



LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

2013

ANNUAL REPORT

COURAGE * PRIDE * SERVICE



*Policing Excellence through
Leadership and Community
Partnership*

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Message from the Chair of the Police Commission

On behalf of my colleagues on the Lacombe Police Commission, I am pleased to provide you with our Annual Report.

The Lacombe Police Commission serves a very important role in policing, representing the residents of Lacombe to make sure that the police are operating efficiently and effectively.

This past year we have seen a few changes. In June of 2013 we said goodbye to Chief Gary Leslie. After serving for 5 years as Chief, Gary decided to retire, so we as a commission thanked Gary for his exemplary service to the community and along with the Lacombe Police Service hosted a regimental ball to celebrate his dedication to policing over the past 35 years. With the retirement of Gary, came the appointment of a new Chief – Steve Murray. Steve signed a 3 year contract with the City and brings with him great leadership and knowledge.



In an effort to get a broader perspective from the community we also added 2 more commissioners to our organization. We all work together as a team, respecting the views of all members and the demographic they represent.

The Lacombe Police Commission is a volunteer organization, representing the citizens of Lacombe with respect to policing issues in our community. I would like to thank each of my fellow Commissioners for their time, dedication and effort during this past year. I would also like to say thank you to Colleen Robinson, our outgoing member and past chair, for all of her knowledge and her dedication to the Lacombe Police Commission.

The Commission is proud of the police officers and staff who work so tirelessly to make Lacombe a safe place to live, work and play. We look forward to working together with LPS, the citizens of Lacombe and Lacombe City Council in helping to keep Lacombe a safe and vibrant community in 2014.

Tammy Gagnon
Commission Chair

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Message from the Chief of Police



The motto of the Lacombe Police Service as displayed in our crest and on our uniforms and vehicles is ***“COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP”***. Through our proud 114 year heritage, we recognize that for the City of Lacombe to be the safe and vibrant community where our citizens can live, work and play, we have to look at community safety and crime prevention as a partnership that we all share.

Sir Robert Peel (for whom Britains’ famous “Bobbies” are named) is widely regarded as the father of modern policing in civilized communities. Peel set out nine principles for each new member of the Metropolitan London Police and these principles, which later became known as “Peels Principles”, set out the spirit and intent of what role police officers would play in the community. One of peels Principles was

“To maintain at all times a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence”

We recognize and value the partnerships we have with the various departments within the City of Lacombe, service clubs, social agencies, Wolf Creek School Division, RCMP, Sheriffs, Lacombe County, our local business community and most of all, you, our citizens. On behalf of the tremendous dedicated and talented team at LPS, we look forward to continuing this proud tradition of working together to keep the City of Lacombe as one of Alberta’s safest and most vibrant communities.

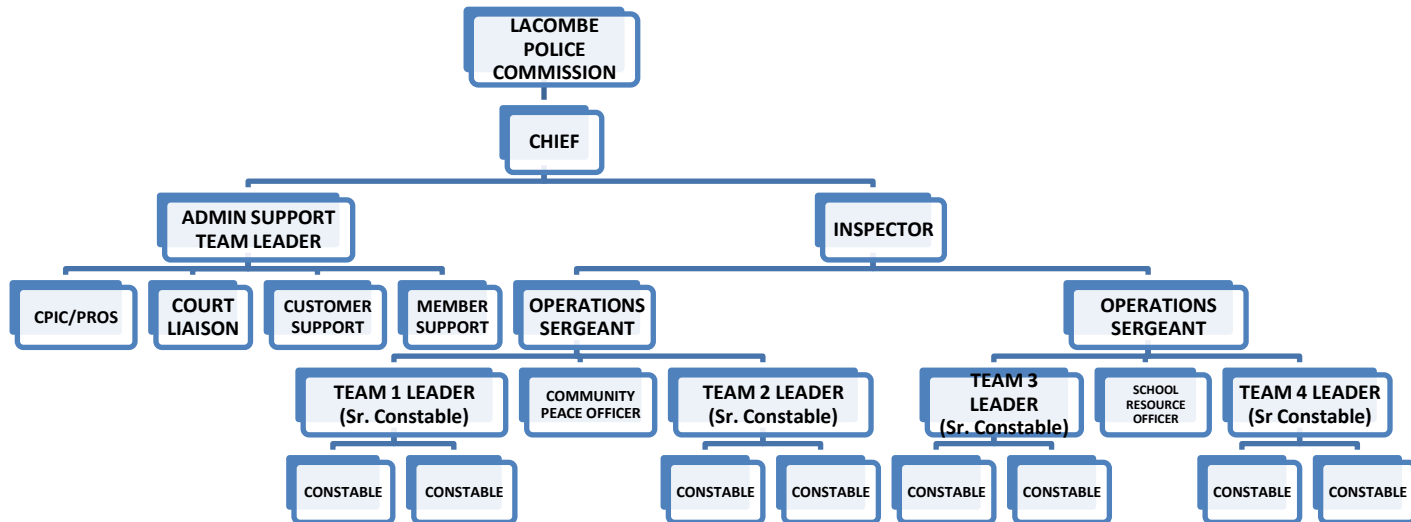
T. Steve Murray
Chief of Police

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Human Resources



The present authorized strength of the Lacombe Police Service is:

- *17 sworn police officers*
- *5 civilian support staff*
- *Community Peace Officer*

This represents a “Police to Population’ ratio of 749 to 1, which is approximately 32% lower than the national average and 22% lower than the Alberta average.

LPS also has five (5) casual/on-call guards to help us ensure the safety and welfare of persons detained in our custody.

LPS is also fortunate to have a part-time Victim Services Coordinator and a dedicated team of volunteer Victim Services Advocates that assist us in delivering support, assistance, information and referrals to victims. In 2013, Lacombe Victim Services assisted 623 people involved in 151 police cases.

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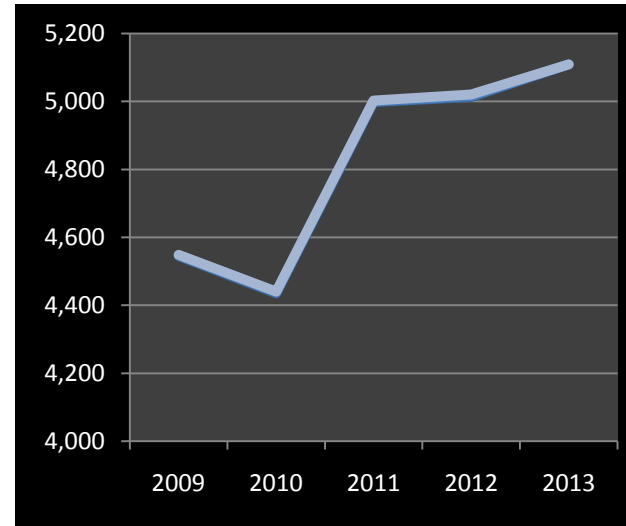
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Operational Highlights

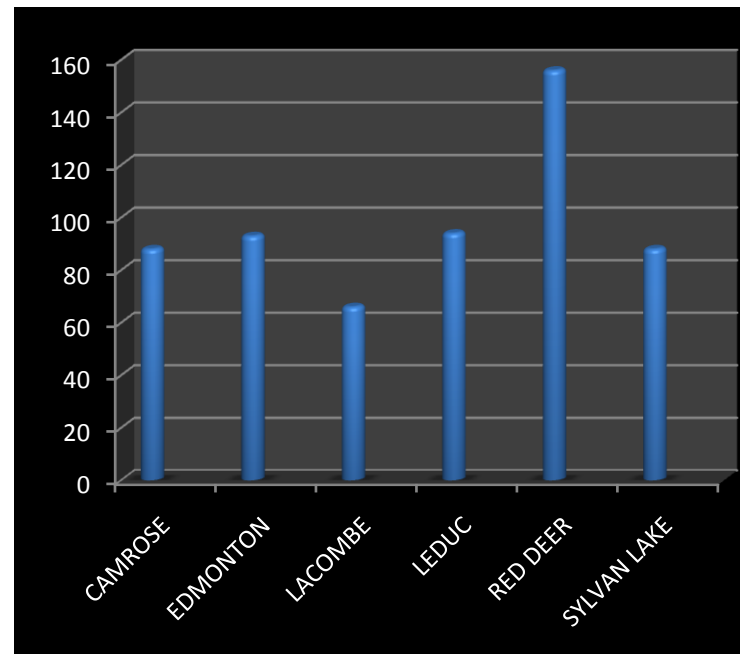
CALLS FOR SERVICE

2013 saw a modest 2% increase in Calls for Service to 5,109. As our community continues to grow, it is to be expected that requests for service and assistance from police and other emergency services will grow as well.



CRIME STATS

Statistics Canada gathers information on reported crime for every community with a population over 10,000. A Crime Severity Index (CSI) value is then determined using 100 as the median. Generally speaking, a community with a CSI of less than 100 is safer. The CSI for the City of Lacombe in 2013 was 66 and we experienced a slight decrease of 2% in our crime rate while we improved our effectiveness at solving reported crime by 4%.





Operational Highlights



RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

In 2011, we engaged the citizens of Lacombe in a survey to learn community perceptions of crime, police performance and where our citizens would like to see our priorities focused. Drug enforcement was identified as one of the top three priorities for our community so early in 2013, LPS made two significant busts resulting in the seizure of over \$50,000 in illegal street drugs, weapons and cash and resulted in the arrest of several people.

PROVINCIAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE

One of the highlights of 2013 was when LPS was awarded a Compliance Certificate by the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. The province audits all Alberta municipal police services every four years to ensure they meet or exceed all provincial policing standards. Thanks to the dedication and commitment of our members and staff, LPS was recognized for the *“high standard of policing service we deliver to Albertans”*





Operational Highlights

TRAFFIC SAFETY



Another priority identified in our community survey was traffic safety. Through the combined efforts of our Community Peace Officer and police officers, the total number of collisions within the city stayed the same in 2013 even though we experienced an increase in population and volume of traffic. Reducing collisions and injuries remains a top priority.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

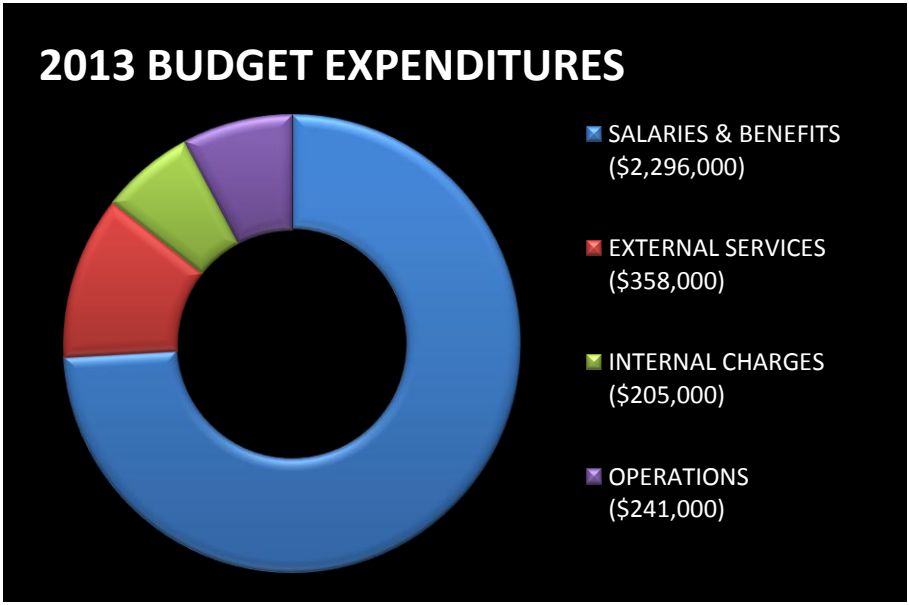
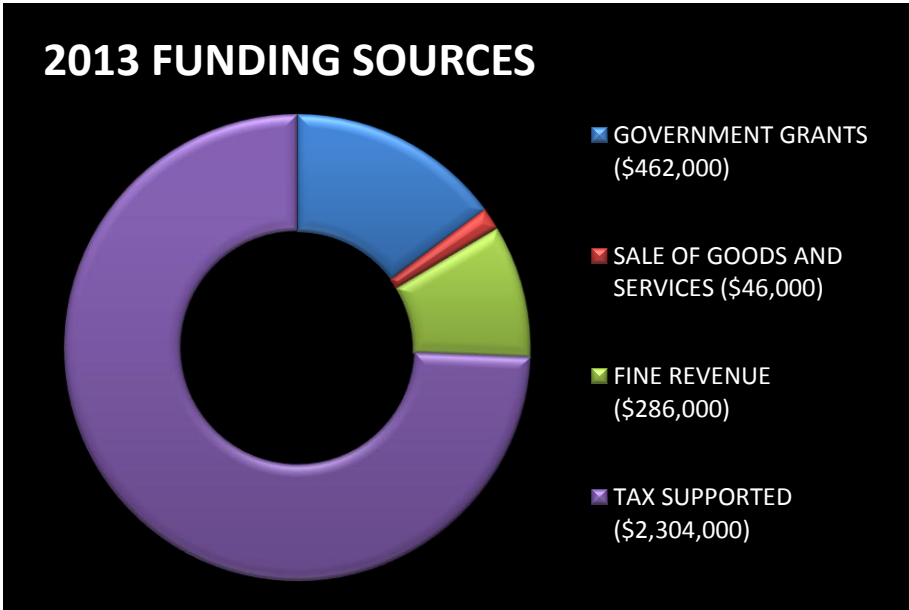
Thanks to our partnerships with Wolf Creek Public School Division, Lacombe County and Lacombe Ford, LPS continues to have a police officer dedicated full time to all the public schools within the City.

The SRO delivers proactive prevention programs such as DARE and personal safety as well as investigates occurrences within the schools and serves as a resource for students, parents and staff.





Budget



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Professional Standards

All police officers, including the members of the Lacombe Police Service, are not only in positions of authority, but more importantly they are in positions of trust. Through our own internal policies and processes, as well as provincial legislation, police officers are held to the highest legal and ethical standards.

When one of our members does not live up to these expectations, whether as a result of a public complaint or an internal review, we investigate the matter, or cause it to be investigated by an independent agency with a view to not only holding people accountable for their actions, but also to provide us with opportunities for organizational learning and best practices.

In 2013 we reviewed three (3) complaints against our members that resulted in two (2) being resolved through mediation or supervisory review and one resulted in an official warning being issued to the subject officer.

LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

5211 - 50 Avenue

Lacombe, AB T4L 1E9

(403) 782-3279

police@lacombe.ca