

Mayor & Council Message

2020 was a challenge for many residents and our valued business community. Council and I want to thank all Town employees for their dedication and tireless efforts in keeping our community safe. Even though not always seen as favourable, Council will continue to keep our community on track to recovery so we will come back even stronger in the coming years.

Despite the challenges and adversity, I invite you to join Council and I to celebrate our accomplishments and continue to showcase our community.

Richard Poole
Mayor Richard Poole

Message from the CAO

As we navigated through the pandemic of 2020, our staff have done a fantastic job in continuing to maintain service levels, offering online solutions, and introducing programs in response to those facing hardships all the while working with less hands, decreased budgets, and minimal public interaction.

Council and administration are facing the challenges head on and due to the resiliency of this great community, we remain the Community of Choice.

Together, we will get through this.

Myron Thompson
CAO Myron Thompson

Economic Development

Branding Exploration

100 community members attended workshops to learn more about municipal branding.

Formed the Brand Development Committee to present a rebrand recommendation to Council for 2020.

Funded Initiatives

Central Alberta Tourism incl. an online trip planner and the Trails-based Tourism Plan.

Business Satisfaction Survey

80% 80% of businesses are satisfied/very satisfied with the services received from the Town. 74% rated Blackfalds as good-excellent location to operate a business.

A warm business welcome

Welcome to Aerial Edge Studio, Central Alberta Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Prince Accounting, Barber Shop, McDonalds, Blackfalds Pharmacy, Heartfelt Yoga, S & A Power Equipment Repair, CrossFit Cannon Ball, BP Media Works, All Things Planty, and more.

Central Alberta Tourism and Travel Alberta photoshoot

"Our Business World" Junior Achievement program

Blackfalds Business Awards



Co-hosted with Chamber of Commerce. Received total of 444 nominations for 44 businesses and 14 employees.

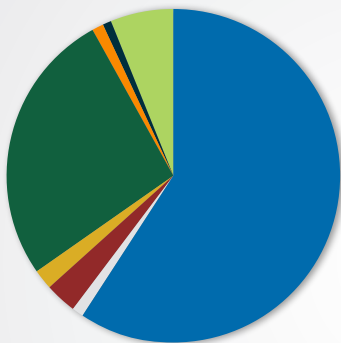
Wadey Visitor Information Centre

Welcomed over 500 visitors in 2019.

Operating Budget for 2019

\$28,197,781

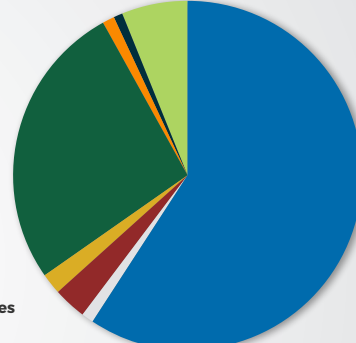
2019 Operating Revenue



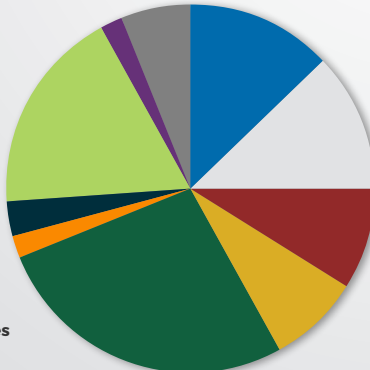
Operating Budget for 2020

\$28,645,990

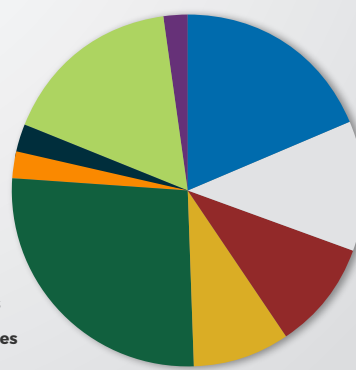
2020 Operating Revenue



2019 Operating Expenses



2020 Operating Expenses



Infrastructure & Property Services

Planning & Development

Continuing the trend of 2018, Blackfalds experienced a reduction in building permits in 2019 due to the economic conditions in Alberta. Development of single family dwellings decreased to nearly half in 2019 with a total of 17 permits as compared to 26 in 2018.

The total dollar value of permits for commercial and industrial increased from nearly 2 million in 2018 to 13 million in 2019 which included the new Buy Low Foods grocery store, McDonalds restaurant and Blackfalds Crossing Phase 1A.

Total dollar value of permits tripled in 2020 which included the overall value of the Arena Expansion project \$24.6 Mil.



Infrastructure & Environmental Services

This department is made up of Public Works and office staff that keep Town services moving. This includes construction of new service, ongoing operations and maintenance of roadways, sidewalks, water, sewer, stormwater, and environmental management.

Key projects for 2019

- Highway 2A and Broadway Avenue realignment.
- Tutty Pond improvements.
- Grading of All-Star Park soccer pitch and track area.
- Waghorn Street Repaving Project and sidewalk repairs around town.
- East Area Stormwater Management Project Construction started.
- Water Act Approval was received.
- Environmental Stewardship Strategy development.
- Spring/Fall electronics recycling roundup.



- 4,500 tons of commercial and residential waste and diverted 700 tons of recycling and yard waste from the landfill.
- BOLT Transit survey and service changes to accommodate rider feedback.
- Decommissioned the sewer lagoons and completed first year of the new regional treatment system.
- Installed 40km/h speed change signs.

Key Projects for 2020

- New RV Dump Station at All-Star Park.
- Gregg Street/Womacks re-alignment.
- Water Act approval for the Northwest Area Storm Project.
- Engineering activities for the Duncan Avenue & Leung Road Upgrades.
- BOLT on demand Local Transit.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Parks & Facilities



Honouring the Tutty Family at the Tutty Pond Park Grand Opening



The first of Central Alberta's Inclusive Playgrounds



Parks and Public Works crews move into the new Operations Centre

2019 Key Projects

- The grand opening of the Tutty Pond Park with the Tutty family as honorary guests.
- The first of Central Alberta's Inclusive playgrounds is installed.
- Parks and Public Works crews joined forces and moved into new Operations Centre.
- Parks crews added 750 metres of new trails.
- Installed basketball hoops at Pine Crescent (on outdoor rink surface).
- Solar lights at Blackfalds Bark Park.
- Moved Sk8 park equipment to Pine Crescent Park.

2020 Key Projects

- Willow Parks Outdoor Rink.
- Local landscaping contractor donated their services by transplanting the large trees from the Eagle Builders Centre to the inclusive playground.
- Prospect Cl. and Park St. pedestrian corridor asphalt improvements.
- Community member donated their time to move a mature blue spruce tree to the green space on Aspen Lakes Boulevard.

Abbey Centre

The Abbey Centre had a very different year in 2020 as compared to previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic which caused a huge disruption to regular operations as the numbers will show. Despite the challenges and adapting operations to provincial restrictions, the Abbey was able to bring in additional fitness equipment, run its summer programs and implement a max. 200 person capacity at 2 hour intervals with half hour cleaning and sanitation time slots.

	2019	2020
Visitors & Day Admissions	150,000	65,000
Total member visits	87,966	46,483
Total Monthly memberships	6,475	3,303
Facility Rentals	\$67,970	\$22,804
Summer Camp revenue (Includes Camp Curious and swim lessons)	\$58,600	\$37,816



Family & Community Support Services

Subsidized Programming	2019	2020
Total Children who Received Tools For School	119	99
Total Children who Received Winter Coats	105	155
Total # People accessed Christmas Bureau	374	393
Total Money Raised	\$26,377	\$27,705

Volunteerism	2019	2020
Total Volunteer Hours	2,626.5	1446.5
Total Volunteers	530	228
Community Grant Funding	\$30,000	\$25,000

The Lunchbox Program Covid-19 Response

While 2019 was for the most part business as usual, the FCSS team kicked into full gear during the COVID-19 pandemic and in partnership with the Blackfalds Food Bank and After the Grind, introduced the Lunchbox Program and was accessed by **1,125 families**, involved **663** volunteer and **590** administrative hours.

Received over **\$107,432** thanks to \$69,232 in grants and \$38,200 in donations including \$10K from a local business.



PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Municipal Enforcement

	2019	2020
Files Opened	1,100	900
Violation Tickets Issued	483	265
Verbal Warnings	600	n/a

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 created many challenges for enforcement, resulting in a lower than normal call volume.



Added one position bringing total to 4 full time Community Peace Officers.



2020 saw an increase of bike patrols to monitor parks and streets.

Many of the community relations events such as Kids & Kops, Bike Rodeo and other activities were cancelled in 2020 as a result of health restrictions put in place by the Province.

RCMP

Developed new protocols for policing during a pandemic to ensure the health and safety of their staff and clients.



Criminal Code file work saw an overall decrease of 14%.



Crimes against persons saw an 8 % increase overall from the previous year.



Motor vehicle collisions saw a 6 % decrease overall with the largest decrease being

in reportable motor vehicle collisions, while injury collisions remained the same at 4 in total.

The RCMP were able to maintain a full staffing compliment during 2020 and are looking forward to adding a new position in 2021.

Fire Department

28 members (waiting list of interested parties).

Member training included: NFPA 1001 Level I and Level II standards, Hazardous Goods Training to meet the NFPA 472 Standards.

Incident Command System training

143 emergency incidents; 36 of these occurred in Lacombe County.

58% total responses; the majority of which were motor vehicle accidents and alarm calls.