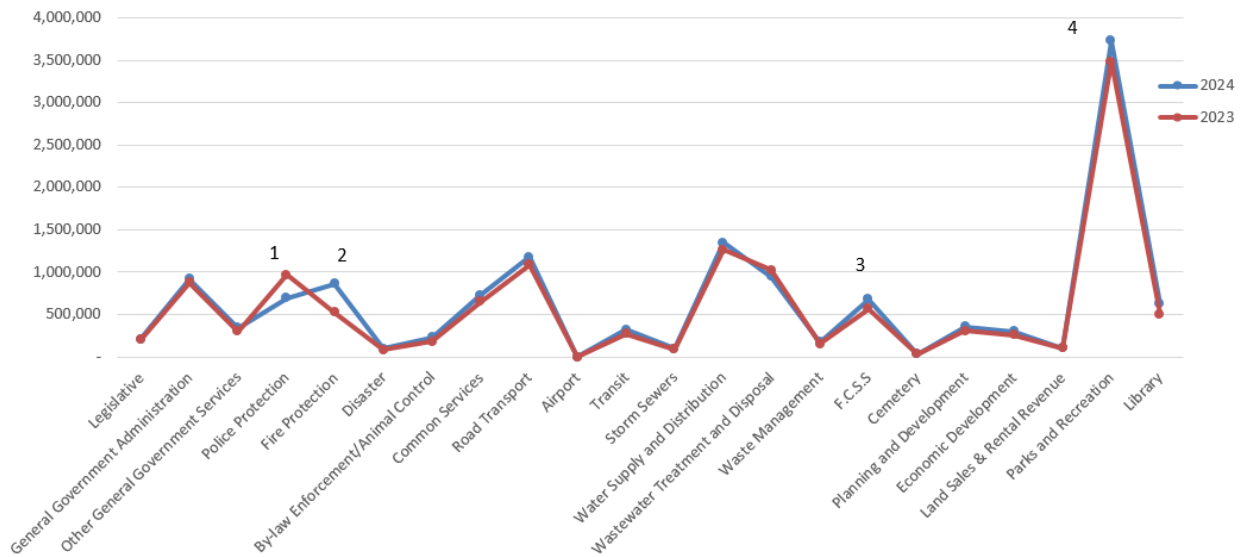
Town of Whitecourt
2023/2024 Operating Revenue Comparison
For period ended June 30, 2024



- 1 - Higher Allan & Jean Millar Centre admission, membership and fitness program revenue compared to prior year. Increase in Utility fees compared to prior year.
- 2 - New grants received (Supporting Psychological Health In First Responders, Emergency Preparedness, Food Bank Canada, National Action Plan, New Hope for Youth, United Way, and Small Community Opportunity Program). Timing difference on second quarter FCSS grant (paid in June in 2024 and July in 2023).
- 3 - Higher consumption for the period from January to March. Higher rates compared to prior year.
- 4 - Realized increased investment income due to higher interest rates compared to prior year.

2023/2024 EXPENDITURE COMPARISON GRAPH

Town of Whitecourt
 2023/2024 Operating Expenditure Comparison
 For period ended June 30, 2024



- 1 - Only one RCMP billing to date in 2024. Lower contract photo radar charges due to transitioning to new contractor.
- 2 - Mulching contract paid earlier than prior year. Summer student crew started for 2024.
- 3 - Higher expenditures for FCSS in training and grants allocated in 2024. Wages higher due to previous vacant positions filled in 2024.
- 4 - Higher recreation expenditures for increase in insurance, gas, chemicals and material costs.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Administration hosted a Council Workshop to develop the 2024 Strategic Plan that has been adopted by Council. The workshop also provided Council the opportunity to provide feedback on the format for the 2025 strategic planning session.
- ✓ As part of the investment attraction program, key industry outreach was established to support projects and initiatives that will diversify the economy, support new investment and enhance viability of existing businesses. Whitecourt has been working with a number of investors and developers on various projects.
- ✓ The Health Professionals Attraction and Retention Committee is engaging with potential doctors, nurses, medical students, and various other healthcare professionals and their families. Whitecourt has seen three new doctors and two nurses choose Whitecourt as their place of practice.
- ✓ The Sports Hosting Program, established to provide financial assistance to local non-profit organizations hosting a provincial level or higher caliber championships in the community, has supported three local sporting organizations to date. The events hosted in the community increased visitors and had a positive economic impact on Whitecourt.
- ✓ A new small business, The Turn Indoor Golf & Lounge, was successful in receiving \$10,000 under the Whitecourt Launch Program. The program provides new and existing businesses with an opportunity to access additional financial support for business development projects that stimulate business retention, growth and expansion.
- ✓ There has been over 600% increase in participants to the Doors Open Program compared to last year. Most participants ride Public Transit to the program, which in turn has increased transit ridership as well. An addition to the program has been excursions, including multi-generational trips with youth and seniors. Seniors and youth both have expressed that this was a positive experience.
- ✓ A volunteer Lunch and Learn event, with a speaker from Volunteer Canada, was hosted as part of the 2024 National Volunteer Week celebrations. The “You’ve Bean Great” event and annual Volunteer Awards Program were also hosted to recognize local volunteers.
- ✓ The first ever Youth Week was scheduled the first week of May to coincide with National Youth Week. Many partner agencies came together to offer a variety of programming over the week for youth in grades 6-12. Successes included the first ever Youth Pool Party, hosted by the Youth Advisory Committee. The Committee had the chance to learn a variety of skills by planning and running the event. Spirit of Youth Awards were presented for recognizing and promoting the advancement of the contributions that teens aged 12 to 18 make in and around Whitecourt and Woodlands County.
- ✓ The 2024 Family Day Winter Carnival was hosted at Festival Park on February 17. This was the second time the Town hosted the event on a Saturday instead of the Monday. The weather was great and attendance was high and, due to the time, people were able to use the ice slide for the entire weekend after the event. A free family skate at JDA Place and a free family movie at Vista Theatre (that was completely full) were also hosted on the holiday Monday.

- ✓ Partnered with the Whitecourt & District Public Library to bring accomplished wilderness adventurer John Dunn to Whitecourt on February 2. There was a great turnout with 42 attendees. The talk was held at the Forest Interpretive Centre and included a visual component to accompany the talk about Dunn's northern journey from Tofino to Ellesmere Island.
- ✓ The Family Support Program attended the Onoway Children's Wellness Fair in early March and hosted a trade show table to promote program services and provincial resources. Total attendance was reported at 266 (173 children/youth, 93 adults); staff actively engaged with participants and networked with local community agencies.
- ✓ A new Public Transit stop has been added near the hilltop Tim Hortons location (Stop #1A). The stop will serve area businesses and Across the Waters Outreach School.
- ✓ Completed and maintained Crokicurl ice for use before and after Family Day. The new installation with wood supports worked well and staff are looking at different ways to colour the ice.
- ✓ Completed 10 new planter boxes for the Whitecourt Community Garden.
- ✓ Community Services staff worked with the Whitecourt & Woodlands Performing Arts Society to bring Brent Butt to Whitecourt on February 25, 2024. The performance was held at the St. Joseph Parish Hall. The event sold out with 320 tickets issued.
- ✓ Phase 1 of the Centennial Park Trail Rehabilitation was completed. Phase 1 included widening and re-paving over 5000m² of asphalt pathway, as well as replacing several culverts to enhance drainage in the area. Phase 2 is planned for later in the 2024 construction season.
- ✓ The Street Improvement Program is underway for the 2024 construction season. Minor patching has begun, and concrete work along 55 Avenue will commence July 5, 2024.
- ✓ No exceptions were noted on the review of the Town's compliance with established plan rules administering the Local Authorities Pension Plan for the Town and Library.
- ✓ Council and staff hosted the annual Budget Public Information Open House on February 27, 2024 to provide information to the public on the interim budget, and provide the opportunity for community engagement and feedback.
- ✓ Facility Maintenance project highlights include:
 - Dismantled the Athabasca Arena cooling floor piping, and flushed and removed blockages and sediment.
 - Installed large make up air unit for pool change rooms.
 - Installed new heating/ventilation unit for fitness centre.
- ✓ Efforts continue on the review of the Town's Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw, as well as the completion of the North Flats Area Structure Plan. A third open house was held April 18, 2024 to present the final draft documents to the public, and a Public Hearing was held on June 24, 2024. The documents are scheduled to be brought forward to Council for adoption on July 15, 2024.
- ✓ A review and update of the Town's Planning and Development fees was completed to ensure they remain competitive and up to date.
- ✓ An extension on the Right of First Refusal agreement was signed for a portion of the SE & SW ¼ of Section 32-59-11-W5th.
- ✓ Whitecourt participated in the annual Trade Fair to promote composting, emergency preparedness, emergency evacuation registration, and FireSmart Home Assessments. Clark

Builders and BR2 Architecture also participated to promote the Culture & Events Centre tender and labour opportunities.

- ✓ Another successful Party In The Park celebration was held June 14/15 with approximately 3,000 attendees. Corporate sponsorship again hit exceptional levels, allowing Party In The Park to bring in talented artists and provide many opportunities for family fun.
- ✓ The Personal Training team has expanded and now includes three qualified and enthusiastic trainers. This program continues to grow and develop as we work to meet the needs of our members and guests.
- ✓ Swimming lessons continue to be popular and busy.
- ✓ This year's Enhancement Grant was oversubscribed. Four local organizations received funding for various projects.
- ✓ This year's Run 4 Fun saw record numbers of participants with 438 people taking part in the event.
- ✓ Council adopted the renewal of the current Electrical Distribution System Franchise agreement for an additional five-year term.
- ✓ The first phase of the Town's four-year Asset Management Implementation Plan was initiated. Contract services to assist with this work was awarded to Pillar Systems and will see the completion of the Town's asset inventory, GIS database update, creation of asset performance criteria, and review of asset management software options.
- ✓ The Joint Use Planning Agreement with Woodlands County and the school boards was finalized, as well as the updated Joint Use Facility Agreements to include Woodlands County as a named party. Official signing of the documents will be scheduled in the upcoming months.
- ✓ The 2024 Whitecourt Children's Festival event was held and featured children focussed activities, workshops, and performances.
- ✓ The Town held many activities to celebrate and say thank you to seniors from the Whitecourt and Woodlands County region during Seniors' Week.
- ✓ The Town of Whitecourt, along with Pembina, BCG of Whitecourt & District, Whitecourt & District Public Library, the Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society, and other community partners, hosted a Pride Celebration on June 7, 2024.
- ✓ Policy 23-012 - FireSmart Home Incentive Program was updated to continue the program. 38 residents have signed up for home assessments so far this year.
- ✓ Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) completed a successful audit of the Town's Emergency Management Program.
- ✓ Hosted a 2-day Emergency Management Exercise consisting of both a table top and full scale exercise. This exercise brought together regional partners, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Millar Western, Canfor, ATCO, Alberta Emergency Management Agency, Alberta Forestry and the North Central Incident Management Team.
- ✓ The Utilities Department completed several major maintenance and equipment replacement projects that include:
 - Underground piping repair at the Water Treatment Plant.
 - Replacement of the boiler circulation pump.
 - Replacement of existing Hach 2100N benchtop turbidimeter.
 - Annual sewer line flushing.
- ✓ Executed Fire Service Agreements with the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Alexis Hotel Corporation, and Alexis Tourism RV Park Corp.

- ✓ Finalized negotiations for an agreement with Canfor to accept their dry kiln wastewater for processing at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ✓ Policy changes were completed for Municipal Enforcement that included updating the Emergency Response Vehicle Operation and the addition of Body Worn Cameras and In-Car Video Systems to align with the service level changes.
- ✓ The Housing Needs Assessment, a Now Item in the Strategic Plan that was adopted by Council. The Assessment is voluntary, but is a condition of grant funding the Town has received and may be a condition for future funding. The top three housing priorities identified for Whitecourt through the assessment are:
 - Non-Market Bachelor/1 Bedroom/2 Bedroom Housing with Tenant Supports;
 - Seniors Self-Contained Affordable Housing with Supports;
 - Transitional Housing with Supports.

This information will provide the Province with a better understanding of local needs when developing solutions to address housing challenges.
- ✓ Collaborated with Associated Ambulance, Alberta RCMP – Traffic Whitecourt Unit, Northern Gateway Public Schools Wellness Team, Eagle Tower Victim Services, Alberta Health Services, and Crime Prevention to provide another successful R.I.S.K. (formerly Party) that was held at the Whitecourt Public Works Shop.
- ✓ Training initiatives were completed by the Whitecourt Fire Department:
 - Leadership workshop for all Fire Officers and Senior Firefighters;
 - 12 firefighters completed the Vehicle Extrication 1 Course.
- ✓ New Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association training/e-based safety program rolled out for summer staff.

INNOVATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES

- ✓ As a designated community under the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program, the Economic Development Committee supported over 65 businesses with employee recruitment and retention efforts to addresses current labour needs and skill shortages.
- ✓ The Infrastructure Department established a department report to track staff's innovation and efficiency changes. There have been numerous changes implemented this year including:
 - Purchasing account set up with vendors for re-occurring purchases for vehicle accessories resulting in annual savings of approximately \$15,000; tender process simplified to improve vendor bid process and the addition of equipment address tags to improve shipping process;
 - Free Clean up Week underwent significant changes in 2024 that included offering a joint program with the County for the first time, the relocation of the collection area, and making process changes to be safer and to provide a more efficient service for residents and staff.
 - Spray Bar was added to the water tank truck being used for the oval ice flooding that is now safer, faster and the truck is easier to run. The team also came up with a solution to contain the Crockicurl ice surface by using boards for the perimeter that made flooding easier.

- Made valves for crack filler totes in-house rather than buying that resulted in savings of approximately \$1,800.
- Planned for hauling of the Town heavy equipment unit to Edmonton for repair to coincide with hauling another unit back saving approximately \$3,000.
- Inter-departmental collaborations to maximize use of staff and equipment for ongoing maintenance include:
 - FireSmart summer students and the Parks team streamlined mowing and brushing programs.
 - Coordination of Utilities and Public Works staff for utilization of the vac truck that also allowed for cross training.
- ✓ The Facilities Maintenance team repaired the building drainage at the Forest Interpretative Centre eliminating the long term issue with ice on walkway. This will save time and application costs associated with having to salt throughout the winter.
- ✓ The Women's Conference recruited new committee members to provide different perspectives for the event. Cost saving measures were implemented within two weeks of the event while still being able to provide a meaningful experience for those who attended due to low registration numbers.
- ✓ Recycled concrete, which was crushed earlier this year, was used as part of the Centennial Park Trail Rehabilitation Project. This material was used to fortify a 600m² section of pathway which was soft and poorly-draining. The crushed concrete demonstrated excellent compaction and it is recommended to utilize this material in similar applications in the future.
- ✓ Requirements for busing registration for the Doors Open Grade 4/5 program was removed and attendance has increased since this barrier was removed.
- ✓ Completed installation of six upgraded high efficiency heating units for the Forest Interpretive Centre.
- ✓ Installed energy efficient LED Retrofit light bulbs throughout the Allan & Jean Millar Centre lobbies and hallways.
- ✓ Implemented the administration of building permits to create a more efficient application process and continue with the Town's Red Tape Reduction efforts.
- ✓ Purchased interchangeable skid units for the side by side unit that can be used for a wildland or a medical unit depending on call/season.
- ✓ A new honorarium process for Firefighters was created that is more efficient and similar to other comparable communities.
- ✓ Purchased equipment for front line Public Works/Parks staff vehicles to be equipped with wildland fire extinguishers. This creates a way for staff to action small fires before the fire spreads.
- ✓ More versatile water crafts were ordered to replace the current Rapid Deployment Craft improving rescue efforts.
- ✓ Implemented mentorship of the FireSmart summer crew to do home assessments on their own, which has created efficiencies and decreased the workload throughout the Whitecourt Fire Department.
- ✓ Produced a member Health Resource Guide for first responder mental health.
- ✓ Made operational processing changes at the Water Treatment Plant that is estimated to save approximately \$40,000.

- ✓ Created the Customer Conduct Procedure as a tool to guide staff in their response to guests who have broken rules or are behaving in an unacceptable way while visiting the Allan & Jean Millar Centre.
- ✓ Continue to promote the “Path to be a Lifeguard” to encourage new aquatic leaders and describe the certifications and process required to achieve that goal. This has helped boost registration in these courses and ultimately, supports staff succession in the Aquatic Centre.
- ✓ Raypak boiler in the Allan & Jean Millar Centre for all of the hydronic heating sprung a leak on the main header gasket. Staff were able to tear the unit down and rebuild it while running on the facility’s secondary boiler.

UNFORESEEN EMERGENCIES

- ✓ The Food Bank mezzanine’s floor and joists needed to be replaced for storage and working space.
- ✓ A variable frequency drive shorted out for the McLeod Arena brine pump and had to be replaced.
- ✓ The Fire Hall experienced a water main break inside of Bay 5 that required repair.
- ✓ A water break on a hydronic heating line at the Carlan Services Community Resource Centre during the cold snap in February resulted in the system needing repair.
- ✓ Heating unit near the Childmind Area at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre went down during the cold snap in February. This also resulted in not having water as some water pipes froze inside the walls, but did not burst.
- ✓ Increased repair expenses for Fire Rescue 1 Unit to replace the air conditioner and alternator.
- ✓ Completed some unplanned major maintenance for the Utilities Department:
 - Membrane Rack 2 RF valve and actuator failure rendering Membrane Rack 2 inoperable. Spare valve and actuator on-site for replacement so no disruption in service occurred.
 - Repaired a sewer line break on 48A Street.
 - Repaired damaged hydrant at 30 Sandy Drive
 - Repaired main water line leak at 55 Avenue and Wagoner Drive.
 - Repaired hydrant on 36 Street.
- ✓ Experienced a failure of the modems that relay communications between the Programmable Logic Controller’s at the Hilltop Reservoir and Main Reservoir pump houses. Without the communication in place, the pump houses have been run manually. Repair is underway.

GRANTING/SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ The Town of Whitecourt was successful with a grant application to the Small Community Opportunity Program (SCOP) receiving \$70,000 in grant funding to support a Business Market Analysis Attraction & Retention Strategy.
- ✓ The Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee (H-PARC) was successful with a grant application to Rural Health Workforce Attraction and Retention Grant Program to host the 2024 Health Professionals Appreciation Barbeque. In 2023, the event was successful in welcoming over 120 health professionals and their families.
- ✓ Received \$50,000 for a Family Violence Initiative Expansion Program to support initiatives under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. This grant is for one year with the possibility of extending up to four years. It has supported the addition of a Family Violence Prevention Worker for 21 hours per week as well as provided funding for some upcoming events in fall of 2024.
- ✓ Received \$17,760 to provide New Hope for Youth; a program for youth who are facing the justice system. This two-day course will be offered twice within the 2024-2025 fiscal year and will eliminate barriers for youth by providing snacks, lunch and transportation for participants. This grant is supported by the Crown, Probation, Youth Justice and RCMP. Referrals will be accepted from these stakeholders, other agencies and participants/parents.
- ✓ Received \$22,659 from Walmart through Food Banks Canada with 90% of the grant to be used for food and 10% to be used for operational costs.
- ✓ Applied for two grants through Alberta Food Banks: Rural Transportation Grant; and Bulk Food Purchase Subsidy.
- ✓ Community Services staff worked in conjunction with the Whitecourt & Woodlands Performing Arts Society to complete the application for the Alberta Culture Days Grant. The \$850 funding allocated to the Society will be used to bring a cultural performance to Fall Fest, which will be held at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre on Sunday, September 22.
- ✓ OK Tire is our newest sponsor for the Food Bank van, and will be responsible for oil changes, maintenance, as well as supplying the Food Bank with summer and winter tires when needed.
- ✓ Tri-Jet hosted a raffle that raised \$14,180 for the Food Bank.
- ✓ Two sponsors were secured for Hunger Day. Eagle River Casino is donating all of the food, and Pembina Pipelines is donating volunteers, a BBQ, and all the beverages.
- ✓ Applications to Municipal Climate Change Action Center grant program for energy efficient projects were successful for 50% of the cost to replace insulated McLeod Arena roofing, REALice system, and the Allan & Jean Millar Centre boilers. Application for the Water Treatment Plant was not successful and is pending further engineering report information.
- ✓ An application was submitted to the Alberta Drought and Flood Protection grant for projects that could help protect critical municipal infrastructure in a flood event.
- ✓ A donation of \$10,000 was received from Enbridge to purchase a medical skid unit for Fire Department rescue.
- ✓ A donation of \$10,000 was received from Chevron to purchase a RCMP incident command trailer.

- ✓ Whitecourt was awarded \$104,985 through the FRIAA Community Fire Guard Program Grant to complete planning and information gathering for a fireguard (consultation, permitting and WMB approvals). Once completed, Whitecourt will apply for funding of Phase 2 – construction of a community fireguard.
- ✓ Award pending with conditional approval of 2025 FRIAA FireSmart Program grant to hire a contractor to complete vegetation management for Town and Crown land identified in the Wildfire Mitigation Strategy study and to hire summer students to complete vegetation management and provide public education for \$199,000.
- ✓ The Rotary Club of Whitecourt increased its sponsorship of the Rotary Summer Unplugged and 2.0 programs in response to increased operating costs. The increase to \$8,000 will assist in keeping program fees affordable for families
- ✓ Party In The Park received a staggering \$54,300 in monetary sponsorship and much more through in-kind donations.
- ✓ The Whitecourt Woodlands Performing Arts Society, in partnership with the Town, secured the Canadian Heritage Grant for \$22,800 for Party In The Park.
- ✓ Whitecourt Stationery renewed its Fieldhouse Change Room sponsorship.
- ✓ Fast Mechanical is now the sponsor of the Fast Mechanical Waterslide.
- ✓ The Whitecourt Children’s Festival received \$2,000 in monetary sponsorship and several in-kind donations.
- ✓ An application was submitted for a Canada Cultural Spaces Grant earlier this year for the construction of the Culture & Events Centre. If approved, funding for approximately \$2.8 million would be allocated over a three-year period.
- ✓ Application to the Canada Summer Jobs Grant was successful with \$25,200 being awarded for 12 positions.
- ✓ An application was submitted to Rural Transit Solutions for approximately \$3 million for replacement of buses, intersection lighting improvements, additional bus shelters along with sidewalks, pavement markings and crosswalks improvements adjacent to bus stops.
- ✓ Working with the Federal and Provincial Government on Permanent Baseline Capital Funding for Transit to commence in 2026.
- ✓ Community Services collaborated with the Rotary Club of Whitecourt to submit an expression of interest under the Active Communities Initiative Grant Program for funding to construct multi-use pads at Festival park. The application was successful and the Rotary Club has been invited to submit a formal application.
- ✓ Community Services collaborated with the Mountain Bike Club to submit an expression of interest under the Active Communities Initiative grant program for funding to construct an access road to the mountain bike park. If successful, the Mountain Bike Club will be required to submit a formal application.
- ✓ Received a Fire Services Training Grant of \$10,595 to partially fund the NFPA 1006 Awareness & Operations (Level 1) including Electric Vehicle Component and the NFPA 1006 Technician Heavy Rescue Level 2 courses.
- ✓ Received a \$6,000 Celebrate Canada Grant for Canada Day (\$5,000) and National Indigenous Peoples Day (\$1,000).
- ✓ Received a Participation Grant of \$1,000 for the free events that were offered throughout June to support the community in being active.

- ✓ Received a \$1,750 grant from the Alberta Conservation Association for nature based camp programming.
- ✓ The application that was submitted to the Government of Canada Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund for projects that could be undertaken to protect critical municipal infrastructure in a flood event was unsuccessful.
- ✓ The grant application that was submitted to the Disaster Recovery Program to recover costs incurred responding to the June 2023 flood event, and for recovery of costs to repair damages to Town infrastructure has been successful but some of the recovery projects are subject to review by the Disaster Recovery engineering team for scope approval and funding levels.
- ✓ The grant application that was submitted to the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program for a grant for the Athabasca River bank vegetation restoration was unsuccessful.