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**LACOMBE POLICE
SERVICE**

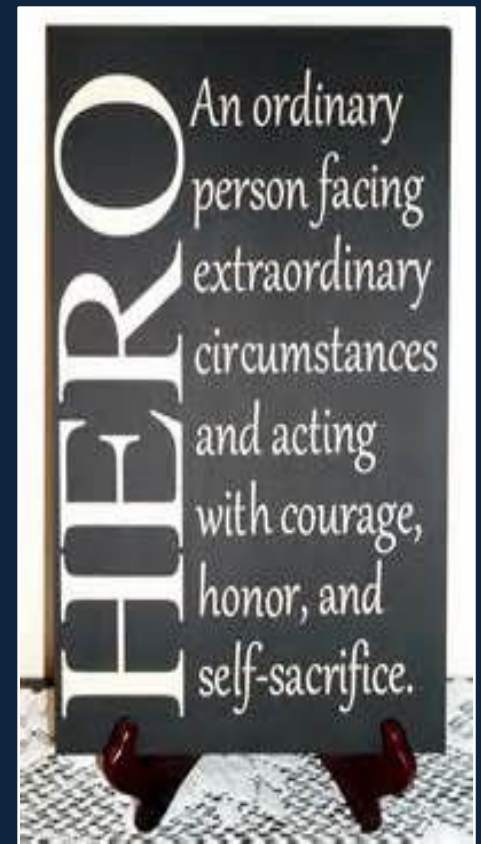


2017

ANNUAL REPORT



***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 2017****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 is striving to meet 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: Judy Lucht, John Walker, Sonja Dykslag, Luke Bannis, Reuben Konnik and Tom Tack (our public complaints director) who willingly give of their time to allow us to be an effective governance body in 2017. As well thank you to Susanne West and Peter Bouwsema who retired from the Commission in 2017. We welcome Commissioner Cory Gish in 2018. We meet at least once a month to carry our governance obligations. Our meetings are open to the public.

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



Lacombe Police Service - Annual Report 2017

Message from the Chief of Police

In partnership with the Lacombe Police Commission and the City of Lacombe, I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report to the community.

2017 has been a year of progressive transition for our Service. Following the completion of our new Police facility in the fall of 2016 we continued to expand on our ability to provide enhanced service delivery to the citizens of Lacombe in 2017. With our new localized dispatch we achieved a higher level of customer service and reduced our call response times. This has assisted in our ability to apprehend offenders and increase our clearance rates. In cooperation with the Lacombe Police Commission we reviewed our strategic and human resource plans which assisted in meeting manpower needs for sworn and non sworn personnel and work towards targeted priorities to meet community expectations and needs.

In the spring of 2017 the Solicitor General's department conducted a Provincial Standards Audit on the Lacombe Police Service. This audit is conducted every four years and requires police services to show proofs of compliance in a variety of areas to ensure effective and efficient policing standards are being met. We are proud to report that the Lacombe Police Service met or exceeded the standards in all areas and received a certificate of compliance from the Solicitor General. This certification recognizes the commitment and hard work of all of our staff in delivering professional policing services to our community.

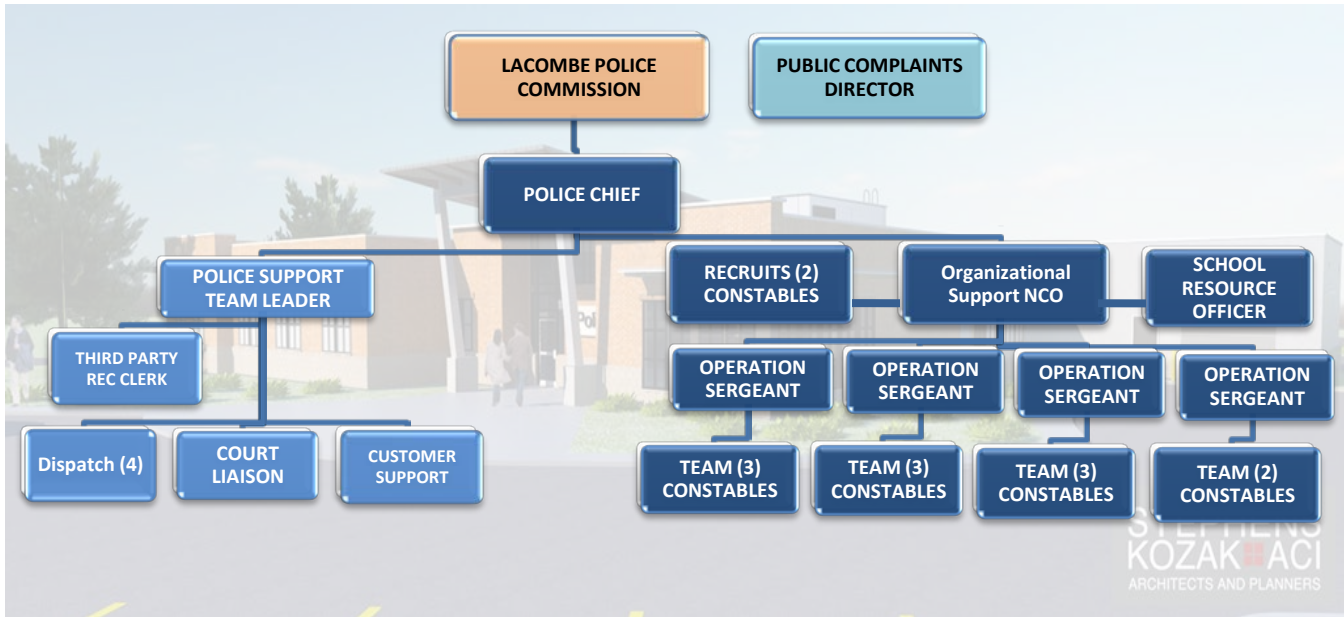
Operationally we provide policing services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In 2017 calls for service increased by 18% in 2017 over 2016 and increased to 19% above the past five year average. We are happy to report that decreases were noted in the areas of Property Crimes and Family Disputes which had seen substantial increases in 2016. One area that recognized a significant increase was in the area of frauds. This increase was the result of an increase in reported telephone and internet types of frauds and will be an area of focus for crime prevention initiatives moving forward. In the area of Traffic Safety overall collisions were up by 11%, but we are happy to report that there were no fatal collisions in 2017 and injury collisions were down 27%. In 2017 a focus was placed on reduction, enforcement and education strategies at high collision locations and pedestrian crossings.

Looking forward the Lacombe Police Service remains committed to enhancing public safety and meeting the needs of our community by adapting to our ever changing environment while focusing on our planned strategies and goals. We are committed to being 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 2017 and look forward to our continued working relationships.

Lorne Blumhagen
Chief of Police



Human Resources



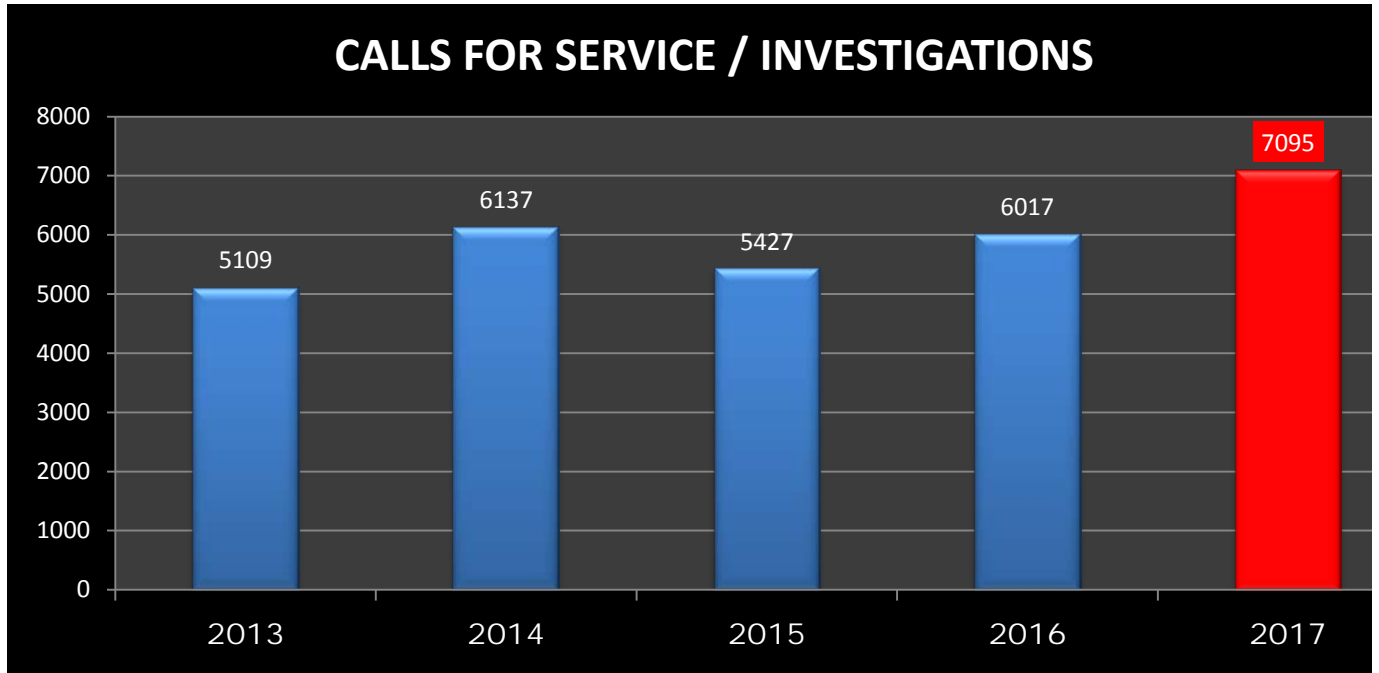
In 2017 we experienced some staffing changes on both the regular member and civilian sides. The Police Commission approved to convert our 2 CPO positions into fully sworn police members. This gave the LPS the ability to hire 2 new police recruits. These recruits attended training with the Edmonton Police Service and will complete their training in 2018. The Service hired an experienced member to fill an existing vacancy being the implementation of an Organizational Support NCO. On the civilian side a vacant dispatch position was filled, also a new position was generated to meet our criminal records check commitments. The 2017 authorized staffing complement for LPS was:

- *20 sworn police officers*
- *8 civilian support staff*
- *3 Casual civilian support staff*

This represents a “Police to Population’ ratio of 653 to 1 which is in line with the 2016 - 2018 Human Resource Plan. This is approximately 22% lower than the national average of 526 and 12% 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%.



Operational Highlights – Calls for Service

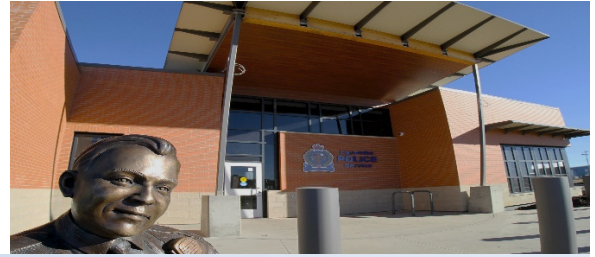


CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for Service in **2017** show an **increase of 18%** over 2016, with 2017 showing 19% above the 5 year average of 5957 calls for service.

The total number of calls for service increased significantly in Frauds (247%) and moderately in Impaired Driving, Break and Enters and Drug charges. Crimes Against Persons were down 30% and Property Crime dropped by 22%. Domestic Violence occurrences had a significant decrease of 11%, down from the 78% increase in 2016. 2017 shows an increase in Traffic enforcement, local Police Information Checks and the total number of calls for service in all areas.

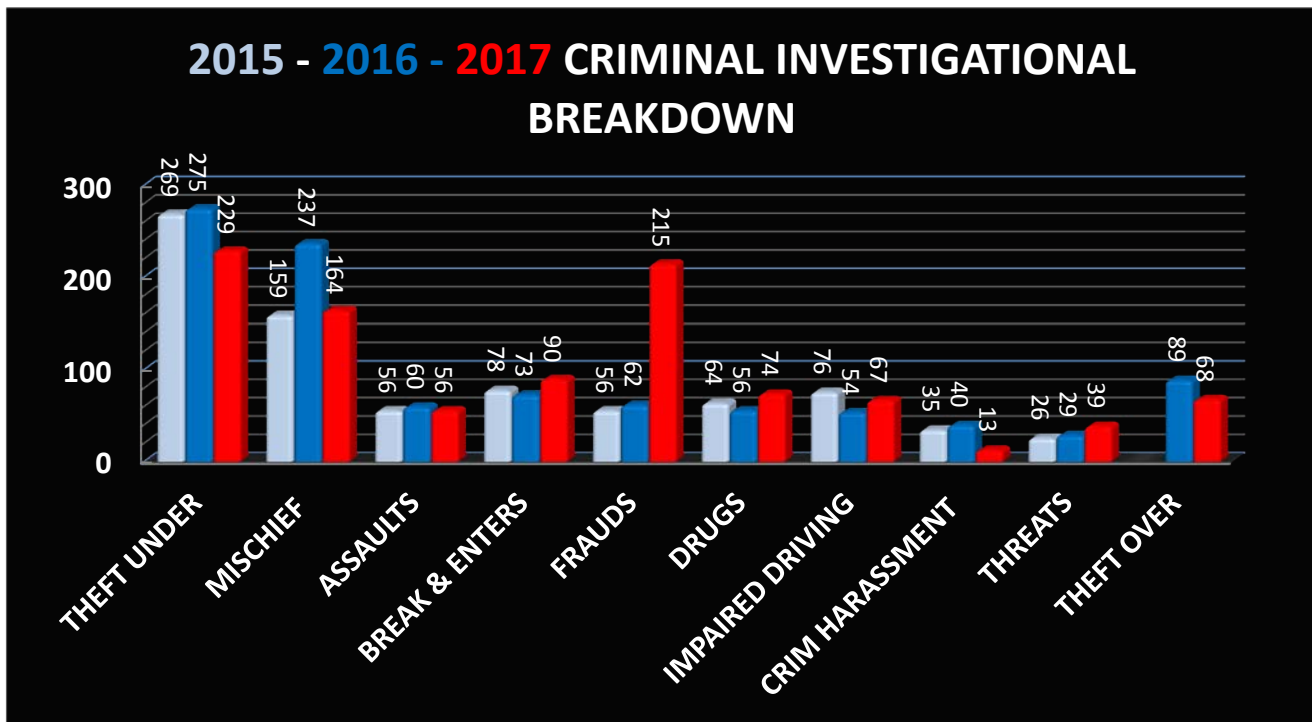
With the new resource changes the Lacombe Police Service was able to recognize improvements with front line staffing, supervision and accountability. Crime prevention initiatives, traffic safety, enforcement and increased adaptability in responding to, solving and preventing crime was also a focal point of the Service.



Operational Highlights – Crime Stats

CRIME STATS 2017

- ↓ PROPERTY CRIME (-22%)
- ↓ CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS (-30%)
- ↑ IMPAIRED DRIVING (24%)
- ↓ FAMILY DISPUTES (-11%)
- ↑ DRUG CHARGES (18%)
- ↑ BREAK AND ENTERS (23%)
- ↑ FRAUDS (247%)



In 2017, rates of police-reported crime increased for most Criminal Code violations. An increase in rate were impaired driving, break and enters and drug offences, all showing increases between (+ 18% and + 24%). A significant increase in fraud occurrences is the result of telephone and internet type frauds or scams being reported to police.

Other serious Criminal Code violations were down such as, sexual assaults (-76%) with assaults remaining relatively the same. Domestic violence occurrences decreased by (-11%) from the (+73%) increase in 2016. Overall crimes against person were down (-30%). Rates for all types of property crimes decreased from 2016 to 2017, including mischief (-31%), theft over (including motor vehicles) (-24%), theft under (-17%).



Operational Highlights – Traffic Stats

Figure 1: 2015-2016-2017 Collision Breakdown

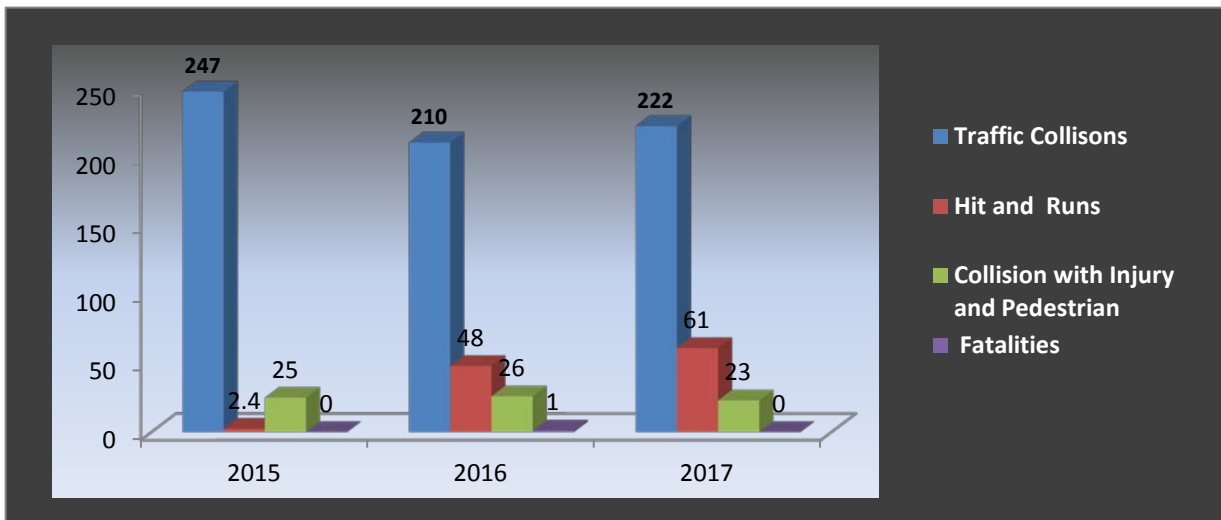
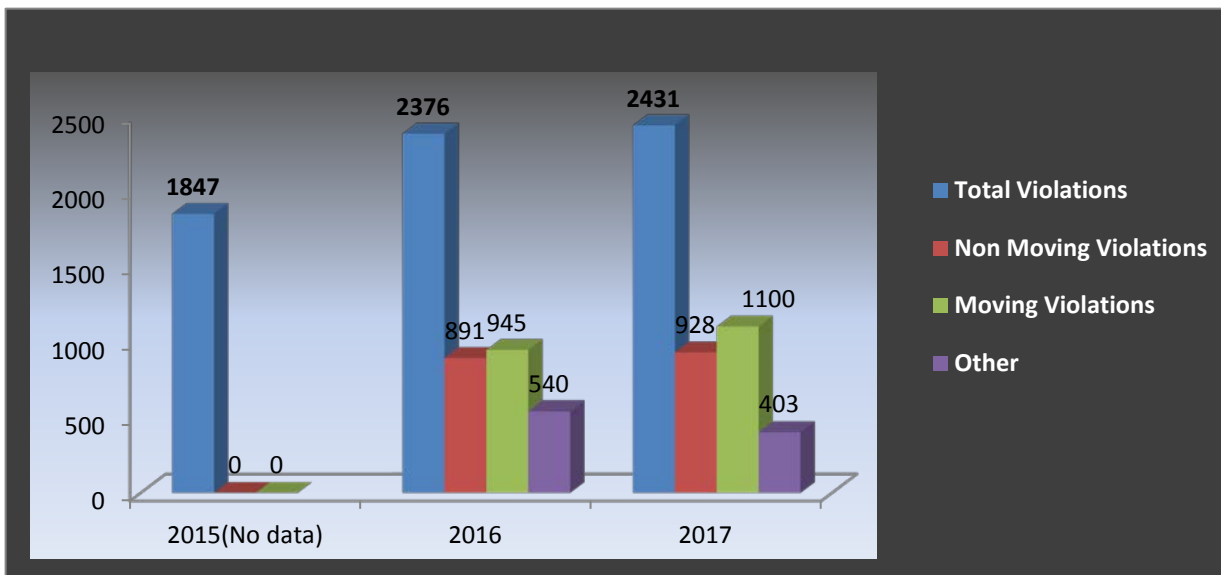


Figure 2: 2015- 2016- 2017 Traffic Enforcement Breakdown





Operational Highlights – Traffic

The breakdown of the statistics for traffic, and its related collisions that occurred within the city limits of Lacombe in 2017. These same statistics will also be compared to ones gathered for the years 2015 and 2016 to give an indication of areas of concern and will assist with logistic and enforcement purposes. To note with the transition of our CPO position to a regular recruit member the statistic's only account for 6 months of CPO enforcement in 2017.

Over the last two years the highest concentration of collisions, were still noted to be at the intersection of Hwy 12 and Hwy 2a being and the extended area just east of the railway tracks. None of these collisions resulted in any injuries. During peak times this area continues to be the one of the busiest locations in the city especially factoring in the stoppages for trains. This is also noted to be a truck route and numerous large commercial vehicles proceed East and West, as well as North and South, on the two main highways.

The second area of concern was also the same for the last several years being Hwy 2a and Woodland drive, which also encompasses the East side service road which runs North and South coming from several large city businesses. Out of the 8 collisions at this location throughout 2017, three of them resulted in injuries.

In 2017 the City of Lacombe had 222 reported collisions 23 resulted in injuries and no fatalities.

The goal of the Lacombe Police Service is visibility and enforcement throughout the city and concentrated in heavier high priority areas such as school zones and high traffic areas. As the Lacombe Police Service resource numbers increase, education and enforcement will be the focus for 2018. The Police Service will also work with the City to assist with roadway infrastructure issues to enhance traffic safety. This will assist in continuing our trend of reducing property damage and injury related collisions with the City Limits.





Operational and Organizational Priorities

RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND EMERGING TRENDS

Every four years the Police Service conducts a Community survey. The last survey was conducted in 2015, and was designed to evaluate our performance and 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.

The survey respondents felt our policing priorities should include:

- 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 Strategic Plan to not only reflect the citizen survey priorities, but also to properly respond to emerging crime trends impacting Lacombe. A new survey will be completed in 2019.

In our three year strategic plan (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*



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

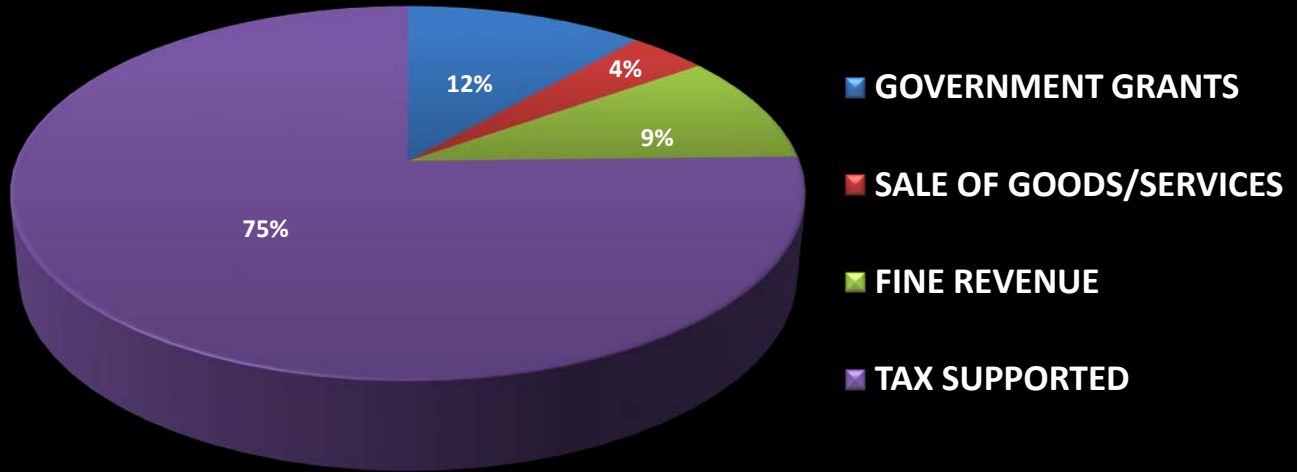
In the fall of 2016 the Lacombe Police Service (LPS) celebrated the official grand opening of their new facility. The new facility, located at 5301 Wolf Creek Drive, enabled the Service to implement a number of changes in 2017, including improved public access, barrier free accessibility, local call answering and police dispatch, new province wide radio communication system and local identification services for Criminal Record Checks and Vulnerable Sector Searches.



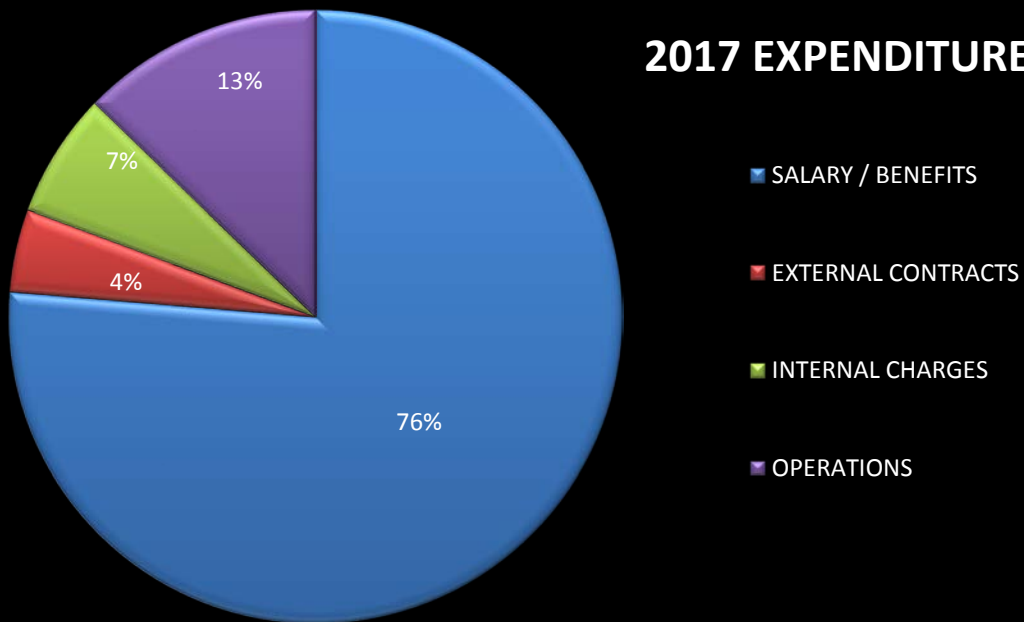


Budget – Revenue and Expenditures

2017 REVENUE SOURCES



2017 EXPENDITURES



The 2017 Operating Budget of \$4,255,895.00 for the Police Service was approved by Council and is highlighted by percentage above. \$3,208,791.00 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 of 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 2017, LPS received five (5) complaints against police officers, 3 of which were resolved through mediation, 1 withdrawn and 1 complaint did not meet the criteria under the police act with direction to enter a plea through the provincial court.

The Lacombe Police Service initiated our own internal review of the actions of our members arising out of two incidents, even though there were no public complaints 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



2017 Organizational Awards



In October of 2017 members of the Lacombe Police Service were presented with a number of Provincial and Local Service awards and medals:

- ❖ Chief Blumhagen received the Alberta Long Service Recognition Medal from the Solicitor General for his 20 plus years of policing in the Province of Alberta.
- ❖ Sgt. Kohut also received the Alberta Long Service Medal along with the Alberta Emergency Service for 12 yrs or more as a first responder in the Province of Alberta along with the Lacombe Police Service 10 yr service Medal for serving the community.
- ❖ Sgt. Kristian, Sgt. Zens and dispatcher Toby Braun all received the Alberta Long Service Medal which is issued by the Officer of the Fire Commissioner, Public Division, to Emergency personnel who have served as first responders in the Province of Alberta for 12yrs or more. All 3 also received the Lacombe Police Service 10yr service Medal representing 10 years of Service to the City of Lacombe.
- ❖ Sgt. Hubbard and Cst. Smith received the Lacombe Police Service 10yr Service Medal representing 10 years of Service to the City of Lacombe.
- ❖ Cst. Vaughan Bleasdale received the Alberta Law Enforcement Outstanding Service Award from the Alberta Citizens On Patrol Association (ACOPA).



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. In cooperation with the Wolf Creek School Division and involved RCMP agencies, new guidelines were developed in 2017 for SRO's and Schools in the Division. The primary role of the SRO is to build relationships with the students and staff to help foster a safe learning environment. The SRO also is involved with Special Olympic working alongside various agencies to support and fundraising for the athletes.



VICTIM SERVICES

Lacombe Victim Services worked on 360 files in 2017, assisting 388 individuals. Out of those, 11 were Crisis Call outs.

VSU raised funds through various events including the Comedy Cabaret and was also chosen by the community to be the recipients for Lacombe Fords Drive one away event. Royal Lepage Real Estate in Lacombe donates to Lacombe Victim Services. Their Shelter Foundation supports victims of Domestic Violence. Lacombe VSU also partnered with MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) and Big Brothers & Sisters during the annual charity checkstop where funds were raised for all the groups.

Our volunteer advocates complete online training and security screening prior to assisting victims, last year our advocates attended Mental Health First Aid, Diverse Voices in Edmonton that deals with Domestic Violence and our Program Manager attended a Homicide Conference in Edmonton. Our advocates also receive in house training.



Community Involvement

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 ninth 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.

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.

