



**LACOMBE POLICE  
COMMISSION**

**&**

**LACOMBE POLICE SERVICE**

**2019**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



*PHOTO - Kids & Kops 2019*

***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 2019**



## 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 updated our policy, clarified our selection and training procedures, confirmed through policy adjustment the role of the Public Complaints Director, identified future staffing needs and developed a new three-year Strategic Plan. The Commission strives to meet the objectives set out in our Strategic Plan, as well as the Oversight Standards Audit. We are pleased to report that in 2019 the Lacombe Police Commission completed a Community Survey with the citizens of Lacombe in which the Police Service received an 82% satisfaction rating.

I would like to give a special thank you to my Commission colleagues: Bob Huff (Chair 2019), Judy Lucht, John Walker, Sonja Dykslag, Edith McKinlay, Reuben Konnik and Brad Pears (our public complaints director) who willingly give of their time to allow us to be an effective governance body in 2019. As well thank you to Bob Huff who retired from the Commission at the end of 2019 and Tom Tack who stepped down as Public Complaints Director. We also welcome new Commission member Elaine Willette-Larsen who joins us in 2020.

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.

**Corey Gish**  
**Commission Chair**

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## Lacombe Police Service - Annual Report 2019

### Message from the Chief of Police

*In partnership with the Lacombe Police Commission, I am pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report to the community.*

*2019 continued to see growth and change for our Service. In 2019 a new (2019 to 2021) 3-year strategic plan was developed which includes priorities in the areas of Exemplifying Excellence in Policing, Recruiting and Retention of Staff, Reducing Crime and Victimization, Strengthening Community Partnerships, Improved Traffic Safety, Excellence in Police Service Delivery.*

*In meeting our strategic priorities, we continued to provide enhanced service delivery to the citizens of Lacombe through our Community Liaison Officer position which enables additional community collaboration, education and partnerships with our crime prevention partners and groups. Our Crime Reduction Team focused on serious crime investigations and crime reduction initiatives. In support of our rural communities and law enforcement agencies, both our Community Liaison Officer and Crime Reduction Team members shared information, education and resources to assist in identifying and apprehending prolific offenders who commit crime in our communities.*

*In 2019 the Service expanded their dispatch services to include monitoring for Community Peace Officers in Lacombe and neighbouring Counties. This helps enhance officer safety for our law enforcement partners and falls within our Strategic Priorities on Strengthening Community Partnerships.*

*We continue to provide 24 hours, 7 days a week response to calls for service and our localized dispatch continues to ensure calls are answered and dispatched in a timely manner. The Service also maintains extended front counter service hours from 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm Monday to Friday for enhanced customer service and accessibility.*

*In the area of Improved Traffic Safety, we focused on enforcement around high collision locations, traffic education initiatives and maintained our number of enhanced check stops throughout the year.*

*To fill vacancies and support expansion of personnel, while addressing Recruitment and Retention, 2019 saw Cst. Walker graduate from recruit training in June of 2019 after she was hired in 2018. Cst. Marsollier was hired in 2019 bringing total authorized sworn member strength to 22 police members*

*The Service continues to maintain compliance standards and training to ensure Excellence in Policing. In October 2019 the Service underwent a Provincial Standards Audit conducted by the Alberta Solicitor Generals Department and at the conclusion of the audit the Lacombe Police Service met or exceeded the requirements in all areas. In 2019 the Lacombe Police Commission also completed a Community Survey with the citizens of Lacombe in which the Police Service received an 82% satisfaction rating. We also work with our Public Complaints Director to ensure any complaints against the Service or members are addressed within the set guidelines.*

*In 2019, the Lacombe Police Service received 6953 calls for service. This figure represents a 1.25% decrease from 2018 where there were a total of 7,042 calls for service. 2019 calls for service were 7% above the 5-year average of 6507. 2019 recognized a 5% increase in crimes against a person, 8% increase in crimes against property, 55% decrease in drug offences, and 12% increase in other criminal code offences with impaired driving down 7%. Provincial Act offences remained relatively the same at a 1% increase. In all categories the number of charges laid decreased to 3194 which represents a 1.75% decrease over 2018 in 2019.*

*The Lacombe Police Service remains committed to enhancing public safety and meeting the needs of our community.*

*Lorne Blumhagen  
Chief of Police*



Human Resources



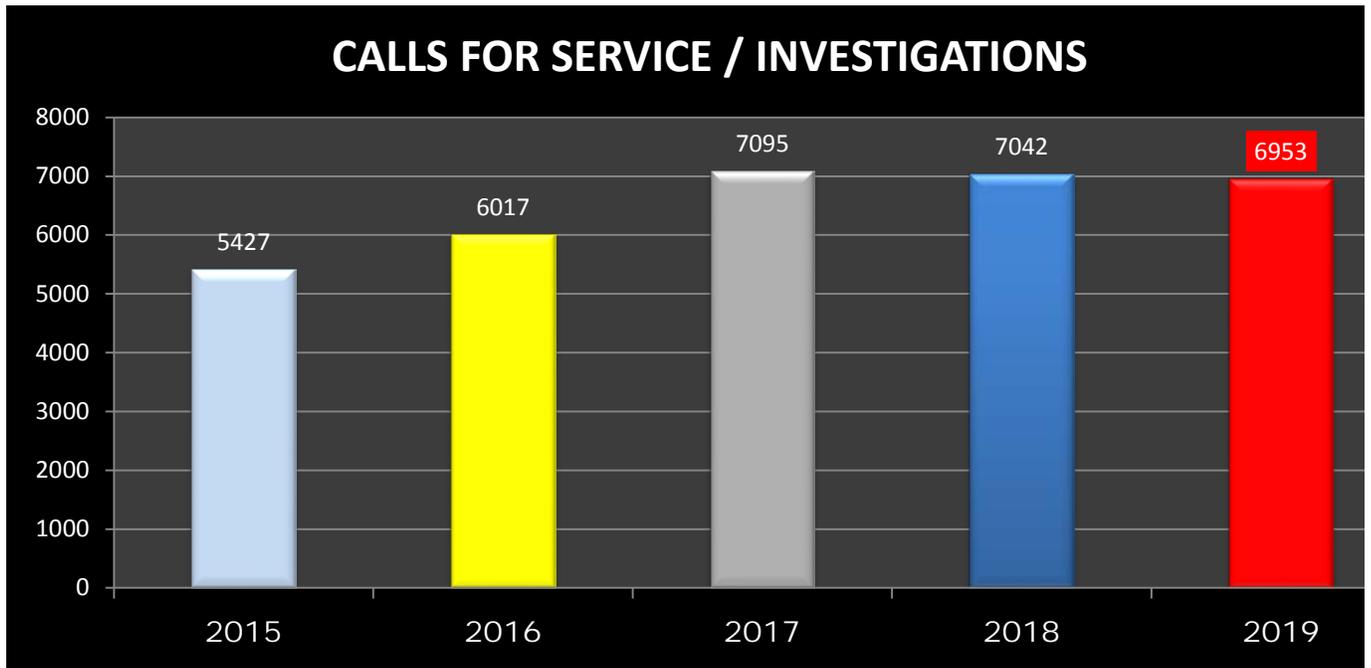
In 2019 LPS experienced some staffing changes. The Police service maintained 4 positions outside of general duties. The Crime Reduction Unit with 2 members along with the Community Liaison and School Resource Positions. A recruit constable hired in 2018 graduated from training in June 2019. The LPS hired 1 new police recruit 2019 to fill a vacancy within the sworn members. The new recruit was hired in August and is attending training with the Edmonton Police Service and will complete training in 2020. On the civilian side 2-part time positions were created to accommodate extended front counter hours to 9:00 pm. An open dispatch position was filled as the result of a staff member successfully moving through our recruiting process to become a sworn member, with a starting date in November 2018 and graduating in 2019. The 2018 authorized staffing complement for LPS was:

- **22 sworn police officers**
- **8 full time and 2 part-time civilian support staff, with 5 Casual civilian support staff**

This represents a “Police to Population’ ratio of 635 to 1 which is in line with the Human Resource Plan. This is approximately 15% lower than the national average of 541 and 7% lower than the Alberta average of 593. In 2019, the enumerated population of Lacombe census was 13,985, which represents a change of 9.9% from 2014. This compares to the provincial average of 6.6% and the national average of 5.7% for the same time period.



Operational Highlights – Calls for Service



#### CALLS FOR SERVICE

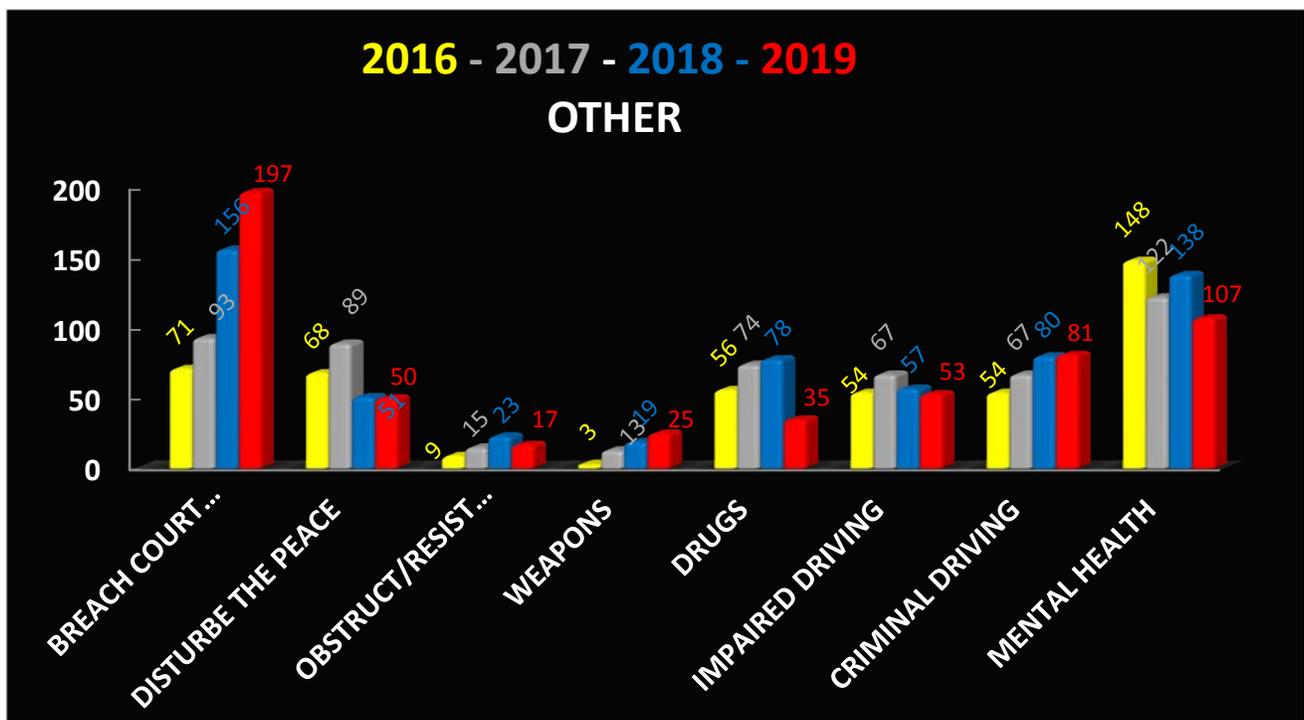
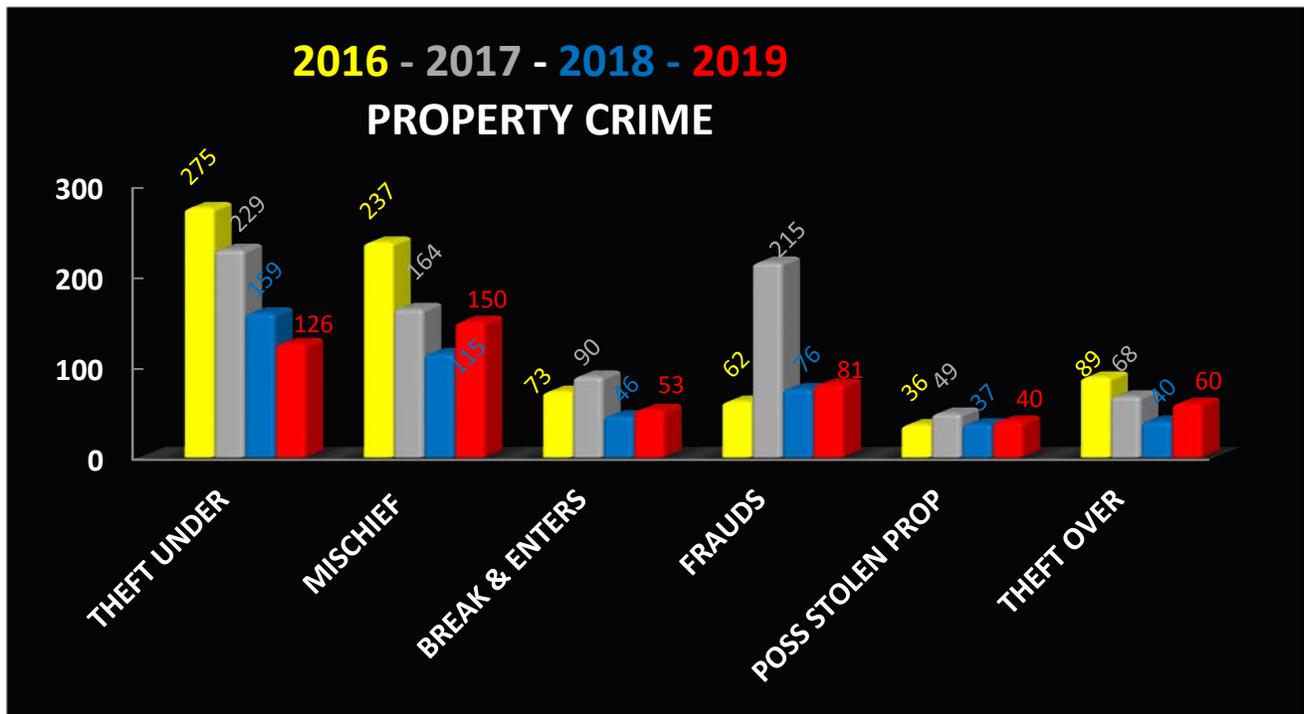
In 2019, the total reported calls for service was 6953. This figure represents a 1.25% decrease from 2018 where there was a total of 7,042 calls for service. 2019 shows 7% above the 5-year average of 6507 calls for service. The numerical breakdown of offences can be found under the operational highlights (Crime Stats)

A review of the categories over the past year shows an increase in most sub categories with uttering threats and assaults showing the greatest. These increases can be attributed to online threats made on platforms such as (but not limited to) Facebook and Instagram. Domestic violence increased 5% which is up from a 17% decrease shown in the previous year. Another statistical decrease is attributed to the legalization of cannabis, the service showed a 55% decrease in drug offences from 2018.

With the new recourses in place such as the Community Liaison member and the Crime Reduction Team, Lacombe Police Service is able to co ordinate investigations with front line members and focus on emerging crime trends which has lead to the implementation of initiatives to reduce crime. This can be attributed to partnering in joint force projects and focusing on prolific offenders in Lacombe and surrounding communities. These targeted investigations have been very successful in 2019. Another successful initiative was the creation of social media; this is a beneficial tool used to educate the community on crime preventions programs and inform residences of the current crime trends affecting Lacombe.

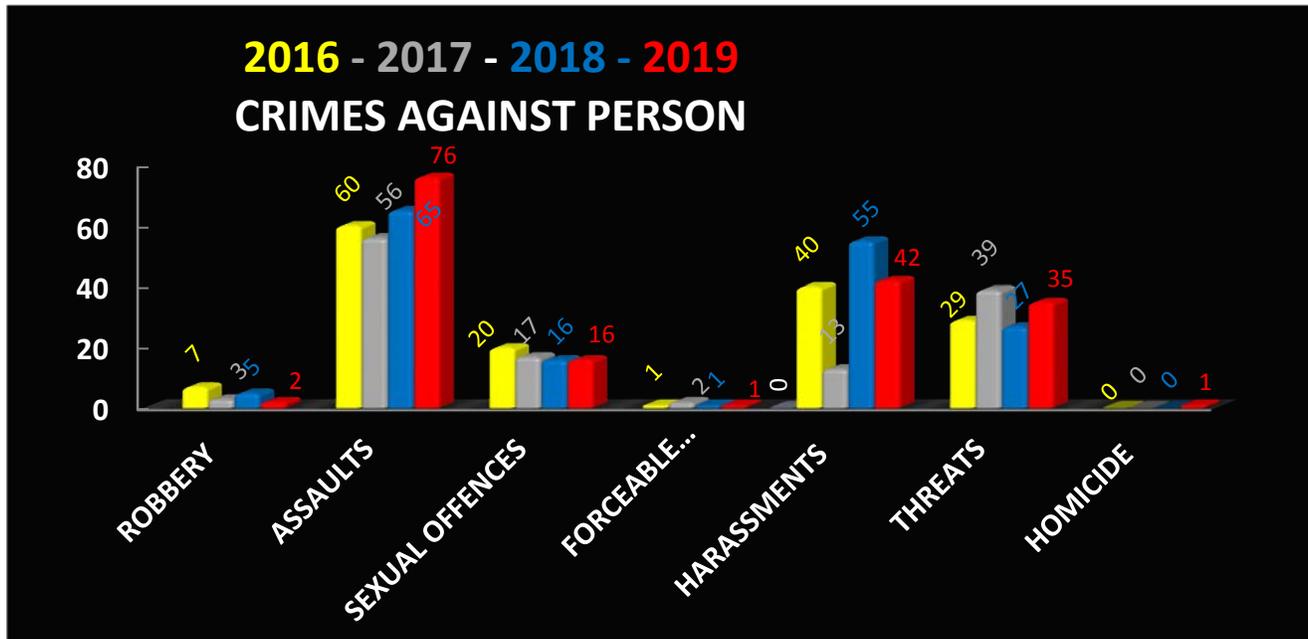


Operational Highlights – Property Crime / Other Stats





Operational Highlights – Crime Against Persons Stats



CRIME STATS ↓ ↑ BETWEEN 2019 - 2018

- ↑ PROPERTY CRIME (8%)
- ↑ CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS (5%)
- ↓ IMPAIRED DRIVING (-7%)
- ↑ FAMILY DISPUTES (6%)
- ↓ DRUG CHARGES (-55%)  
(Legalization of Cannabis)
- ↑ BREAK AND ENTERS (15%)
- ↑ FRAUDS (7%)
- ↓ MENTAL HEALTH (-22%)

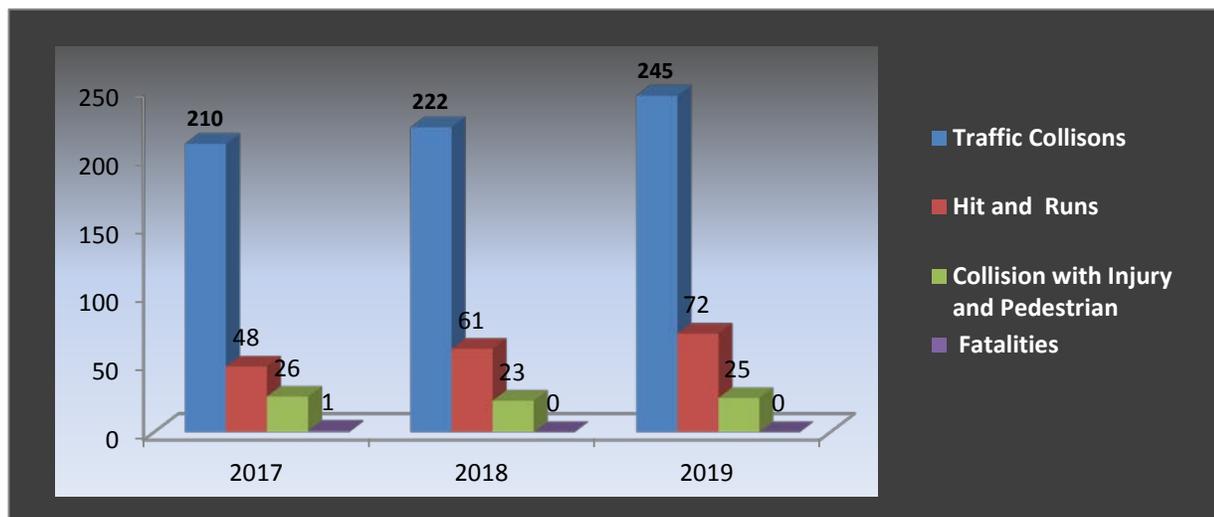
There was a 5% increase in crimes against a person, an 8% increase in crimes against property, 55% decrease in drug offences, and 12% increase in other criminal code offences with impaired driving showing a 7% decrease. Provincial Act offences increased by 1% for 2019. In 2018 a total of 3251 charges were laid in comparison to 2019 where there were 3,194 charges laid. This represents a 1.75 % decrease in charges laid in 2019. Of note, the 55% decrease in Drug offences aligns with the legalization of cannabis which took affect in the fall of 2018.

Overall the Lacombe Police Service CSI (Crime Severity Index) was favorable again in 2018 at 66 from 2017 at 84. In the violent crime category of the CSI, LPS was ranked at 210 in 2018 compared to 239 in 2017. The non violent crime did decrease to 74 in 2018 from 58 in 2017. Future strategic plans will give consideration to the above ends when developing new service initiatives and crime analysis reports will continue to monitor these trends and the impacts these have on the community.

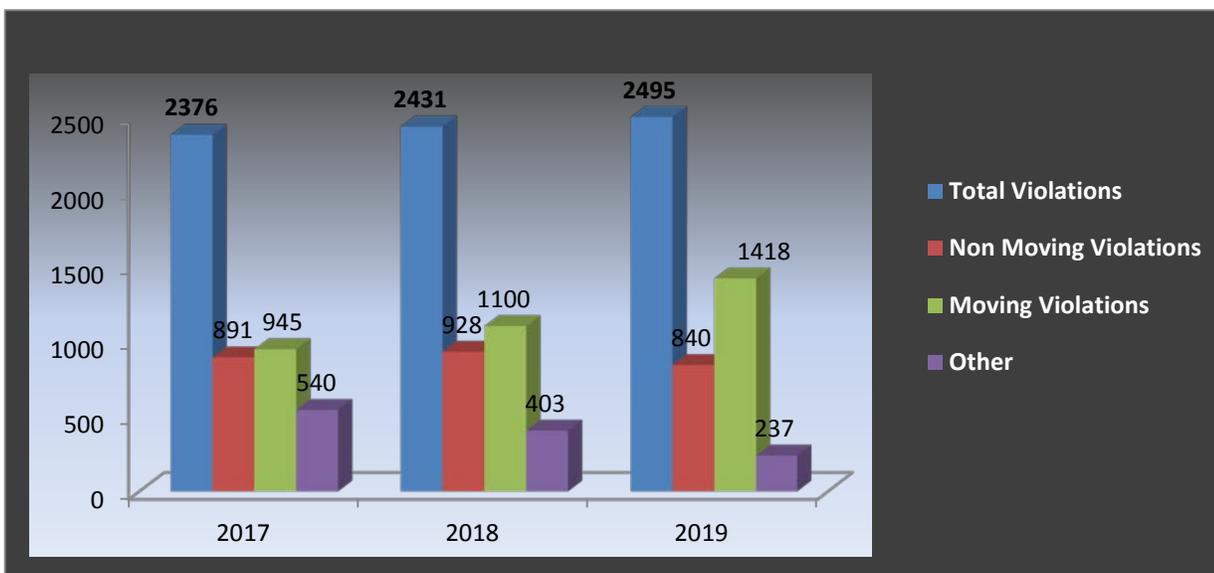


Operational Highlights – Traffic Stats

**Figure 1: 2017-2018-2019 Collision Breakdown**



**Figure 2: 2017- 2018- 2019 Traffic Enforcement Breakdown**





## Operational Highlights – Traffic

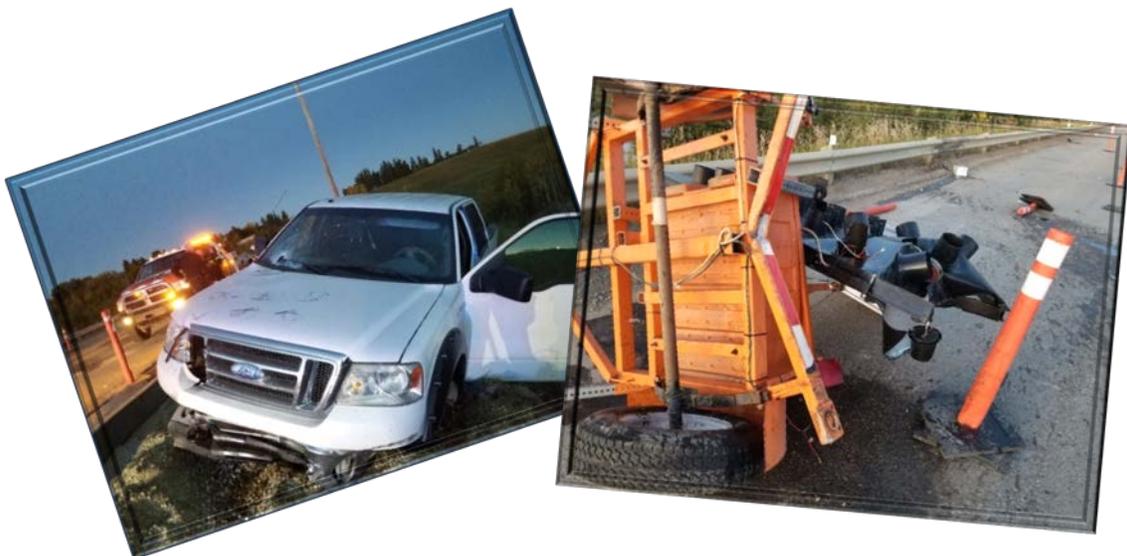
A collision analysis shows the breakdown of statistics for traffic offences and its related collisions that occur within the city limits of Lacombe in 2019. These statistics will also be compared to ones gathered in previous years to give an indication of areas of concern and will assist with logistic, infrastructure and enforcement plans.

The highest concentration of collisions is still noted to be at the intersection of Highway 12 and Highway 2A with a second area of concern at Woodland Drive and Highway 2A. During peak times these areas continues to be one of the busiest locations in the city especially factoring in the stoppages for trains. It should be noted that both locations are also truck routes having numerous commercial vehicles traveling in all directions.

In 2019 the City of Lacombe had 245 reported collisions 25 resulted in injuries with no fatalities. The majority of collisions remain consistent between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00 pm.

A continued goal of the Lacombe Police Service is visibility and enforcement throughout the city with concentration 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 2020. 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.

Provincial Check Stops conducted in the spring and summer were successful as the service noticed a decrease in impaired driving and 24hrs suspensions. This also provided members an opportunity to educate the community on the mandatory road side checks that came into effect this year.





## Operational and Organizational Priorities

### RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND EMERGING TRENDS

Every four years the Police Service conducts a Community survey. In 2019 a survey was conducted and was designed to evaluate our performance and gauge community perceptions and priorities about crime and community safety issues. The results showed that 84% of respondents felt our members were polite, courteous, and helpful and professional while 82% 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.

In our three-year strategic plan (2019-2021), we have identified strategies to achieve the following priorities and goals:

- 1. EXEMPLIFY EXCELLENCE IN POLICING**
  - 1.1 Provide Professional Service Delivery*
  - 1.2 Maintain High Professional Standards*
  - 1.3 Cost Effective Service Delivery*
  - 1.4 Improve Professional Standards*
- 2. RECRUITING, SELECTION AND RETENTION OF QUALITY STAFF**
  - 2.1 Recruit and Select Quality Applicants*
  - 2.2 Retention of Staff*
- 3. REDUCE CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION**
  - 2.1 Reduce Violent Crime*
  - 2.2 Reduce Domestic Violence*
  - 2.3 Reduce Property Crime*



## Operational and Organizational Priorities

### RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND EMERGING TRENDS

#### **4. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

- 4.1 Crime Prevention and Education*
- 4.2 Youth Safety and Empowerment*

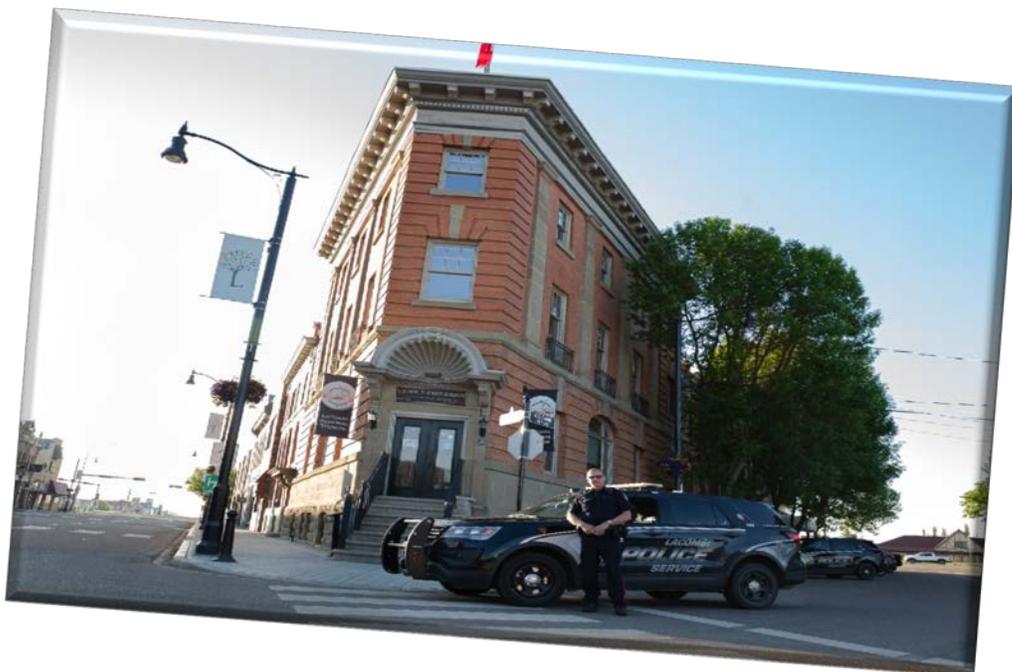
#### **5. IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY**

- 5.1 Reduce Traffic Collisions*

#### **6. EXCELLENCE IN POLICE SERVICE DELIVERY**

- 6.1 Improve clearance (solve) rates*
- 6.2 Enhance Collaboration and Partnerships*
- 6.3 Focus on Diversity and Inclusion*

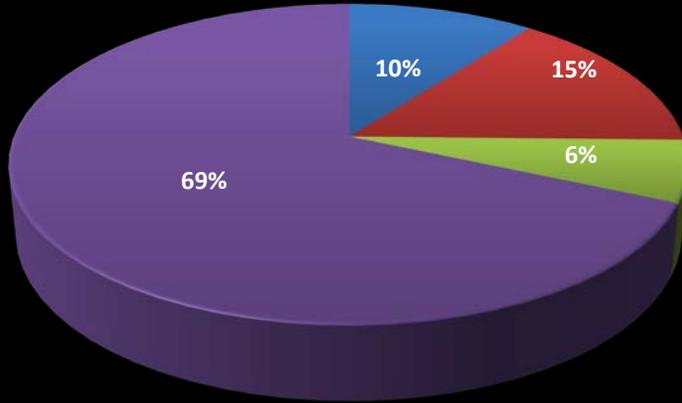
In the fall of 2018 and throughout 2019 the Police Service extended their front counter service hours to 8:00 am to 9:00 pm. This change addressed issues including improved public access, barrier free accessibility and extended hours to accommodate Local Police Information Checks. We also continue to provide 24/7 local call answering, police dispatch and policing services.





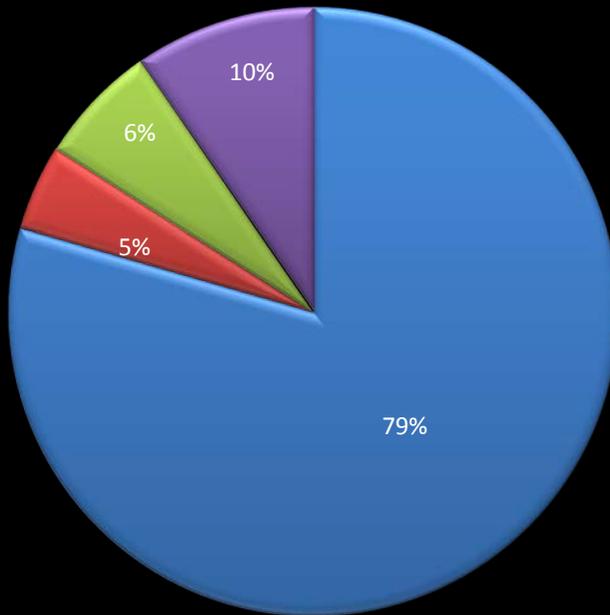
Budget – Revenue and Expenditures

### 2019 REVENUE SOURCES



- GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- SALE OF GOODS/SERVICES
- FINE REVENUE
- TAX SUPPORTED

### 2019 EXPENDITURES



- SALARY / BENEFITS
- EXTERNAL CONTRACTS
- INTERNAL CHARGES
- OPERATIONS

The 2019 Operating Budget of \$4,814,058.00 for the Police Service was approved by Council and is highlighted by percentage above. \$3,295,014.00 of the budget was tax supported. (\$235.00 per capita cost based on population of 13,985).



## 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. If 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 2019, LPS received one (1) complaint in relation to a civilian employee of the Service, this complaint was dismissed as it did not meet the criteria under the police act as the service has no jurisdiction over civilian employees, however it was addressed as a training opportunity.

The Lacombe Police Service initiated Four (4) internal and received (5) public complaint reviews from the actions of our members and all investigated under the Police Service Regulations. The following Misconduct investigations were resolved through internal guidance and performance supplements; (1) Discreditable Conduct, (2) Neglect of Duty) and (1) Excessive Use of Force. Training, mentorship and guidance will continue to be a priority of LPS to ensure compliance in accordance with the Provisions of the Police Act. *(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))*



## 2019 Organizational Awards & Recognition

**In 2019 members and staff of the Lacombe Police Service were presented with a number of awards and recognition for long service:**

- ❖ **Sgt. Bryan ZENS received the 20 year Alberta Long Service Medal**
- ❖ **Sgt. Bryan ZENS received the Canadian 20 Year Police Exemplary Service Medal**
  
- ❖ **Sgt. Richard KOHUT received a Lacombe twenty-year service award**
- ❖ **Sgt. Nicole MARTIN received a Lacombe ten-year service award**
- ❖ **Chief Lorne BLUMHAGEN received a Lacombe five-year service award**
- ❖ **Cst. Travis MARCOTT received a Lacombe five-year service award**
- ❖ **Cst. Vaughan BLEASDALE received a Lacombe five-year service award**
- ❖ **Cell Guard, Teresa MALAINEY received a Lacombe five-year service award**
  
- ❖ **Cst. Brett GIRARD was advanced to Senior Level 2 Constable**
- ❖ **Cst. Reuben GELEYNSE was advanced to 1<sup>st</sup> Class Constable**
- ❖ **Cst. Derek LEWKO was advanced to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Constable**
- ❖ **Cst. Kraig REID was advanced to 1<sup>st</sup> Class Constable**
- ❖ **Cst. Chris BARRETT was advanced to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Constable**
- ❖ **Cst. Mackenzie JORDAN was advanced to 4<sup>th</sup> Class Constable**
- ❖ **Cst. Kristy WALKER was advanced to 4<sup>th</sup> Class Constable**

**We recognize and appreciate the dedication, commitment and service our members and staff provide to the community! Thank You!**



## 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 and implemented in 2018 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.



### VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

Lacombe Victim Services worked on 380 files in 2019, assisting 704 individuals. Out of those, 20 were Crisis Call outs, 267 service and resource referrals provided, 100 financial and restitution requests completed and 44 Victim Impact statements forwarded to Crown.

VSU raised funds through various events including the Comedy Cabaret and receives donations from Royal Lepage Real Estate. 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 check stop 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 First Responders to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training, the annual Diverse Voices in Edmonton that deals with Domestic Violence and the Provincial Victim Service Conference in Banff. Our advocates also receive in house training.”*



## Community Involvement

**COMMUNITY LIASON OFFICER (CLO):** This sworn member position represents the Lacombe Police Service on a number of Community, Provincial and Police working groups. The CLO continues to be proactive in developing programs to reduce crime in the community, this includes working with various groups and receiving input on program initiatives to ensure all voices are being heard. The CLO will liaise through social media and local media resources to keep the community informed and up to date on current concerns and potential problems that impact both the police and the community.

**KIDS N' KOPS:** We were once again proud to partner in 2019, 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.

