



Mountain View County

2026 BUDGET

A Report to our Community

Reeve's Message

Mountain View County Residents,

I'm pleased to share a brief overview of Mountain View County's 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets. This year's budget continues to focus on maintaining the services and infrastructure residents rely on, while planning responsibly for the future.

The 2026 Operating Budget (net of amortization) totals \$30 million, representing a modest 3.46% increase over 2025. Of that amount, \$10.9 million supports important day-to-day operational services such as snow clearing, airports, County shops, and dust suppression. Council also continues to support community partnerships and regional services through \$2.6 million for recreation and library services, \$1.9 million for fire services, \$0.5 million for Family and Community Support Services, \$0.5 million for County grant programs, and \$1.7 million dedicated to agricultural services.

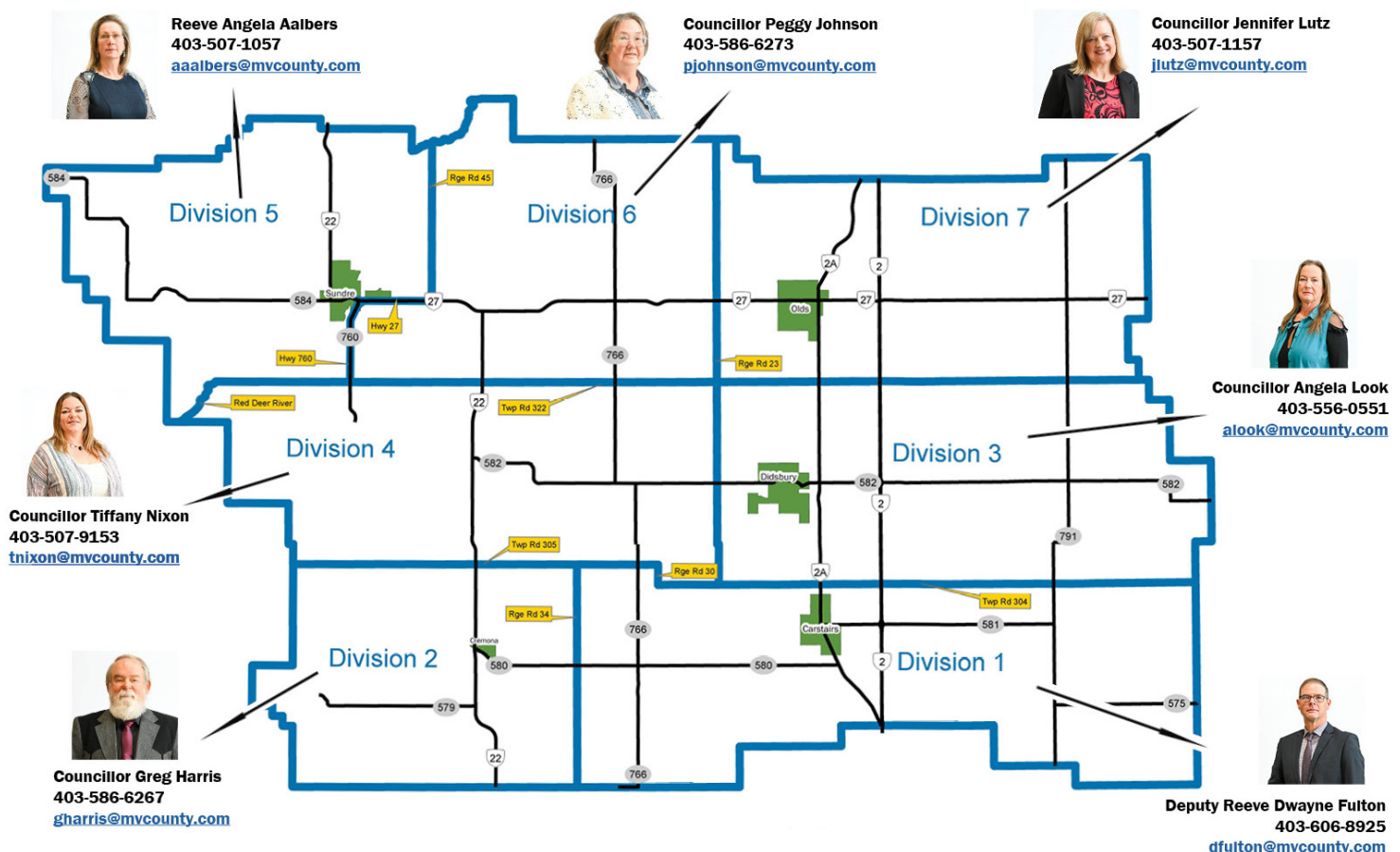
The 2026 Capital Budget totals \$37.8 million and includes investments of \$6.1 million for recurring road projects, \$6 million for bridge and culvert upgrades, and \$7.2 million for scheduled equipment replacements.

Together, these investments help ensure Mountain View County remains a strong, sustainable, and connected community for residents today and into the future.



Reeve Angela Aalbers

2025 - 2029 Mountain View County Council



Council's Strategic Plan

Mountain View County Council provides the long-term vision and direction that guides County operations and service delivery. Through its Strategic Direction Priorities, Council helps ensure residents receive the essential services they rely on, including road maintenance, emergency services, policing, agricultural programs, land-use planning, recreation facilities, and more.

Below are the County's 2022–2027 Strategic Direction Priorities, which guide Council's decision-making and help shape the future of our community.

Our Mission

Provide high quality services in support of a healthy, safe, and vibrant rural community.

Our Vision

An engaged rural and agricultural community inspired by the unique and diverse qualities of our people and environment.

Our Values

- Ethical
- Transparent
- Open-Minded
- Respectful

Rural and Agricultural Focused Community

- Support traditional, innovative, and value-added agriculture industry.
- Promote a vibrant, inclusive, rural culture.
- Protect and preserve the natural environment through programs, education, and collaboration.

Economy and Financial Health

- Programs and services are delivered efficiently within a fiscally responsible framework.
- Support business diversification and retention.

Asset Management

- Develop long-range plans to ensure adequate resources are available to meet Council approved service level.
- Provide and maintain sustainable infrastructure efficiently, effectively, and in an environmentally responsible manner.

Engagement and Communications

- Adhere to a culture of open communication and good governance.
- Engage in respectful, positive, and productive relationships while maintaining our local autonomy.

Community Well-Being

- Promote safe communities.
- Provide and support cultural and recreational opportunities.
- Foster an environment for people to age in their communities.
- Collaborate with urban partners to deliver shared services.

The County's Budget Cycle

Each year, Mountain View County departments work together to develop the Operating and Capital Budgets, with Corporate Services providing financial guidance and analysis throughout the process. Council reviews the proposed budgets through detailed workshops and public presentations to help ensure spending priorities align with the services, infrastructure, and long-term needs of the community. Approximately 75% of operating expenses are funded through property tax revenue, while the remaining funding comes from government grants, reserves, rentals, sales, recoveries, and other user fees and revenue sources.



Photo Credit: Jackie Chemelli

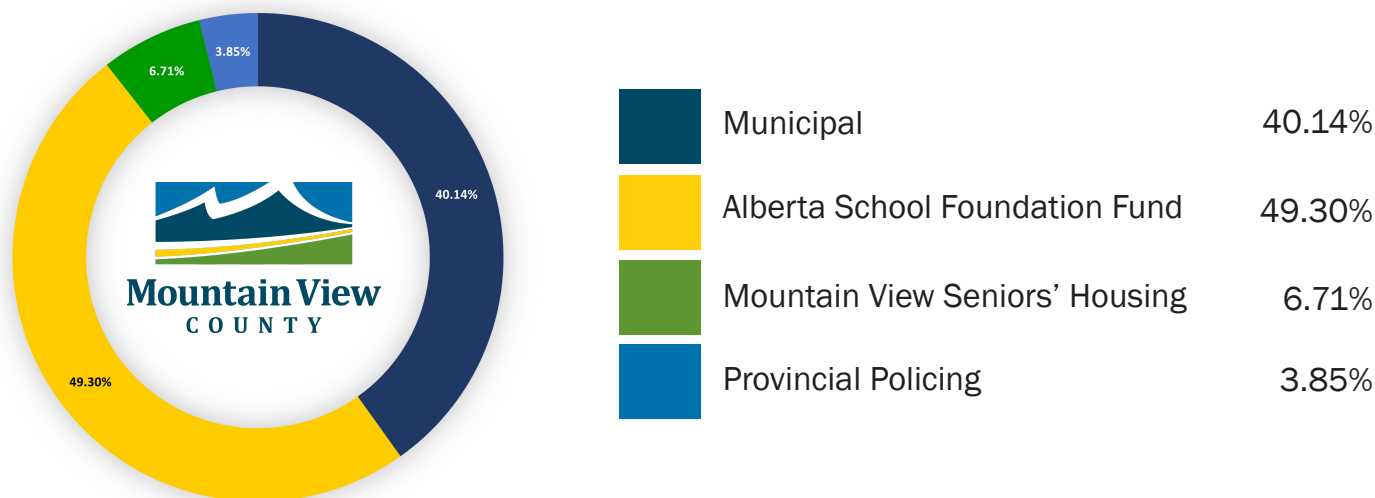
The Audit Committee

Comprised of three Council members and two Members-at-Large, the Audit Committee provides oversight of the County's financial reporting, audit processes, and compliance activities. The Committee reviews proposed budgets and capital projects prior to consideration by Council.

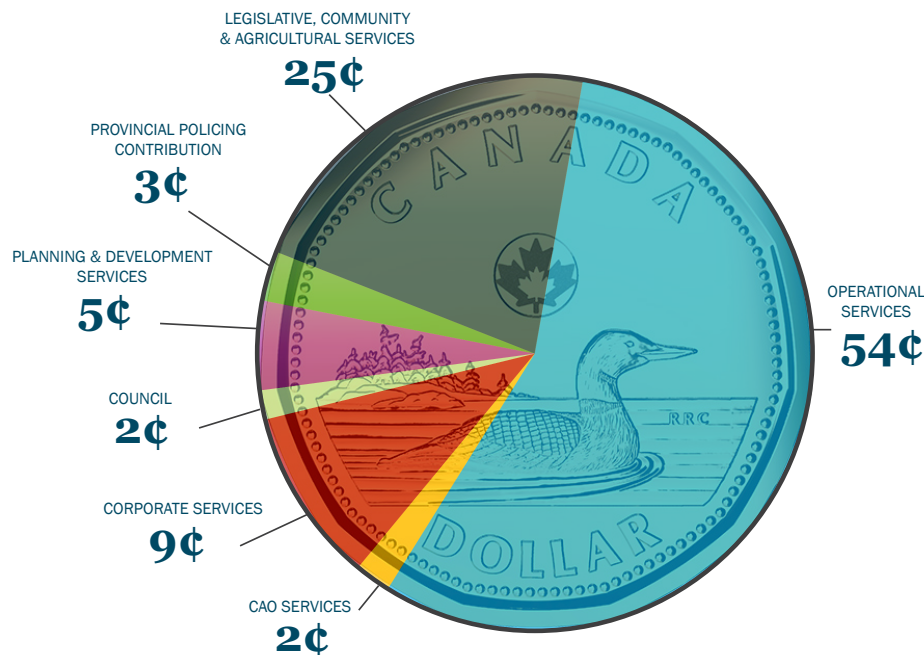
Residential Tax Dollars

For residential taxpayers, the education requisition represents \$0.49 for every dollar of your total tax bill in 2026, while only \$0.40 of every dollar for residential property tax goes to municipal use. The remaining is collected on behalf of Mountain View Seniors' Housing (MVSH) and for Provincial Policing services.

Mountain View County is required to collect these portions on behalf of the Province of Alberta and MVSH. These funds support K-12 education, RCMP operations, and seniors' housing in Carstairs, Sundre, Olds, Cremona and Didsbury. Although collected by the County, these amounts are forwarded directly to their respective authorities.

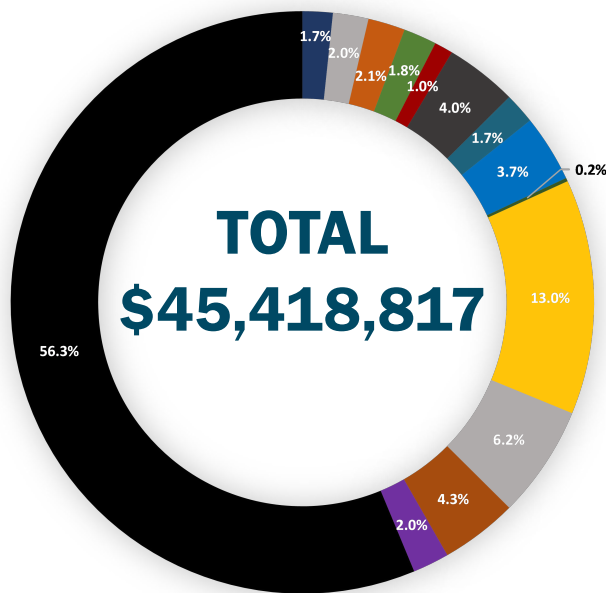


Your Municipal Tax Dollar



For every dollar of Municipal Tax Levy collected, the County funds a wide range of municipal services, as well as the Provincial Policing requisition that it remits to the Government of Alberta. This graphic shows how Mountain View County allocates its portion of your tax dollars across departments responsible for maintaining infrastructure, delivering services, supporting communities, and meeting legislative requirements.

Operating Expenses by Department



CAO Services
\$760,420

Council
\$893,980

Planning & Development Services

Planning
\$932,785

Development
\$835,457

Permitting
\$467,905

Legislative, Community & Agricultural Services

Legislative Services
\$2,834,232

Community Grants & Transfers
\$5,924,826

Operational Services

Roads, Facilities & Shops
\$25,553,615

Corporate Services

Finance & General Office
\$1,806,918

Business Services
\$778,514

Assessment
\$1,687,975

Waste Management
\$87,377

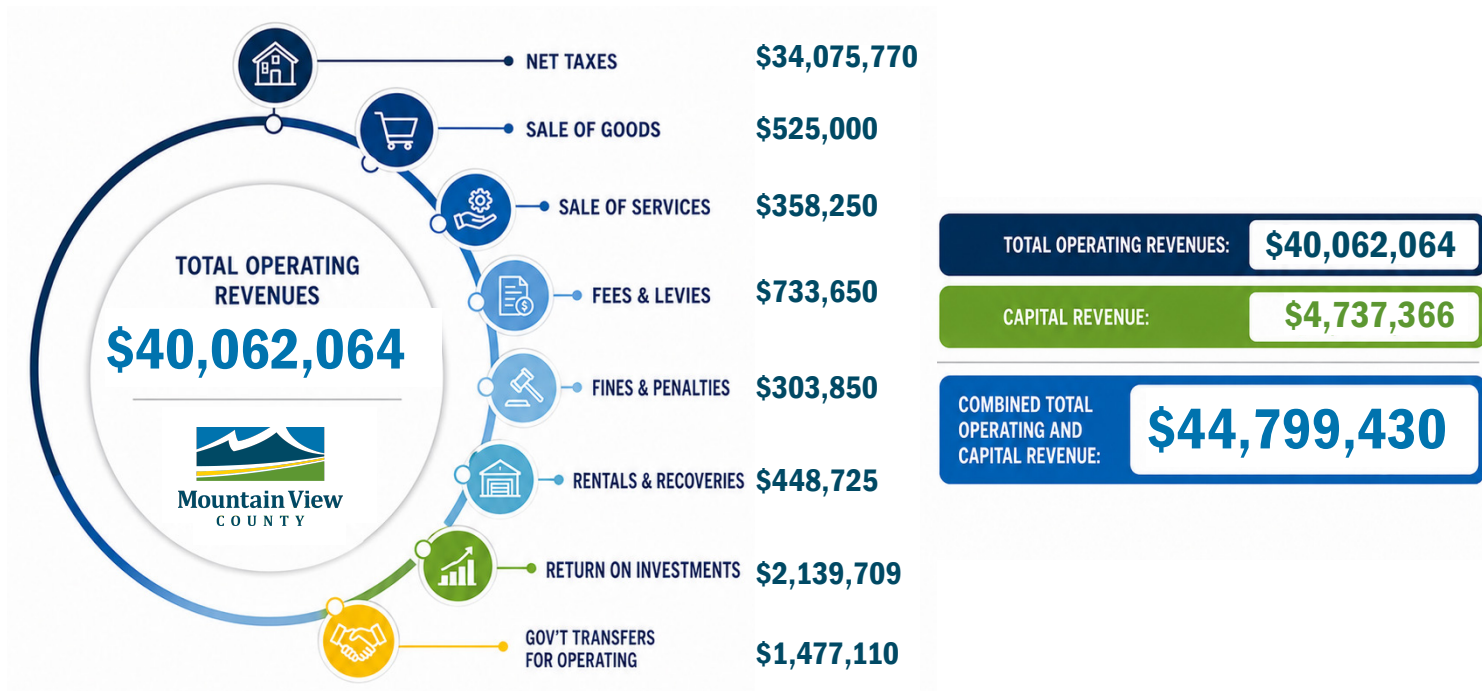
Airports
\$916,350

Agricultural & Land Management
\$1,938,463



Total Revenues Collected

The primary source of operating revenue for Mountain View County is municipal property taxes. The tax revenue is based on actual property assessments for the prior year.

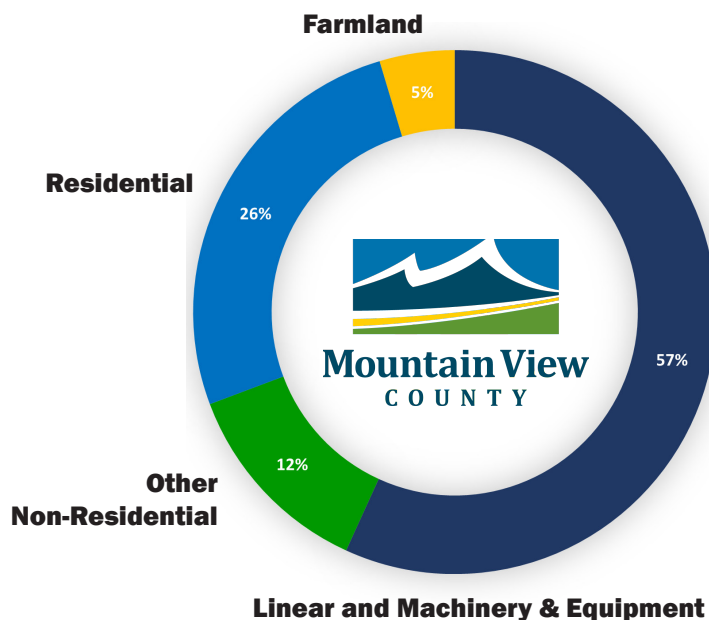


Percentage of Municipal Services Funded by Each Assessment Class

Of the total taxes collected, 57% comes from the Linear and Machinery & Equipment property classes.

The remaining Non-Residential property class contributes 12%.

Residential equates to 26% and Farmland at 5%.



Policing Costs Per Year

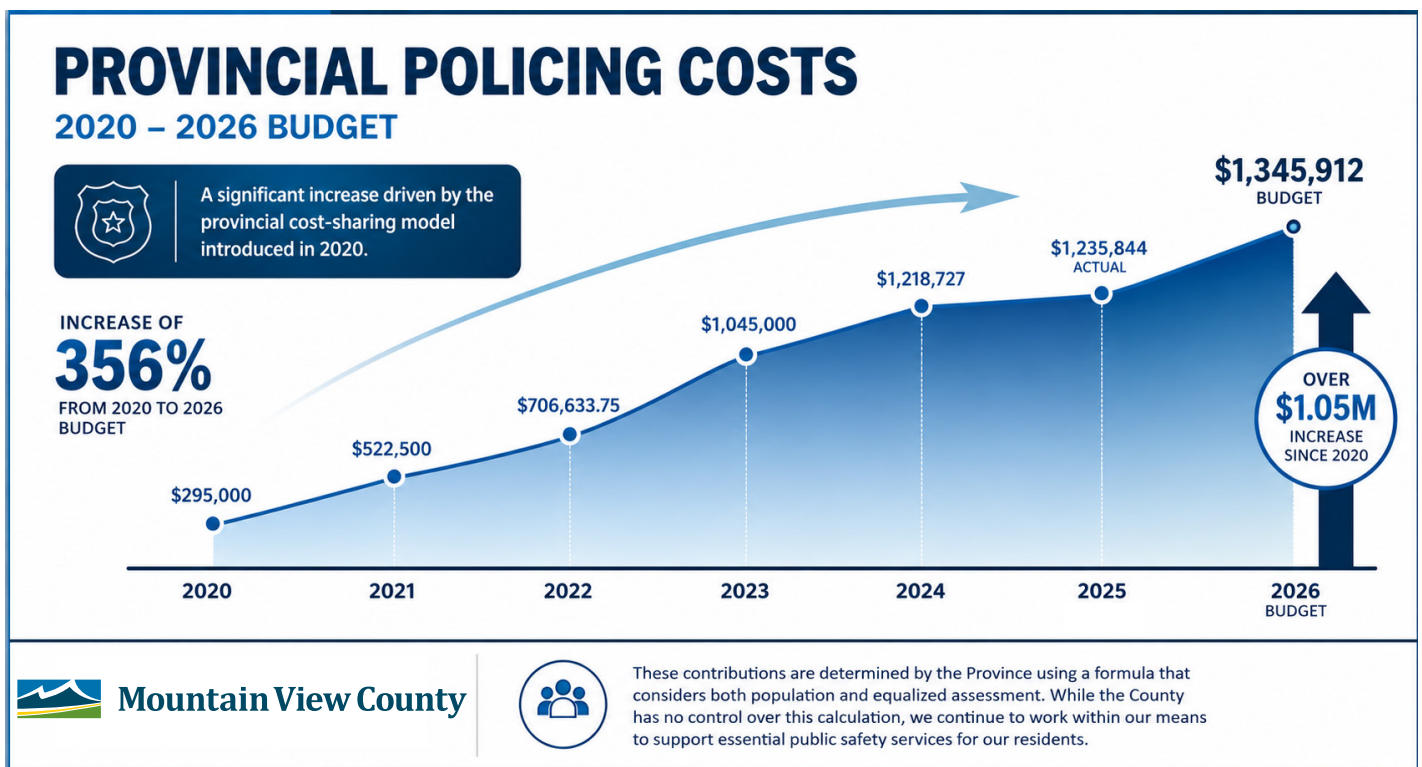
2020	\$295,000 - Actual
2021	\$522,500 - Actual
2022	\$706,634 - Actual
2023	\$1,045,000 - Actual
2024	\$1,218,727 - Actual
2025	\$1,235,844 - Actual
2026	\$1,345,912 - Budget

To the left, you'll see the annual policing costs for Mountain View County from 2020 through to the 2026 budget. Over this period, the County's contribution has grown from \$295,000 to over \$1.3 million—a significant increase driven by a provincial cost-sharing model introduced in 2020.

For 2026, the County has budgeted \$1,345,912 for Provincial Policing, a 10% increase from the 2025 budget of \$1,208,201. Actual 2025 costs came in slightly higher at \$1,235,844.

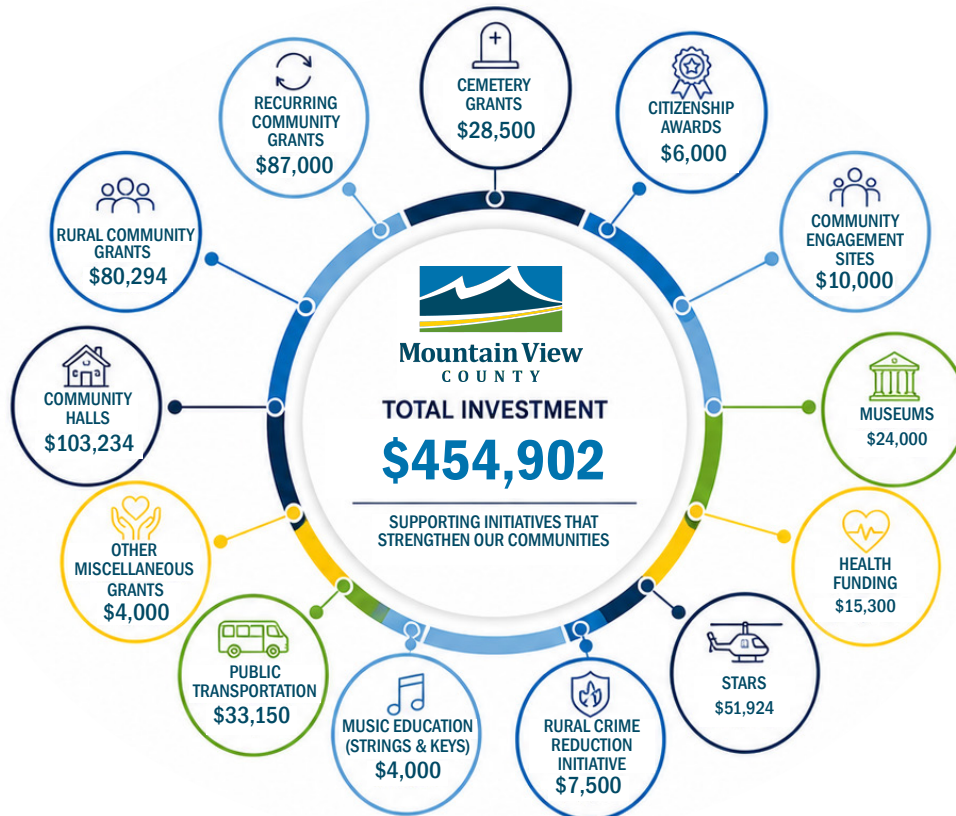
These contributions are determined by the Province using a formula that considers both population and equalized assessment. While the County has no control over this calculation, we continue to work within our means to support essential public safety services for our residents.

Note: Budget figures reflect the amount collected through the annual Tax Rate Bylaw.



Community Grant Funding

Each year, Mountain View County provides Community Grant Funding to support organizations and initiatives that benefit County residents. Funding is provided directly to some organizations, such as museums and STARS, while other grants are available through an application process. Certain programs also allow organizations from the region's urban municipalities to apply, provided their services benefit County residents.



Urban Funding (Based on 2026 Budget Estimates)

						
URBAN FUNDING	TOWN OF CARSTAIRS	VILLAGE OF CREMONA	TOWN OF DIDSBURY	TOWN OF OLDS	TOWN OF SUNDRE	TOTAL
FCSS	\$ 30,744.00	\$ 57,808.00	\$ 43,092.00	\$ 51,210.00	\$ 62,478.00	\$ 245,332.00
Fire Operating	\$ 269,389.00	\$ 538,918.00	\$ 294,098.00	\$ 345,740.00	\$ 280,225.00	\$ 1,728,370.00
Libraries	\$ 34,797.00	\$ 53,241.00	\$ 45,641.00	\$ 54,667.00	\$ 65,276.00	\$ 253,622.00
Recreation - Operating	\$ 237,057.00	\$ 259,075.00	\$ 482,460.00	\$ 577,879.00	\$ 690,026.00	\$ 2,246,497.00
Total	\$ 571,987.00	\$ 909,042.00	\$ 865,291.00	\$ 1,029,496.00	\$ 1,098,005.00	\$ 4,473,821.00

Note: Village of Cremona figures exclude amortization.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

WORKING TOGETHER. BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

Mountain View County partners with our urban municipalities to deliver essential services and support vibrant, connected communities.



MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS

The County maintains numerous agreements with its urban partners to deliver services to the broader community.

These agreements cover a range of services, from Family and Community Support Services to Fire Protection.

In addition, the County funds recreation, culture, and Intermunicipal Collaboration Reserves annually, which Urban Partners can access for capital projects.



RECREATION FUNDING

Funding is based on a per-capita rate for the rural population in each district, adjusted annually by CPI.

WITH POOL
\$207.55
PER CAPITA

NO POOL
\$133.75
PER CAPITA

Cremona receives \$95.53 per capita for recreation and \$38.22 per capita for non-recreation capital projects.



FIRE SERVICES FUNDING

The County provides both operating and capital funding to the five municipal Fire Departments serving Mountain View County.

Operating costs are covered either through a mutually agreed percentage or a lump sum, depending on the department. Capital costs are guided by a Capital Replacement Plan between the County and each Urban Municipality.



The County directly operates the Cremona and District Emergency Services Department, covering 80% of operating and 100% of capital expenses, while the Village contributes 20% of operating costs for the Cremona Fire Hall as part of the partnership.



LIBRARY FUNDING

Funding is provided annually to Urban Municipalities to support local libraries. The 2026 per-capita rate is:

\$19.64 PER CAPITA
(Adjusted annually by CPI)

Additionally, the County pays a requisition to the Parkland Library System, budgeted at

\$129,680
for 2026.

This system-level funding supports all local libraries within the Parkland network.



Agricultural Services Expenses

Mountain View County Council places a strong focus on agriculture and land management in its **Strategic Plan**, which is illustrated on page 2. This includes developing policies and bylaws to preserve agricultural land and support business growth. Council also allocates funding to the Agricultural Services Department and Agricultural Service Board to maintain service levels and achieve strategic goals.

For 2026, Mountain View County has approved a budget for Agricultural, Lands & Parks Services totalling \$1,938,463. Broken down, the services provided include:

- \$145,631 for land management, covering maintenance of the County’s land inventory, business park upkeep, and other general land management needs.
- \$114,237 for parks management, including maintenance of day-use areas and Water Valley Campground and day-use parks like Bagnall, Hillers Dam, Davidson, and Winchell Lake.

The Majority of the Ag Services Budget, totalling \$1,678,595 supports operations under the Ag Service Board’s guidance. This includes brushing, mowing, and spraying (right of way management).

Right of Way Management	\$656,913
General Agricultural Services	\$656,913
Environmental Stewardship	\$240,647
Invasive Plant Management	\$127,294
Pest Control	\$33,547
Town Weed Inspection	\$16,590
Extension Services	\$13,353
Recurring Projects	\$1,500
TOTAL	\$1,678,595



Mountain View
COUNTY

INVESTING IN OUR ROADS.



Mountain View County's Operational Services implements several strategic programs to ensure the longevity and quality of its road infrastructure. These programs are designed to meet specific maintenance and enhancement goals, ensuring a resilient and reliable County road network.



RECHIPPING PROGRAM

Mountain View County Operational Services annually selects 122 km of hard surfaced, chip sealed roads for re-chipping. The re-chipping is scheduled on a seven year life cycle. This program's major cost driver is paving oil, making it subject to the volatility of crude oil pricing.



2026 BUDGET
\$1,996,140



BASE STABILIZATION PROGRAM

The Base Stabilization Program (nicknamed Rip & Chip) targets repairs on chip-sealed roads to enable sealing of multiple kilometres. Roads are selected for ripping in year one and chipping in year two. Each year's budget includes funding for the current year's ripping and the prior year's chipping. It's designed to be cost-effective and extend the road's life cycle.



2026 BUDGET
\$1,260,720



RE-GRAVEL PROGRAM

Graveled roadways require re-gravelling, on average, once every four years. The Regravel Program targets 488 km of re-gravel per year, based on an assumed spread of 222 tonnes/km.



2026 BUDGET
\$1,996,140



LONG-PATCHING PROGRAM

Operational Services identifies the most critical sections of hard surface roads for long patching; a temporary repair method that applies asphalt to larger failing sections of chip-sealed or paved roads, rather than spot patching. This helps preserve road integrity and extend its lifespan until full reconstruction can occur. The County averages 0.4 km of long patching per year.



2026 BUDGET
\$630,360



SUBDIVISION CHIP PROGRAM

A program to re-chip the portion of roadway within County Subdivisions on an annual basis. The program is based on need.

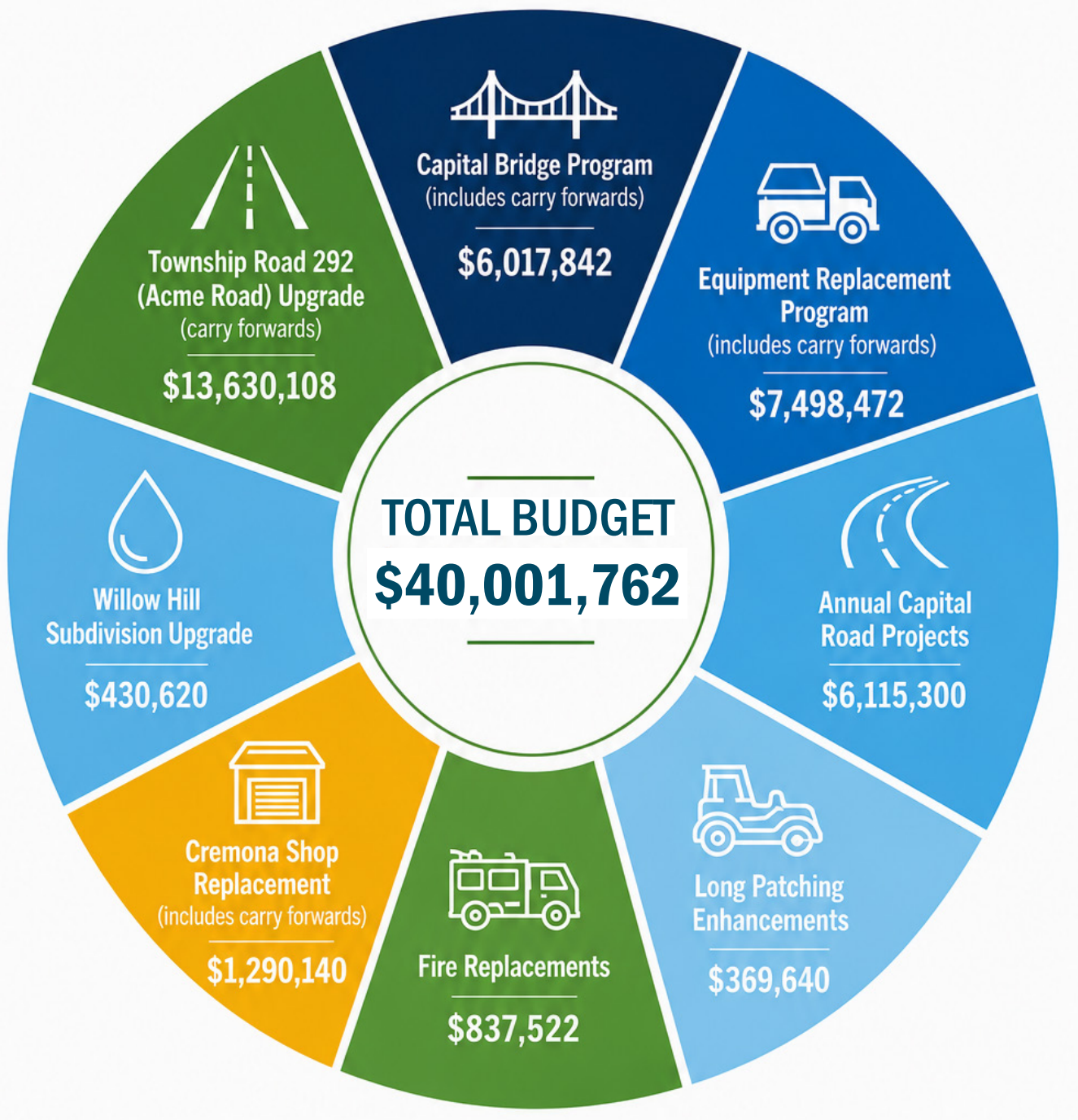


2026 BUDGET
\$231,940

Capital and Operating Projects

In 2026, Council approved **\$37,789,199** in Capital Projects and **\$2,212,563** in Operating/ Inventory projects for a total Project Budget of **\$40,001,762**.

Of this total **\$19,637,384** are carry forwards from 2025 projects not yet complete.



These investments ensure the continued delivery of essential services, maintain our infrastructure, and support the long-term sustainability of our communities.

PROUD PARTNERS. SAVING LIVES.

STARS®
AIR AMBULANCE



Over the last five years, STARS Air Ambulance has responded to emergency situations in Mountain View County **276 times** (current to December 31, 2025).



That represents an average of **55 missions per year**, 55 instances where life-saving care reached our residents during their most critical moments.



Mountain View County remains a proud supporter, providing funding at a **\$4 per-capita** basis. In 2025, this resulted in a total contribution of **\$51,924**.



A MILESTONE YEAR: **2026**

This coming year marks a significant milestone in our partnership. Mountain View County is set to reach **\$500,000** of cumulative giving and impact, earning the County logo on one of STARS prestigious H145 aircrafts.





Mountain View C O U N T Y

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Toll Free: 1-877-264-9754

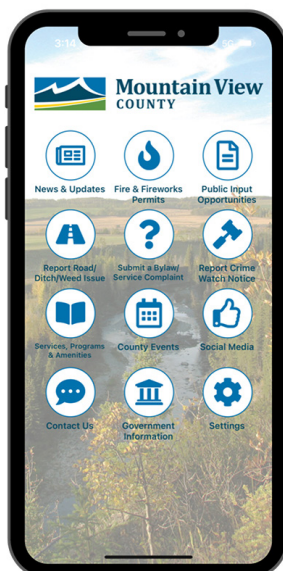
Email: info@mvcountry.com

Website: mountainviewcounty.com

Hours of Operation:

Mon - Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm

Closed Statutory Holidays



Download Our App!

By downloading our app, it's easy to stay connected to what's happening in our community.

The MVC App features: latest notices, upcoming events, reporting features & more!

Visit our website or scan the QR Code below:

