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**LACOMBE POLICE  
SERVICE**



**2016**

# ANNUAL REPORT

***"THE POLICE ARE THE PUBLIC AND THE  
PUBLIC ARE THE POLICE***

*Sir Robert Peel 1829*

***TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SECURE  
COMMUNITY FOR ALL IN WHICH  
TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY***



*Policing Excellence through  
Leadership and Community  
Partnership*

**LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE**

**LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE  
LACOMBE POLICE COMMISSION  
Annual Report 2016****Message from the Chair of the Police Commission**

On behalf of my colleagues on the Lacombe Police Commission, I am pleased to contribute to the Lacombe Police Service Annual Report to the Community.

The Lacombe Police Commission serves a vital role by providing civilian oversight to the Lacombe Police Service. The commission is the vital link between the community and the police with a mandate to balance requirements of public accountability with those of police independence. In accordance with the Alberta Police Act, the commission is responsible to:

- allocate the funds that are provided by the council;
- establish policies providing for efficient and effective policing;
- issue instructions, as necessary, to the chief of police in respect of those policies;
- ensure that sufficient persons are employed for the police service for the purposes of carrying out the functions of the police service.

This past year has seen the Commission continuing to be an effective governing body. Through the work of several sub-committees, we have streamlined our policy, clarified our selection and training procedures, confirmed through policy adjustment the role of the Public Complaints Director, and identified future staffing needs. The Commission also completed the objectives set out in our Strategic Plan, as well as the Oversight Standards Audit.

I would like to give a special thank you to my Commission colleagues: Jonathan Jacobson, Tammy Gagnon, John Walker, Judy Lucht, Peter Bouwsema and Luke Bannis who willingly give of their time to allow us to be an effective governance body. I would further like to recognize and thank our outgoing members, Jonathan Jacobson and Tammy Gagnon for their years of service and commitment to the Commission. We welcome our new members Sonja Dykslag and Susanne West who will join our Commission in 2017.

So it is with a great sense of pride and accomplishment that we finish our year. Pride in the brave men and women of the LPS; and pride in the accomplishment in our governing achievements. We look forward to working together with the community and the LPS to keep Lacombe a safe and vibrant community.

**Bob Huff**  
**Commission Chair**

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## LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

# Annual Report 2016



### Message from the Chief of Police

In partnership with the Lacombe Police Commission and the City of Lacombe, I am pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report to the community.

2016 could be defined as a year of change and transition for the Lacombe Police Service. Throughout the year planning, development and staffing were all key areas of focus for our City and Service. 2016 brought forth the completion of the new Police Facility at 5301 Wolf Creek Drive, transition to our own local dispatch and the implementation of the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System.

With these changes we were able to move to our new state of the art facility which enabled us to comply with Provincial Standards which assisted with meeting the needs of the community in our service delivery. With the implementation of our new radio and dispatch systems we have addressed citizen concerns and have enhanced our response times. We were further able to meet our operational needs while expanding our emergency and disaster preparedness plans. With these changes additional support staff was hired and additional training and technical systems were implemented. I would like to commend all the members and staff for their dedication and commitment throughout the year for ensuring all community needs were met while they adjusted to the changes and challenges they were presented with.

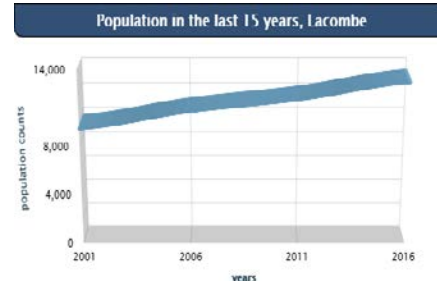
Operationally calls for service increased by 11% in 2016 over 2015 and remain 9 % above the past five year average. Increases were noted in the areas of Property Crimes and Family Disputes which in whole or in part may be attributed to the economic downturn in our Province. In the area of Traffic Safety overall collisions were reduced by 15%, but regrettably one (1) pedestrian fatality occurred early in 2016 and an increase of 17% was noted in injury collisions. 25% of all injury collisions involved pedestrians or cyclists. In the coming year Police will focus on reduction, enforcement and education strategies at high collision locations and pedestrian crossings with a goal of not only reducing overall collisions, but reducing injury and fatal collisions.

Moving forward the Lacombe Police Service is committed to enhancing public safety and meeting the needs of our community by adapting and evolving with our ever changing environment while implementing strategies and plans that are effective, efficient, collaborative and progressive in our response to public safety. We look forward to continued community engagement and partnership in meeting our goals. I would like to thank all of the Victim Assistance members, crime prevention groups, volunteers and citizens whom we have partnered with in 2016 and look forward to our continued relationships.

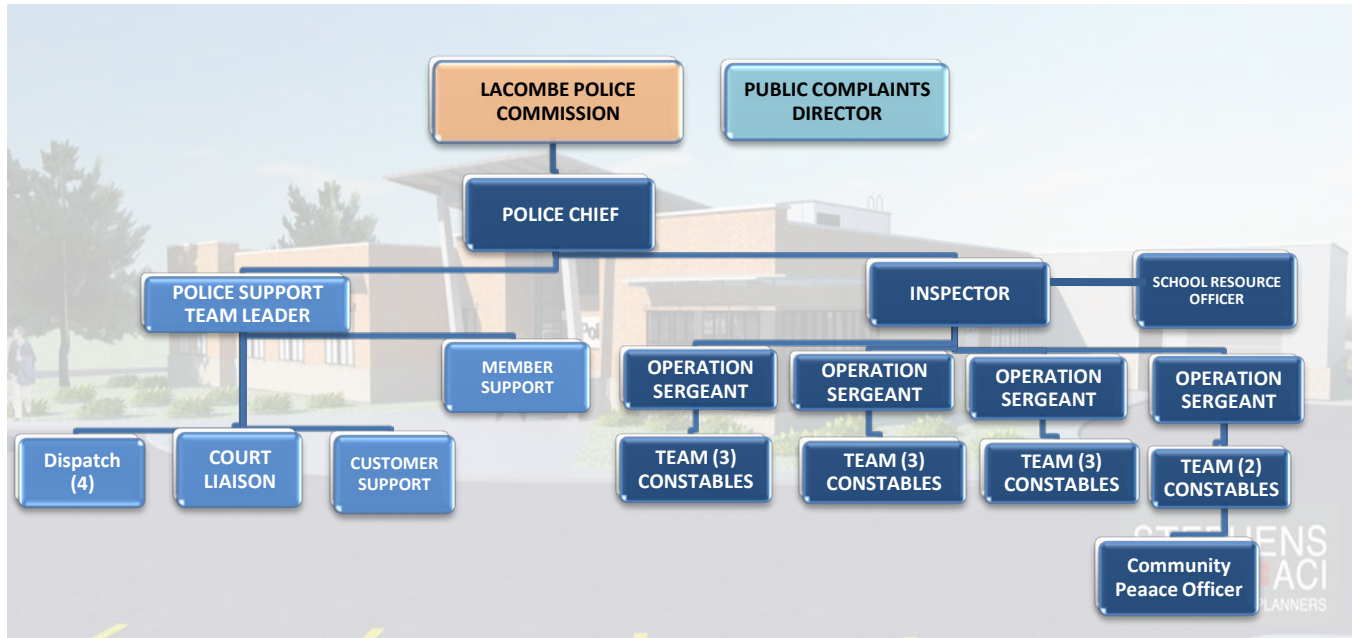
***Lorne Blumhagen***  
***Chief of Police***

# LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

## Annual Report 2016



## Human Resources



In 2016 we experienced some staffing changes with one police officer resigning for other opportunities. Also to fulfill our dispatch commitment to the community we hired 4 full time dispatchers and 3 casual positions. The 2016 authorized staffing complement for LPS was:

- **18 sworn police officers**
- **7 civilian support staff**
- **3 Casual civilian support staff**
- **Community Peace Officer**

This represents a “Police to Population’ ratio of 725 to 1, which is approximately 37% lower than the national average of 528 and 24% lower than the Alberta average of 582.

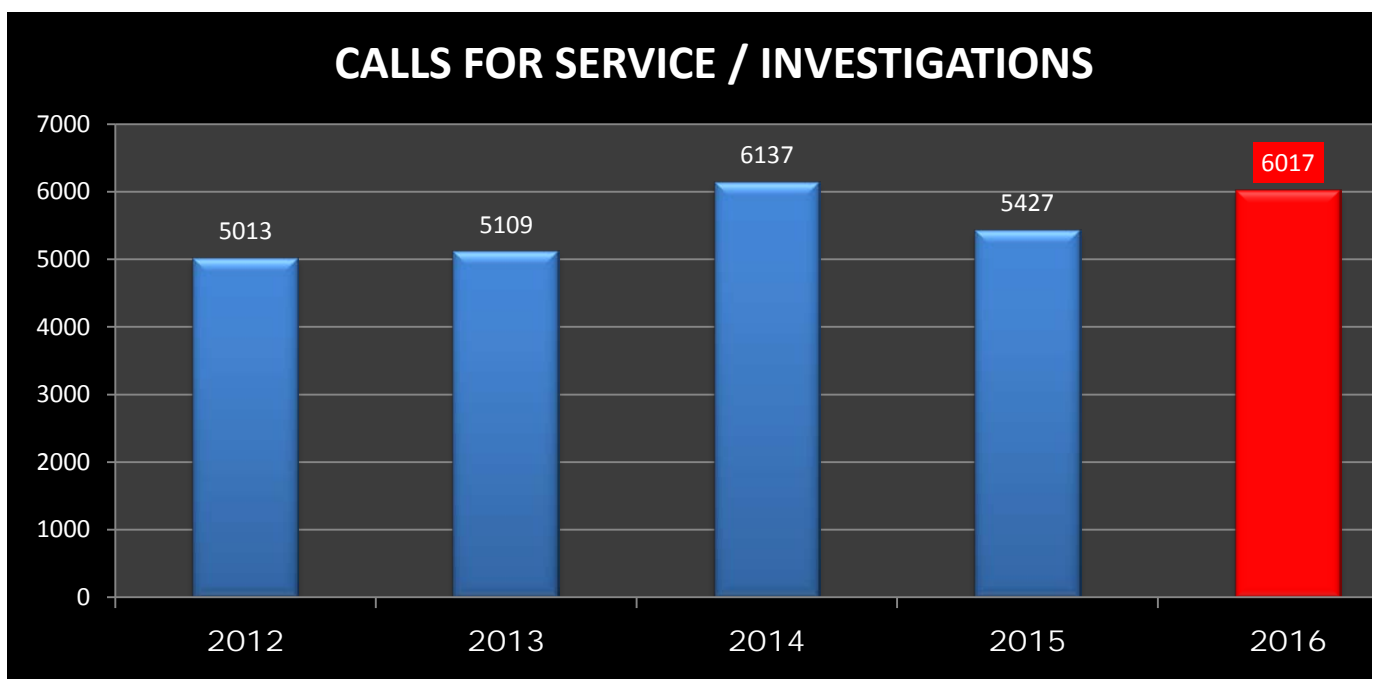
In 2016, the enumerated population of Lacombe census was 13,057, which represents a change of 11.5% from 2011. This compares to the provincial average of 11.6% and the national average of 5.0%.

## LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

# Annual Report 2016



### Operational Highlights – Calls for Service



### CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for Service in **2016** show an **increase of 11%** over 2015. 2016 is slightly above the 5 year average of 5541 calls for service by **9 %**.

The total number of calls for service increased in such areas as family disputes, areas such as crimes against persons, property crimes, break and enters and drug calls remained relatively the same. As causes of crime become more complex and as police services become more integrated into the social fabric of society, this too increases the demand and diversity of the services we are called upon to provide to our community.

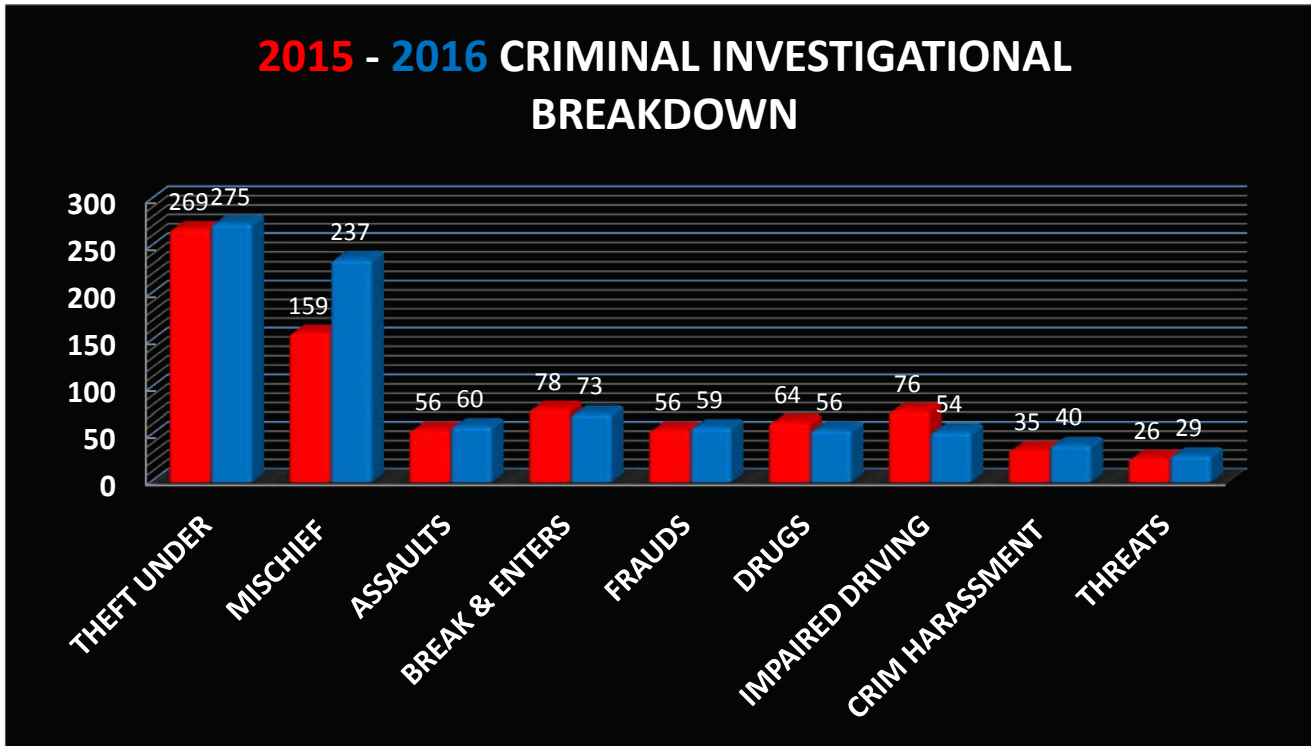
The Lacombe Police Service recognizes that effectively solving public and personal safety issues requires a holistic approach involving all necessary partner agencies or groups. By acknowledging our role as only one part of the solution, LPS continued to increase its engagement with other agencies.



Operational Highlights – Crime Stats

CRIME STATS 2016

- ↑ PROPERTY CRIME (17%)
- ↑ CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS (1%)
- ↓ IMPAIRED DRIVING (-29%)
- ↑ FAMILY DISPUTES (73%)
- ↓ DRUG CHARGES (-12%)
- ↓ BREAK AND ENTERS (-6%)



In 2016, rates of police-reported crime increased for most Criminal Code violations. Among the violent violations with an increase in rate were criminal harassment and threats (+17%), other serious Criminal Code violations were down such as, sexual assaults (-33%), assaults remaining relatively the same. Domestic violence has increased in the wake of Alberta’s economic downturn. (+73%) Overall crimes against person were (+1%)

Rates for all types of property crimes increased from 2015 to 2016, including mischief (+50%), theft over (including motor vehicles) (+22%), theft under (+2%), and a decrease in breaking and entering (-6%), possession of stolen property (-3), and impaired driving (-29%).



## Operational and Organizational Priorities

### RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND EMERGING TRENDS

In 2015, we conducted a citizen survey to evaluate our performance and to gauge community perceptions and priorities about crime and community safety issues. The results showed that 80% of respondents felt our members were polite, courteous, and helpful and professional while 73% felt we did a good job overall on the various functions we perform. One significant area of concern that was identified was our response times to reported crime which has an impact on all aspects of what we do including criminal apprehension, crime solve rates, crime prevention and community confidence.

The survey respondents felt our policing priorities should be:

1. **Crimes against persons**
2. **Drugs**
3. **Impaired Drivers**
4. **Property crime**
5. **Traffic safety**
6. **Frauds and scams**

As we saw the increasing and emerging crime trends central Alberta was experiencing, we realized we needed to re-evaluate our Policing Performance and Business Plan to not only reflect these citizen priorities, but also to properly respond to the new realities of how crime was impacting Lacombe.

Over the next three years (2016-2018), we have identified strategies to achieve the following priorities and goals:

1. **REDUCE CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION**
  - 1.1 *Violent Crime*
  - 1.2 *Domestic Violence*
  - 1.3 *Property Crime*
  - 1.4 *Overall reduction in Crime Severity Index*
2. **STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**
  - 2.1 *Crime Prevention and Education*
  - 2.2 *Youth Safety and Empowerment*
3. **IMPROVED RESPONSE, SERVICE AND ACCESSIBILITY**
  - 3.1 *Reduce Response to Call Times*
  - 3.2 *Improve Customer Service Hours and Accessibility at Police Station*

# LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE

## Annual Report 2016



### Operational and Organizational Priorities

#### RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND EMERGING TRENDS

##### 4. IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY

4.1 *Reduce Fatal and Injury Collisions*

##### 5. RECRUITING, SELECTION AND RETENTION OF QUALITY STAFF

5.1 *Build a reputation as an employer of choice and select highest calibre applicants*

5.2 *Provide ongoing development and training, support and mentorship*

##### 6. EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

6.1 *Improve clearance (solve) rates*

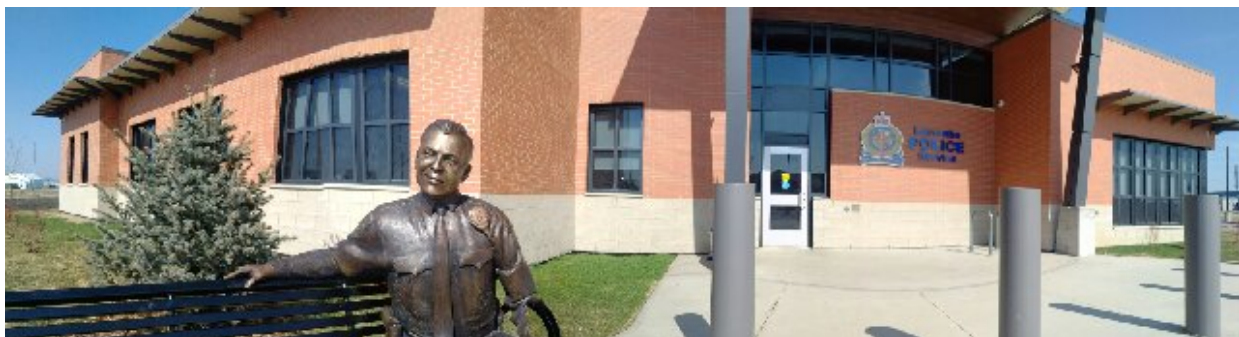
6.2 *Maintain highest compliance with professional standards*

##### 7. FEES FOR SERVICE / COST RECOVERY

7.1 *Review services provided and fees charged to ensure they are reasonable and appropriate*

Lacombe Police Service (LPS) recently celebrated a victory many years in the making with the official grand opening of their new facility, an accomplishment to be appreciated for many years to come. The new facility, located at 5301 Wolf Creek Drive, has long been an ambition of LPS members, the local Police Commission and City. Council first approved the project in 2014 after many years of discussion and band-aid upgrades to the previous home of LPS.

***Improved parking, barrier free accessibility, expanded front counter customer service hours, local call answering and police dispatch, new province wide radio communication system and local identification services for Criminal Record Checks and Vulnerable Sector Searches***

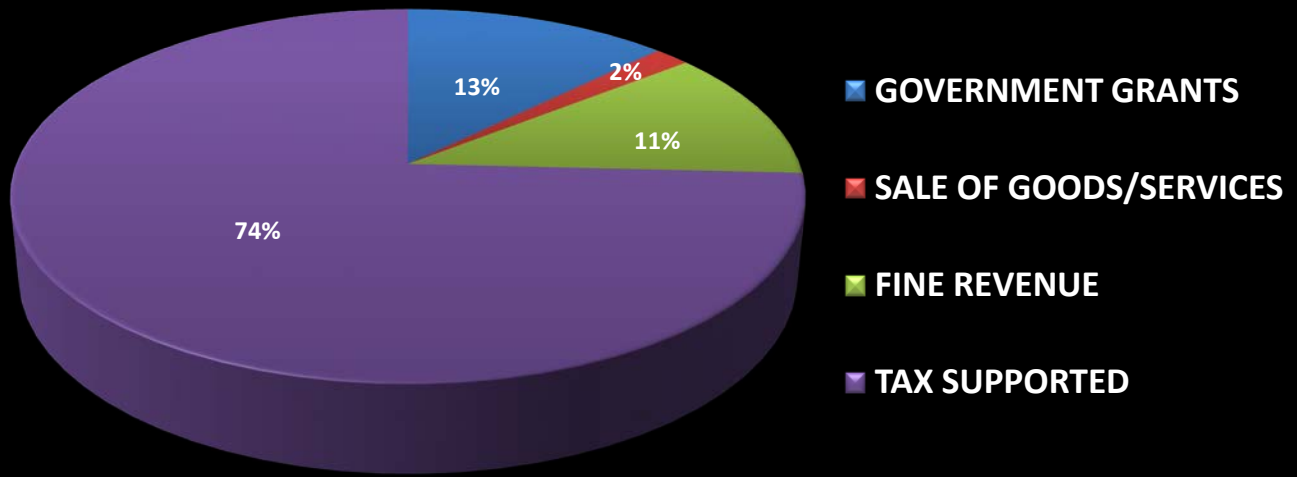




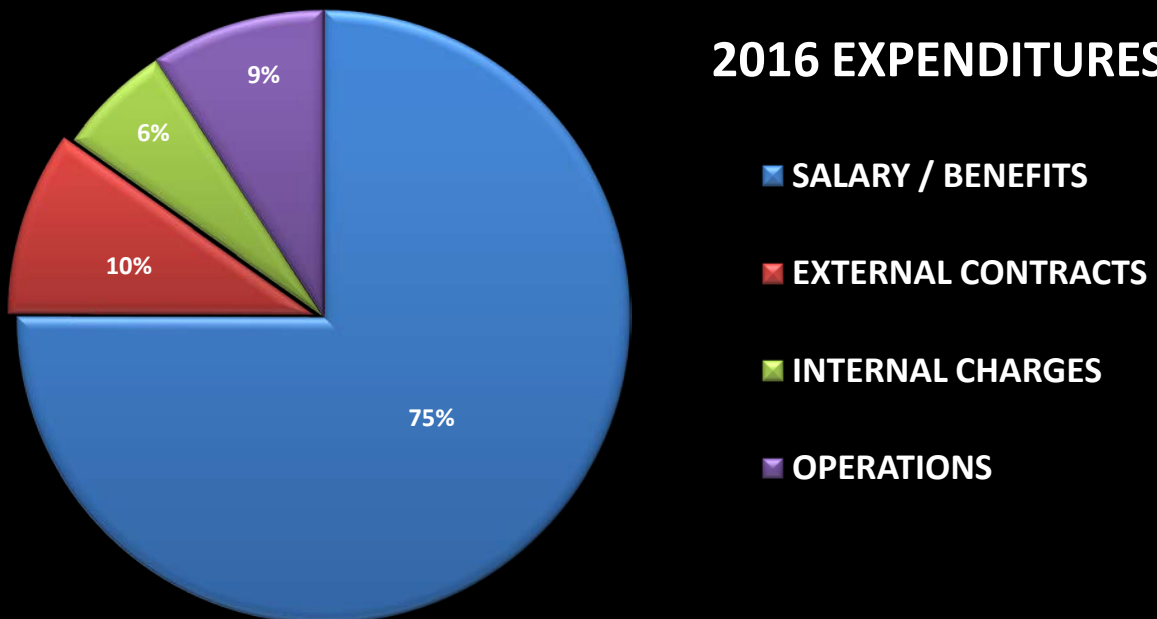


Budget – Revenue and Expenditures

2016 REVENUE SOURCES



2016 EXPENDITURES



The 2016 Operating Budget \$3,688,056.00 for the Police Service was approved by Council and is highlighted by percentage above. \$2,781,032.00 of the budget was tax supported. (\$218 per capita cost)



## Professional Standards – Complaints, Concerns, Compliments

Police officers are not only in positions of authority; they are more importantly in positions of trust. Through our own internal policies and processes, as well as provincial legislation, we hold police officers 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 learning and best practices.

The Lacombe Police Commission monitors the public complaints process, handles complaints regarding the Chief of Police, and handles appeals regarding the policies of, or services provided by, the Lacombe Police Service. The Lacombe Police Commission and LPS track all citizen complaints and concerns.

Under the Alberta *Police Act*, the responsibility for the investigation of complaints against Police Service policies or service provided, as well as against specific police officers lies with the Chief of Police. The Police Commission is the civilian body which is empowered to oversee the complaints process and act as the appeal body for complaints regarding the policies of, or services provided by, the Lacombe Police Service. The Lacombe Police Commission has a Public Complaint Director who:

- **Provides an independent review of the citizen complaints process of the Lacombe Police Service;**
- **Monitors the Police Service investigation of public complaints to ensure the investigations are impartial, fair, thorough and timely;**
- **Reports his or her findings directly to the Lacombe Police Commission;**
- **Makes public presentations to interested groups concerning the complaint process; and**
- **Receives complaints from the public.**

The purpose of the complaint process is to resolve issues between citizens and the Lacombe Police Service in a fair, transparent and reasonable manner.

**In 2016, LPS received three (3) complaints against police officers, one of which was a third party complaint, the second was resolved through mediation and the third was withdrawn by the complainant.**

The Lacombe Police Service initiated our own internal review of the actions of our members arising out of two incidents even though there was no public complaint which resulted in operational guidance.

***We always welcome your comments, feedback or concerns. We can be reached in person, by phone or by email: 5301 Wolf Creek Drive, Lacombe, AB T4L 2H8; (403)782-3279; [police@lacombe.ca](mailto:police@lacombe.ca)***



## Community Involvement

### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Thanks to our continued partnership with Wolf Creek Public Schools and Lacombe County, we are able to have a **School Resource Officer (SRO)** dedicated full time to all the public schools within the City. The primary role of the SRO is to build relationships with the students and staff to help foster a safe learning environment. The SRO delivers proactive and prevention programs well as investigates occurrences within the schools and serves as a resource for students, parents and staff.



### KIDS N' KOPS

We were once again proud to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Blackfalds RCMP and a dozen volunteers to offer our **KIDS N KOPS** program for the eighth year. This four day program has proven to be very successful and popular for the 24 young citizens we can accommodate each year and is an excellent opportunity for us to shed some light on the daily life of a police officer and build relationships with our youth.



### LACOMBE COMMUNITY WATCH

Established in 2014, Lacombe Community Watch Association (LCWA) is a collaborative response by concerned local citizens in order to proactively counteract the measurable increase in crime within the City of Lacombe. LCWA is a registered non-profit, volunteer based, local crime watch initiative whose mandate is to create and maintain safe communities through partnership and training with local law enforcement and provincial groups. As a banner organization encompassing **Block Parent, Citizens on Patrol and Neighborhood Watch**, LCWA endeavors to recruit, support and educate community members on the importance of individual involvement, commitment and responsibility with regards to community crime reduction and prevention efforts.



The continued efforts of LCWA have been recognized by local law enforcement with the nomination of the Community Justice Award in 2016.

