



TOWN OF WHITECOURT QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT



SEPTEMBER 2024

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOWN OF WHITECOURT Financial Summary

for the month ended September 30, 2024

CASH POSITION	Bank		
	Savings	General	Total
Previous Balance	\$ 31,556,877	\$ 26,034,636	\$ 57,591,513
Receipts	\$ -	\$ 1,818,280	\$ 1,818,280
Disbursements	\$ -	\$ (4,100,920)	\$ (4,100,920)
Transfer from Investments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer to Investments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Ledger Balance	\$ 31,556,877	\$ 23,751,995	\$ 55,308,872

CURRENT SHORT TERM RECEIVABLES

	Current	Arrears
General Receivables	\$ 277,756	\$ 1,813,286
Utility Receivables	\$ 842,518	\$ 12,870

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

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

	Levy	% Collected	Outstanding
Arrears Jan 1/24	\$ 915,246	45.91%	\$ 495,060
Current Year Municipal Payment Plan	14,379,699 *	92.30%	1,107,699
	7,946,924	74.32%	2,041,149

* includes Jan 1 Penalty

QUARTERLY OPERATING REPORT

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

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Variance	Budget Spent	2023 Budget	2023 Actual
	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	\$
REVENUES						
Operational Revenues						
Property Taxes	22,152,665	22,161,521	8,856	100.0%	21,448,750	21,656,165
Less: Education Requisition	(5,014,146)	(3,761,915)	1,252,230	75.0%	(5,062,818)	(3,776,390)
Less: Seniors Requisition	(469,569)	(469,546)	23	100.0%	(399,284)	(398,995)
Less: Industrial Property Requisition	(21,982)	(21,982)	-	100.0%	(21,011)	(21,038)
Net Municipal Taxes	16,646,968	17,908,077	1,261,109	107.0%	15,965,637	17,459,742
Sales and User Charges	11,067,250	7,061,144	(4,006,106)	63.8%	10,481,326	6,900,976
Licenses and Permits	762,430	334,397	(428,033)	43.9%	833,130	420,037
Government Transfers	7,897,566	945,876	(6,951,690)	12.0%	5,824,845	852,451
Penalties and Costs on Taxes	217,584	340,150	122,566	156.3%	215,344	306,403
Franchise and Concession Contracts	2,066,766	1,344,273	(722,493)	65.0%	1,794,413	1,122,564
Investments Income	1,557,000	2,199,519	642,519	141.3%	1,370,000	1,927,435
Rentals	515,879	378,483	(137,396)	73.4%	501,458	364,029
Other Revenues	238,510	238,093	(417)	99.8%	234,611	276,870
Net Operational Revenues	40,969,952	30,750,011	(10,219,941)	66.8%	37,220,764	29,630,507
Non-operational Revenues						
Plus Transfers from reserves	3,957,570	145,950	(3,811,620)	3.7%	3,620,744	305,328
TOTAL REVENUES	44,927,522	30,895,961	(14,031,561)	54.6%	40,841,509	29,935,835

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

EXPENDITURES	2024			Budget	2023	
	Budget	2024 Actual	Variance	Spent	Budget	2023 Actual
	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	\$
Operational Expenditures						
Legislative	515,329	310,509	(204,821)	60.3%	498,828	293,633
General Government Administration	2,308,395	1,515,073	(793,322)	65.6%	2,241,212	1,488,657
Other General Government Services	797,874	434,517	(363,357)	54.5%	645,007	402,353
Police Protection	3,113,741	1,319,007	(1,794,734)	42.4%	3,052,781	1,145,953
Fire Protection	1,884,956	1,277,227	(607,729)	67.8%	1,508,754	827,672
Disaster	1,590,135	150,709	(1,439,426)	9.5%	387,254	514,303
By-law Enforcement/Animal Control	522,597	356,955	(165,642)	68.3%	401,475	268,631
Common Services	820,238	1,039,084	218,846	126.7%	808,143	819,013
Road Transport	5,285,816	2,871,210	(2,414,606)	54.3%	4,562,283	2,183,497
Airport	44,326	-	(44,326)	0.0%	43,457	-
Transit	646,547	489,283	(157,263)	75.7%	638,230	471,040
Storm Sewers	229,236	137,837	(91,399)	60.1%	274,057	196,829
Water Supply and Distribution	2,728,180	1,942,546	(785,634)	71.2%	2,626,548	1,826,557
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal	2,050,400	1,406,519	(643,880)	68.6%	1,999,122	1,357,348
Waste Management	1,717,981	284,468	(1,433,513)	16.6%	1,648,628	285,522
F.C.S.S	1,499,257	998,695	(500,561)	66.6%	1,350,179	841,015
Cemetery	75,902	48,737	(27,165)	64.2%	70,359	55,744
Planning and Development	1,089,203	599,355	(489,848)	55.0%	977,284	488,309
Economic Development	923,996	494,293	(429,704)	53.5%	863,463	417,386
Land Sales & Rental Revenue	412,559	105,134	(307,425)	25.5%	384,136	111,334
Parks and Recreation	8,348,193	5,569,648	(2,778,545)	66.7%	7,674,660	5,124,331
Library	941,487	764,738	(176,749)	81.2%	889,208	722,019
Total Operational Expenditures	37,546,348	22,115,543	(15,430,804)	58.9%	33,545,067	19,841,144
Non-operational Expenditures						
Debt Repayment (Principal)	731,330	416,359	(314,971)	56.9%	710,128	404,745
Transfers to Reserves	6,649,844	2,140,292	(4,509,552)	32.2%	6,586,310	2,067,520
Total Non-operational Expenditures	7,381,174	2,556,651	(4,824,523)	34.6%	7,296,438	2,472,265
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	44,927,522	24,672,194	(20,255,328)	54.9%	40,841,506	22,313,408
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		6,223,767				7,622,427

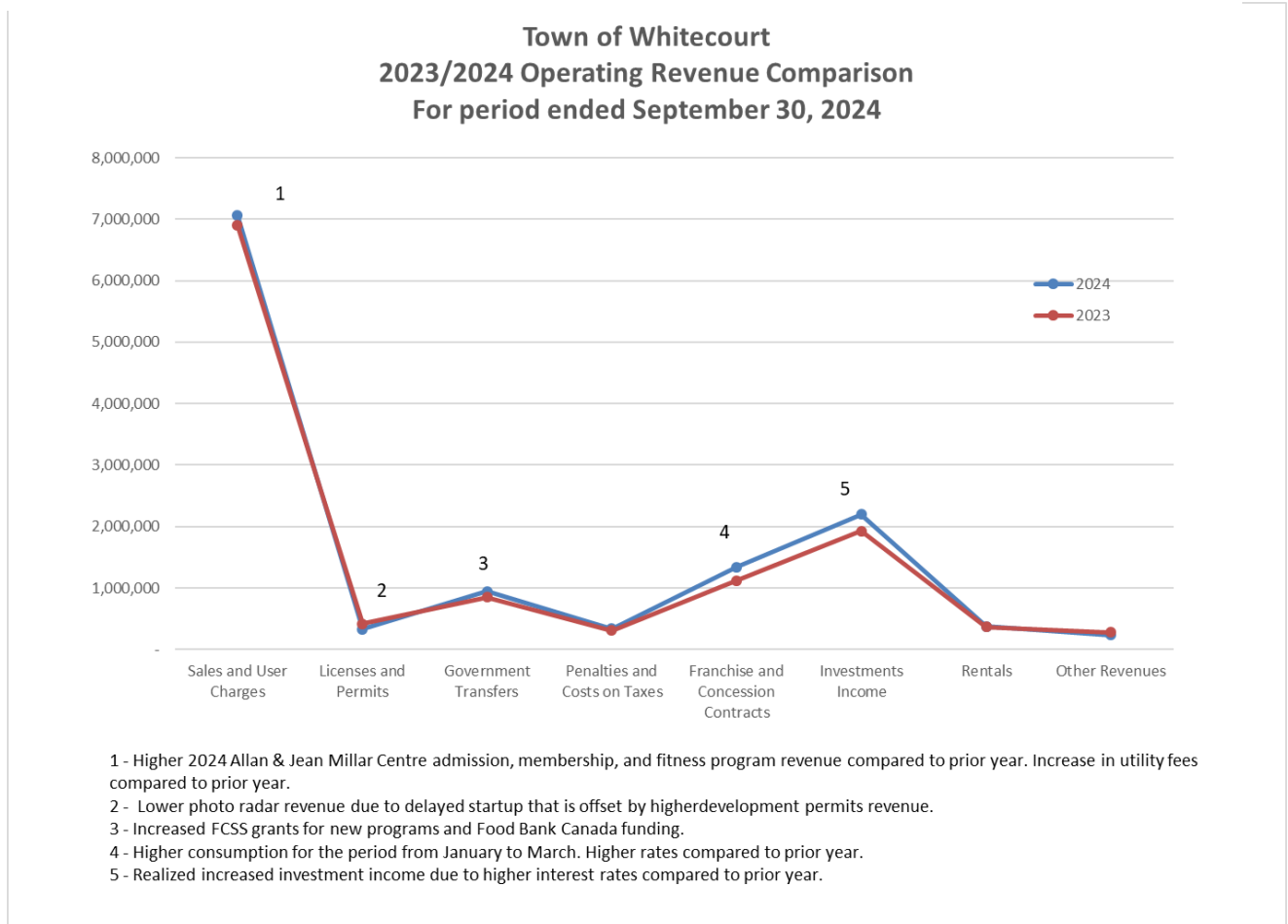
VARIANCE HIGHLIGHTS - REVENUE

Net Municipal Taxes (107.0%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taxes have been levied for 2024, less four quarterly foundation requisitions, three quarterly public school and separate school requisition payments.
Sales and User Charges (63.8%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and Sewer sale amounts are anticipated to be lower than budget by approximately \$175,000 which will be offset by lower contributions to the Sustainability Reserve. Bulk sales are anticipated to be lower by approximately \$52,000 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 additional revenue. Land Sales for \$1 million have not been realized by the end of September. 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 (43.9%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police fines reflect nine months of revenue and are anticipated to be lower than budget by approximately \$115,000, offset by lower Federal contract costs. Photo radar revenue will be lower than budget due to transitioning to a new contract, and start up delay, to be offset by \$142,000 lower contribution to Safe Community Reserve.
Government Transfers (12.0%)	<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 (156.3%)	<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 (65.0%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Franchise Fee revenue reflects eight months of revenue and is anticipated to be lower than budget for the gas franchise by approximately \$30,000 and lower for Power franchise by approximately \$30,500 but can change depending on consumption/weather for the last four months.
Investment Income (141.3%)	<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 (73.4%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental revenue is anticipated to be on budget for year end.
Other Revenues (99.8%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donations are anticipated to be higher than budget due to higher Party In The Park donations.
Reserve Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most reserve transfers are generally completed at year end.

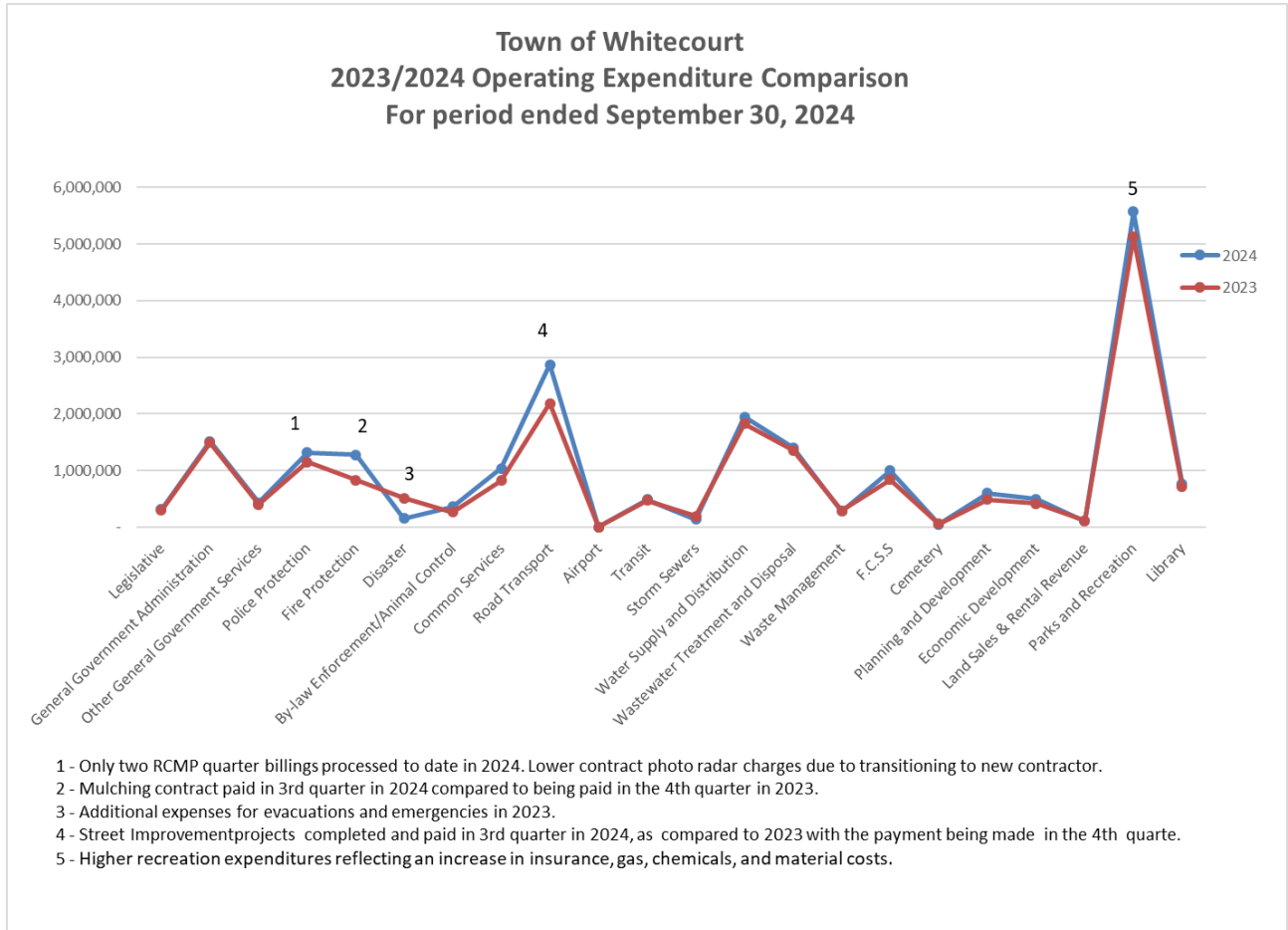
VARIANCE HIGHLIGHTS - EXPENDITURES

Legislative (60.3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower travel and per diem costs to date. Anticipate higher costs for fall conferences. Strategic Planning session completed in-house (workshop).
Other General Government Services (54.5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Session and management training deferred to 2025. Asset Management billing to come by year end. Bad debt and employer/councillors expenses recorded at year end.
Police Protection (42.4%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal contract costs lower as only two quarterly invoices have been processed to date. Contracting fees for photo radar anticipated to be lower due to new contractor's delayed start date.
Disaster (9.5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency mock exercise complete. Spur rock replacement, spur signage, and 2023 flood event engineering assessments underway and work expected to start in 2025. Expenses are expected to be lower by \$228,500 for the watershed restoration project as grant was unsuccessful.
Common Services (126.7%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs higher for unplanned vehicle and equipment repairs to date. Nine months credit for equipment charges are included.
Road Transport (54.3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street Improvement Program of (\$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 and snow removal, are anticipated by year end. Christmas light expenditures deferred to 2025.
Airport (0.0%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual grant of \$44,326 to be recorded by year end.
Waste Management (16.6%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine 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.
Planning & Development (55.0%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced costs due to Vitalization grants, Transportation Master Plan, and Phase one and two Vitalization drawings to be completed by year end. Major Offsite Levy Bylaw review to be completed in 2025.
Economic Development (53.5%)	<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 (25.5%)	<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 withdrawn as purchaser will be constructing a private access.
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



2023/2024 EXPENDITURE COMPARISON GRAPH



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ 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 including: a proposed development for a Clean Fuel and Data Park; and, Canadian Fiber Optics to increase high-speed fiber networks in under served areas of the community.
- ✓ Annual performance assessment review of Council Committee Bylaw 1570 was completed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of all Council Committees.
- ✓ As per policy, a review of Council Policy 11-006 - Honorariums and Council Per Diem Compensation, Benefits and Allowances was completed by the Council Compensation Committee.
- ✓ National Coaches Appreciation Week went well, with 40 nominations from throughout the community. Councillors presented five coaches with a gift pack. An online nomination form was also utilized this year to increase accessibility.
- ✓ As per policy, Administration has completed its annual review of the Town of Whitecourt Policy Manual that serves as an operating guideline for Council, staff and the public for municipality to serve the community efficiently and effectively.
- ✓ The Health Care Professionals Attraction and Retention Appreciation Barbeque was hosted and was attended by 130 healthcare professionals and their family members.
- ✓ Administration researched opportunities and contracted a facilitator to host Council's strategic planning to develop the 2025 Strategic Plan.
- ✓ A content production and marketing campaign was completed for Whitecourt Tourism. The campaign was intended to drive promotion and awareness of travel experiences and incorporated a shop local campaign to highlight local businesses. The 40-day campaign reached 140,350 through social media, with 30,289 engagements. The engagement rate was 22% (industry average is 5%). The blog had 1,890 page reads and 1,033 referrals to the Whitecourt Tourism website. In addition, new video and photo content was created for future use.
- ✓ A new small business, The Turn Indoor Golf & Lounge, celebrated its grand opening in downtown Whitecourt on September 3. The Turn 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.
- ✓ Heating and ventilation units were replaced at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. The units had to be strategically placed on the roof with large picker trucks/cranes.
- ✓ HVAC maintenance was completed in all public buildings.
- ✓ The Forest Interpretive Centre's exterior and interior was painted.
- ✓ Community Services hosted the "What's Out There" event for adults at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre, which focused on showcasing different recreational opportunities for adults in Whitecourt. 24 organizations attended, each with an interactive component for attendees. A total of 40 attendees this year. Overall feedback from the event was positive, with suggestions for improvement and growth in 2025, mainly trying to get more attendees.

- ✓ The Rotary Unplugged Summer Program and 2.0 ran over 7 weeks with an average of 90% capacity with drop ins.
- ✓ All levels of aquatic leadership courses ran throughout the summer, supporting succession planning at the Aquatic Centre.
- ✓ Arts & Culture and Economic Development staff teamed up to host Summer Street Fest in downtown Whitecourt on August 10, 2024. The event included a farmers' market, business pop-ups, a Cornhole tournament, an art workshop, roving performers, live music, cultural performances, food trucks, and more. An estimated 850 people attended the event. Feedback from businesses and attendees was positive.
- ✓ Complimentary Fitness Classes (with membership) saw a marked increase in participation over the summer months (1,069 more participants than 2023).
- ✓ Membership and Admission revenue at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre continues to increase and exceed previous year totals.
- ✓ On September 24, Whitecourt welcomed a delegation of twelve people from its twinned community, Yubetsu, Japan. The delegation consisted of ten students and two adults. During their stay, the delegates toured the community and participated in activities with their homestay families. Applications for Whitecourt students to travel to Japan in July 2025 are being accepted.
- ✓ Pick Your Fit recorded 244 guests and members participating in group fitness classes. Registered Fitness Class registration in September saw a 60+ participant increase compared to 2023.
- ✓ Landscaping at the Jumbo Jumper was completed, including sod work and the installation of in-ground garbage can.
- ✓ Hazardous trees were removed in the green space from Park Drive to Park Drive North, behind Pineview Road.
- ✓ Festival Park maintenance items completed:
 - Installation of the rubber matting around slide.
 - Installation of picnic tables.
- ✓ Road and drainage maintenance items completed:
 - Ditch cleaning on the west end (near UFA).
 - The majority of storm catch basins were cleaned.
 - Application of patch material, millings, crack filler material and annual line painting throughout the community.
 - Repair of the guardrail on Dahl Drive.
 - Installation of new signs at the entrance along Flats Road.
 - Winter sand was hauled, mixed and stockpiled in preparation for snow and ice removal.
 - Replacement of Lyons Playground fence.
- ✓ Tendering and purchasing of all the pick-ups was completed for the year, and only one unit is left to outfit.
- ✓ Park Parties were held at Southlands, Wagoner and Percy Baxter parks. FCSS created this program knowing the importance of providing the opportunity for neighbours to congregate and meet each other in a fun atmosphere resulting in safer, more caring neighbourhoods. FCSS partners with Whitecourt Rotary Club, Youth Development, Crime Prevention, Whitecourt Family Support Program and Alberta Health Services to deliver this summer program.

- ✓ Preparation of the new Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw that consolidated five animal related bylaws was presented for review. The Bylaw includes legislation updates, new definitions, and further enhancements for the betterment of the community.
- ✓ Alberta Emergency Management initiatives for the period include:
 - Completed an Emergency Advisory Committee Meeting.
 - Attended a 2-day full scale emergency management exercise with Pembina and a one-day event with ANC.
 - Attended a tabletop exercise with TAQA.
 - Fire Department members attended a full scale exercise at the Whitecourt Airport.
 - Attended a Host Community review of the 2023 wildfires with representatives from the Province.
 - Full Scale exercise conducted with Local Industry, AEMA and Forestry and other local stakeholders.
- ✓ Administration worked with Woodlands County to schedule a joint signing of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement for October 1, 2024.
- ✓ A meeting was hosted for the Town of Whitecourt, Woodlands County and the school boards to sign the Joint Use Planning Agreement (JUPA).
- ✓ Canada Day was a huge success with eight food vendors, Fresh Community Market, ten vendor booths, talent show, five bands, and fireworks. The weather was fantastic which resulted in a busy park and high attendance with an estimated 3,000 people.
- ✓ The Utilities Department completed several major maintenance and equipment replacement projects that included:
 - Installation of new raw water pump 3 valve at intake pump house.
 - Installation of new variable frequency drive at Hilltop reservoir pump house.
 - Water Treatment Plant roof repaired and resealed.
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent # 2 flow meter replaced.
 - Implementation of service contract with pump contractor for major pumping equipment.
 - New wireless modems installed for communications between the Hilltop Reservoir and the Main Reservoir.
 - Annual water and sewer line flushing.
- ✓ The FireSmart Summer Crew attended community events; performed vegetation management throughout town; and, contract mulching was completed.
- ✓ 31 home assessments were completed with \$9,200 in incentive cheques being issued to community residents.
- ✓ Administration attended a meeting with FireSmart Alberta and FireSmart New Brunswick on the Town's success on FireSmart initiatives.
- ✓ Fire Rescue rapid deployment crafts were placed into service.
- ✓ Fire Training Ground dedication was hosted for former Fire Chief Bruce Parrent in recognition of his work to establish the NFPA training program, and his dedication and service to the community.
- ✓ Fire Department started recruitment drive for 2025 Fire Department members.
- ✓ Flag poles were replaced outside Fire Hall.
- ✓ The Anthony Gordon Memorial Tournament celebrated its 20th and final year for the tournament.
- ✓ The Doors Open program saw a record number of kids attend in the month of September with the grade 4 & 5 program having 51 kids attend the one-day program, compared to 15 in

September of 2023. The grade 6-12 program had 134 kids over the course of September. compared to 38 in September of 2023.

- ✓ The Family Support Program met with school administration teams and inclusive education coordinators across the region to introduce new staff, to review program services and provincial resources, and to discuss opportunities for collaboration/referral. The program met with 12 school administration teams in September.
- ✓ The Family Violence Initiative received a MAMPLE award from the province, recognizing the Initiative's commitment to enhancing community safety. This award is a great achievement for the FVI, and a video was created to display the importance of the FVI, the supports that are offered, and how the community is impacted by the Initiative. The video will be featured on the Government of Alberta's website.
- ✓ Whitecourt hosted a volunteer Lunch and Learn with a speaker from Volunteer Canada as part of National Volunteer Week activities. This year, the event returned to an in-person volunteer appreciation format, including the distribution of free coffees to volunteers at both local Tim Horton locations. Received 21 nominations for the Whitecourt Volunteer Award Program.
- ✓ The Employee Family Assistance Program hosted a "Work Life Balance" presentation and luncheon that was well attended by all staff.
- ✓ A new Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, and North Flats Area Structure Plan were adopted in July. These documents were developed with valuable input from the Ad Hoc MDP and LUB Review Committee, and from numerous public engagement and consultation activities over the last year and a half. They identify the long term vision and objectives for our community, and provide the regulations and framework to help guide growth and development.
- ✓ Empowering Citizens for Health and Opportunities Society (ECHO), 582334 Alberta Ltd. (The Garage Brewhouse & Pub), and 2506228 Alberta Ltd. (The Ritz) were approved for Vitalization Grants to make permanent upgrades to meet the architectural theme of the Town of Whitecourt Vitalization Plan.
- ✓ McElhanney Ltd. has been retained to complete an update to the Downtown Vitalization Phase 1 and 2 project. This work is underway and includes the renewal of the water and sanitary infrastructure in these areas. Updated design and cost estimates is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2024.
- ✓ A land sale agreement was entered into for approximately 117 acres of land within the SE & SW ¼ of Section 32-59-11-W5th.
- ✓ A first right of refusal agreement was entered into for approximately 15 acres of land within the NW ¼ of Section 31-59-11-W5th and the SW ¼ of Section 32-59-11-W5th

INNOVATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES

- ✓ Hosted the Career and Education Expo and "Test Drive A Career" Event that showcased job opportunities currently available in the region, and provided participants with demonstrations and the ability to try a skilled trade or technology occupation. There were over 90 exhibitors highlighting various career opportunities relevant to this region allowing participants to

experience career paths that were in high demand for workers and brought awareness to the current job postings available from local employers.

- ✓ Completed research, tendering and selection of Agenda Preparation and Meeting Management software vendor. Transition to the new software is anticipated in the near future once training and initial set up is done.
- ✓ Repositioned and respaced brine lines in the McLeod Rink at JDA Place to improve cooling. Flushed all the Athabasca Rink brine lines in-house.
- ✓ Staff utilized innovative techniques to install the ice at both the McLeod and Athabasca rinks and rebuild lost ice as the weather was very hot during the timeframe that it had to be put back in and there were humidity issues in the McLeod arena.
- ✓ Staff were cross trained throughout the Community Services Department, moved to different roles, and worked additional hours temporarily to complete the most pressing tasks and projects so that the level of service was able to remain the same during a period of staff vacancies.
- ✓ Utilized a work experience student to scan in service inspections for Utilities Department.
- ✓ Created a new schedule for Municipal Enforcement to ensure effective coverage throughout the week and weekends (the new schedule starts October 2024).
- ✓ Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the RCMP for Municipal Enforcement Officers to access the RCMP AFRRCS Encrypted Radio Channel.
- ✓ Facilitated a joint meeting with Law Enforcement Partners (RCMP/Sheriffs) to ensure communication is in place and efficient response between both agencies.
- ✓ RAVE was implemented through collaboration with the Protective Services Committee. RAVE is a communication platform that fans out real time alerts to community members.
- ✓ Hired a new Community Peace Officer to assist with enhanced service delivery.
- ✓ Training on in-car video systems and body worn cameras has been completed by all members.
- ✓ To provide adequate space, Municipal Enforcement members' offices were relocated to the old Town Shop building.
- ✓ A UPS (uninterruptible power supply) Wastewater Treatment Plant program logic controller was installed to provide additional surge protection.
- ✓ Reprogramming of variable frequency drive at Hilltop reservoir to add automatic restart feature on drive.
- ✓ Water Treatment Plant added another computer to support and aid operation productivity.
- ✓ Purchased a new iPad to allow staff to read meters and use the GIS (Geographic Information System) in the field to confirm locations and add assets.
- ✓ Launched a new online Volunteer Hub (volunteerwhitecourt.ca). Volunteer opportunities that were on the Town of Whitecourt website were moved to the new hub. The hub can also be accessed through a link on the Town website. This new platform for individuals interested in volunteering is less confusing and more user friendly.
- ✓ Three members of the Whitecourt Fire Department completed the Live Fire Instructor Training, and these members will provide in-house expertise on live fire training for the department.
- ✓ A new 5-year contract was entered into with Catalis for the Town's Geographic information System (GIS) and permit database. Under this new contract, Whitecourt will be transitioning to the company's new 'Permitting & Licensing' software which will allow for further opportunity to become more digitized with our permit systems.

- ✓ ISL Engineering and Land Services has been retained to complete a comprehensive review and update to Off-Site Levy Bylaw No. 1532. This review will ensure that the off-site levy methodology meets current legislation and best practices, and that new developments contribute equitably towards growth. Work is underway to compile the list of projects that will be essential for accommodating growth over the next twenty-five (25) years. This project list and updated cost estimates are expected to be complete by the end of the year, with levy calculation and models developed in 2025 for review with Council and public stakeholders. Final revisions to the bylaw are anticipated to be complete by the fall of 2025.
- ✓ An amendment to the D-C1, Direct Control 1, Land Use District was completed to open up the types of housing permitted in this district and help to increase density and affordability.

UNFORESEEN EMERGENCIES

- ✓ A leak in a brine line in the Athabasca Rink was discovered after the ice was put in. With the help of a Startec technician, the leak was located and staff found innovative ways to limit the amount of ice lost without having to start over the ice making process.
- ✓ The Automated Traffic Enforcement Program launched later than anticipated due to the contractor experiencing hiring delays, as well as delays due to training and receiving provincial approvals.
- ✓ The Whitecourt Fire Department was deployed to Jasper to assist in the wildfires affecting the community.
- ✓ Loss of pressure condition in Hilltop area caused by variable speed drive starter problem that was fixed, and the system was back online, within 30 minutes.
- ✓ Membrane Rack 2 reverse flush valve and actuator failure rendering Membrane Rack 2 inoperable. Spare valve and actuator on-site for replacement so no disruption in service occurred
- ✓ The Utilities crew completed the following unplanned major maintenance activities:
 - Rupture of 4-inch poly vinyl chloride line on membrane rack in the Water Treatment Plant.
 - Repaired main water line leak at 55 Avenue and Wagoner Drive.
 - Repaired a sewer line break on 48A Street.
 - Repaired water leaks on main valves at several locations.
- ✓ Virtual City Hall, the online payment option for our residents, was offline due to changes in the payment provider options.

GRANTING/SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Approved for a rebate of up to \$177,583 from the Community Energy Conservation Program for McLeod Roof Upgrade and Real Ice System.
- ✓ Approved for a rebate of up to \$167,631 from the Community Energy Conservation Program for the Boiler Upgrade at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre.
- ✓ A grant from Alberta Conservation for outdoor education and programming was received for \$1,160 for canoeing and other outdoor education/programming.
- ✓ Received a \$1,200 ParticipACTION grant for ParticipACTION activities.
- ✓ The application to the Drought and Flood Protection grant was successful and the Town was awarded just over \$1.4 million for projects that could help protect critical municipal infrastructure in a flood event.
- ✓ Submitted an application for funding through the FRIAA Community Fire Guard Program Grant for Phase 2 – construction of a Whitecourt East Community Fire Guard project to address the need for wildfire risk reduction.
- ✓ Applied for a FRIAA Non-Vegetation Management grant to update and enhance the 2017 Fire Mitigation Strategy. The Wildfire Mitigation Strategy includes planning area and stakeholders, hazard and risk assessment, mitigation strategies, and an implementation and maintenance plan.
- ✓ An application that was submitted for a Canada Cultural Spaces Grant earlier this year for the construction of the Culture & Events Centre was unsuccessful. Administration will be preparing for the next round of funding
- ✓ An application was submitted for the Federal and Provincial Government on Permanent Baseline Capital Funding for Transit to commence in 2026.
- ✓ 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. The Mountain Bike Club was successful and has submitted a formal application.
- ✓ A grant application was submitted to the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration 2024 Program for a grant for the Athabasca River bank vegetation restoration.
- ✓ An application was submitted for a 2025 Fire Service Training Program grant for National Fire Association Program 1002 courses for Pump and Aerial Operator training.
- ✓ Received \$5,000 from the Rotary Club for purchase of new freezers for the Whitecourt Food Bank. The current freezers were worn and required replacement.
- ✓ Submitted an application to the Alberta Blue Cross Built Together grant program for \$50,000 to construct multi-purpose courts at Festival Park.
- ✓ The Town was invited to reapply for a second round Housing Accelerator Fund. The application was submitted for a grant that will provide incentive funding to local governments encouraging initiatives aimed at increasing housing supply. It also supports the development of complete, low-carbon and climate-resilient communities that are affordable, inclusive, equitable and diverse.