TOWN OF DIDSBURY AGENDA
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2026 commencing at 6:00 pm
Council Chambers 1606 14 Street

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
3. **DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**
   3.1 Didsbury Army Cadets
   3.2 Didsbury RCMP Community Policing Reports
4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
   4.1 September 15, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes.
5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**
   - N/A
6. **CAO REPORT**
   - N/A
7. **BYLAWS & POLICIES**
   - N/A
8. **BUSINESS**
   8.1 RFD – Lagoon Pump Replacement
   8.2 RFD – Quarter Report
   8.3 RFD – Safety Codes Services Agreement Renewal
   8.4 RFD – Municipal Positions Regarding the October 19 Referendum
   8.5 RFD – Review of Franchise Fee Percentages
   8.6 RFD – ISL Butte Upgrades
9. **CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION**
   - N/A
10. **COUNCIL REPORTS & MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**
    - N/A
11. **QUESTION PERIOD**
12. **CLOSED MEETING**
13. **ADJOURNMENT**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: *The Place to Grow.*
Mission: *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	**September 29, 2026 Didsbury**
SUBJECT:	**Army Cadets Delegation**
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	**Delegation**
ITEM:	**3.1**

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with an opportunity to consider options for supporting the 3025 Didsbury Army Cadets in securing a consistent location for their regular parade and training activities.

IMPLICATIONS

Representatives of the 3025 Didsbury Army Cadets have requested an opportunity to appear before Council to introduce the Cadet program, outline challenges currently being experienced by the Corps, and discuss potential opportunities for Town support.

The Corps has identified the lack of a consistent parade and training space as an ongoing challenge. A regular facility would provide the Cadets with a dependable location for weekly programming and would support the continued delivery of the program to youth in the Didsbury community.

The Cadet program provides opportunities for youth to develop leadership, teamwork, citizenship, physical fitness, discipline, and other skills through structured programming and community involvement

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN
Operational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION
That Council direct Administration to:

1. Work with the 3025 Didsbury Army Cadets to identify the facility and scheduling requirements for their regular parade and training activities;
2. Investigate available Town-owned, community, and other suitable facilities that may meet those requirements; and
3. Return to Council at a later date with available options, including associated costs and recommended next steps, for Council's consideration.

MEETING DATE:	September 29, 2026
SUBJECT:	Didsbury RCMP Community Policing
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	Reports Delegation
ITEM:	3.2

PURPOSE:

To present Council with the Q1 (April 1 – June 30, 2026) Community Policing Report package received from the Didsbury RCMP Detachment, for Council's information.

BACKGROUND

On August 2026, Didsbury RCMP shared the Q1 2026-27 Quarterly Community Policing Report. The package covers human resources, financial information, and crime statistics for both the Municipal and Provincial detachment components, and reflects community priorities identified through ongoing engagement.

The letter also advises that Alberta RCMP is rolling out a newly approved black-and-white General Duty vehicle design (white doors on a black base with high-visibility reflective graphics). Conversion will occur gradually as part of the normal fleet replacement cycle, at no additional incremental cost, with local identifiers still permitted.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Operational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the Q1 2026-27 RCMP Community Policing Report package, as presented.

August 6th

Mr. Chris Little
Mayor
Town of Didsbury, Alberta

Dear Mayor Little,

Please find attached the quarterly Community Policing Report for the period of April 1st to June 30th, 2026. This report provides an overview of human resources, financial information, and crime statistics for the Didsbury Detachment and reflects the ongoing priorities identified by the community we serve.

In addition to the information contained in the attached report, the Alberta RCMP is also advancing the rollout of the newly approved black-and-white General Duty vehicle design. This redesign is not simply cosmetic. It reflects a commitment to being a modern, professional, and approachable police service while maintaining a clear connection to the RCMP's history.

The updated look features white doors on a black base, along with high-visibility, reflective graphics to ensure the vehicles can be easily recognized in all conditions—day or night, in rural or urban settings, and across Alberta's diverse climates. This ensures RCMP vehicles are clearly identifiable as law-enforcement vehicles while remaining visually distinct as the RCMP.

Provinces, territories, and municipalities will be able to include local identifiers based on regional requirements. These variations allow for local flexibility and help demonstrate our connection with the communities we serve, while preserving a consistent, recognizable national RCMP identity.

Given the size and operational demands of the fleet, full conversion to the new design will take place gradually. Vehicles will transition to the new design as part of the natural replacement cycle, allowing older units to be retired without creating unnecessary incremental costs. This phased approach supports fleet consistency and modernization over time.

This modernization effort reflects the RCMP's ongoing commitment to ensuring members have the appropriate tools and training to serve their communities safely and effectively. Investments in equipment such as this are essential to maintaining high standards of policing and adapting to evolving operational demands.

We remain committed to transparency and to keeping our municipal partners informed of significant developments that impact policing services in your community. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this initiative further, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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Sincerely,

Vince Bacon, S/Sgt
Detachment Commander
Didsbury RCMP detachment

Alberta RCMP - Municipal Policing Report

Detachment Information

Detachment Name
Didsbury RCMP Detachment

Detachment Commander
Vince Bacon, S/Sgt

Report Date	Fiscal Year	Quarter
August 6, 2026	2026-27	Q1 (April - June)

Community Priorities

Priority #1: Road safety

Updates and Comments:
Reduce collision-causing behaviours (speeding/distracted driving/impaired driving), Joint Check-stop Operations, Impaired Drivers Interventions

Priority #2: Crime Reduction - Drugs

Updates and Comments:
Drug Enforcement Operations / Search Warrants / General Enforcement

Priority #3: Visibility, Engagement, Police/Community Relations

Updates and Comments:
School lectures (various topics) and visits, Media Releases, Coffee with a Cop, Town Hall Meetings, Red Serge / Public Appearances

Priority #4: **Crime Reduction - Property Crime**

Updates and Comments:
Compliance Checks and monitoring of Offenders, Joint Operations: Street Sweep/Warrant Round-up involving local partners, Fraud and emerging crime trends lectures.

Community Consultations

Consultation #1

Date	Meeting Type
July 23, 2026	Meeting with Stakeholders
Topics Discussed	
Introduction and conversion of municipal employee to public servant.	
Notes/Comments:	
Introduction and conversion of municipal employee to public servant.	

Consultation #2

Date	Meeting Type
August 5, 2026	Meeting with Stakeholders
Topics Discussed	
Meeting at Didsbury detachment	
Notes/Comments:	
Meeting with Meg Phillips and a/CAO Vanessa Van Der Meer regarding detachment maintenance and minor renovations.	

Consultation #3

Date	Meeting Type
June 16, 2026	Community Connection
Topics Discussed	
Introduction	
Notes/Comments:	
Meeting with Fire Chief, Curtis Mousseau	

Municipal Operations: Human Resources Overview

Staffing Category	Established Positions	Working	Temporary Absences	Hard Vacancies
Regular Members	4	3	1	1
Detachment Support	#	#	#	#

Notes:

1. Data extracted on June 30, 2026 and is subject to change.
2. Once Regular Members are identified under "Temporary Absences" (e.g., Maternity/Paternity leave, medical leave more than 30 days, leave without pay, graduated return to work), they are not included in the FTE count and their pay is not charged directly to each location. However, any salary expenditures associated with these employees while on leave is included as an "indirect cost" and billed within the Divisional Administration rate, charged to all contracts.
3. Hard Vacancies reflect positions that do not have an employee attached and need to be filled.

Comments:
Police Officers: Of the four established positions, three officers are currently working. There is one officer that is temporarily absent (Medical Leave) and this position has been backfilled to ensure coverage. There is one hard vacancy at this time.

Municipal Operations: Financial Overview

Municipal Overview	Fiscal Year-to-Date	Revised Plan at Q1	2026-27 Financial Plan
Detachment Working FTE Levels	3.51 FTE	4.00 FTE	4.00 FTE
Divisionally Pooled Costs (at 100%)	$ 32,600,450	$ 76,195,238	$ 76,195,238
Per Capita Rate (at 100%)	$ 105,969	$ 242,853	$ 242,853
Partner Share of Pooled Costs (at 70%)	$ 260,367	$ 679,989	$ 679,989
Location-Specific Costs	$ 1,802	$ 62,000	$ 62,000
Total Costs after Final Adjustments (at applicable contract share)	**$ 262,169**	**$ 741,989**	**$ 741,989**

Note: For detailed explanations of the terms and types of costs that are included above, please visit the definitions section on the next page.

Comments:
The financial figures as identified above are in alignment with the final Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP), which has been forwarded to your Detachment Commander for distribution and signature. If you have any questions or concerns with the Financial Plan, please do not hesitate to connect with your Detachment Commander, or directly with OSB, to discuss.

Quarter 1 invoicing for the 2026-27 fiscal year, as well as the prior-year reconciliation package, will be distributed before the end of July.

The Alberta RCMP will continue to provide your community with monthly enhanced reporting to support ongoing forecast adjustments and potential invoice revisions, to ensure projections are as accurate as possible. This increased reporting will support ongoing management of policing budgets, while also enhancing transparency and engagement with our partners.

Note: No revisions have been made to the 2026-27 Financial Plan at Q1.

Definitions

Municipal Operations: Human Resources Overview

Term	Definition
FTE Utilization	A full-time equivalent (FTE) employee is defined by the number of months in a fiscal year that a position is filled. The FTE utilization level refers to the total months filled for all positions within the Detachment/unit.
2026-27 FTE Utilization Plan	Reflects the number of working FTEs planned to be in-place for the current fiscal year.
Revised Plan at Q1	This reflects any adjustments to the planned number of working FTEs, which may vary as hard and soft vacancies fluctuate throughout the year.

Municipal Operations: Financial Overview

Term	Definition
Fiscal Year-to-Date (YTD)	Reflect the actual expenditures that have been processed or working FTE levels to-date. This does not include any financial or human resource transactions that have not yet been processed.
Revised Plan at Q1	Reflects any adjustments to the forecasted spending plan for the relevant category, to better align with realized expenditures throughout the year.
2026-27 Financial Plan	Reflects the initial financial plan set for each category of expenditure for the current fiscal year.
Detachment Working FTE Levels	Reflects the number of working Regular Members (i.e., police officers) anticipated to be in-place for the current fiscal year.
Divisionally Pooled Costs	Reflects the total of all divisionally pooled costs for Alberta municipalities with a population below 15,000. It includes both direct and indirect costs, including but not limited to the cost categories below: • Direct Costs: o Member Pay, including pay for Regular Members, planned and retroactive pay increases, and overtime pay; o Operational equipment, including member equipment, informatics, vehicles, and vehicle fit-up; and/or o Unit operations, including fuel costs, training, secret expenses, and other operations and maintenance costs. • Indirect Costs: o Employee Benefits (i.e., Superannuation, Canada Pension Plan, and Employment Insurance); o Recruiting operations, Cadet training (at Depot Division), and the Police Dog Service Training Centre;

Term	Definition
	○ Common IT services, including management of the Police Records and Occurrence System; ○ Complaints and accountability mechanisms through the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP, the RCMP External Review Committee, and enhanced reliability and accountability programs; and/or ○ Other divisional and regional administration services.
Per Capita Rate	This is an average cost per member rate determined by pooling applicable costs for Alberta municipalities with a population below 15,000 and dividing the total by the combined working FTE level for those same municipalities.
Partner Share of Pooled Costs	Reflects the portion of the pooled costs that the Contract Partner pays.
Location-Specific Costs	Reflects costs that are specific to location and are not included in the pooled per capita rate. These costs may include: • Accommodation-related costs, for space occupied in RCMP-owned buildings; • Overtime pay; • Guarding costs (e.g., with the Corps of Commissionaires); • Isolated Post Allowances; and/or • Public Service Employee pay.
Total Costs after Final Adjustments	Reflects the total costs of all expenditure categories including any cost adjustments.

Alberta RCMP - Provincial Policing Report

Detachment Information

Detachment Name
Didsbury Detachment

Detachment Commander
Vince Bacon, S/Sgt

Report Date	Fiscal Year	Quarter
August 6, 2026	2026-27	Q1 (April - June)

Community Priorities

Priority #1: Road safety

Updates and Comments:
Reduce collision-causing behaviours (speeding/distracted driving/impaired driving), Joint Check-stop Operations, Impaired Drivers Interventions

Priority #2: Crime Reduction - Drugs

Updates and Comments:
Drug Enforcement Operations / Search Warrants / General Enforcement

Priority #3: Visibility, Engagement, Police/Community Relations

Updates and Comments:

Drug Enforcement Operations / Search Warrants / General Enforcement

Click or tap here to enter text.

Priority #4: Crime Reduction - Property Crime

Updates and Comments:
Compliance Checks and monitoring of Offenders, Joint Operations: Street Sweep/Warrant Round-up involving local partners, Fraud and emerging crime trends lectures.

Provincial Service Composition

Staffing Category	Established Positions	Working	Temporary Absences	Hard Vacancies
Regular Members	10	7	2	1
Detachment Support	3	2	0	1

Notes:

1. Data extracted on June 30, 2026 and is subject to change.
2. Temporary Absences are positions that are filled but vacant due to maternity/paternity leave, medical leave, etc. and are still included in the overall FTE count.
3. Hard Vacancies reflect positions that do not have an employee attached and need to be filled.

Comments:
Police Officers: Of the ten established positions, there are seven officers working. There are two temporary absences (one Parental, and one Medical). There is one hard vacancy.

Detachment Support: Of the three established positions, there are two resources working. There is one hard vacancy.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Didsbury Municipal Detachment
Crime Statistics (Actual)
April - June: 2022 - 2026

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

July 6, 2026

CATEGORY	Trend	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 2022 - 2026	% Change 2025 - 2026	Avg File +/- per Year
Offences Related to Death		0	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.1
Robbery		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Sexual Assaults		5	3	0	0	1	-80%	N/A	-1.1
Other Sexual Offences		0	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.1
Assault		6	10	12	6	7	17%	17%	-0.2
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		0	0	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Extortion		0	2	0	1	0	N/A	-100%	-0.1
Criminal Harassment		5	5	4	13	4	-20%	-69%	0.6
Uttering Threats		7	9	10	4	5	-29%	25%	-0.9
TOTAL PERSONS		**23**	**31**	**27**	**24**	**17**	**-26%**	**-29%**	**-1.9**
Break & Enter		3	3	1	1	9	200%	800%	1.0
Theft of Motor Vehicle		2	1	1	1	1	-50%	0%	-0.2
Theft Over $5,000		0	2	0	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.0
Theft Under $5,000		10	8	7	6	9	-10%	50%	-0.4
Possn Stn Goods		0	2	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.2
Fraud		5	15	9	11	16	220%	45%	1.8
Arson		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Mischief - Damage To Property		14	7	10	7	11	-21%	57%	-0.6
Mischief - Other		8	12	6	9	11	38%	22%	0.3
TOTAL PROPERTY		**42**	**50**	**34**	**35**	**58**	**38%**	**66%**	**1.7**
Offensive Weapons		3	1	1	1	1	-67%	0%	-0.4
Disturbing the peace		16	6	10	2	7	-56%	250%	-2.2
Fail to Comply & Breaches		21	18	18	14	15	-29%	7%	-1.6
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		1	6	4	5	5	400%	0%	0.7
TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		**41**	**31**	**33**	**22**	**28**	**-32%**	**27%**	**-3.5**
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE		106	112	94	81	103	-3%	27%	-3.7

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Didsbury Municipal Detachment
Crime Statistics (Actual)
April - June: 2022 - 2026

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

July 6, 2026

CATEGORY	Trend	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 2022 - 2026	% Change 2025 - 2026	Avg File +/- per Year
Drug Enforcement - Production		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Drug Enforcement - Possession		3	4	2	1	1	-67%	0%	-0.7
Drug Enforcement - Trafficking		1	3	0	0	1	0%	N/A	-0.3
Drug Enforcement - Other		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Total Drugs		**4**	**7**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**-50%**	**100%**	**-1.0**
Cannabis Enforcement		0	0	0	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.2
Federal - General		2	1	7	4	6	200%	50%	1.1
TOTAL FEDERAL		**6**	**8**	**9**	**5**	**9**	**50%**	**80%**	**0.3**
Liquor Act		3	0	0	3	0	-100%	-100%	-0.3
Cannabis Act		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Mental Health Act		33	15	13	18	25	-24%	39%	-1.3
Other Provincial Stats		14	16	16	10	24	71%	140%	1.4
Total Provincial Stats		**50**	**31**	**29**	**31**	**49**	**-2%**	**58%**	**-0.2**
Municipal By-laws Traffic		0	0	2	3	2	N/A	-33%	0.7
Municipal By-laws		13	4	12	9	9	-31%	0%	-0.3
Total Municipal		**13**	**4**	**14**	**12**	**11**	**-15%**	**-8%**	**0.4**
Fatals		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Injury MVC		1	0	0	4	1	0%	-75%	0.4
Property Damage MVC (Reportable)		11	12	2	5	2	-82%	-60%	-2.5
Property Damage MVC (Non Reportable)		3	0	1	5	2	-33%	-60%	0.3
TOTAL MVC		**15**	**12**	**3**	**14**	**5**	**-67%**	**-64%**	**-1.8**
Roadside Suspension - Alcohol (Prov)		1	2	4	1	3	200%	200%	0.3
Roadside Suspension - Drugs (Prov)		0	0	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Total Provincial Traffic		**59**	**61**	**93**	**94**	**49**	**-17%**	**-48%**	**1.3**
Other Traffic		**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**0.0**
Criminal Code Traffic		**1**	**7**	**7**	**1**	**2**	**100%**	**100%**	**-0.4**
Common Police Activities									
False Alarms		**10**	**13**	**3**	**11**	**3**	**-70%**	**-73%**	**-1.6**
False/Abandoned 911 Call and 911 Act		**5**	**3**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**-40%**	**200%**	**-0.6**
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property		**28**	**11**	**9**	**11**	**24**	**-14%**	**118%**	**-0.8**
Persons Reported Missing		**9**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**4**	**-56%**	**100%**	**-0.9**
Search Warrants		**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**-0.2**
Spousal Abuse - Survey Code (Reported)		**14**	**13**	**15**	**17**	**18**	**29%**	**6%**	**1.2**
Form 10 (MHA) (Reported)		**5**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**0**	**-100%**	**-100%**	**-0.9**

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Didsbury Provincial Detachment
Crime Statistics (Actual)
April - June: 2022 - 2026

All categories contain "Attempted" and/or "Completed" July 6, 2026

CATEGORY	Trend	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 2022 - 2026	% Change 2025 - 2026	Avg File +/- per Year
Offences Related to Death		0	2	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	-0.2
Robbery		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Sexual Assaults		1	3	1	1	2	100%	100%	0.0
Other Sexual Offences		1	5	3	3	0	-100%	-100%	-0.4
Assault		15	15	18	17	5	-67%	-71%	-1.8
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction		0	0	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Extortion		0	1	1	4	1	N/A	-75%	0.5
Criminal Harassment		8	4	12	9	8	0%	-11%	0.5
Uttering Threats		13	9	10	5	7	-46%	40%	-1.6
TOTAL PERSONS		**38**	**39**	**46**	**39**	**23**	**-39%**	**-41%**	**-3.0**
Break & Enter		13	5	8	6	3	-77%	-50%	-1.9
Theft of Motor Vehicle		4	5	11	6	4	0%	-33%	0.1
Theft Over $5,000		4	2	4	2	2	-50%	0%	-0.4
Theft Under $5,000		21	14	21	10	7	-67%	-30%	-3.2
Possn Stn Goods		1	4	7	3	3	200%	0%	0.3
Fraud		18	17	22	23	20	11%	-13%	1.0
Arson		2	0	0	0	1	-50%	N/A	-0.2
Mischief - Damage To Property		23	10	15	14	7	-70%	-50%	-2.8
Mischief - Other		11	10	4	11	10	-9%	-9%	-0.1
TOTAL PROPERTY		**97**	**67**	**92**	**75**	**57**	**-41%**	**-24%**	**-7.2**
Offensive Weapons		5	3	6	9	2	-60%	-78%	0.0
Disturbing the peace		6	8	5	5	4	-33%	-20%	-0.7
Fail to Comply & Breaches		10	10	6	6	1	-90%	-83%	-2.2
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		6	7	9	6	9	50%	50%	0.5
TOTAL OTHER CRIMINAL CODE		**27**	**28**	**26**	**26**	**16**	**-41%**	**-38%**	**-2.4**
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE		162	134	164	140	96	-41%	-31%	-12.6

RCMP
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Didsbury Provincial Detachment
Crime Statistics (Actual)
April - June: 2022 - 2026

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

July 6, 2026

CATEGORY	Trend	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	% Change 2022 - 2026	% Change 2025 - 2026	Avg File +/- per Year
Drug Enforcement - Production		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Drug Enforcement - Possession		4	2	0	1	1	-75%	0%	-0.7
Drug Enforcement - Trafficking		1	0	1	2	1	0%	-50%	0.2
Drug Enforcement - Other		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Total Drugs		**5**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**-60%**	**-33%**	**-0.5**
Cannabis Enforcement		0	0	0	1	0	N/A	-100%	0.1
Federal - General		12	0	4	9	4	-67%	-56%	-0.7
TOTAL FEDERAL		**17**	**2**	**5**	**13**	**6**	**-65%**	**-54%**	**-1.1**
Liquor Act		2	4	1	2	2	0%	0%	-0.2
Cannabis Act		2	0	0	1	2	0%	100%	0.1
Mental Health Act		12	18	18	13	14	17%	8%	-0.1
Other Provincial Stats		24	25	25	26	30	25%	15%	1.3
Total Provincial Stats		**40**	**47**	**44**	**42**	**48**	**20%**	**14%**	**1.1**
Municipal By-laws Traffic		0	0	0	2	2	N/A	0%	0.6
Municipal By-laws		2	8	5	8	11	450%	38%	1.8
Total Municipal		**2**	**8**	**5**	**10**	**13**	**550%**	**30%**	**2.4**
Fatals		0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0.0
Injury MVC		14	11	14	8	9	-36%	13%	-1.3
Property Damage MVC (Reportable)		55	56	46	63	53	-4%	-16%	0.3
Property Damage MVC (Non Reportable)		7	9	8	6	4	-43%	-33%	-0.9
TOTAL MVC		**76**	**76**	**68**	**77**	**66**	**-13%**	**-14%**	**-1.9**
Roadside Suspension - Alcohol (Prov)		10	6	9	7	7	-30%	0%	-0.5
Roadside Suspension - Drugs (Prov)		1	1	2	2	0	-100%	-100%	-0.1
Total Provincial Traffic		**518**	**433**	**639**	**731**	**315**	**-39%**	**-57%**	**-10.8**
Other Traffic		**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**N/A**	**0%**	**0.3**
Criminal Code Traffic		**19**	**14**	**12**	**7**	**5**	**-74%**	**-29%**	**-3.5**
Common Police Activities									
False Alarms		**11**	**12**	**11**	**12**	**8**	**-27%**	**-33%**	**-0.6**
False/Abandoned 911 Call and 911 Act		**11**	**23**	**31**	**5**	**8**	**-27%**	**60%**	**-2.4**
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Property		**36**	**39**	**51**	**31**	**22**	**-39%**	**-29%**	**-3.6**
Persons Reported Missing		**2**	**4**	**4**	**3**	**3**	**50%**	**0%**	**0.1**
Search Warrants		**0**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**N/A**	**0%**	**0.1**
Spousal Abuse - Survey Code (Reported)		**24**	**12**	**19**	**12**	**16**	**-33%**	**33%**	**-1.6**
Form 10 (MHA) (Reported)		**5**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**-100%**	**-100%**	**-1.1**

20

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: *The Place to Grow.*
Mission: *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	**September 29, 2026**
SUBJECT:	**September 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	**Legislative Services**
ITEM:	**4.1**

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:
The minutes of the September 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting are being presented to Council for their review and approval.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES
Council can adopt the minutes as presented or amended.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN
Operational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION
To adopt the September 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented.

Minutes of the Town of Didsbury Regular Council Meeting held on September 15, 2026 in Council Chambers 1606 14 Street Commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present	Mayor Chris Little Deputy Mayor Bob Murray Councillor Will Stevens Councillor Troy Lambert Councillor Norm Quantz Councillor Irwin Mahon
Council Members Absent	Councillor Curt Engel
Administration Present	Chief Administrative Officer, Vanessa Van der Meer Director of Community Services, Nicole Aasen Executive Assistant, Ty Tomasta Planner, Tracey Connatty Development Officer, Lee-Ann Gaudette Communications Coordinator, Lisa Bastarache

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Little called the September 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Res. 308-26
Moved by Councillor Quantz
That Council adopt the September 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting, as amended.
Motion Carried

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Res. 309-26
MOVED by Councillor Quantz
That Administration work with the Lions Committee to bring forward a proposal regarding the Lions' oversight of the campground no later than the October 27, 2026 Council meeting.
Motion Carried

Res 310-26
MOVED by Councillor Mahon
That Council accepts the delegates' presentation, for information.
Motion Carried

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Res. 311-26
MOVED by Councillor Stevens
That Council adopt the June 11, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, as presented.
Motion Carried

Res. 312-26
MOVED by Councillor Quantz
That Council adopt the June 23, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, as presented.
Motion Carried

Res. 313-26
MOVED by Councillor Mahon
That Council adopt the July 15, 2026 Special Council Meeting Minutes, as presented.
Motion Carried

Res. 314-26
MOVED by Councillor Stevens
That Council adopt the July 28, 2026 Special Council Meeting Minutes, as presented.
Motion Carried

5. FINANCE REPORT

Res. 315-26
MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray
That Council accepts the 2026 Capital Quarter 2 report, as presented.
Motion Carried

Res. 316-26
MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray
That Council accept the 2026 Operating Quarter 2 report, as presented.
Motion Carried

6. BYLAWS & POLICIES

Res. 317-26
MOVED by Councillor Stevens
That Council accept the 2026-14 MR Report as presented.
Motion Carried

Res. 318-26
MOVED by Councillor Lambert
That Council accept the 2026-15 Land Use Amendment Report, as presented.
Motion Carried

7. **BUSINESS**

Res. 319-26
MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray
That Council move First reading of the Municipal Reserve Dedication Bylaw 2026-14.
Motion Carried

Res. 320-26
MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray
That Council move Second reading of the Municipal Reserve Dedication Bylaw 2026-14.
Motion Carried

Res. 321-26
MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray
That Council UNANIMOUS consent to proceed to Third and Final reading of the Municipal Reserve Dedication Bylaw 2026-14.
Motion Carried

Res. 322-36
MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray
That Council move Third and Final reading of the Municipal Reserve Dedication Bylaw 2026-14.
Motion Carried

Res. 323-26
MOVED by Councillor Stevens
That Council grant First reading to the Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-15.
Motion Carried

Res. 327-26
MOVED by Councillor Stevens
That Council set October 13, 2026 for the public hearing regarding the Land Use Amending Bylaw 2026-15.
Motion Carried

7. **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION**

Res. 328-26
MOVED by Councillor Quantz
That Council accepts the correspondence, for information.
Motion Carried

8. **CLOSED MEETING**

Res. 329-26

MOVED by Councillor Stevens

That Council move into Closed Session at 6:51 p.m. for the following items:

12.1 Section 20 (2) (e) Disclosure Harmful to personal privacy

12.2 Section 20 (2) (h) (i) Disclosure Harmful to personal privacy

12.3 Section 30 (2) (b) (i) Disclosure Harmful to economic and other interests of a public body

Motion Carried

9. **RECONVENE**

Res. 330-26

MOVED by Councillor Stevens

That Council resume Open Session at 7:56 p.m.

Motion Carried

Res. 331-26

MOVED by Councillor Lambert

That Council uphold the late tax penalty of $228.83 for the presented tax roll.

Motion Carried

Res. 332-26

MOVED by Councillor Stevens

That Council approve an addendum to the Prairie Whistle Food Co. lease to allow for an extension of the leased space to include the Didsbury Arena during ticketed events only for the term of September 15, 2026 to March 31, 2029.

Motion Carried

Res. 333-26

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Murray

That Council approve the presented report, for information.

Motion Carried

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Res. 334-36

MOVED by Councillor Mahon

That Council adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council at 7:58 p.m.

Motion Carried

Mayor Chris Little	Chief Administrative Officer Vanessa Van der Meer

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: *The Place to Grow.*
Mission: *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	September 29, 2026
SUBJECT:	Lagoon Pump Replacement
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	Engineering & Infrastructure
ITEM:	8.1

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Didsbury Wastewater Lagoon is designed to operate with two pumps. Following the previous removal of pump P2 from service, the Lagoon has been operating with only the remaining P1 pump, leaving the system without backup pumping capacity.

Annual inspection of P1 has also identified that its lower seal is beginning to fail. If the lower seal fails, the upper seal may also require replacement, potentially rendering P1 unusable. In that circumstance, the Lagoon could be left without operational pumping capacity.

Sterling Power Systems Inc. is the Town's existing service provider for Wastewater assets and has direct knowledge of the Lagoon site, equipment, and installation requirements. The quoted lead time for the replacement pump is approximately 7–9 weeks after receipt of order, making timely approval important to complete the work before winter freeze-up.

The proposed replacement is an Aurora/Hydromatic S4B pump as a direct replacement for P2. The quoted cost is $34,242.92, with the requested $50,000 allocation providing contingency for potential replacement of the motor contactor and overload, a stated ±10% line-rate variance, and unknown inflation costs.

IMPLICATIONS

The Didsbury Wastewater Lagoon is designed to operate with two pumps. When one of these pumps (P2) was previously removed from service, it was not replaced at that time. Since its removal, the Lagoon has been operating on a single remaining pump (P1), leaving no backup or redundant pumping capacity.

1. Risk of Inaction

With only one functioning pump currently in service, the Lagoon has no redundancy. Should the remaining pump (P1) fail before a replacement is in place, the Lagoon would be left with no operational pump. This would result in a complete loss of Wastewater pumping capacity at the site, with associated risks to public health, environmental compliance, and continuity of Wastewater service to the community.

2. Urgency / Timing

The quoted lead time for the replacement pump is 7-9 weeks after receipt of order (ARO). To ensure the pump is supplied, delivered, and installed before winter freeze-up conditions complicate site access and installation, the order needs to be placed as soon as possible. Delaying approval reduces the likelihood of completing this work before winter.

Secondly, during the annual inspections of the Lagoon pumps it was found that (P1's) lower seal is beginning to fail needing repair. Chances are that when the lower seal goes the upper seal will follow, deeming the pump unusable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Infrastructure Management

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the allocation of up to $50,000 from the Wastewater Reserve for the sole-source procurement and installation of a replacement P2 pump at the Didsbury Wastewater Lagoon through **Sterling Power Systems Inc.**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: *The Place to Grow.*
Mission: *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	**September 29, 2026**
SUBJECT:	**Quarter 2 Action Request Report**
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	**Corporate Services**
ITEM:	**8.**

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Council is presented with the quarterly tracking report for public action requests, concerns and inquiries logged between April 1, 2026 and June 30, 2026 for Town Operations. Residents may, either through the Town website, in person at the Town Office, or by phone, submit an action request. Town staff then log the action request and address the issue in question.

The primary goal of this tracking system is to monitor service requests, identify recurring maintenance needs across municipal infrastructure and maintain transparency regarding community concerns. Tracking incoming concerns helps ensure citizen issues are acknowledged and prioritized systematically.

During this period there were 62 Action Requests, with 53 for the Public Works department and 9 for the Parks department.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Council may receive the report as presented or follow up on any item identified by the report.

ATTACHMENTS:

Q2 Action Request Report (April 1 – June 30, 2026)

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Operational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept the Q2 Action Request Report for the period of April 1 to June 30, 2026, as presented.

Action Request Report
April 1 - June 30 2026

# of Requests	Department/Concern
53	**Public Works**
27	**Streets**
2	Post office, 20 Street, and Westhills Drive need to be sanded
	Ice ruts need to be cleared on the corner of 18 Ave and 15 Street
	Snow needs to be cleared at the entrance of Valarosa subdivision
2	Snow removal at Southridge
	Wanting potholes filled at entrance to Valarosa
	23 Street and 15 Ave needs sanding
	The pothole in front of the Didsbury Inn need to be filled
2	Road way going into the golf course needs potholes filled
	20 Ave alley needs potholes filled
6	Entrance to Valarosa from Range Road 15 needs potholes fixed
	There is a board goes across construction at 19 Street and 22 Ave causing damage to vehicles
	Range Road 20 and Range Road 20a needs potholes filled
	Range Road 15 needs potholes repaired
2	13 Ave needs potholes repaved
2	The alley between 15-17 Ave has large potholes that needs repairing
	15 Ave and 16 Street need potholes repaired
11	**Sidewalks/Pathways**
	Sidewalks on 16 street need to be shoveled
	There isn't a proper curb on 22 Ave
	Memorial Complex needs plowing
	Sidewalk going into Julia Place needs to be repaved
2	Drain and sidewalk are broken on the corner of Westheights Crescent
	Concrete slabs at the entrance of the dog park need replacing
	Sidewalk is flooding on 18 due to snowfall
	Sidewalk is sinking on 16 Street
2	Weeds are coming up on the north edge of the walking paths by the ponds
2	**Signage**
2	Stop sign down at 582 and Range Road 15
	Garbage/Recycling/Compost
4	**Water/Sewer/Storm**
	Drain is plugged on Westpoint Bay
	Water seeping through the asphalt on 17 Ave and 25 Street
	Drain is plugged on 7 Ave
	Low water pressure in West Point area

# of Requests	Department/Concern
9	**Other**
	Graffiti on Valarosa drive in front of new Jalin home
	Graffiti on 20 Ave sidewalk
	Graffiti at 22 Ave and 23 Street crosswalk
	Would like dust control in Valarosa
5	Graduation banners are falling off the light post on 20 Street
9	**Parks**
6	**Park/Playground/Sporting Fields**
	Garbage at the baseball diamonds are full
	Garbage at the campground are full
3	Graffiti at the skate park
	Playground on 23 needs maintenance (rebar is sticking out of the ground, broken toys left behind, and tree branches are on the ground)
2	**Trees/Mowing/Weeds**
	Bushes are blocking the stop sign as you drive south on 21 Street
	Rotten tree needs to be cut down on 21 Ave
1	**Other**
	Do not disturb the beavers
62	**Total**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision

Vision: *The Place to Grow.*
Mission: *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	**September 29, 2026**
SUBJECT:	**Safety Codes Services Agreement Renewal**
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	**Planning & Development**
ITEM:	**8.**

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Town of Didsbury is an accredited agency for inspections and issuance of Safety Codes Permits under the *Safety Codes Act* including pursuant regulations, codes and standards that are in force as amended from time to time as outlined in the Quality Management Plan (QMP). The Town is responsible for the administration of the QMP and confirms that the contractor adheres to the QMP.

The services of a Safety Codes Contractor works to ensure safety in the built environment. The Safety Codes contractor will provide Safety Codes Services in the following disciplines: Building; Plumbing; Gas and Electrical.

On July 11, 2023 Administration presented Council with submissions received through the Request for Proposal process to renew the Safety Codes Services Contract which had previously expired.

Based on the evaluation criteria, Council passed the following motion to award the Safety Codes Contract to IJD Inspections Ltd.

> ***Res. 358-23 Awarding Safety Codes Contract***
> *MOVED by Councillor Moore*
> *To award the Safety Codes Services Contract to IJD Inspections Ltd.*
> ***Motion Carried***

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

The Safety Codes Services Agreement was executed on July 18, 2023 with an expiration date of August 1, 2026. The Agreement includes the following clause:

4. TERM

4.1. Term

a) Subject to Clauses 3.25, 5.1 and 5.3 of this Agreement, this Agreement is in force on the Commencement Date of August 1, 2023 and expires on August 1, 2026

This Agreement would be subject to an option for extensions if mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Administration and IJD Inspections Ltd. are mutually agreeable to extending this Agreement for another three (3) year term. There are a few minor changes to the Building Permit fees including permit fees for new home construction and commercial projects.

Currently, Didsbury Building Permit fees are the lowest, by far ($0.45/sq. ft.). Our neighbouring municipalities use the per $1000 construction value which aligns with the *Alberta Safety Codes Act* and Administration would like to amend the Building Permit Fees to be $5.00 per $1,000 construction value to a maximum of $1,000,000 and $3.00 per $1,000 construction value thereafter to align with other municipalities**.**

The Building Permit fees are not included in our Rates, Fees & Fines Bylaw as they are only included as Schedule A to the Safety Codes Services Agreement. Therefore, we do not need to amend the Rates, Fees & Fines Bylaw 2025-19.

ATTACHMENTS

Permit Fee Schedule

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Operational Excellence

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the extension of the Safety Codes Services Agreement for an additional 3 year term.

Integrity | Dependability |
Accountability We Make It Easy

BUILDING PERMIT FEES

Description of Work	Permit fee
Public Institutions **Commercial Projects** **Industrial Projects** **Multi- Family Dwellings**	*$6.00 / $1,000 up to $1M + $4.25 / $1,000 over $1M minimum $400
Change of Occupancy only	$200.00
Single Family Dwellings **-- all New Construction, Additions, Alterations, Renovations, or Reconstruction**	*5.00 / $1,000 up to $1M + $4.25 / $1,000 over $1M minimum $165
Residential accessory buildings, sheds (over 108 sq. ft.)	*5.00 / $1,000 minimum $150
Relocation of home: **manufactured home, ready to move home on foundation or crawlspace**	$0.40/sq. ft. Minimum $165
Relocation of home: **manufactured home, ready to move home on blocks or piles**	$200
Decks, Gazebos, Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs	$150
Single Family – Roof Mount Solar Panels	$165
Solid fuel appliance	$150
Demolition	$125
Minimum fee (small residential projects not mentioned above with a value of material and labour under $2,500)	$150
Open closed file to accept a Verification of Compliance after 90 days	$75
Revised Plans Review	$100

*Construction Value to be determined by Construction Value Calculator

Permit Fees do not include an SCC Levy of $4.00 or 4%, whichever is greater to a maximum of $560.00

ELECTRICAL -CONTRACTORS ONLY

Multi-Family, Commercial, Industrial, Non-Residential Solar	
Value of electrical installation (including labour and materials)	Permit Fee*
0 - 1,000	$175
1,001 - 2,500	$215
2,501 - 5,000	$285
5,001 - 10,000	$390
10,001 - 15,000	$485
15,001 - 20,000	$570
20,001 - 30,000	$725
30,001 - 40,000	$895
40,001 - 50,000	$1,060
50,001 - 75,000	$1,250
75,001 - 100,000	$1,445
100,001 - 125,000	$1,615
125,001 - 150,000	$1,785
150,001 - 200,000	$2,125
200,001 - 250,000	$2,295
250,001 - 300,000	$2,495
300,001 - 400,000	$2,895
400,001 - 500,000	$3,265
over 500,000	$3,265 + $6.25/ $1,000

*Permit Fees do not include an SCC Levy of $4.00 or 4%, whichever is greater to a maximum of $560.00

ELECTRICAL – SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

Description	Permit Fee* Contractors	Permit Fee* Homeowners
**Main floor(s) w/o basement development w/o garage	$195	$295
**Main floor(s) with basement development w/o garage	$255	$355
**Main floor(s) with basement development and garage	$285	$385
**Main floor(s) w/o basement development with garage	$215	$315
Addition with basement development	$175	$275
Addition without basement development	$150	$250
Basement Development	$150	$250
Detached/Attached Garage	$125	$225
Service / Panel Change	$125	$175
Hot Tub	$125	$175
A/C Unit	$125	$175
*Manufactured home connection	$125	$175
Manufactured home connection plus basement development	$195	$295
Solar Panels	As per $ value material/labour	$2 per kilowatt $150 minimum

**If total developed ft^2 exceeds 5000 fee is calculated by value of material and labour.

Other Electrical	
Project	Permit Fee*
Temporary services	$125
Annual permit	$500
Any minor residential electrical work (valued under $500 material & labour) not mentioned above where only one inspection is required	$150

*Permit Fees do not include an SCC Levy of $4.00 or 4%, whichever is greater to a maximum of $560.00

PLUMBING – CONTRACTOR ONLY

Residential and Non-residential	
Number of Fixtures/Drops	Permit Fee*
1 - 5	$165
6 - 10	$215
11 - 20	$290
over 20	$290 + $5/fixture

Project	Permit Fee*
Manufactured home / ready to move home on blocks or piles	$155
Service connection	$150

PLUMBING-HOMEOWNER

Residential	
Number of Fixtures/Drops	Permit Fee*
1 - 5	$175
6 - 15	$315
16 - 20	$390
over 20	$300 + $5/fixture

Project	Permit Fee*
Manufactured home / ready to move home on blocks or piles	$175
Service connection	$150

Private Sewage	
Project	Permit Fee*
Fields, Mounds, Open Discharge, Treatment Plants, Lagoons	$465
Septic tank Holding tank	$325

*Permit Fees do not include an SCC Levy of $4.00 or 4%, whichever is greater to a maximum of $560.00

GAS – CONTRACTORS ONLY

Non-residential	
BTU	Permit Fee*
0 - 100,000	$130
100,001 - 200,000	$165
200,001 - 400,000	$205
400,001 - 1,000,000	$335
1,000,001 -2,000,000	$385
over 2,000,000	$385 + $7/additional 100,000 BTUs or portion thereof

GAS HOMEOWNERS & CONTRACTORS

Residential	
Number of outlets	Permit Fee*
1	$150
2 - 5	$190
6 - 10	$250
11 - 15	$310
16 - 20	$375
21 - 25	$410
over 25	$410 + $10/outlet

Other Gas	
Undertaking	Permit Fee*
Propane cylinder refill centres	$285
Temporary services / heat	$160
Service re-connection	$180
Propane tank set	$150
Furnace Replacement	$150

*Permit Fees do not include an SCC Levy of $4.00 or 4%, whichever is greater to a maximum of $560.00

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: *The Place to Grow.*
Mission: *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	September 29, 2026
SUBJECT:	Municipal Positions Regarding the October 19 Referendum
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	Office of the Mayor
ITEM:	8.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Several Alberta municipal councils have adopted formal proclamations on the October 19, 2026 referendum. The concern raised is that municipal governance means remaining neutral on politically charged matters. Councils using the influence of their office to shape the outcome of a provincial vote risk undermining the democratic process.

The concern is not the position those councils took, but the use of elected office to influence how residents vote. This report gives Council the opportunity to discuss the matter and decide whether to state publicly that residents' right to choose, free from coercion, must be respected, including through a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Council encourages every eligible resident to vote; it does not seek to influence how they vote, and takes no position on any referendum question.

Albertans vote on ten referendum questions on October 19, 2026. Question 10, added by O.C. 160/2026 on May 28, 2026, asks whether Alberta should remain a province of Canada or whether the Government of Alberta should begin the legal process toward a binding separation referendum. Its result is not binding on the Province (Elections Alberta).

Recent Municipal Motions

Several Alberta councils have adopted formal positions on Question 10. All known motions to date support Alberta remaining in Canada.

Date	Municipality	Action
Sept 22, 2026	City of Calgary	Mayor's urgent-business motion affirming Calgary as "a vital part of Alberta and Canada"; passed 14–1 without debate (CBC)
Sept 14, 2026	Town of Innisfail	Motion proclaiming that Alberta should remain in Canada as a province (report) – to be verified against Innisfail's adopted minutes
July 2026	City of Edmonton	Mayor's motion that Alberta should remain in Canada; passed unanimously (CBC)

Calgary's sole opposing Councillor stated the City should remain neutral and that he was elected to serve residents regardless of their position on the referendum.

Legislative Framework

- **Council positions are permitted.** Elected officials and councils may state a position on a referendum question. No provision of the MGA prohibits a council resolution of this kind.
- **Municipal campaigning is restricted.** Under the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* (EFCDA), municipalities are prohibited corporations. They cannot register as referendum third party advertisers, which limits them to under $1,000 in referendum advertising, and cannot contribute to advertisers (Elections Alberta TPA Guide).
- **Referendum period.** The referendum advertising period for Question 10 began May 28, 2026.

Based on current guidance, the motions listed above appear to be lawful. The concern raised is therefore one of governance principle and the appropriate use of an elected body's influence, rather than a legal breach.

IMPLICATIONS

Based on current guidance, the motions listed above appear to be lawful. The concern raised is therefore one of governance principle and the appropriate use of an elected body's influence, rather than a legal breach.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Operational Excellence

OPTIONS

1. **Statement and letter to the Minister.** Council adopts a statement of neutrality and directs the Mayor to write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Honourable Dan Williams, requesting provincial guidance or legislation that municipal councils remain neutral on referendum questions. Letter to be sent immediately following Council's decision.

Motion: That Council directs the Mayor to write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs immediately, requesting that the Province provide guidance or consider legislative direction regarding the neutrality of municipal councils on provincial referendum questions.

2. **Statement only.** Council adopts a statement affirming the Town's neutrality and residents' right to vote free of coercion, with no correspondence to the Province.

Motion: That Council affirms that the Town of Didsbury takes no position on any question in the October 19, 2026 provincial referendum; that Council believes decisions on referendum questions belong to individual electors, made freely and without coercion from their local government; and that Council believes municipal councils should remain neutral on referendum questions in order to represent all residents equally; and that Council encourages all eligible electors in Didsbury to vote on October 19, 2026.

3. **Governance policy.** Council directs Administration to draft a policy on Council positions on provincial and federal political matters, for Council's consideration by a set date.

Motion: That Council directs Administration to prepare a draft Council policy on Council positions regarding provincial and federal political matters, for Council's consideration no later than October 7, 2026.

4. **Receive as information.** Council discusses the matter and accepts this report for information, with no further action.

Motion: That Council accepts the report on municipal positions on the October 19, 2026 provincial referendum as information.

RECOMMENDATION

That Administration recommends Options 1 and 3. The statement ensures residents hear this view, an immediate letter puts the concern before the Minister while it is current, and a policy gives this and future Councils a consistent standard.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: *The Place to Grow.*
Mission: *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	**September 29, 2026**
SUBJECT:	**Review of Franchise Fee Percentages**
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	**Corporate Services**
ITEM:	**8.5**

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:
ATCO Gas and Fortis Alberta request an annual review of the Franchise Fee Rates, which are set by the Town of Didsbury Council.

ATCO Gas
ATCO Gas pays the Town of Didsbury a franchise fee which is based on a percentage of ATCO's Delivery Tariff. This percentage is currently set at 25%. The maximum rate for ATCO Franchise Fees is 35%. The impact of a rate increase would translate to natural gas consumers as an increase to their monthly natural gas bills.

Fortis Alberta
Fortis Alberta pays the Town of Didsbury a franchise fee which is based on a percentage of Fortis' Distribution and Transmission. This percentage is currently set at 17%. The impact of a rate increase would translate to electrical consumer as an increase to their monthly electricity bills.

As a consumer of both natural gas and electricity, the Town of Didsbury's expenses would also be impacted by a rate increase.

The rates charged in surrounding municipalities are as follows:

Comparisons as of 2026									
	Cremona	**Sundre**	**Carstairs**	**Didsbury**	**Innisfail**	**Olds**	**Airdrie**	**Bowden**	**Crossfield**
Natural Gas (ATCO)	23%	n/a	25%	25%	28%	30%	29.6%	22%	25%
Electric (Fortis)	10%	12%	10%	17%	18%	20%	20%	15%	17%

Annually, ATCO and Fortis provide franchise fee calculators to show the estimated impact of a change in the franchise fee rate. Below is a summary of pertinent information from the calculator:

ATCO Rate (max 35%)	26% (+1%)	30% (+5%)	35% (+10%)
Estimated additional revenue	$12,000	$58,000	$115,000
Impact on avg residential customer per year	$5.70	$28.50	$57.00
Impact on avg residential customer per month	$0.48	$2.38	$4.75
Average residential customer using 115 GJ per year			

Fortis Rate (max 20%)	18% (+1%)	19% (+2%)	20% (+3%)
Estimated additional revenue	$32,000	$58,000	$84,000
Impact on avg residential customer per year	$31.39	$41.46	$51.55
Impact on avg residential customer per month	$2.62	$3.46	$4.30
Average residential customer using 7500 kWh per year (approx. 625 kWh per month)			

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

Should Council choose to change one or both rates, notification in writing must be made no later than October 23, 2026.

Option 1: Keep the rates the same.

- Benefits: Maintains the franchise fee percentages for the Town, therefore not contributing to an increase to natural gas and electricity bills for Town residents, businesses and institutions.
- Disadvantages: Keeping the fee fixed while cost pressures on municipal operations increase with inflation may mean franchise fee revenue growth trails behind rising municipal expenditures.

Option 2: Change one or both franchise fee percentages at a rate determined by Council.

- Benefits: While the budget process for 2027 has not yet occurred, increasing the fee provides opportunity to offset additional budget costs or special projects, or reduces the impact on taxation to balance the budget. Another benefit is all users of electricity and natural gas contribute to the increase, whereas tax increases only impact taxable properties, leaving out institutions such as seniors housing and hospitals.
- Disadvantage: Will increase natural gas and electricity bills for all users in Town limits.
- Following a resolution of Council, the decision is required to be advertised publicly.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Operational Excellence

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: *The Place to Grow.*
Mission: *Creating the Place to Grow.*

RECOMMENDATION
To maintain the existing ATCO Gas franchise fee percentage at 25% and the existing Fortis Alberta franchise fee percentage at 17% for the 2027 calendar year.

OR

To approve an increase to the ATCO Gas franchise fee percentage of 1% bringing it to a total of 26% effective January 1, 2027.

OR

To approve an increase to the Fortis Alberta franchise fee percentage of 1% bringing it to a total of 18% effective January 1, 2027.

OR

To approve an increase to the ATCO Gas franchise fee percentage of ___% bringing it to a total of ___% effective January 1, 2027.

OR

To approve an increase to the Fortis Alberta franchise fee percentage of __% bringing it to a total of ___% effective January 1, 2027.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Request for Decision (RFD)

Vision: *The Place to Grow.*
Mission: *Creating the Place to Grow.*

MEETING DATE:	September 29, 2026
SUBJECT:	Butte Reservoir Upgrades
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:	Engineering & Infrastructure
ITEM:	8.6

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

To obtain Council approval to proceed with the electrical integration, control system, and communications upgrades required to fully integrate the existing Butte Reservoir with the Town's new reservoir infrastructure.

BACKGROUND

The Butte Reservoir has served the Town of Didsbury for approximately 60 years and remains a critical component of the Town's potable water storage and distribution system. Over its service life, the facility has undergone a number of repairs and upgrades to maintain reliable operation.

A new reservoir is scheduled to be commissioned in September 2026. The new facility provides storage capacity equivalent to the existing Butte Reservoir and is intended to address current storage requirements and improve system reliability. Continued use of the existing Butte Reservoir would provide additional storage capacity and operational flexibility as the Town continues to experience growth and increasing water demand.

During January and February 2026, power outages resulted in interruptions to power supply at the Butte Reservoir. While water service was maintained, the facility was unable to sustain normal operating pressures within the distribution network during these events. In response, the Town initiated an investigation into the feasibility of installing a permanent backup generator.

Council approved a budget of $127,000 in April 2026 for the purchase and installation of the backup generator. The costs incurred to date are $128,152.70. The generator has since been delivered to the site; however, additional electrical and control system upgrades are required to fully integrate the generator and coordinate operations between the existing and new reservoirs.

ISL Engineering has reviewed the requirements for integrating the Butte Reservoir with the new reservoir and recommends completing the following upgrades:

Permanent hard-wiring of the backup generator into the Butte Reservoir electrical system; and
Installation of smart controls, communications equipment, and associated programming.

The estimated costs provided are:

Component	Estimated Cost
Generator electrical integration	$ 30,768
Smart controls, communications and programming	$ 119,324
Contingency	$ 24,908
Total	$ 175,000

The initial project cost of $127,000 was funded from the Water Reserve. As the generator and the additional project outlined above is not directly a part of the East Reservoir project, it is not currently known whether the costs of the project are an allowable expenditure under the AMWWP grant that was received for the East Reservoir project. Should they be considered an allowable expense, it is recommended the costs are funded from the grant and the remaining costs from the Water Reserve. However in order to move forward with the project is it recommended at this time to fund the project presented here from Water Reserves. Should information come to light that the costs are allowable under the grant, Administration will return such information to Council.

Based on the condition assessment of the existing facility, the investments already made by the Town, and the operational requirements associated with commissioning the new reservoir, ISL recommends proceeding with the installation of the generator hard-wiring connection and smart control system upgrades at the Butte Reservoir.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Infrastructure Management

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Butte Reservoir Generator Electrical Integration and Smart Controls Communications and Programming project for a maximum of up to $175,000, funded from the Water Reserve.

Memorandum

4015 7 Street SE, Calgary AB T2G 2Y9, T: 403.254.0544

To:	**The Town of Didsbury**	Date:	**September 22, 2026**
Attention:	**Vanessa Van Der Meer, CAO**	Project No.:	**29027**
Cc:			
Reference:	**Butte Reservoir Upgrades**		
From:	**Kevin Denischuk, P.Tech. (Eng)., Geoffrey Schulmeister, P.Eng., SCPM**		

1.0 Project Overview and Background

The Butte Reservoir has served the Town of Didsbury for approximately 60 years and remains a critical component of the Town's potable water storage and distribution system. The original facility was constructed with a relatively simple design and straightforward operating requirements. Over the decades, numerous modifications and upgrades have been completed to maintain reliable operation. While some of these improvements have been formally documented, others were implemented through operational experience and practical field solutions developed by Town staff. Through a combination of targeted repairs, equipment replacements, and operational workarounds, Town Operations personnel have successfully maintained the facility and extended its service life.

In September 2026, the Town will commission a new reservoir designed to provide storage capacity equivalent to that of the existing Butte Reservoir. The new facility was intentionally sized to match the existing reservoir capacity in order to meet eligibility requirements for provincial grant funding. While the new reservoir will address current storage requirements and improve system reliability, continued population growth, and increasing water demands will require the Town to evaluate additional measures to support future system capacity. One potential option is the continued use and upgrading of the existing Butte Reservoir to supplement the new storage infrastructure. The other option that has been considered is further expansion at the new reservoir (the facility was designed to accommodate expansion in the future). Further detail on relative costs of this follows below. This memorandum summarizes recent improvements completed at the Butte Reservoir and identifies potential future upgrades that may be considered to accommodate projected growth and enhance the long-term reliability of the Town's water system.

2.0 Previous Upgrades (2019 – 2026)

In 2019, ISL completed the design of pump upgrades for the Butte Reservoir after the existing pumps had reached the end of their service life. During the design process, several additional deficiencies and upgrade opportunities were identified within the facility. Due to budget limitations, however, only the critical pump replacement work proceeded at that time. Balzers Canada Inc. completed the installation of two new pumps and associated electrical improvements, including replacement of select wiring components. The total cost of the project was $227,271.

In 2024, Town Operations staff identified potential leakage through the exterior walls of the reservoir. ISL was retained to investigate the condition of the structure and prepare a report outlining options to extend the service life of the above-ground concrete storage tank. Based on the findings, the Town elected to proceed with the application of concrete repairs to the exterior of the reservoir. Following a competitive tender process, Olds Concrete was awarded the construction contract and began work in July 2024. The repair program involved the systematic placement of concrete patching materials under the supervision of a structural engineer. The majority of the repairs have performed well during the subsequent two years of operation. While the project has successfully addressed many of the identified deficiencies, there are inherent limitations to repairing an above-ground storage tank from the exterior only. Future rehabilitation efforts will likely require work to be undertaken from within the reservoir to adequately address the underlying structural concerns. The total cost of the rehabilitation project was $263,890**.**

During January and February 2026, several power outages affected the Town and resulted in interruptions to power supply at the Butte Reservoir. Although water service was maintained, the facility was unable to sustain normal operating pressures within the distribution network during these events. As a result, the Town initiated an investigation into the feasibility of installing a permanent backup generator at the reservoir. ISL reviewed the facility's electrical loading requirements and identified four suitable generator options for consideration. Pricing was subsequently requested from Timcon Construction, which was already mobilized in Didsbury as the contractor for the new reservoir project. In April 2026, Town Council approved a budget **of** $126,498.90 **fo**r the purchase and installation of a backup generator. The generator was ordered and delivered to the site in July 2026. While the unit is capable of operating in manual mode, additional electrical and control system upgrades are recommended to fully integrate the generator with the reservoir's infrastructure. At present, the facility lacks the automated control and communication systems necessary to coordinate operations with the new reservoir scheduled to come online in September 2026. Further investments in supervisory controls, automation, and communication systems will be required to allow the two facilities to operate as an integrated water storage and distribution system.

3.0 Future Upgrades

Quotes have been received from Timcon Construction and its subcontractors to complete the remaining electrical and control system upgrades required to fully integrate the backup generator and coordinate operations between the Butte Reservoir and the new reservoir. The cost to permanently hard-wire the generator into the Butte Reservoir electrical system is $30,768.10**,** while the cost for installation of smart controls, communications equipment, and programming is $119,323.60**.**

Completion of this work would allow the reservoir to operate with modern remote monitoring and control capabilities, significantly reducing the need for onsite monitoring by Operations staff. The proposed control system would also enable coordinated operation between the Butte Reservoir and the new reservoir, ensuring that the facilities work together as a single integrated system. This coordination is important to prevent the reservoirs from competing with one another, avoid unnecessary pump cycling, and maintain appropriate pressures throughout the distribution network. ISL has reviewed system operations without the Butte Pumphouse online; there will be some minor fire flow deficiencies on the west side of Town (at least until further conveyance upgrades are in place (e.g. 21 Ave watermain to be constructed in 2027 from 20 Street to 23 Street is expected to largely rectify this issue)), while water pressures in the Westhill area will be slightly lower due to further proximity from the new reservoir (not expected to be problematic, but they may be noticeable to residents in that area.

The primary benefit of investing in these upgrades is the ability to continue utilizing the Butte Reservoir as an active component of the Town's water system and to provide additional flexibility for accommodating future growth pertaining to water storage. That said, electrical and control system improvements alone will not address all long-term infrastructure requirements, and additional upgrades should be considered in the coming years.

The condition of the existing above-ground concrete reservoir remains a key consideration. The exterior concrete rehabilitation completed in 2024 successfully addressed a number of visible deficiencies; however, the repaired areas will require ongoing monitoring, and additional patching may be necessary as the structure continues to age. Based on observations during the rehabilitation project, ISL has indicated that repairs completed from inside the reservoir would provide the most effective means of reinforcing and extending the life of the structure. As the reservoir remains in active service, internal inspection opportunities have been limited, and the full extent of any interior deterioration is currently unknown. Based on the cost of the exterior rehabilitation project completed in

2024, which totaled $263,890, it is estimated that the Town should budget a minimum of $300,000 to $500,000 for future interior concrete repairs.

Although the new reservoir has been designed with provisions for future expansion, pursuing that expansion would require a substantially larger capital investment than the upgrades currently being considered for the Butte Reservoir. For example, to replace the roughly 2,200m^3 of storage, it is expected that this could cost in the order of $5,000,000 (potentially more with inflation in future years), compared with the $450,000 - $650,000 remaining in expected costs for the electrical/controls upgrades and storage remediation. As a result, continued strategic investment in the existing reservoir represents a cost-effective approach to maximizing the value of existing infrastructure while providing the additional water storage and operational flexibility needed to support the Town's near- and medium-term growth objectives.

4.0 Recommendations

Based on the condition assessment of the existing facility, the investments already made by the Town, and the operational requirements associated with commissioning the new reservoir, ISL recommends proceeding with the installation of the generator hard-wiring connection and smart control system upgrades at the Butte Reservoir. The total cost of these improvements is $150,091.70, consisting of $30,768.10 for electrical integration of the generator and $119,323.60 for control system upgrades, communications infrastructure, and programming. Once the new reservoir is fully commissioned, the existing pumphouse and reservoir can be shut down, allowing for the reservoir to be drained and properly inspected. This will allow a proper remediation plan to be developed and costed out for Council review so a properly informed decision can be made (considering the expectation of further remediation costs of $300,000 - $500,000).

It is noted that Council could decide to defer these electrical and control upgrades until after this inspection and remediation plan is in place, but costs are likely to be higher with a new contractor mobilization required as opposed to being able to leverage already mobilized contractors for the current new reservoir project. That said, this may be preferable if the inspection is planned shortly in order to be able to confirm the remediation plan/costs before expending capital on the electrical and controls.

[redacted]

Kevin Denischuk, P. Tech (Eng)
Manager, Construction Services

[redacted]

Geoffrey Schulmeister, P.Eng., SCPM
Chief Risk Officer