

Okotoks Municipal Enforcement
2024 Annual Report



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History of Settlement in Okotoks

We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes Blackfoot Confederacy members: Siksika, Piikani, the Kainai First Nations, the Stoney Nakoda of Bearspaw, Chiniki and Wesley First Nations, the Dene of Tsuut'ina First Nations, the Métis Nation Region 3 and all those that made Treaty 7 lands their home. As treaty People, Indigenous and nonindigenous, we share the responsibility for stewardship of this beautiful land.





Introduction

As I reflect on the past year, I'm reminded of the essential role community safety plays in fostering a strong and thriving Okotoks. It's not just about enforcing rules - it's about building trust, fostering partnerships, and creating a secure and supportive environment for everyone.

At Okotoks Municipal Enforcement (OME), safety is a core value that guides everything we do. By following established protocols, working together, and looking out for each other, we contribute to a safe and productive community. Every interaction – whether through education, enforcement, or outreach – helps build stronger connections and a more secure environment for all.

In 2024, the Public Safety Survey provided valuable insights into residents' perspectives on safety, with a particular focus on Municipal Enforcement. Traffic enforcement and bylaw compliance had been identified as priorities. Throughout the year, our operational standards reflected our mission, vision, and values as we continued to prioritize and uphold community safety.

Our roads are vital to our community, and ensuring their safety is a shared responsibility. We view each traffic stop as an opportunity to engage with the public, uphold community policing principles, and make a positive impact. Each interaction fosters trust, educates the public, and promotes safe driving practices.

With a fully staffed field operations team and enhanced administrative support to fulfill our municipal policing contract, we've introduced new roles to improve efficiency and contribute to a healthier work environment. Our data-driven approach continues to guide decision-making, helping us achieve better outcomes that align with our organizational goals.

We remain deeply committed to enhancing the well-being of Okotokians and improving the overall quality of life in our community. I am incredibly proud of our Municipal Enforcement team and the progress we've made in supporting safety throughout the year. This report reflects the dedication of every officer in upholding our shared commitment to community safety.

Sincerely,

Vikram Kulkarni

Vikram (Vik) Kulkarni, M.A.

Okotoks Municipal Enforcement Manager



Core Milestones

PERSONNEL

1. We onboarded three new Peace Officers and one new Bylaw Officer to strengthen our field operations.
2. We enhanced administrative support by hiring two new employees, improving collaboration with the RCMP and streamlining overall OME operations.

PROCESSES

- a. We launched a pilot program allowing livestock to be recognized as emotional support animals.
- b. We adjusted dog licensing and urban hen fees, implementing proposed amendments to modernize services, reduce costs and eliminate unnecessary red tape for residents.
- c. We revised the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw and strengthened the Traffic Bylaw.
- d. Leveraging technology, we introduced a QR Code to simplify applications and report filing and added a Point-of-Sale machine at the front desk for more efficient fine collection.
- e. Our dedicated Asset Management Plan facilitated the introduction of two new fleet vehicles in 2024.
- f. OME successfully implemented an electronic ticketing system for both provincial and bylaw violations in enforcement vehicles. This system has improved safety for both civilians and officers while increasing process efficiency. In 2024, approximately 91% of issued fines were generated through electronic tickets.

PERFORMANCE

We have made fostering trust and collaboration with our community a priority by emphasizing transparency and accountability. This commitment is reflected in key areas:

- **Professionalism:** We have upheld operational standards, resulting in zero officer conduct complaints.
- **Road Safety:** We have implemented targeted initiatives to reduce traffic violations.
- **Community Trust:** We have increased visibility and actively participated in community events to build stronger relationships.

Mission, Vision, Values

The OME business plan is a strategic blueprint designed to navigate our organization's growth and future in Okotoks. Developed to align with our core mission, vision, and values, its purpose is twofold:

- + **Strategic Guidance:** It outlines our goals, and the steps needed to achieve them, ensuring our actions are aligned with our long-term objectives.
- + **Partner Engagement:** It serves as a key communication tool for partners, clarifying our direction and fostering collaboration.



Mission

To be a reliable and trusted service, recognized for our professional and ethical approach through the integrity of our people



Vision

To collaborate with partners and the public to achieve the best outcomes in pursuit of compliance, keeping Okotoks safe for everyone

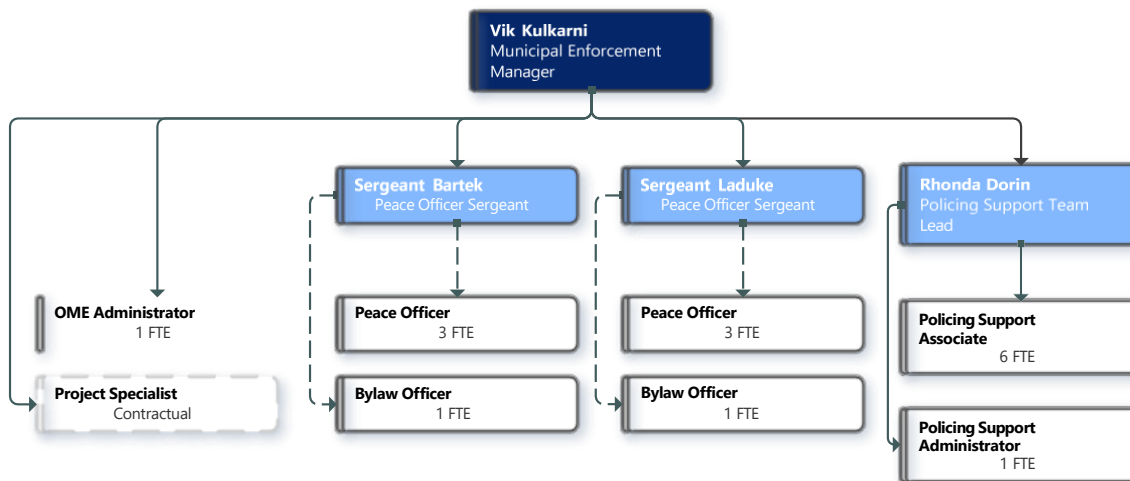


Values

*Professionalism
Compassion
Integrity*

OME Staffing and Structure

In 2024, Okotoks Municipal Enforcement (OME) enhanced its field operations staffing with the addition of three Community Peace Officers. Within the policing support group, two new staff members were onboarded to fulfil the municipal policing contract, bringing our workforce to full capacity. A review of service hours and scheduling was conducted, resulting in the implementation of a new schedule designed to optimize service coverage in alignment with size of our team.



Peace Officer Details		
Name	Position Title	Reg No.
Vikram Kulkarni	Peace Officer Inspector	19865
Trevor LaDuke	Peace Officer Sergeant	17479
Devon Bartek	Peace Officer Sergeant	17725
Daniel Raffan	Peace Officer	18777
Oliver Godsall	Peace Officer	19257
Dawit Woldeyes	Peace Officer	19327
Patrick Stachiw	Peace Officer	20000
Ilona Mikolajewski	Peace Officer	20061
Yu Sub Song	Bylaw Officer	004
Jeffrey Vona	Bylaw Officer	005
Daniel Young	Bylaw Officer	007



Professional Standards

Okotoks Municipal Enforcement reports all public complaints involving peace officer conduct and use of force to the Province of Alberta Peace Officer Program. Use of force is considered a last resort when all other measures of achieving compliance have been exhausted or an individual uses force against a peace officer. In 2024, Okotoks Municipal Enforcement had no professional standards investigations:

Professional Standards Files		
2024	2023	Change
0	0	0

Service Statistics

Assistance to the RCMP

In 2024, OME officers sought assistance from the RCMP during traffic stops involving impaired drivers and individuals with outstanding warrants. The RCMP’s staffing team at ‘K’ division collaborated with the Town of Okotoks to select a Staff Sergeant for the Okotoks RCMP detachment. Additionally, OME officers continue to maintain radio access to the RCMP, enhancing safety for Community Peace Officers during their operations.

Community Outreach and Education

OME conducted an average of nine (9) traffic related patrols daily, dedicating over three (3) hours each day to enhancing visibility, deterring speeding, and fostering a safer environment for all road users. Officer presence in school zones, at the recreation centre, and in hockey arenas fosters positive relationships with students, parents, and administrators from both schools and sport organizations. With a large adolescent population and 13 schools in Okotoks, most community outreach efforts are focused on engaging youth. Other community engagement events like *Charity Check stop* provide for a visible presence and an opportunity to share safety-related education with the community.

Anti-Graffiti Program

In the summer of 2022, there was an unprecedented increase in graffiti on public property. Across 2023 – 2024, OME officers diligently investigated graffiti files and were instrumental in identifying perpetrators who were subsequently charged or assigned community service restitution. Throughout 2024, OME officers have remained dedicated to addressing community concerns about graffiti. These efforts have yielded noteworthy results with complaints data for 2024 showcasing a 72% reduction in monthly graffiti-related complaints compared to 2023.

Figure 1 - Graffiti Complaints



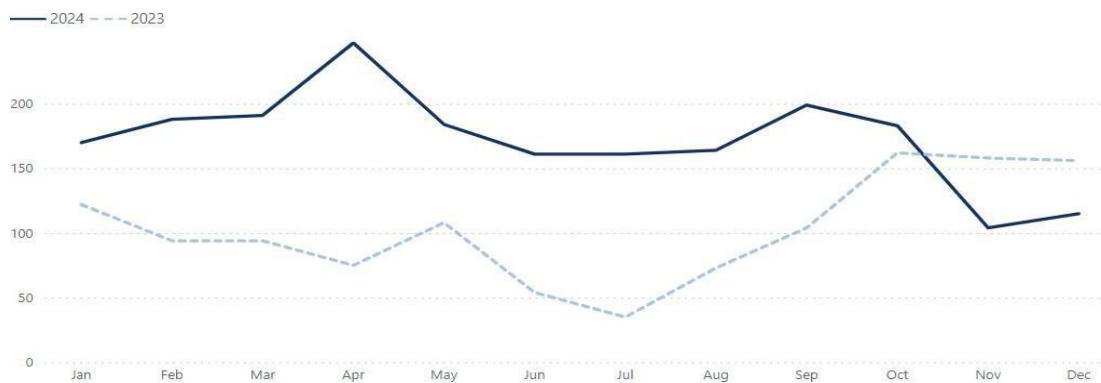
Source(s): OME Statistical Reporting Tool; Data Extracted Jan 20, 2025

Traffic Initiatives

Throughout 2024, traffic safety enforcement was prioritized as a main operational focal point for OME, specifically as it related to speeding violations and traffic noise. Data obtained through traffic count/speed studies provided OME with insight into problematic areas and allowed for targeted traffic enforcement.

- Substantial increase in tickets issued for general speeding related violations in 2024 as compared to 2023 (n=57%).
- Increases observed in 2024 are heavily correlated with an increase to OME staffing and the finalization of implementing the e-Ticketing system, both of which have led to greater volume and efficiency with ticketing.

Figure 2 – Tickets & Written Warnings related to Speeding Violations (General & Time/Zone Specific)



Speed Data ¹			
Incident Type	2024	2023	Change
Speeding (General)	1599	1061	■ 51%
Tickets	1265	804	■ 57%

¹ Data variations between years can arise due to delays or lag time in data export as well as the introduction of new violation categories with the SmartSquad system introduced in late 2023. These changes are expected to improve reporting accuracy and detail but may affect comparisons with prior periods.

Speed Data ¹				
Written Warning	334	257	■	30%
Speeding (conditional time & zone)²	468	173	■	171%
Tickets	336	119	■	182%
Written Warning	132	54	■	144%
Grand Total	2067	1234	■	68%

Source(s): OME Statistical Reporting Tool; Data Extracted Jan 20, 2025

Complaint and Officer Generated Investigations

2057

Complaints Investigated
12%Y compared to 2023

291

Officer Generated Reports
109%Y compared to 2023

Community Safety & Enforcement Activity

OME Service Files Processed	
<u>Complaints</u>	
Cleared by Compliance	887
Warnings / Education	944
With Charge	207
Still Under Investigation	10
Other	9
Total	2057
<u>Officer Generated Reports</u>	
Cleared by Compliance	139
Warnings / Education	53
With Charge	93
Still Under Investigation	4
Other	2
Total	291
<u>Tickets, Tags, Warnings</u>	
Violation Tickets	3332
Town Tags	159
Written Warnings	1364
Total	4855

Source(s): OME Statistical Reporting Tool; Data Extracted Jan 20, 2025

² Speeding violations categorized as conditional time & zone speed violations occur when drivers exceed the defined speed limit within designated zones during specific time periods. Includes school zones, playground zones, and construction zones.