

Message From the Reeve

2023 began in what looked like would be a year full of moisture with large amounts of snow and frigid temperatures. We faced many challenges at the start but as the year progressed it was not moisture that concerned us but drought and fires across our province. The County of Vermilion River fire department volunteers were called upon to fight fires locally as well as beyond our County lines all the way up to Hay River, NWT. We are always very proud of the way our firefighters represent our County and are thankful for their service and we have much appreciation also to the families who support them as they answer the call to go help others.

Council hosted two open house events in 2023 with our first being held in Kitscoty in the spring and a smaller gathering in Islay in the fall. We appreciate the efforts of County staff in the preparation for these events. We believe it is important to ensure our friends and neighbors have the opportunity to meet with Council and staff and talk about any concerns they may have. Also distributed at the Open Houses was our 2023 Corporate Plan which outlines the goals and objectives for the year.

The oil and gas industry tax holiday remained at the top of our list of concerns as we lobbied the Provincial Government regarding the impact this holiday has had financially on the County of Vermilion River. Council continues to meet with Government Officials regarding the financial pressures it is placing on municipalities.

Another top priority remains rural crime and the need for our local RCMP detachments to have a full roster of members. As a Council we have held meetings in Edmonton with RCMP officials to discuss the importance of both the Vermilion and Kitscoty RCMP detachments. We have also began meeting with Onion Lake RCMP on a regular basis to keep up to date on concerns regarding the northern area of the County.

On behalf of the County of Vermilion River Council - Deputy Reeve Leslie Cusack, Councillor Dale Swyripa, Councillor Stacey Hryciuk, Councillor George Kuneff, Councillor Jason Stelmaschuk and Councillor Clinton Murray we ask that you work safely during this seeding and calving season.

Reeve Marty Baker



Natural Gas Utility

15 %

Avg savings by County Gas Customers vs. ATCO/Direct Energy

\$1.5 million

in capital billable projects within the County Gas System

\$1 million

in external billable services for other Gas Utilities in Alberta

750

non-reporting gas metres changed out from September - December

Major Gas Supply Line

acquired north of the North Saskatchewan River

CNG Expansion

continued with CNG vehicle fleet and vehicle refueling

Public Works

100,401 tonnes of gravel used

226 Snowplow Flags sold

Hamlet water consumption: **84,492 M3**

14.5 km of Roads Rehabbed

243 Signs Installed

3,605,355 Litres of MG30 Dust control applied



Range Road 80



Underground line replacement



Township 474

Planning & Community Services

UPDATE TO CIVIC ADDRESSING SYSTEM TO COUNTY OF VERMILION RIVER HAMLETS!

This project aims to improve communication and make it easier for everyone - emergency services, deliveries, and utility companies, residents and staff - to find addresses. This project started in summer 2023 with Clandonald having updated addresses. In 2024 Dewberry, Rivercourse, Streamstown and McLaughlin will have their addresses updated.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- you have received a mail notification with your new address
- Planning & Community Services will notify Canada Post, utility companies, RCMP & 911 once the new data has been incorporated into the mapping system

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- Update your house number to reflect the new civic address
- inform personal contacts (banks, businesses, etc.) about your new address

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS.

Agriculture and Environment

7 New
ALUS
projects
381 acres

2538 km
Roadside
Vegetation
managed

158 Canola
fields surveyed
for Clubroot
2% positivity
rate

30 tonnes Grain
Bag plastic &
632 kg Twine
Recycled



Extension:
9 workshops,
4 field days,
6 community
events

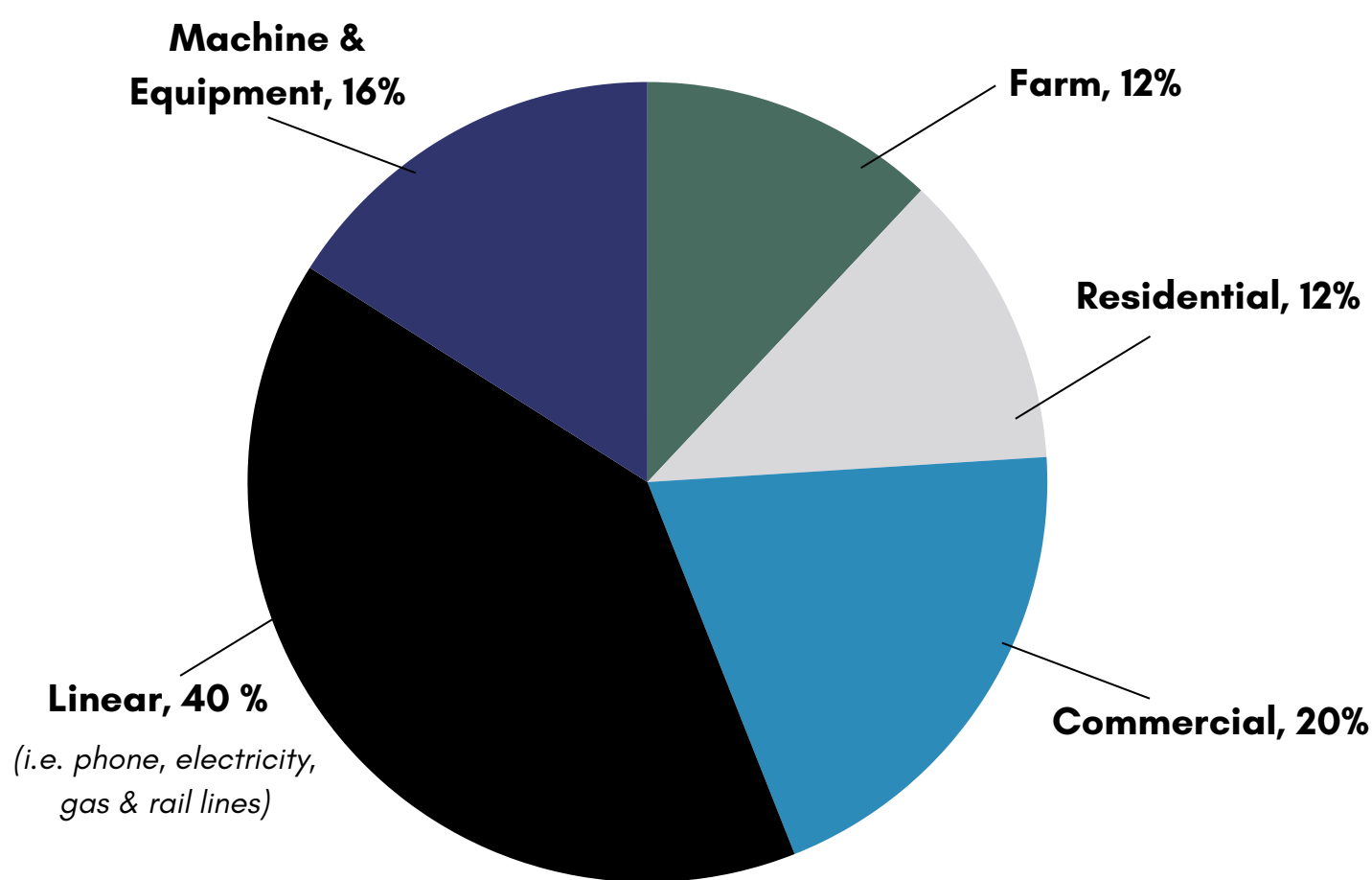
426
premises
inspected
for Rats

49 Noxious
Weed sites
managed

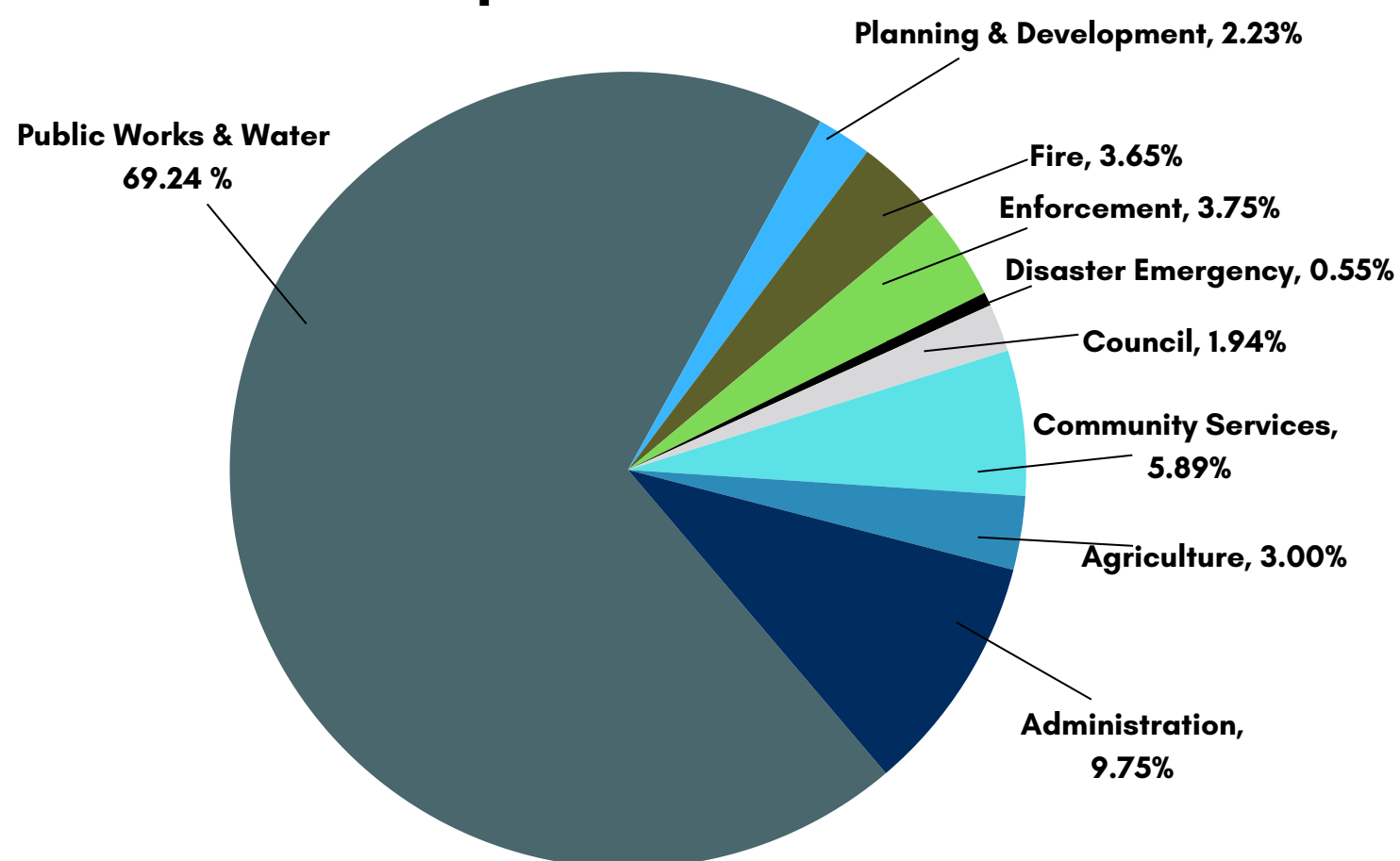
93 Pest/Disease
assessments for
AB Insect Pest
Monitoring
Network

Tax Revenue Allocation & Breakdown

2023 Municipal Tax Revenue Breakdown

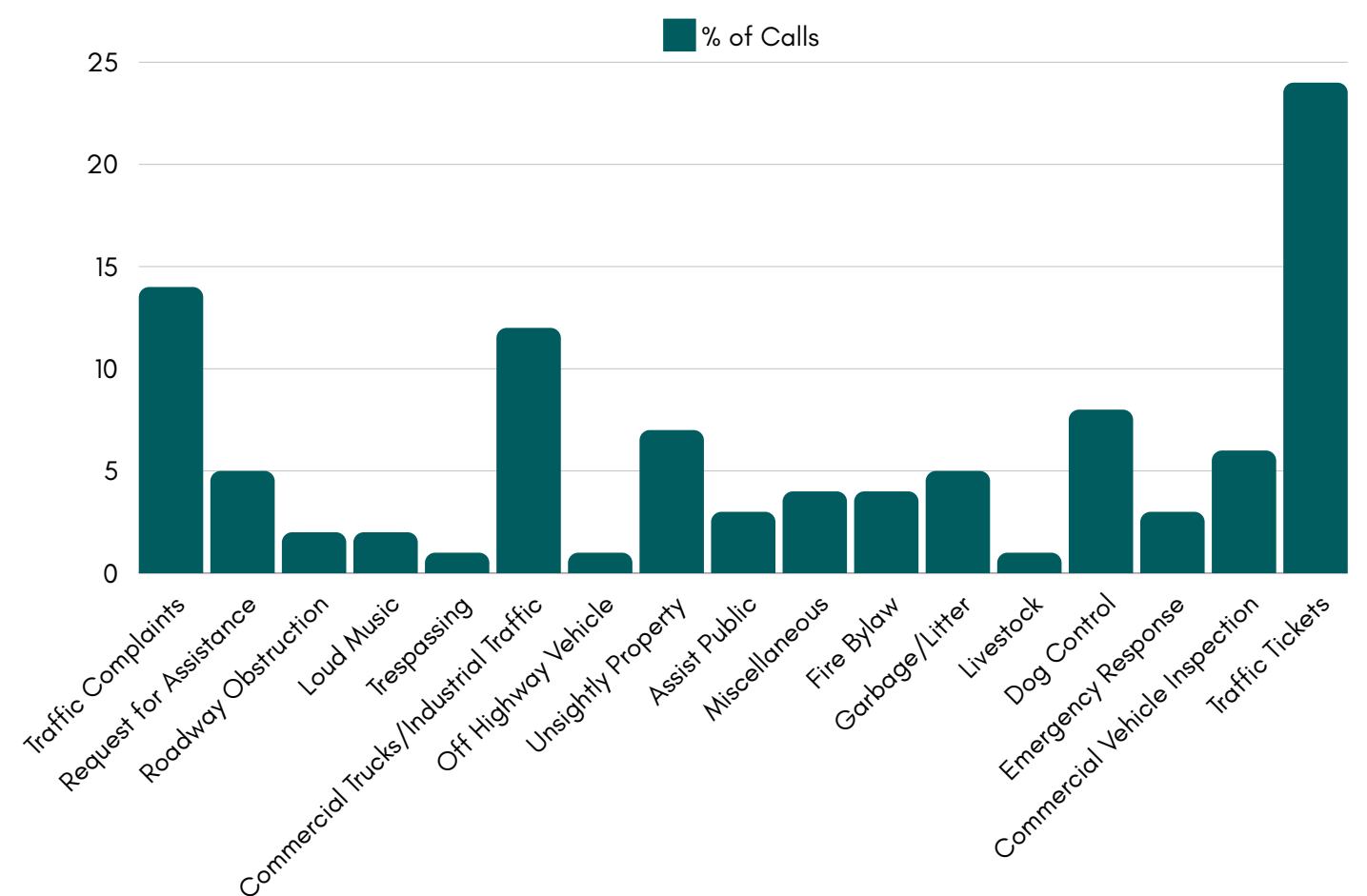


2023 Municipal Tax Revenue Allocation



Protective Services

Peace Officer Incidents



2023 # of Incidents

Structure Fires	12
Wildland Fires	50
MVC	64
Plane/Train Crash	0
Medical	99
Alarms	29
Smoke Investigation	4
Rescue	4
Vehicle Fire	22
Gas/Electrical	6
Explosions	0
Mutual Aid	77
Provincial	8
Regional	7
Fire Investigation	42
Public Assistance	27
Total	456

- Firefighters achieved NFPA qualifications including: Certified Level 1 Firefighter, Hazardous Material, Instructor, Advanced Instructor, and Fire Investigation 1 & 2
- County adds three new apparatus including: one Wildland Type 7, one Command, one Tactical Tanker
- County Firefighters respond to five request for assistance battling wildfires in Northern AB and in the N.W.T
- County Peace Officers certify in predator control and defense, re-qualified on defensive tools and de-escalation
- Emergency management division monitored 84 incidents and completed over 1,200 burn permits!