



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



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2024 REEVE & COUNCIL

2024 saw the completion of some of the eagerly-anticipated and groundbreaking initiatives that had been set in motion in earlier years, among them the opening of the Saddle Hills County Health Clinic, the announcement of Project Aurora, and the continuation of the Central Peace Regional Water Project.

Thanks to the dedication of Administration, especially that of Nurse Practitioner, Palvi Sharma, we have seen the clinic far exceed anything we had initially hoped for its inaugural year, with over 200 residents having received care since it's opening in June. As hoped, it has proven to be an essential resource for those who had previously struggled with a lack of access to primary care, reducing wait times and easing strain on residents and their families. While 2025 will see the election of a new Council, we know that the County's continued commitment to the healthcare needs of our residents and the Peace Region, will far outlive our tenure. I am excited to see how the clinic continues to evolve to meet the needs of our residents throughout the next few years and, hopefully, well into the future.

As always, we continued to be focused on providing the highest levels of service throughout 2024, ensuring that community infrastructure is sustainably maintained in order to facilitate growth, and ensure the continued prosperity of Saddle Hills County. As part of this, and in our efforts to provide water security for residents, we continued to maintain, expand, and improve upon our water treatment and delivery system, upgrading reservoirs and expanding raw water storage capacity, as well as continuing installation of additional rural waterlines.

During 2024, we said goodbye to long-term Ward 5 Councillor, Willis Fitzsimmons, whose commitment to his community facilitated many of the projects we are now seeing come to fruition. On behalf of Council, I would like to thank him for his service and dedication. In his absence the County held a By-Election, as a results of which we welcomed a new Council member, Shirley Klatt. The experience really highlighted the passion of the community and it was heartwarming to see so many interested and involved in our local municipal process.

I am grateful for my time as your Reeve, and I look forward to what the future holds for Saddle Hills County. I have great faith in our community and know that we will continue to thrive, and provide the best future for all the residents of Saddle Hills County.



WARD 1 | DANNY ROY, COUNCILLOR

Danny was born and raised in Gordondale on a small, family grain farm. He worked in the oil and gas industry for 25 years, before taking a break to spend time growing his own farm. Danny and his wife, Bev, have enjoyed raising their two children in Saddle Hills County, both of whom have settled, and work, in the Peace Country.



WARD 2 | ALVIN HUBERT, DEPUTY REEVE

Alvin and his wife Janet moved to Saddle Hills County in the early 1980s, where they established a grain farm in the Cotillion area and raised their four children. The family is actively involved in the community, participating in various clubs and events. Alvin has served on Council for over a decade and continues to enjoy giving back to the community.



WARD 3 | KRISTEN SMITH, REEVE

Kristen was raised in Fourth Creek on her parents' operation before building a farmstead in Silver Valley with her husband, where they are raising their four children. She previously worked as an assessor for the County and is proud to use her knowledge and long history of volunteer service to serve her ward and the County as a whole.



WARD 4 | ED ARMAGOST, COUNCILLOR

Ed and his family conduct a mixed farm and ranch operation on the same land his parents built their homestead in 1964. Public service is an important part of community life to Ed. He has served as Chief of the Savanna Fire department, the President of the Savanna Ag Society, and as both a member and Chair of the County's Agricultural Service Board.



WARD 5 | SHIRLEY KLATT, COUNCILLOR

Shirley was elected as Councillor for Ward 5, as a result the November 25, 2024 By-Election. She took over from previous Ward 5 Councillor, Willis Fitzsimmons. Shirley grew up on a mixed farm north of High Prairie and moved to Saddle Hills County in 1997, as part of her career as a Fish and Wildlife Officer.



WARD 6 | GERRY RICHARD, COUNCILLOR

Gerry was born, raised, and has lived in Saddle Hills County his whole life. He began his career in the oil patch before running his own drilling company for 30 years. Alongside his wife Val, he has raised three sons here and together they run White Mountain Wapiti Ranch; a grain farming operation, Pedigree Seed Grower, and Certified Domestic Elk Farm.



WARD 7 | DON HOFFART, COUNCILLOR

Don was born and raised on a cattle and grain farm in Southern Saskatchewan, before moving to Alberta in 1980. He moved into the Westmark area in 2008, after meeting his wife Maureen, where he worked until retirement in 2021. Don enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren.

OUR ORGANIZATION

Saddle Hills County is committed to being a transparent and accountable government. We commit to perform our duties diligently while working towards the best outcome for our ratepayers. We will continue providing regular updates by reporting to our ratepayers through the Saddle Hills County Annual Report, the County Living Newsletter, and on the County website.



Saddle Hills County Council is responsible for providing high quality and accountable government to the residents and ratepayers of the County. Council works closely with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Administration staff to serve the community.



The CAO is Council’s only employee and is responsible for hiring and managing Administrative Staff to carry out the responsibilities of the County, as well as tasks set by Council.

Each department is responsible for a variety of tasks and services within the organization. A full breakdown of the organization and employees can be found on our website, at saddlehills.ab.ca/Staff



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES
Agriculture, Veterinary Services, Roadside Maintenance, Facilities Maintenance (Grounds), Weed & Pest Control



COMMUNICATIONS
Communications & Social Media, Website, Annual Report, Public Consultation & Engagement, Promotional Materials, Media Relations, Emergency Communications



CORPORATE SERVICES
Finance, Budget, Insurance/Asset Management, Human Resources, Grants, Assessment, Project Development, Records Management, FCSS



LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
Council & CAO Support, Legislative Services, SDAB & ARB Clerk, FOIP, Policies & Bylaws, Local Government Elections



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Information Technology, Utility Communications Network



OPERATIONS
Roads & Bridges, Aggregate, Fleet Management, Water Treatment Plants, Rural Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, GIS, Project Development



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Development Permits, Subdivision Applications, Rezoning Applications, Road Lease, Licensing and Sale Applications, Rural Addressing, Land Use Bylaw Compliance & Enforcement



PROTECTIVE SERVICES
Fire Services, Enforcement, Facilities Maintenance (excluding Grounds), Regional Emergency Management, Campgrounds, Safety



SADDLE HILLS COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC
Nurse Practitioner Program

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Boards and committees are created to deal with specific issues in the community. They learn about current problems, develop solutions, and make recommendations to Council. Most of our committees are made up of at least one Councillor and several knowledgeable residents of the County.

Public involvement in the issues facing the County is an important part of Council’s governance model and helps us to build and maintain a strong and healthy community. Members of the public interested in getting involved should complete an Application for Member-at-Large position either online or at the County Administration Building. Full descriptions of all committees and members can be found online, at saddlehills.ab.ca/Boards

EXTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Saddle Hills County Council are sometimes invited to sit as Board Members on external committees. These committees are created by government organizations, interest groups, and non-profits and focus on specific areas of interest in the region. Councillors participate in these committees and then bring their findings back to share with Council as a whole, to stay informed on the challenges facing our region and the solutions and ideas being shared.

- CANFOR Grande Prairie Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC)
 - Environmental Advisory Committee to International Paper
 - Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association
 - Grande Spirit Foundation
 - Mighty Peace Tourism Association
 - Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance
 - Northern Alberta Elected Leaders
 - Northwest Species at Risk Committee
 - Peace Air Shed Zone Association
- Peace Library System Board
 - Peace Region Economic Development Alliance (PREDA), Northwest Transportation Advisory Bureau (NTAB)
 - Registered Drainage Systems Committee
 - South Peace Regional Archives Society
 - Spring Lake Ski Hill Association
 - Veterinarian Service Incorporated (V.S.I) Service (1980) Ltd.
 - Water North Coalition
- 

CENTRAL PEACE BOARDS & COMMITTEES

- Central Peace Assessment Review Board
- Central Peace Attraction & Retention Committee
- Central Peace Medical Services Corporation
- Central Peace Regional Emergency Management Committee (CPREM)
- Central Peace Regional Water System Collaboration Committee
- Central Peace Regional Waste Management Commission
- G5 General Committee



INTERNAL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

- Agricultural Appeal Committee
- Agricultural Service Board
- ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Decision Committee
- Intermunicipal Collaboration and Planning Committee (ICPC)
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Saddle Hills County Municipal Library Board
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD (ASB)

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) represent the agricultural interests of the County and work together, to advise Council on how best to serve our producers. From giving pesticide recommendations to helping ranchers cover veterinary costs, the ASB exists to provide services and create programs to help our community.

ALUS PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

ALUS is intended to cater to the individual needs of communities and resident producers, and an important aspect of this is the Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is made up of at least 50% local producers, ensuring that local needs are paramount.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MPC)

The Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) is a committee established by Council bylaw that is responsible for making decisions on Development Permit and Subdivision Applications concerning proposed developments in Saddle Hills County.

SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD (SDAB)

The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) is a board established by Council bylaw that makes decisions relative to subdivision and development appeals. If you appeal a decision of the Development Authority ie. the Municipal Planning Commission or Development Officer, your appeal will be heard by the SDAB.

GIVING BACK

Each year, Council approves grants under eight County grant programs, as well as Student Bursaries, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), the Home Support Program, Christmas Hampers, Water Cistern Subsidy, and more. Below is a summary of approved grants, subsidies, and sponsorships for 2024. It is important to Council to support residents through the use of these grants and provide meaningful financial support to organizations and individuals within the community.



CAPITAL GRANTS

Community organizations looking for assistance with capital expenditures to enhance the lifestyle of County residents, such as building or renovating Community Halls, building playgrounds, or other capital projects, are asked to apply for funding through our Capital Grants program.

Blueberry Mtn. Goodwill Society	\$178,338.60
Bonanza & District Ag Society	\$75,177.00
Fourth Creek Community Association	\$22,425.15
Happy Valley Ag & Recreation Club	\$89,873.80
Rycroft Agricultural Society	\$10,000.00
Savanna Ag Society	\$177,263.10
Spirit River Settlement Historical Society	\$12,500.00
Spring Lake Equestrian Campground	\$5,000.00
Westmark Farmers League	\$22,100.00
Woking Multiplex Association	\$47,269.50
	\$639,947.15

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE GRANTS

Community organizations, societies, and non-profits responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of Cemeteries throughout the County should apply for funding through our Cemetery Maintenance Grants program.

16 Cemeteries, at \$1,000 each \$16,000.00

COMMUNITY SIGNS GRANT PROGRAM

Registered non-profit societies and community groups in Saddle Hills County are encouraged to apply for the Community Signs Grant Program, which allows for the installation of signs designating communities within the County ie. Bay Tree, Gordondale.

Cotillion Butte Recreation Assoc.	\$12,565.00	Gundy Community Recreation Society	\$12,565.00
			\$25,130.00

PROGRAM & ACTIVITY GRANTS

Program and Activity Grants are available to small community groups, clubs and organizations including schools. Activities in which the group, club, or organization (located within Saddle Hills County, and serving children, youth or seniors) may be involved, include athletics, art and culture, crafts, and health and well-being.

Blueberry Mtn. Goodwill Society	\$5,000.00	River Bend Jr. Cattlemen's Club	\$2,500.00
Bonanza & District Ag Society	\$2,500.00	Rycroft Merry Pioneers	\$2,500.00
Bonanza School	\$7,000.00	Rycroft Municipal Library	\$6,500.00
Central Peace Community Garden Park	\$500.00	Savanna 4-H Multi Club	\$2,000.00
East West Woking 4-H Club	\$2,200.00	Savanna Ag Society	\$3,000.00
Fourth Creek Community Association	\$750.00	Savanna School	\$11,475.00
Friends of Rycroft School Society	\$5,500.00	Spirit River Friends of Ste. Marie	\$6,000.00
Friends of South Peace Firefighters		Spirit River Regional Academy	\$10,000.00
& Peace Tractor Pullers Association	\$5,000.00	Spirit River Seawolves Swim Club	\$5,000.00
Goodwill Quilters	\$4,000.00	Spirit River Settlement Historical Society	\$2,500.00
Gordondale Community Club	\$5,650.00	Ste. Marie School	\$3,250.00
Grande Spirit Foundation	\$5,000.00	St. Mary's Catholic School	\$5,000.00
Happy Hour Club of Spirit River	\$7,000.00	Woking Community in Bloom	\$1,000.00
HappyValley Ag & Recreation Club	\$13,300.00		\$124,125.00

OPERATING GRANTS

Community organizations looking for assistance with operating expenses are asked to apply for funding through our Operating Grants program. This program assists with funding for specific operating costs for eligible groups, such as electricity, internet, heating, water, insurance, and other utilities.

Bay Tree Community Park Association	\$872.25	Rycroft Municipal Library	\$3,000.00
Blueberry Mtn. Goodwill Society	\$9,937.50	Savanna Ag Society	\$72,468.75
Bonanza & District Ag Society	\$63,000.00	South Peace Regional Archives	\$10,000.00
Cotillion Butte Recreation Assoc.	\$16,125.00	Spirit River & District Ag Society	\$10,000.00
Fourth Creek Community Association	\$12,487.50	Spirit River Settlement Historical Society	\$5,000.00
Gordondale Community Club	\$14,313.17	Spring Lake Equestrian Campground	\$937.50
Happy Hour Club of Spirit River	\$10,000.00	Town of Spirit River	\$15,000.00
Happy Valley Ag & Recreation Club	\$3,593.80	Westmark Farmers' League	\$10,650.00
Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum	\$25,000.00	Woking Skating Rink Association	\$2,100.00
Rycroft Agricultural Society	\$10,000.00	Woking Willing Workers	\$8,250.00
Rycroft Arena Fundraising Board	\$10,000.00		\$354,910.47
Rycroft Merry Pioneers	\$10,000.00		



STUDENT BURSARIES

Our Bursary Program is available to eligible local students looking to enter or advance their post-secondary education. Applicants may also qualify for additional matching NADC bursaries.

The Agricultural Service Board has also instated the Veterinary Education Bursary Program to help provide improved veterinary services to residents of Saddle Hills County. Eligible students are required to be enrolled in a recognized post-secondary veterinary program and primarily reside in the Central Peace Region.

17 Student Bursaries \$35,700.00

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

65 Home Support Applications	\$156,633.70
24 Christmas Hampers, benefiting 76 residents	\$7,476.42
FCSS Grants	\$80,818.75
Childcare Subsidy	\$31,851.25
	\$276,780.12

AG SERVICES PROGRAMS

VSI Program	\$53,200.00
Livestock Protection Program	\$1,000.00
PCBFA Research Funding (2023-25)	\$93,070.19
	\$147,270.19

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Water Cistern Subsidy	\$154,269.75
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PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAMS

Residential Security System Grant	\$25,610.25
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OTHER GRANTS & PROGRAMS

Throughout the year, Council also provided a variety of other grants to organizations outside of the grant programs. These were based either on requests received by Council throughout the year or, as is the case with the Central Peace Food Bank, Northern Lights Fiber, and STARS, the continuation of a prior commitment to funding.

Blueberry Mtn. Goodwill Society	\$10,000.00	Spirit River Regional Academy	\$1,500.00
Central Peace Food Bank	\$24,000.00	Spring Lake Ski Hill Association	\$20,000.00
Central Peace Health Complex		STARS (2022-25)	\$200,000.00
Continuing Care	\$10,000.00	STARS Fleet Renewal (2020-24)	\$100,000.00
Community AED Replacements	\$2,354.49	Ste. Marie Catholic School	\$20,000.00
David Thompson Bible Camp	\$25,000.00	Tammy Wheeler	\$3,450.00
Elizabeth Gustafson	\$3,269.00	Telus Grant (co-locate in Gundy)	\$925,000.00
Fire Department & MFRs	\$7,659.94	Town of Spirit River	\$750,000.00
Grande Prairie Palliative Care Society	\$20,000.00	Town of Spirit River Airport	\$10,000.00
Grande Spirit Foundation	\$1,025,000	Village of Rycroft	\$750,000.00
Happy Valley Ag. & Recreation Club	\$5,000.00	Westmark Farmers League	\$25,000.00
Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance	\$5,000.00	Woking Multiplex Association	\$38,769.47
Northern Lights Fiber Grant	\$3,086,857.89		\$7,348,860.79
PCBFA & Other NGOs	\$27,000.00		
Rycroft Ag Society	\$4,000.00		
SHC Municipal Library Board	\$150,000.00		
South Peace Mile '0' Park Society	\$100,000.00		

2024

CAPITAL PROJECTS

TOTAL: \$34,223,384

Saddle Hills County completed a number of Capital Projects in 2024, including the Saddle Hills County Health Clinic renovation, additional street lighting in the Hamlet of Woking, a number of campground improvements, and 6.5km of paving on the Northmark Road, among others.

ADMINISTRATION

Saddle Hills County Health Clinic Renovation

AGRICULTURE

Cargo Trailer Replacement

Drone - Weed Monitoring and Control

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Audio/Visual Equipment Council Chambers
Network Switches - Shop and Admin Complex
Network Switches for Fire Halls,
Water Treatment Plants, and Truck Fills

Web Application Firewall
Office Back-up System

ENGINEERING & INFRASTRUCTURE

Replace 2009 Track Hoe Excavator
Flat Deck Truck to Replace Picker
Doe River Realignment 8.3
Sneddon Creek Drainage Ditch
Rge. Rd. 85, North of Hwy. 49 - 1.5 miles
Chip Sealing on Rge. Rd. 93 and Rge. Rd. 102
Northmark Road Paving 6.5 km
Road Project - Pouce Slide

Road Project - Doe Hill North Slide 8.1
Bridge File 86160 (NW 35-07-79-W6)
Bridge File 73032 (NW 17-79-11-W6)
Back-up Power Upgrade for Public Works Shop
Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) Tote Pump System
Replace Shop Welder
Additional Street Lighting in Woking

RECREATION

Land Development - Cotillion River Access
Play Structure for Day Use Area at Spring Lake
Campground Improvements -
Cotillion Campground, Hilltop Lake, Spring Lake

Fire Suppression Cart at Spring Lake
Mobile Stage Trailer
UTV at Spring Lake

SOLID WASTE

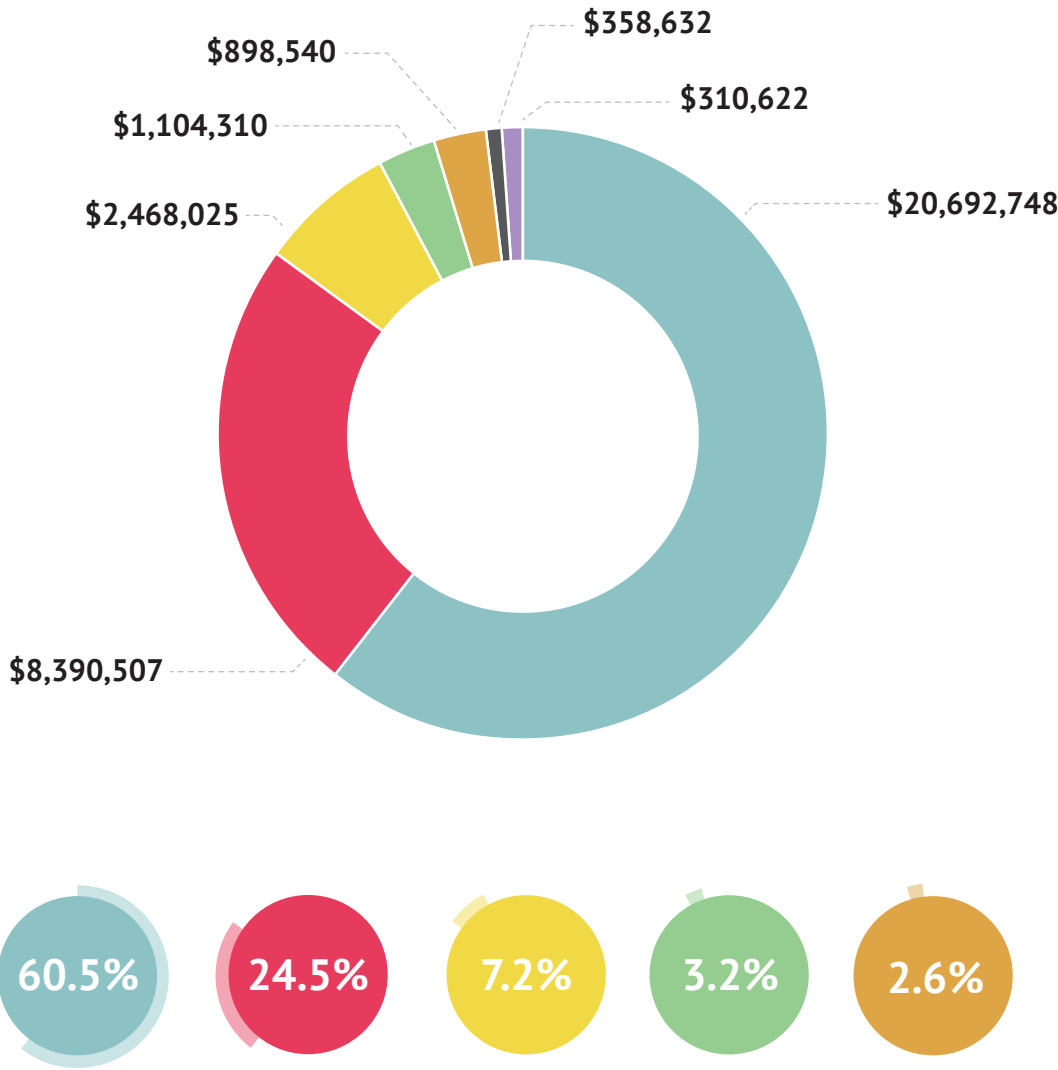
Woking Transfer Station Power

WATER

Woking Raw Water Reservoir
Savanna Water Reservoir Protection
Ksituan WTP Concrete Sidewalks

Safety Trench Box
Sani-Dump and Water Fill in Woking
Rural Waterlines (2022)

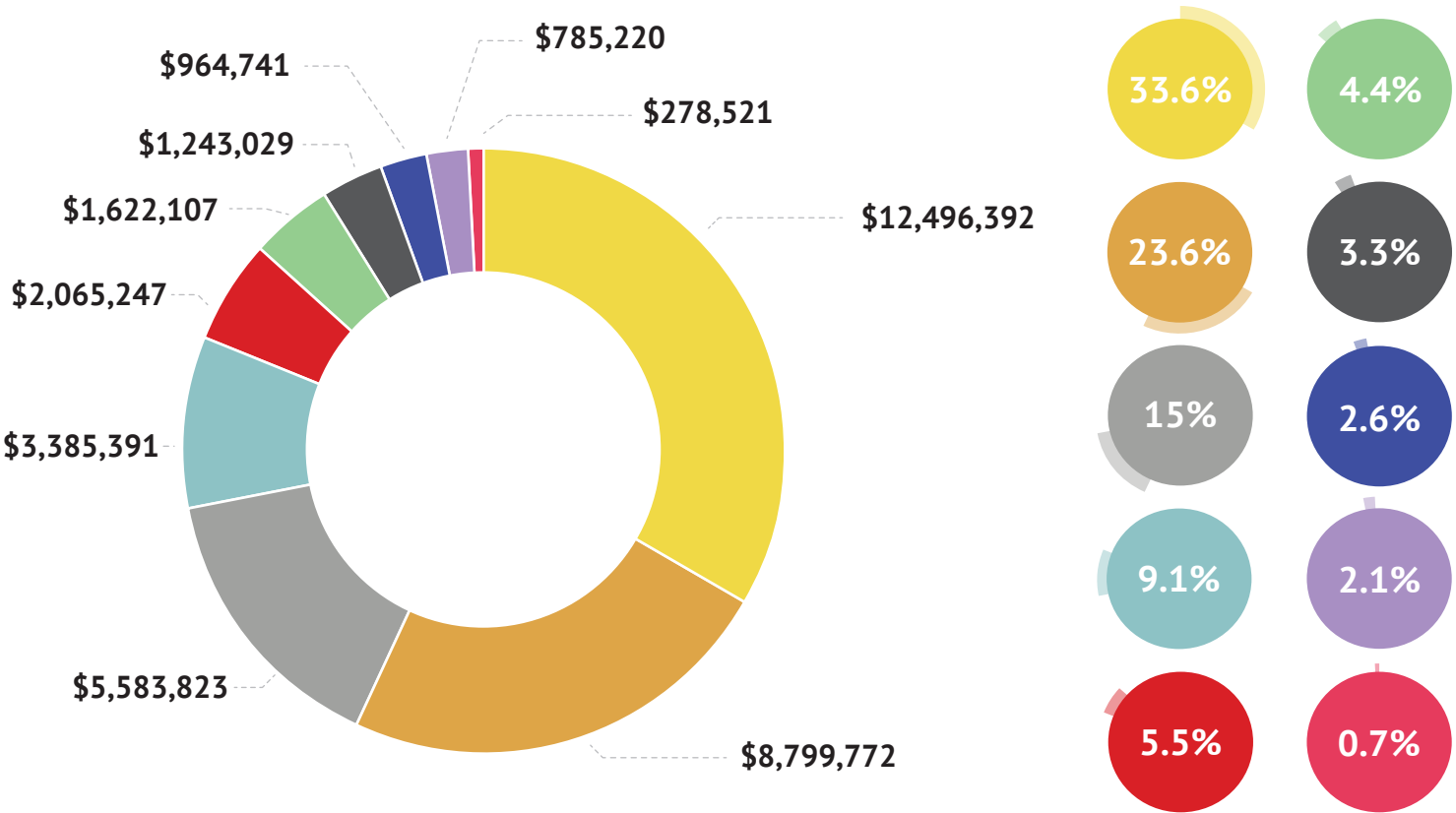
POTABLE WATER PROJECTS:	\$20,692,748	60.5%
ROAD PROJECTS:	\$8,390,507	24.5%
BUILDINGS:	\$2,468,025	7.2%
LAND & LAND IMPROVEMENTS:	\$1,104,310	3.2%
MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT:	\$898,540	2.6%
VEHICLES:	\$358,632	1%
BRIDGE PROJECTS:	\$310,622	0.9%



2024 OPERATING EXPENSES

TOTAL: \$37,224,243

ROAD & BRIDGE PROJECTS:	\$12,496,392	33.6%
ADMINISTRATIVE:	\$8,799,772	23.6%
LEGISLATIVE:	\$5,583,823	15%
WATER & WASTEWATER:	\$3,385,391	9.1%
PROTECTIVE SERVICES:	\$2,065,247	5.5%
AGRICULTURE & LAND DEVELOPMENT:	\$1,622,107	4.4%
COMMON SERVICES:	\$1,243,029	3.3%
WASTE MANAGEMENT:	\$964,741	2.6%
RECREATION & CULTURE:	\$785,220	2.1%
FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS):	\$278,521	0.7%



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

The Agricultural Service Board release their own Annual Report each year, as mandated under the Agricultural Service Board Act. A summary of activities detailed in this report, can be found here. For a copy of the full report, please visit our website at saddlehills.ab.ca/ASB.

2024 was a busy year for the department. **Seven** seasonal staff were hired and trained. Weed Inspectors completed inspections for noxious and prohibited noxious weeds, carried out control measures, and participated in provincial surveys for insect pests and crop diseases, while labourers managed vegetation at County infrastructure. The contract mowers began in late July in the Woking area, moving west, finishing on August 31, 2024.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION

Roadside herbicide application was completed in-house with the spray truck, side by side sprayer, and other spray equipment in the fleet. Approximately **1000** hectares of County ditch received a blanket spray with Navius Flex, a three-year residual broadleaf herbicide. Seasonal staff also completed spot spraying to control small infestations. In 2024, **nine** fence line spraying agreements and **twelve** small area spray agreements were signed and completed.

DRONE INSPECTIONS

The Agricultural Services drone was utilized, most notably, to monitor and inspect a previously known noxious weed site located in an isolated creek to determine the extent of the infestation, as well as being used to obtain topographic information for the proposed water intake site on the Peace River and to capture aerial views of the road work completed through Doe Creek.

WEED INSPECTIONS

In 2024, substantial effort was made to contact producers who consistently have problem weeds early in the spring. Over the winter, letters were sent to these producers urging them to develop their weed management plans ahead of time.

16 weed notices were issued from the inspections done in 2024, down from the **21** that were issued in 2023. This year, the weed notices issued were for Scentless Chamomile, Yellow Toadflax, White Cockle, Orange Hawkweed, and Common Tansy. A total of **four** weed notices went to enforcement level.

PEST INSPECTIONS

Over **200** canola fields were inspected for both Virulent Black Leg and Clubroot in 2024. After the discovery of the first incidence of Clubroot in the County in 2022, no further infestations were discovered in 2023 or 2024. **One** field was confirmed positive for the presence of Virulent Blackleg of Canola.

Despite the removal of Fusarium Graminearum from the APA, Saddle Hills County participated in a provincial study looking at ergot, kernel bunt and dwarf bunt, and deoxynivalenol (DON) mycotoxin. **Five** cereal fields were sampled and sent away for testing. The County also assisted in the completion of two grasshopper surveys, one for Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation’s provincial Grasshopper Survey and one with Jennifer Otani, a researcher from the Beaverlodge Research Station. The overall average population was below the economic threshold.

Two Bertha Armyworm traps were erected within Saddle Hills County in 2024, one located in Silver Valley and one near Woking. Both traps reported consistently low numbers throughout the monitoring season.

LIVESTOCK

In 2023 there were **two** new Veterinarian Services Incorporated (V.S.I.) numbers given out to Saddle Hills County ratepayers.

Reports of coyote predation have remained low in occurrence throughout 2024. In 2023, **12** Compound 1080 tablets were given out, up from **0** in 2023 and down from **30** in 2022. Wolf predation remained low in 2024, with a total of **2** wolves being brought in by producers.

ALUS PROGRAM

After extensive work in 2024 to prepare budgets, policies, and program infrastructure, the ALUS Saddle Hills program is now set to move forward with project implementation in 2025. The Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) was established and held its first meeting on November 12, 2024. In 2024, **two** Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were received and under review.

TREE SEEDLING PROGRAM

A total of **29** orders were placed for the 2024 Tree Seedling Program, resulting in **1,616** seedlings being planted across the County. 2025 saw **32** orders, with a projected total of **2,366** seedlings to be planted.

OUTREACH & EXTENSION EVENTS

Throughout 2024, the department held many events covering a wide variety of topics, including an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Webinar, Farmer Appreciation Night, Wildfire Preparedness Workshop, Botanical Bullies Webinar, Tree Care Workshop, Wild Board Seminar, and Sprayer Workshop, among others.

2024 IN NUMBERS



1,000
hectares sprayed

9
fenceline spraying
agreements

12
small area spray
agreements



2

new V.S.I
numbers



12

compound 1080
tablets



2

wolves
brought in



200

canola fields
inspected



16

weed notices



4



11

extension events



1,616

seedlings planted

OPERATIONS & ENV. SERVICES

OPERATIONS: ROADS



MAJOR PROJECTS

During 2024, Council approved paving **6.5 km** of the Northmark Road (Township Road 764), from Highway 731 to east of Range Road 71, at a cost of \$4,548,869.61. The road was previously gravel, and the project involved widening the base of the road, and adding 400mm of gravel and 150 mm of asphalt paving.

A large, deteriorating, and undersized culvert on Range Road 72 was replaced, at a cost of \$411,222.04, 75% of which was funded by a Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) grant, provided by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors.

In-house construction of **1.5 miles** of new road on Range Road 85, north of Highway 49, was also completed during the year, at a cost of \$480,000.



Preventative maintenance was undertaken on Range Roads 93 and 102, by applying chip seal to protect the surface of the asphalt, at a cost of \$627,744.35.

Repair on the Pouce Hill and Doe River Slides was completed, at a cost of \$1,336,922 and \$1,597,531 respectively, with funds provided by the Disaster Recovery Program. This involved building a 500 m sheet pile wall on the west side of the Pouce River crossing and realigning the south side of the Doe Creek Road.

ASPHALT MAINTENANCE

Saddle Hills County now maintains approximately **70 km** of asphalt roads in the County, including the Hamlet of Woking and the recent paving on the Northmark Road. Patching, crack filling, line painting, and sweeping takes place each year, while various community groups contribute to Highway Clean-up, removing up the litter in the ditches. This year, patching was completed on the Cotillion Highway (Range Road 120) and in the Hamet of Woking. The Bonanza School, Savanna 4-H Multi Club, Savanna Junior Band, and the Silver Valley Gospel Chapel participated in the Highway Cleanup Program.



CULVERTS & DRAINAGE

Approximately **83** centerline and approach culverts were installed in 2024. **42** approach applications were processed, along with **13** applications for permission to improve drainage. In addition to this, culvert ends were cleared and repaired on over **150 km** of County roads.

DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

The 2024 Dust Control program included **32 km** of roads and **55** residential sites, with Industry contributing a total of \$213,588 to the program.

GRAVEL PROGRAM

During 2024, Saddle Hills County re-gravelled approximately **535 km** of road, with the assistance of hired equipment. 500 km of this received $\frac{3}{4}$ inch gravel, while the remaining 35 km received $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch gravel. Towards the end of the year, the County crushed 60,000 cubic meters of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch gravel at the Cotillion Gravel Pit, which will provide gravel for a third of the County for approximately the next three years.

OPERATIONS:EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT

Over the course of the year, the County upgraded a variety of vehicles and equipment, as per the equipment replacement schedule. This included the purchase of a flat deck truck, a new truck for protective services, a track hoe excavator, and a garbage truck.

OPERATIONS:PERMITTING

OIL & GAS PERMITS

The County approved permits for **48** drilling rig moves and **322** service rig moves over the course of the year. In addition to this, **542** D56 Oil and Gas Notifications were reviewed and processed that facilitate the development of oil and gas facilities, pipelines, and wells in the County.

OPERATIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

2024 WATER VOLUMES/WTP IN CUBIC METERS

BONANZA

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Truck Fill	902	1,622	1,527	1,434	1,530	2,656	1,408	1,373	1,091	1,023	838	690	16,094
Distribution	1,348	1,257	1,460	1,505	1,656	1,745	2,135	1,641	1,701	2,452	2,056	1,813	20,769
TOTAL	2,250	2,879	2,987	2,939	3,186	4,401	3,542	3,014	2,792	3,475	2,894	2,503	36,853

KSITUAN

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Truck Fill	1,369	1,559	1,574	1,568	2,517	4,194	2,160	3,034	1,770	1,894	1,094	1,162	23,895
Distribution	156	195	280	274	271	295	414	305	293	387	293	253	3,416
Jug Fill			1.13	2.31	1.78	1.62	2.27	2.28	3.11	1.77	1.83	1.95	20.05
Bottles Filled			51	105	81	74	103	104	141	80	83	89	911
TOTAL	1,525	1,754	1,906	1,950	2,870	4,565	2,679	3,445	2,208	2,363	1,472	1,505	28,242

SAVANNA

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Truck Fill	732	653	1,222	918	1,948	2,241	1,035	1,093	956	622	1,554	1,084	14,058
Distribution	153	320	557	147	184	695	594	601	153	314	118	129	3,965
Jug Fill	10.1	12.9	14.4	8.9	9.6	6.9	8.3	9.5	10.4	8.6	10	7.2	116.8
Bottles Filled	459	586	655	405	436	314	377	432	473	391	455	327	5,810
TOTAL	894	985	1,793	1,074	2,141	2,944	1,637	1,703	1,119	945	1,682	1,220	18,023

WOKING

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Truck Fill	524	631	864	686	1,300	1,638	1,314	1,329	1,304	1,055	806	844	12,295
Distribution	780	578	623	586	800	696	950	1,127	760	1,459	780	790	9,929
TOTAL	1,305	1,209	1,487	1,272	2,100	2,334	2,264	2,456	2,064	2,514	1,586	1,634	22,224

*bottles filled are estimated at 22L/Jug

WATER MANAGEMENT

Due to another dry year, water consumption was elevated, meaning it was necessary for staff to carefully monitor water volumes in the County's reservoirs. Water was pumped from various sources to fill the reservoirs throughout 2024.

REMOTE POTABLE WATER HAULING SUBSIDY

In the fall of 2023, Council initiated the Remote Potable Hauling Subsidy Program, providing eligible residents who will not be connected to the County's rural waterline, with up to \$1,800 per year for water hauling expenses. In 2024, Saddle Hills County approved **18** applications from residents, mainly in the Gundy area.

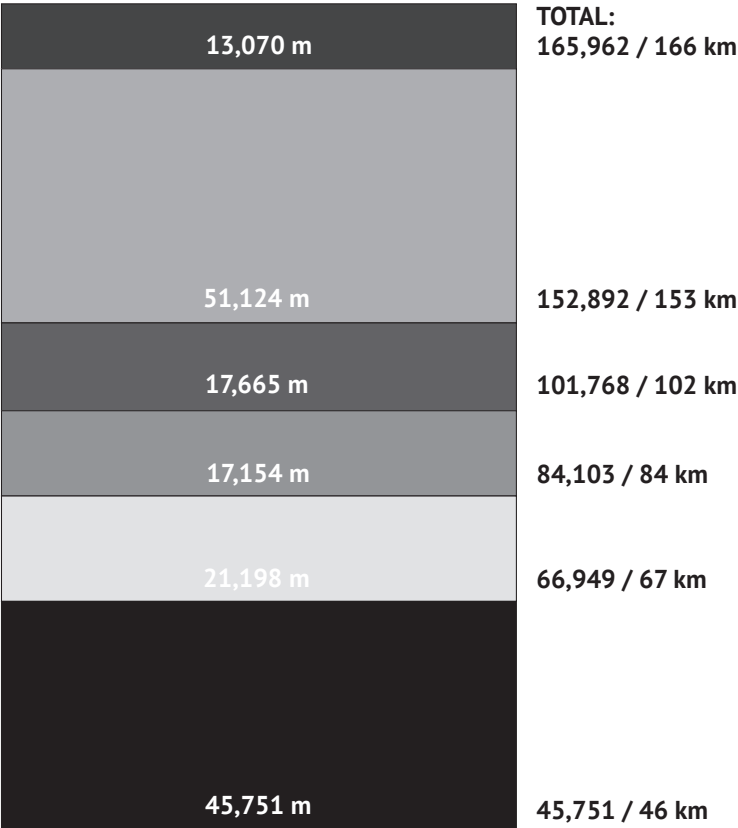
WATER CISTERN SUBSIDY

The County provides a one-time subsidy for the installation of a new water cistern for residential use, covering up to 75% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per residence. Personal time and use of personal equipment may also be covered at 50% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$2,500. During 2024, Saddle Hills County approved **58** applications, up from **40** applications in 2023.

RURAL POTABLE WATER

The installation of waterlines continued to be a high priority in 2024, with Council committing over \$26,000,000 to expand the program. Over the year, **127 km** of waterline was installed, to service an

BONANZA WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
PIPELINE INSTALLATION 2019-2024



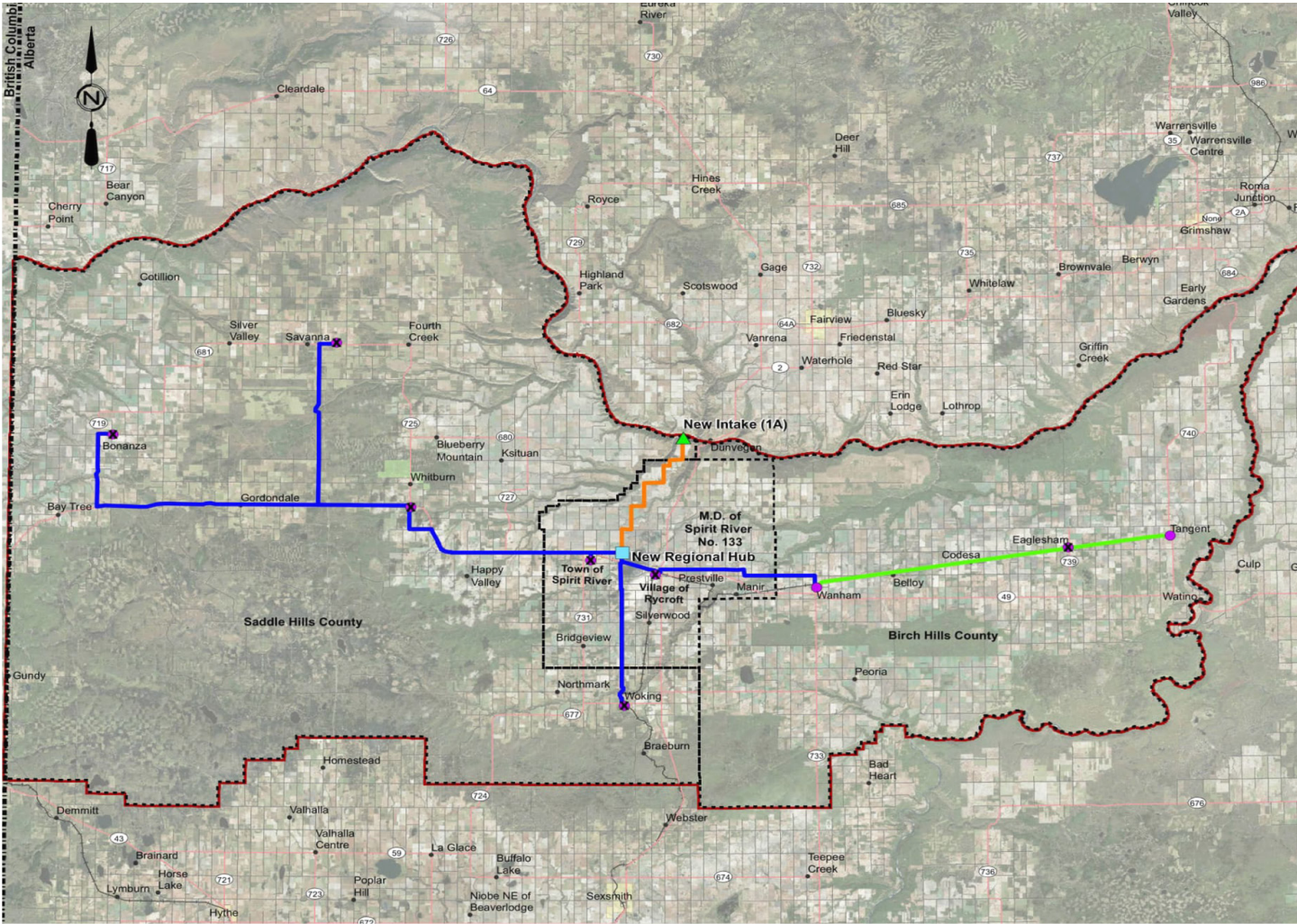
additional **155** residences. By the end of 2024, there were a total of **301** active users - **163** in the Bonanza area, **82** in Woking, **34** in Ksituan, and **22** in Savanna.

2024 also saw an expansion of the County's raw water storage capacity by **110,000** cubic meters. This included deepening the reservoir in Bonanza to allow for an additional **40,000** cubic meters of water, constructing a new storage pond in Woking to hold an additional **20,000** cubic meters, and building a new reservoir in Ksituan, on Highway 725, to hold an additional **50,000** cubic meters.

Due to the measures put in place by Council and staff, all water treatment plants functioned without water restrictions, as staff worked hard to pump water from nearby sources into the reservoirs.

OPERATIONS: CENTRAL PEACE REGIONAL WATER PROJECT

Initiated in 2020, this large and long-term project will provide a regional water supply system for the G5 municipalities, consisting of Birch Hills County, the MD of Spirit River #133, Saddle Hills County, the Town of Spirit River, and the Village of Rycroft.



This project saw significant development over the course of 2024. As the managing partner, the County continued to focus on the first two phases of the six phase project.

These initial phases involve construction of:

- an intake on the Peace River,
- a pumping station, and
- A pipeline, to move water from the Peace River to the Town of Spirit River and the Village of Rycroft.

These tasks have been broken down into the following three contracts:

CONTRACT #1: BUILDING THE RIVER INTAKE & PUMPING STATION

Contractors MPE Engineering Ltd. completed the design of the river intake and pumping station in 2024, with tendering planned for early 2025.

CONTRACT #2: BUILDING THE PIPELINE (1.8KM) TO THE TOP OF THE PEACE RIVER VALLEY

Option Excavating Inc. was awarded this contract for \$14,978,178.20 in August 2024, and began working on this component of the project in December 2024.

CONTRACT #3: EXTENDING THE PIPELINE (36KM) TO SPIRIT RIVER & RYCROFT

Saddle Hills County anticipates completing the design in 2025. Tendering of the second section of the pipeline is anticipated for 2025-2026, pending receipt of grant funding.

In 2024, MPE Engineering Ltd. began work on the design of the Central Peace Regional Water Treatment Plant, which will be located between the Town of Spirit River and the Village of Rycroft. The aim of the facility is to be able to provide treated water to all of the partner municipalities, and a truck fill. The site plan includes a raw water reservoir capable of holding up to 1.3 million cubic meters of water.

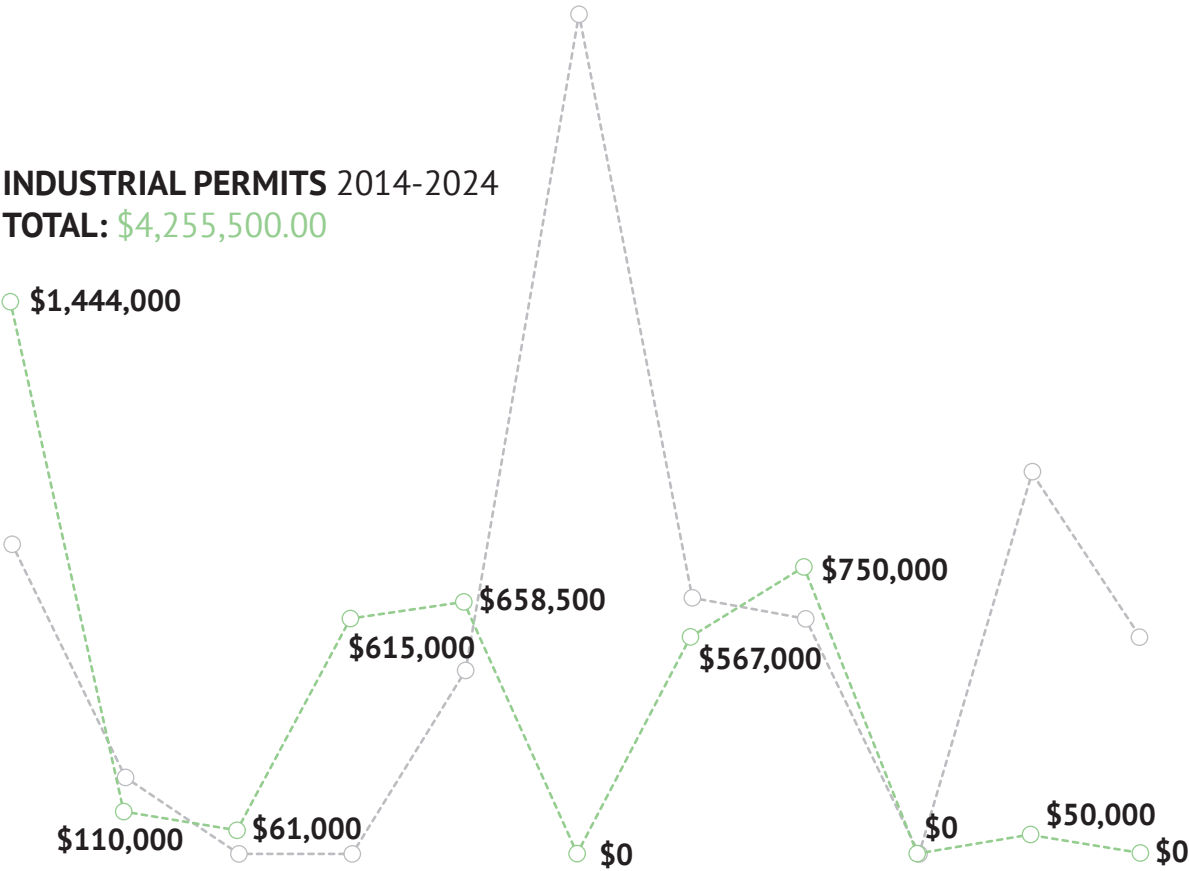
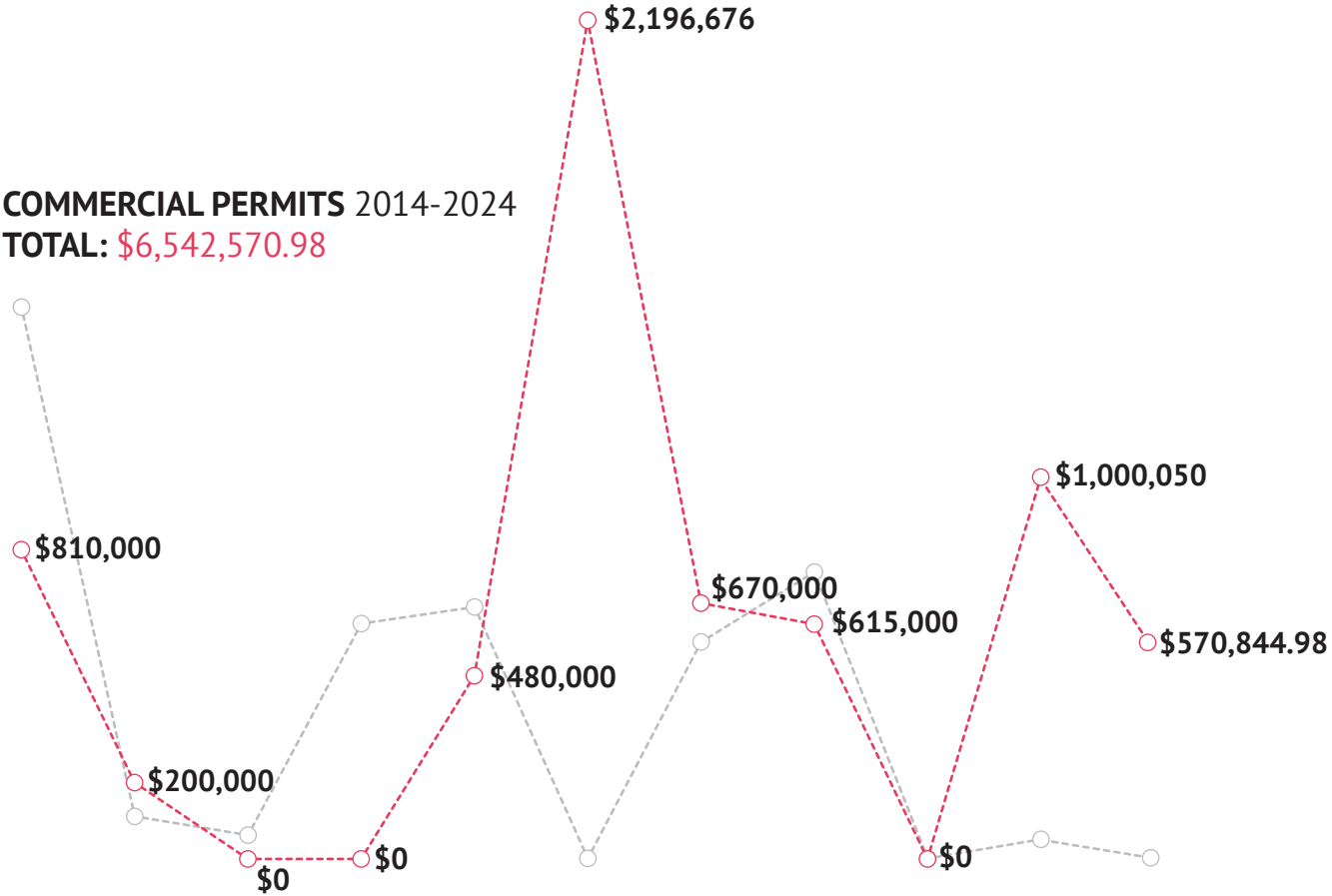
As of the end of 2024, the estimated cost for the first two phases of the project, is \$103,430,000. Provincial and federal grant funding received to the end of the year, provided \$93,087,000 of the necessary funding, with the G5 municipalities responsible for the remaining \$10,343,000.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

During 2023, Saddle Hills County’s Planning Department approved **13** Residential Permits, **11** Oil and Gas Permits, **5** Commercial Permits, **4** Recreation Permits, **4** Public Use Permits, and **2** Agriculture Permits for a total of **39** Development Permits, valued at **\$107,725,620.98**. The department also approved a total of **13** Subdivision Applications.

For full details of the permitting process, including how to apply for development permits and the types of developments permitted in the County, please visit our website at saddlehills.ab.ca/Planning

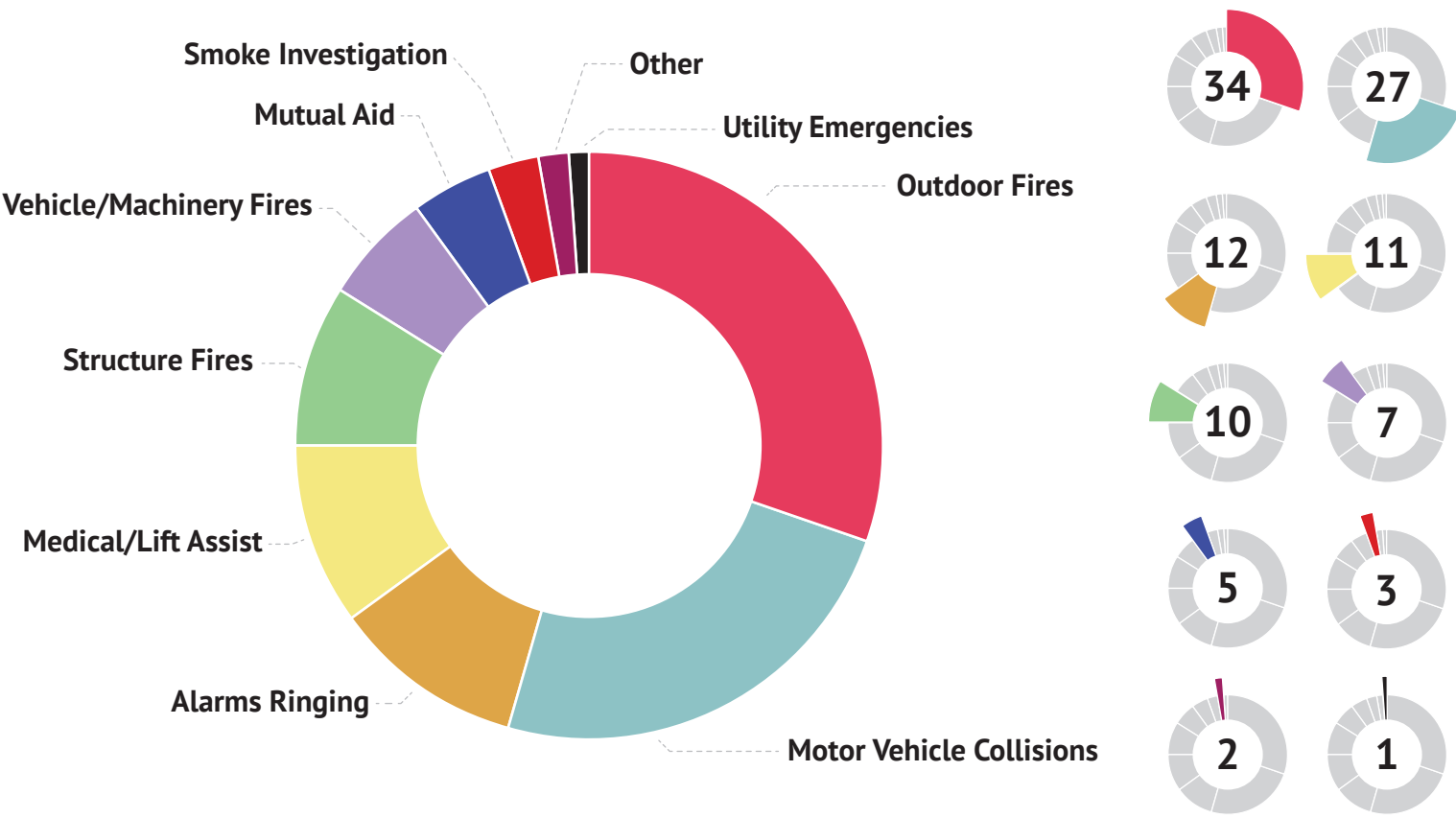
Agriculture	\$50,000	Public Use	\$100,000	Recreation	\$300,000
Agriculture	\$400	Public Use	\$77,910	Recreation	\$50,000
	\$50,400	Public Use	\$2,680,666	Recreation	\$200,000
		Public Use	\$-	Recreation	\$800
Commercial	\$125,844.98		\$2,858,576		\$550,800
Commercial	\$400,000				
Commercial	\$45,000	Residential	\$580,000	GRANDTOTAL: \$107,725,620.98	
Commercial	\$-	Residential	\$1,500		
Commercial	\$-	Residential	\$50,000		
	\$570,844.98	Residential	\$100,000		
		Residential	\$12,000		
Oil & Gas	\$1,000,000	Residential	\$280,000		
Oil & Gas	\$100,000	Residential	\$4,000		
Oil & Gas	\$10,000,000	Residential	\$250,000		
Oil & Gas	\$900,000	Residential	\$100,000		
Oil & Gas	\$5,500	Residential	\$500,000		
Oil & Gas	\$450,000	Residential	\$50,000		
Oil & Gas	\$175,000	Residential	\$260,000		
Oil & Gas	\$127,000	Residential	\$250,000		
Oil & Gas	\$2,500,000		\$2,437,500		
Oil & Gas	\$54,000,000				
Oil & Gas	\$32,000,000				
	\$101,257,500				



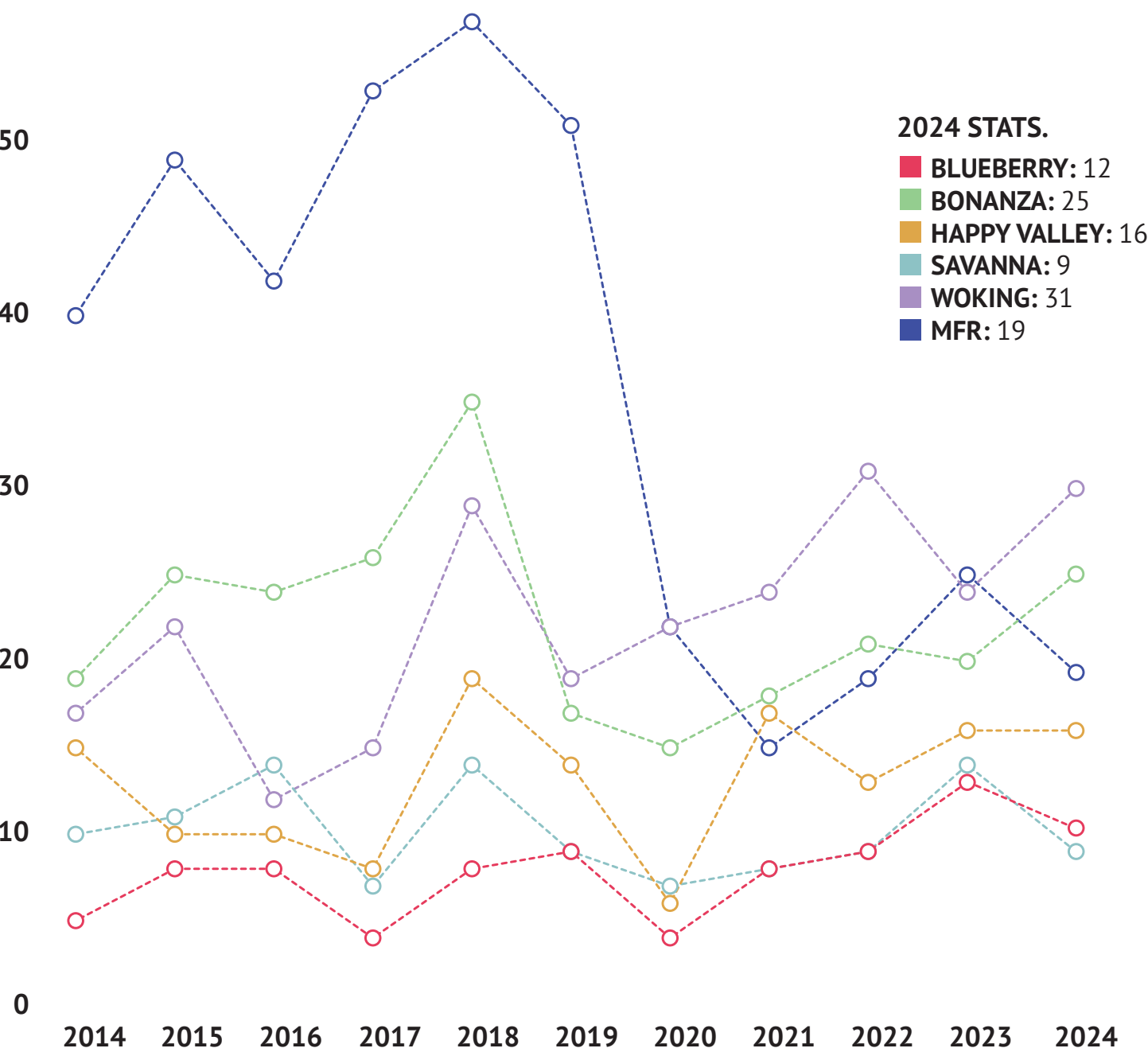
PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Saddle Hills County has five volunteer fire departments, located in Bonanza, Blueberry, Happy Valley, Savanna, and Woking, as well as Medical First Responders throughout the County. The County also provides funding to the Tomslake Fire Department to assist the residents of Gundy, as well as working closely with the Central Peace Fire and Rescue Commission.

2024 CALL BREAKDOWN BY TYPE
(ALL DEPARTMENTS)



CALL BREAKDOWN BY DEPARTMENT
2014-2024



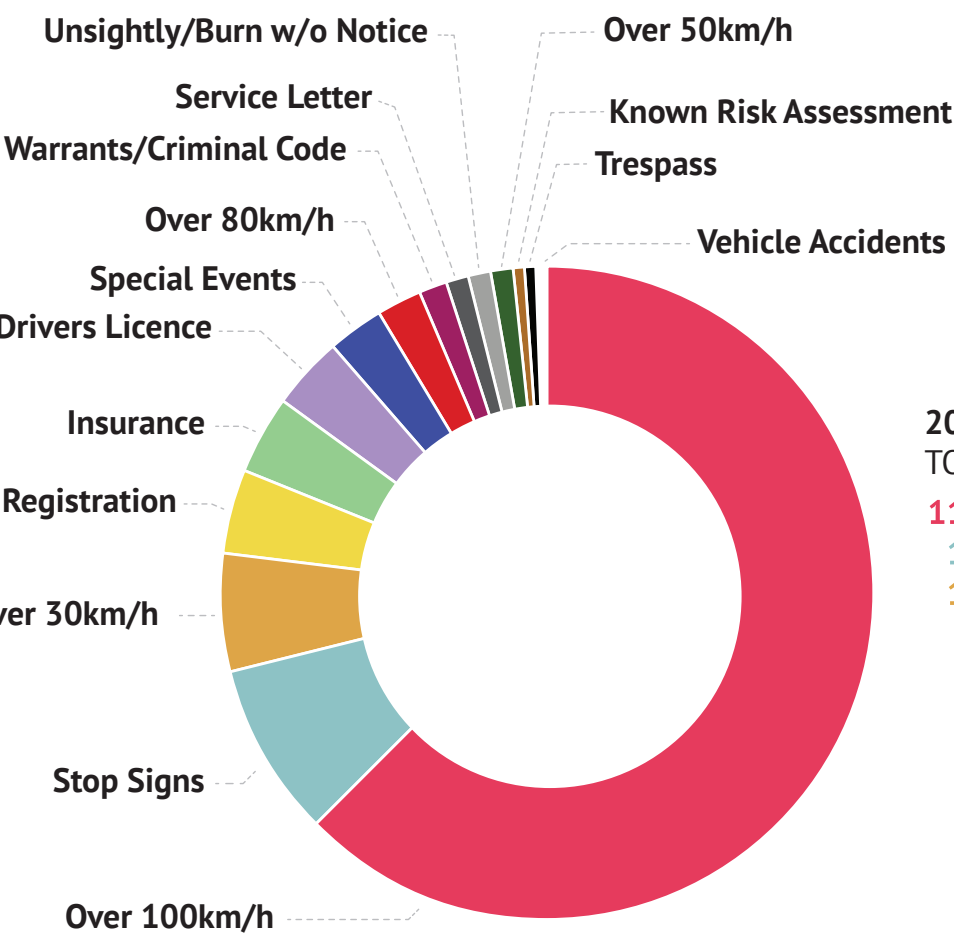
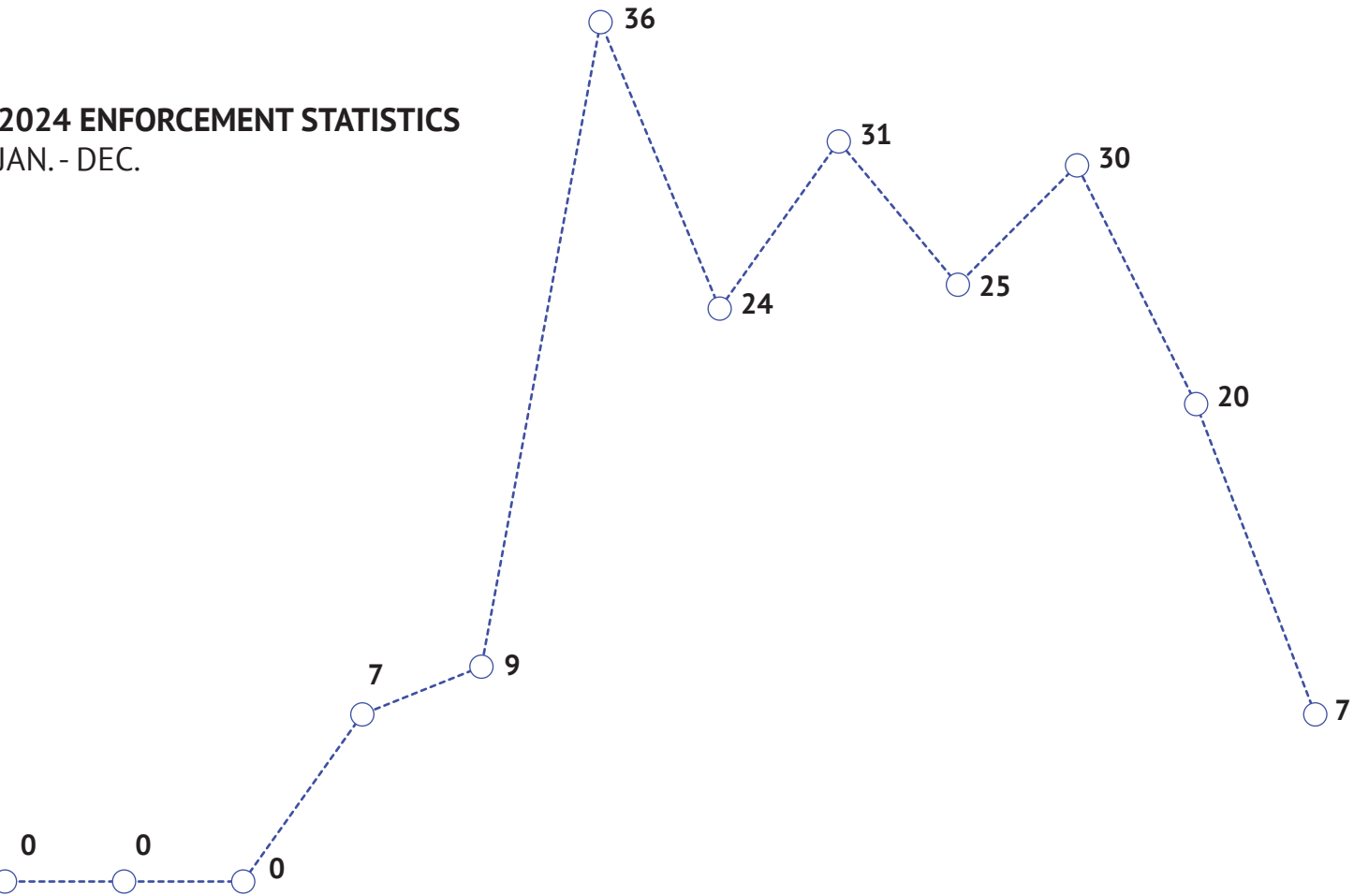
PROTECTIVE SERVICES: COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER

The Saddle Hills County Protective Services Department also oversees the Community Peace Officer program and Bylaw Enforcement. 2024 saw the hiring of the County's new Peace Officer, Wayne Olson, who began work in January.

The services provided by the Saddle Hills County Peace Officer, include patrols on County roads and three-digit highways to enforce the Traffic Safety Act and investigation of resident complaints, as well as acting as the County's Bylaw Enforcement Officer. The vast majority of traffic stops result in written warnings being issued rather than violation tickets, except for repeat offenders and particularly extreme offences.

Public education and awareness is a priority for the program, with staff attending several community events to conduct public education, including mud bogs, community fairs, and school career days.

2024 ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS
JAN. - DEC.



- 2024 ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS**
TOTAL OCCURENCES: 188
- 118 OVER 100KM/H
 - 16 STOP SIGNS
 - 11 OVER 30 KM/H
 - 8 REGISTRATION
 - 7 INSURANCE
 - 7 DRIVERS LICENCE
 - 5 SPECIAL EVENTS
 - 4 OVER 80KM/H
 - 3 WARRANTS/CRIMINAL CODE
 - 2 SERVICE LETTER
 - 2 UNSIGHTLY/BURN W/O NOTICE
 - 2 OVER 50KM/H
 - 1 KNOWN RISK ASSESSMENT
 - 1 TRESPASS
 - 1 VEHICLE ACCIDENTS



- BREAKDOWN BY COMPLAINT TYPE**
2024 STATS.
- 135 SPEED STOPS
 - 22 NO INSURANCE, REGISTRATION OR DRIVERS LICENCE
 - 16 STOP SIGNS
 - 8 INVESTIGATIONS
 - 5 SPECIAL EVENTS
 - 2 UNSIGHTLY/BURN W/O NOTICE

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC



The Saddle Hills County Health Clinic officially opened in June 2024, marking an important milestone in healthcare delivery for the community.

A dedicated exam room and Nurse Practitioner's office were designed and completed to cater to the healthcare needs of residents. The renovations were executed with an emphasis on privacy, comfort, and functionality to ensure the necessary resources are available to provide efficient care.

Significant efforts were made to ensure that the renovated space met all regulatory compliance standards, including technical and administrative requirements. These efforts were completed successfully to guarantee a smooth transition into full operational status for the clinic.

Since its opening, the clinic has experienced consistent growth in the number of residents seeking care, with over 200 Saddle Hills County residents having received medical care at the clinic. This number continues to rise, as more individuals become aware of the facility and the accessibility and convenience of this local healthcare service.



The establishment of the clinic has provided relief to residents who had previously struggled to access reliable primary healthcare. Appreciation for the availability of services has been expressed by many visitors to the clinic, especially those who were without a primary care provider. Feedback suggests that this has significantly improved the overall health and well-being of the community.

The renovations and operational improvements to the Saddle Hills County Administration Building and the opening of the new clinic, represent a significant achievement in the County's commitment to enhancing healthcare access for its residents. With more than 200 residents served since the clinic's opening in June 2024, the clinic has proven to be an essential resource for those who previously struggled with a lack of access to primary care. The ongoing efforts to ensure the clinic's continued compliance with regulatory standards will contribute to the ongoing success of this initiative.



As the numbers of residents utilizing the clinic's services continue to grow, the County remains committed to meeting the evolving healthcare needs of Saddle Hills County and providing all residents with access to the care they deserve.



Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Council of Saddle Hills County

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Saddle Hills County (the "Municipality"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024, and the consolidated statements of operations and accumulated operating surplus, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Municipality as at December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses, changes in its net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Municipality in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Municipality's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Municipality or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Municipality's financial reporting process.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Municipality's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Municipality's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Municipality to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Debt Limit Regulation

In accordance with Alberta regulation 255/2000, we confirm that the Municipality is in compliance with the Debt Limit Regulation. A detailed account of the Municipality's debt limit can be found in note 13.

Supplementary Accounting Principles and Standards Regulation

In accordance with Alberta regulation 313/2000, we confirm that the Municipality is in compliance with the Supplementary Accounting Principles and Standards Regulation.

Peace River, Alberta

April 8, 2025



Chartered Professional Accountants

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	3,849,226	5,367,266
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	11,321,745	3,948,274
Long-term investments (Note 4)	100,288,568	110,268,496
	115,459,539	119,554,036
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5)	10,651,438	10,651,438
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	7,130,137	7,130,137
Landfill closure and post-closure costs (Note 7)	5,895,530	5,895,530
Asset Retirement Obligation (Note 9)	520,000	520,000
	24,197,105	24,197,105
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS		
	90,753,142	95,356,931
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Schedule 2)	205,669,414	177,837,443
Inventory for consumption (Note 8)	2,625,738	2,114,498
Capitalized Asset Retirement Obligation (Note 10)	402,667	411,333
Prepaid expenses	419,709	416,785
	209,117,528	180,780,059
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (Schedule 1, Note 11)		
	299,870,670	276,136,990

Contingencies and Commitments - See Note 14 and 15

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Budget	2024	2023
	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE			
Net municipal property taxes (Schedule 3)	44,266,227	44,402,938	41,801,191
Oil well drilling equipment tax	-	-	-
Return on investments	3,000,000	3,842,929	3,515,039
Other	273,153	1,098,086	1,093,510
Government transfers for operating (Schedule 4)	321,447	400,588	399,770
User fees and sale of goods	589,800	745,663	701,938
Penalties and costs on taxes	50,000	51,582	40,533
Total Revenues	48,500,627	47,393,571	47,551,981
EXPENSES			
Operating			
Road and bridge projects	15,705,294	12,496,392	13,008,606
Administrative	14,019,530	8,799,772	3,797,664
Agriculture and land development	1,989,905	1,622,107	1,529,215
Protective services	2,697,057	2,065,247	2,404,202
Water and wastewater	3,635,815	3,385,391	2,774,950
Recreation and culture	851,764	785,220	490,681
Legislative	5,647,030	5,583,823	6,326,068
Waste management	954,822	964,741	859,151
Common services	1,410,233	1,243,029	1,056,743
Family and community support services	399,000	278,521	205,574
Total Expenses	47,310,450	37,224,243	32,452,854
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES - BEFORE OTHER	1,190,177	13,317,543	15,099,127
OTHER			
Government transfers for capital (Schedule 4)	40,015,274	10,651,984	8,968,243
Gain (loss) on disposal of tangible capital assets	85,000	(235,847)	340,330
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	41,290,451	23,733,680	24,407,700
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	276,136,990	276,136,990	251,729,290
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, END OF YEAR	317,427,441	299,870,670	276,136,990

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	Budget	2024	2023
	\$	\$	\$
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	41,290,451	23,733,680	24,407,700
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(120,310,734)	(34,223,384)	(24,060,586)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	90,212	2,519,173
Amortization of tangible capital assets	5,241,600	6,065,346	5,242,066
(Gain) loss on sale of tangible capital assets	-	235,847	(340,330)
Capitalized asset retirement obligation	-	8,673	(411,333)
	(97,069,134)	(27,823,306)	(17,051,010)
Acquisition of supplies inventories	-	(2,625,738)	(2,114,498)
Use of supplies inventories	-	2,114,498	1,844,075
Acquisition of prepaid assets	-	(419,709)	(416,786)
Use of prepaid assets	-	416,786	397,809
	-	(514,163)	(289,400)
INCREASE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS	(55,778,683)	(4,603,789)	7,067,290
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	95,356,931	95,356,931	88,289,641
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS, END OF YEAR	39,578,248	90,753,142	95,356,931

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
NET INFLOW (OUTFLOW) OF CASH RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:		
OPERATING		
Excess of revenues over expenses	23,733,680	24,407,700
(Gain) loss on sale of tangible capital assets	235,847	(340,330)
Non-cash items included in excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	6,065,346	5,242,066
Non-cash changes to operations (net change):		
Decrease (increase) in trade and other receivables	(7,403,471)	(1,878,421)
Decrease (increase) in inventory for consumption	(511,240)	(270,423)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	(2,924)	(18,976)
Decrease (increase) in capitalized asset retirement obligation	8,666	(411,333)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	715,362	5,176,950
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	(396,195)	(3,958,631)
Increase (decrease) in provision for landfill closure and post-closure (Note 7)	190,133	110,128
Increase (decrease) in asset retirement obligation	-	520,000
Cash provided by operating transactions	22,635,204	28,578,730
CAPITAL		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(34,223,384)	(24,060,586)
Sale of tangible capital assets	90,212	2,519,173
Cash applied to capital transactions	(34,133,172)	(21,541,413)
INVESTING		
Decrease (increase) in investments	9,979,928	(5,579,899)
CHANGE IN CASH AND EQUIVALENTS DURING THE YEAR	(1,518,040)	1,457,418
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	5,367,266	3,909,848
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	3,849,226	5,367,266
See accompanying notes to the financial statements		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents is made up of:		
Cash and temporary investments (Note 2)	3,849,226	5,367,266

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 1

				2024	2023
	Unrestricted Surplus	Restricted Surplus	Equity in Tangible Capital Assets	\$	\$
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	-	98,408,214	171,728,776	276,136,990	251,729,290
Excess of revenues over expenses	23,733,680	-	-	23,733,680	24,407,700
Unrestricted funds designated for future use	4,089,631	(4,089,631)	-	-	-
Current year funds used for tangible capital assets	(34,223,384)	-	34,223,384	-	-
Disposal of assets (at net book value)	326,060	-	(326,060)	-	-
Annual amortization expense	6,065,346	-	(6,065,346)	-	-
Annual amortization of asset retirement obligation	8,667	-	(8,667)	-	-
				-	-
Change in accumulated surplus	-	(4,089,631)	27,823,311	23,733,680	24,407,700
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	-	94,318,583	205,552,087	299,870,670	276,136,990

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 2

	Land	Land Improvements	Buildings	Engineered Structures	Machinery and Equipment	Vehicles
COST:						
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,588,090	5,769,559	30,697,607	196,511,501	14,564,316	1,224,941
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	77,074	1,027,236	2,468,025	29,393,877	898,540	358,632
Disposal of tangible capital assets	-	-	(152,100)	(744,163)	(99,281)	(211,705)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	2,665,164	6,796,795	33,013,532	225,161,215	15,363,575	1,371,868
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION:						
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	-	1,303,999	4,578,473	60,573,277	6,129,468	933,354
Annual amortization	-	278,562	606,770	3,439,086	1,613,123	127,805
Accumulated amortization on disposals	-	-	(101,907)	(481,376)	(99,281)	(198,618)
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	-	1,582,561	5,083,336	63,530,987	7,643,310	862,541
NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	2,665,164	5,214,234	27,930,196	161,630,228	7,720,265	509,327
2023 NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	2,588,090	4,460,752	26,119,134	135,928,224	8,439,656	291,587
	2024 \$	2023 \$				
COST:						
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	251,356,014	232,773,180				
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	34,223,384	24,060,586				
Disposal of tangible capital assets	(1,207,249)	(5,477,752)				
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	284,372,149	251,356,014				
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION:						
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	73,518,571	71,575,415				
Annual amortization	6,065,346	5,242,066				
Accumulated amortization on disposals	(881,182)	(3,298,910)				
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	78,702,735	73,518,571				
NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	205,669,414	177,837,443				
2023 NET BOOK VALUE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	177,837,443					

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY TAXES LEVIED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 3

	Budget	2024	2023
	\$	\$	\$
TAXATION			
Real property taxes	28,602,720	28,711,501	26,778,959
Linear property taxes	23,396,186	23,419,398	22,022,269
Government grants in place of property taxes	5,709	8,600	7,269
	52,004,615	52,139,499	48,808,497
REQUISITIONS			
Alberta School Foundation Fund	7,187,760	7,185,933	6,627,954
Seniors Foundation	307,318	307,318	160,393
Designated Industrial Property	243,310	243,310	218,959
	7,738,388	7,736,561	7,007,306
NET MUNICIPAL TAXES			
	44,266,227	44,402,938	41,801,191

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 4

	Budget	2024	2023
	\$	\$	\$
TRANSFERS FOR OPERATING			
Local Government Fiscal Framework - Operating	79,200	158,410	-
Municipal Sustainability Initiative - Operating	-	-	158,410
Agriculture Service Board	166,247	166,247	166,247
Family and Community Support Services Program	76,000	75,931	75,113
	321,447	400,588	399,770
TRANSFERS FOR CAPITAL			
Local Government Fiscal Framework - Operating	979,556	979,556	-
Municipal Sustainability Initiative - Operating	-	-	979,556
Canada Community Building Fund	186,205	186,205	139,289
Other Provincial Government	38,849,513	9,486,223	7,849,398
	40,015,274	10,651,984	8,968,243
TOTAL GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS			
	40,336,721	11,052,572	9,368,013

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES BY OBJECT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 5

	Budget	2024	2023
	\$	\$	\$
CONSOLIDATED EXPENSES BY OBJECT			
Salaries, wages and benefits	10,142,536	9,683,704	8,521,205
Contracted and general services	11,335,913	8,153,255	9,426,557
Materials, goods, supplies and utilities	4,471,250	3,317,702	2,653,042
Transfers to governments, agencies and organizations	15,775,351	9,765,048	6,454,543
Amortization of tangible capital assets	5,241,600	6,065,346	5,242,066
Amortization of asset retirement obligation	8,800	8,667	8,667
Other expenses	335,000	230,521	146,774
	47,310,450	37,224,243	32,452,854

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE OF SEGMENTED DISCLOSURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
SCHEDULE 6

	General Government	Protective Services	Transportation Services	Planning & Development	Recreation & Culture	Environmental Services
REVENUE						
Net municipal taxes	44,402,938	-	-	-	-	-
Government transfers	-	-	5,443,432	166,247	75,931	5,366,962
Oil well drilling equipment taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-
User fees and sales of goods	6,493	33,808	273,682	25,359	6,674	399,647
Investment income	3,842,929	-	-	-	-	-
Other revenues	93,109	14,713	781,746	26,770	70,779	102,209
	48,345,469	48,521	6,498,860	218,376	153,384	5,868,818
EXPENSES						
Contract & general services	1,817,769	709,761	4,087,077	430,096	110,962	893,521
Salaries & wages	3,108,286	454,283	3,495,452	765,386	301,355	1,558,942
Goods and supplies	137,908	170,457	2,369,307	148,755	106,898	384,377
Transfers to governments, agencies and organizations	4,664,600	333,270	-	174,270	426,780	154,270
Other expenses	40,388	-	-	-	-	190,133
	9,768,951	1,667,771	9,951,836	1,518,507	945,995	3,181,243
NET REVENUE BEFORE AMORTIZATION	38,576,518	(1,619,250)	(3,452,976)	(1,300,131)	(792,611)	2,687,575
Amortization expense	(398,215)	(397,476)	(3,787,586)	(103,599)	(117,746)	(1,160,224)
Amortization of ARO						(8,667)
Gain (Loss) on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	-	(235,847)	-	-	-
NET REVENUE	38,178,303	(2,016,726)	(7,476,409)	(1,403,730)	(910,357)	1,518,684

	Other	Total \$
REVENUE		
Net municipal taxes	-	44,402,938
Government transfers	-	11,052,572
Oil well drilling equipment taxes	-	-
User fees and sales of goods	-	745,663
Investment income	-	3,842,929
Other revenues	60,342	1,149,668
	60,342	61,193,770
EXPENSES		
Contract & general services	104,069	8,153,255
Salaries & wages	-	9,683,704
Goods and supplies	-	3,317,702
Transfers to governments, agencies and organizations	4,011,858	9,765,048
Other expenses	-	230,521
	4,115,927	31,150,230
NET REVENUE BEFORE AMORTIZATION	(4,055,585)	30,043,540
Amortization expense	(100,500)	(6,065,346)
Amortization of ARO		(8,667)
Gain (Loss) on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	(235,847)
NET REVENUE	(4,156,085)	23,733,680

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The consolidated financial statements of Saddle Hills County are the representations of management prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by Saddle Hills County are as follows:

a) Reporting Entity

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures, changes in net financial assets and cash flows of the reporting entity. This entity is comprised of the municipal operations plus all of the organizations that are owned or controlled by the County and are, therefore, accountable to the Council for administration of their financial affairs and resources. They include the County’s proportionate share of the Central Peace Regional Waste Management Commission (25%).

The schedule of taxes levied also includes requisitions for education and housing that are not part of the municipal reporting entity.

The statements exclude trust assets that are administered for the benefit of external parties. Interdepartmental and organizational transactions and balances are eliminated.

b) Basis of Accounting

The consolidated financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting records revenue as it is earned and measurable. Expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable based upon receipt of goods or services and/or the legal obligation to pay.

Funds from external parties and earnings thereon restricted by agreement or legislation are accounted for as deferred revenue until used for the purpose specified.

Government transfers, contributions and other amounts are received from third parties pursuant to legislation, regulation or agreement and may only be used for certain programs, in the completion of specific work, or for the purchase of tangible capital assets. In addition, certain user charges and fees are collected for which the related services have yet to be performed. Revenue is recognized in the period when the related expenses are incurred, services performed or the tangible capital assets are acquired.

c) Deferred Revenue

Government transfers, contributions and other amounts are received from third parties pursuant to legislation, regulation and agreement and may only be used in completion of certain programs, in the completion of specific work, or for the purchase of tangible capital assets. These funds and the earnings thereon are accounted for as deferred revenue until the related expenses are incurred, the services are performed or the tangible capital assets are acquired.

d) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Where management uncertainty exists, the financial statements have been prepared within reasonable limits of materiality. These estimates and assumptions are based on the County’s best information and judgement and actual results could differ from these estimates.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, balances with the banks net of outstanding cheques and term deposits with original maturities of 90 days or less at the date of acquisition and are recorded at cost.

f) Investments

Investments consist of deposit notes, coupons, securities, mutual funds and guaranteed investment certificates. Deposit notes, coupons, securities, mutual funds and guaranteed investment certificates are recorded at amortized cost. Investment premiums and discounts are amortized over the term of the respective investments. When there has been a loss in the value that is other than a temporary decline, the respective investment is written down to recognize the loss.

g) Government Transfers

Government transfers are the transfer of assets from senior levels of government that are not the result of an exchange transaction, are not expected to be repaid in the future, or the result of a direct financial return.

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenue in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be determined.

h) Requisition Over-Levies and Under-Levies

Over-levies and under-levies arise from the difference between the actual property tax levy made to cover each requisition and the actual amount requisitioned.

If the actual levy exceeds the requisition, the over-levy is accrued as a liability and property tax revenue is reduced. Where the actual levy is less than the requisition amount, the under-levy is accrued as a receivable and as property tax revenue.

Requisition tax rates in the subsequent year are adjusted for any over-levies or under-levies of the prior year.

i) Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Liability

Pursuant to the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, the County is required to fund the closure of its landfill sites and provide for post-closure care of the facility. Closure and post-closure activities include the final clay cover, landscaping, as well as surface and ground water monitoring, leachate control, and visual inspection. The requirement being provided for over the estimated remaining life of the landfill sites is based on usage.

j) Contaminated Sites

Contaminated sites are a result of contamination being introduced into air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic, or radioactive material or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard. The liability is recorded net of any expected recoveries. A liability for remediation of a contaminated site is recognized when a site is not in productive use and is management’s estimate of the cost of remediation including post remediation costs of operations, maintenance and monitoring.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

k) Employee Future Benefits

Selected employees of the County are members of the Local Authority Pension Plan (“LAPP”), a multi-employer define benefit pension plan. The trustee of the plan is the Alberta Treasurer and the plan is employer define benefit pension plan. The trustee of the plan is the Alberta Treasurer and the plan is administered by a Board of Trustees. Since the plan is a multi-employer plan, it is accounted for as a defined contribution plan and, accordingly, the County does not recognize its share of any of the LAPP’s surplus or deficit.

l) Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the normal course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenues over expenses, provides the consolidated change in net financial assets for the year.

i. Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets is amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life as follows:

	YEARS
Land Improvements	15-25
Buildings	25-50
Engineered Structures	
Water system	30-75
Wastewater system	30-75
Roads and bridges	30-75
Machinery and equipment	3-20
Vehicles	7-20

One-half of the annual amortization is charged in the year of acquisition and in the year of disposal. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

ii. Contributions of Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at fair value at the date of receipt and also are recorded as revenue.

iii. Leases

Leases are classified as capital or operating leases. Leases which transfer substantially all of the benefits and risks incidental to ownership of property are accounted for as capital leases. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related lease payments are charged to expenses as incurred.

iv. Inventories

Inventories of materials and supplies for consumption are recorded at the lower of cost or net realizable value with cost determined by the first-in, first-out method. Inventories largely represent the stockpile of gravel maintained for County purposes.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

m) Accumulated Surplus

Accumulated surpluses are established at the discretion of Council to set aside funds for future operating and capital expenditures. Transfers to and/or from reserves are reflected as an adjustment to the respective fund.

Equity in capital assets consist of the net investments in total capital assets after deducting the portion financed by third parties.

n) Asset Retirement Obligations

Asset retirement obligations are legal obligations associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. Asset retirement activities include all activities relating to an asset retirement obligation. These may include, but are not limited to:

- a) decommissioning or dismantling a tangible capital asset that was acquired, constructed or developed;
- b) remediation of contamination of a tangible capital asset created by its normal use;
- c) post-retirement activities such as monitoring; and
- d) constructing other tangible capital assets to perform post-retirement activities.

A liability for an asset retirement obligation is recognized when, as at the financial reporting date:

- a) there is a legal obligation to incur retirement costs in relation to a tangible capital asset;
- b) the past transaction or event giving rise to the liability has occurred;
- c) it is expected that future economic benefits will be given up; and
- d) a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

When a liability for an asset retirement obligation is recognized, asset retirement costs related to recognized tangible capital assets in productive use are capitalized by increasing the carrying amount of the related asset and are amortized over the estimated useful life of the underlying tangible capital asset. Asset retirement costs related to unrecognized tangible capital assets and those not in productive use are expensed.

2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash	3,779,638	5,297,708
Restricted deposits	69,558	69,558
Temporary investments	-	-
	3,849,226	5,367,266

Cash held in deposit accounts earn interest at tiered rates between 4.03% and 4.92%.

A portion of the cash balances above are restricted for reserves and deferred revenue. The total restricted capital, including long-term investments is \$101,052,525 (2023 - \$105,538,351).

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Accrued interest receivable - investments	4,231,336	2,823,365
Trade	6,299,932	436,156
Property taxes	231,404	434,879
Goods and Services Tax	559,073	223,874
	11,321,745	3,918,274
Less: Allowance for doubtful accounts	-	-
	11,321,745	3,918,274

4. LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

Investments have carrying and market value as follows:

	2024 Carrying Amount	2024 Market Value	2023 Carrying Amount	2023 Market Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Rural Municipality of Alberta Member’s Equity	856	856	856	856
RBC Investment Portfolio				
Cash Accounts	129,495	129,495	60,627	60,627
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	66,346,384	66,346,384	64,577,783	64,577,783
Coupons	26,294,756	26,120,118	35,455,790	34,786,890
Mutual Funds	7,517,077	7,517,077	10,173,440	10,173,440
	100,288,568	100,113,930	110,268,496	109,599,596

RBC investment portfolio has effective interest rates ranging from 1.15% to 5.150% (2023 - 1.050% to 5.396%) with maturity dates from January 3, 2025 to September 5, 2029.

Market values are based on quoted market values received on December 31, 2024. The market values fluctuate with changes in market interest rates. Should there be a loss in value that is not considered temporary, the respective investment is written down to recognize the loss.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & ACCRUED LIABILITIES		
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Trade	9,551,361	8,956,320
Vacation, sick leave and overtime	1,719,905	1,590,814
Security deposits	95,526	104,304
	11,366,792	10,651,438
The vacation, sick leave and overtime liability is comprised of the vacation, sick leave and overtime that employees are deferring to future years. Employees have either earned the benefits or are entitled to these benefits within the next budgetary year.		

6. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue consists of the following amounts, which have been restricted by third parties for a specified purpose. These amounts are recognized as revenue in the period in which the related expenses are incurred.

	2023	Additions	Revenue Recognized	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Municipal Sustainability Initiative - Capital	-	979,556	979,555	-
Canada Community Building Fund	-	186,205	186,205	-
Capital for Emergency Projects	109,213	-	-	109,213
Central Peace Regional Water Treatment Plant - Engineering	-	1,000,000	715,466	284,534
Central Peace Regional Water - Phase 1 & 2	7,020,924	-	680,729	6,340,195
	7,130,137	2,165,761	2,561,956	6,733,942

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

7. LANDFILL CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE COSTS

Alberta environmental law requires closure and post-closure care of landfill sites, which includes final covering and landscaping, pumping of ground water and leachates from the site, ongoing environmental monitoring, and site inspections and maintenance.

The estimated total liability represents the net present value of the discounted cash flows of the total estimated cost for closure and post-closure activities for 25 years after closing using a discount rate of 4.91% and assuming annual inflation of 3.00%.

The accrued liability is based on the cumulative capacity used at year end compared to the total estimated landfill capacity. The total capacity of the sites is estimated at 952,000 cubic metres. All of the sites are at full capacity.

The County stopped receiving municipal solid waste at these landfills in prior years. Some of these unused landfills were converted to waste transfer stations. The County intends to commence closure work for a portion of these unused landfills in the near future.

The County reviewed to cost estimates related to its closure and post-closure obligations during the year. These cost estimates result in an increase of \$190,132 (2023 - \$110,128 increase) to the closure and post-closure obligations, which is included in waste management expense on the Statement of Operations.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Estimate closure costs	4,437,550	4,293,159
Estimate post-closure costs	1,648,113	1,602,371
	6,085,663	5,895,530
Portion of liability remaining to be recognized	-	-
Accrued liability portion	6,085,663	5,895,530

8. INVENTORY FOR CONSUMPTION

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Gravel	1,734,177	1,316,301
Parts, culverts and other	891,561	798,197
	2,625,738	2,114,498

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

9. ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION

Effective January 1, 2023, the County adopted the new accounting standard PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations and applied the standard using the prospective application approach.

- On the effective date of the PS 3280 standard, the County recognized the following to conform to the new standard;
- a) asset retirement obligations;
 - b) asset retirement cost capitalized as an increase to the carrying amount of the related tangible capital assets in productive use; and
 - c) accumulated amortization on the capitalized cost.

Amounts are measured using information, assumptions that are current on the effective date of the standard.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Waste Lagoons		
Woking	100,000	100,000
Savanna	100,000	100,000
Ksituan	100,000	100,000
Bonanza	100,000	100,000
	400,000	400,000
Water Treatment Plants		
Woking	15,000	15,000
Savanna	35,000	35,000
Bonanza	35,000	35,000
Ksituan	35,000	35,000
	120,000	120,000
	520,000	520,000

10. CAPITALIZED ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION

Capitalized asset retirement obligation consists of the increase to the carrying amount of the related tangible capital assets in productive use.

These amounts are amortized over the estimated useful life of the capitalized asset retirement obligation.

	2024			2023		
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Waste Lagoons	300,000	12,000	288,000	300,000	6,000	294,000
Water Treatment Plants	120,000	5,333	114,667	120,000	2,667	117,333
	420,000	17,333	402,667	420,000	8,667	411,333

The Ksituan waste lagoon is a provincial lease and therefore there is no associated capital asset owned by the County, therefore the full estimate for the asset retirement obligation of \$100,000 was expensed in the prior year.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

11. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Unrestricted surplus		
Restricted surplus:		
Operating reserves:		
Gravel usage	1,923,403	1,544,690
Emergency command centre	752,156	752,156
Saddle Hills advantage	500,000	500,000
Grant programs	180,211	534,543
Operating fund	114,534	2,251,865
Community facility	47,477	47,477
Due to others	9,232	9,548
	3,527,013	5,640,279
Capital reserves:		
Rural water	36,230,927	20,160,557
Mobile equipment	13,602,590	18,272,971
Current county facilities	11,914,413	14,320,310
Paving overlay	11,013,490	8,396,147
Utility communication network	8,260,666	12,008,885
New county facilities	4,207,681	6,213,139
General capital	2,655,837	6,062,491
Infrastructure development	1,567,780	5,523,306
Computer and information technology	1,071,051	773,001
Environmental services	244,389	1,015,109
Municipal development	22,746	22,019
Well drilling equipment tax	-	-
	90,791,570	92,767,935
	94,318,583	98,408,214
Equity in tangible capital assets	205,552,087	177,728,776
	299,870,670	276,136,990

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

12. SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for municipal officials, the chief administrative officer and designated officers as required by Alberta Regulation 313/2000 is as follows:					
	2024			2023	
	\$	\$		\$	
	Salary ¹	Benefits & allowances ²	Expense reimbursement ³	Total	Total
Councillors					
Division 1	58,300	5,470	3,485	67,255	66,285
Division 2	57,625	5,422	4,494	67,541	72,608
Division 3	64,225	7,143	8,547	79,915	67,187
Division 4	61,300	5,243	6,012	72,555	54,889
Division 5	57,100	5,858	12,850	75,808	75,527
Division 6	56,700	6,143	6,398	69,241	62,165
Division 7	59,700	5,385	12,346	77,431	71,505
Chief Administrative Officer	522,723	6,858	-	529,581	275,045
Designated Officer	394,904	3,236	-	398,140	172,872
	1,332,577	50,758	54,132	1,437,467	918,093

In 2024, the County signed a 5-year contract for the provision of Municipal Assessment Services and appointed the service provider as a new Designated Officer. The cost of the contracted services in 2024 was \$143,750.

Salary includes regular base pay, per diems and any other direct cash remuneration.

Benefits and allowances include the employer’s share of the employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension and health care benefits.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

13. DEBT LIMITS

Section 276(2) of the Municipal Government Act requires that debt and debt limits as defined by Alberta Regulation 255/2000 for the County be disclosed as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Total debt limit	75,812,679	71,090,357
Total debt	-	-
Amount of debt limit unused	75,812,679	71,090,357
Debt servicing limit	12,635,447	11,848,393
Debt servicing	-	-
Amount of debt servicing limit unused	12,635,447	11,848,393

The debt limit is calculated at 1.50 times revenue of the County (as defined in Alberta Regulation 255/00) and the debt service limit is calculated at 0.25 times such revenue. Incurring debt beyond these limitations requires approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. These thresholds are guidelines used by Alberta Municipal Affairs to identify municipalities that could be at financial risk if further debt is acquired. The calculation taken alone does not represent the financial stability of the County. Rather, the financial statements must be interpreted as a whole.

14. CONTINGENCIES

- (a) MUNIX
The County is a member of the Alberta Municipal Insurance Exchange (“MUNIX”). Under the terms of membership, the County could become liable for its proportionate share of any claim losses in excess of the funds held by MUNIX. Any liability incurred would be accounted for as a current transaction in the year the losses are determined.
- (b) Legal Claims
The County is defendant in various lawsuits as at December 31, 2024. Where the occurrence of future events is considered likely to result in a loss with respect to an existing condition, and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, amounts have been included in accrued liabilities. Where the resulting losses, if any, cannot be determined or the occurrence of future events is unknown, amounts have not been recorded.

15. COMMITMENTS

- As at December 31, 2024, the County has the following outstanding commitments:
- (a) Rural Waterlines Project, of approximately \$53,054,724
 - (b) Regional Raw Water Line Project, of approximately \$5,108, 112.
 - (c) Regional Water Treatment Plant Project, of approximately \$148,672.
 - (d) Construction of new Blueberry Firehall, of approximately \$898,046.
 - (e) Construction of Fire Station #1 in Spirit River, of approximately \$1,000,000.

SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
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16. LOCAL AUTHORITIES PENSION PLAN

Employees of the County participate in the Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP), which is covered by the Alberta Public Sector Pension Plans Act. Contributions are collected from employees and employers and the money is invested in equities, bonds and other investment vehicles. The investment income and the contributions are used to pay pension benefits to LAPP retirees, now and in the future.

The County is required to make current service contributions to the LAPP of 8.45% of pensionable earnings up to the year’s maximum pensionable earnings under the Canada Pension Plan and 11.65% on pensionable earnings above this amount. Employees of the County are required to make current service contributions of 7.45% of pensionable salary up to the year’s maximum pensionable salary and 10.65% on pensionable salary above this amount.

Total current service contributions by the County to the LAPP in 2024 were \$509,054 (2023 - \$527,491). Total current service contributions by the employees of the County to the LAPP in 2024 were \$455,883 (2023 - \$473,404).

At December 31, 2023, the LAPP disclosed a surplus of \$15.06 billion (2022 - \$12.67 billion surplus).

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The County’s financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivables, long-term investments, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, deferred revenue and provision for landfill closure. It is management’s opinion that the County is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from these financial instruments.

The County is subject to credit risk with respect to taxes and grants in lieu of taxes receivable and trade and other accounts receivables. Credit risk arises from the possibility that taxpayers and entities to which the County provides services may experience financial difficulty and be unable to fulfill their obligation. The large number and diversity of taxpayers and customers minimizes the credit risk.

The County is subject to interest rate risk with respect to its cash equivalents and long-term investments. Interest rate risk arises from the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The County manages this risk by investing in diverse and low risk assets.

Unless otherwise noted, the carrying value of the financial instruments approximates fair value.

18. SEGMENTED DISCLOSURE

Saddle Hills County provides a range of services to its residents. For each reported segment, revenues and expenses represent both amounts that are directly attributable to the segment and amounts that are allocated on a reasonable basis. The accounting policies used in these segments are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements as disclosed in Note 1.

For additional information see the Schedule of Segmented Disclosure (Schedule 6).

19. COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year’s financial statement presentation.

20. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by Council and management.



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