

**AGENDA**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
of the Town of Wembley, in the Province of Alberta  
held in the Wembley Municipal Office  
this February 10th, 2025 @ 7:00pm.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85635085254>

Meeting ID: 856 3508 5254

One tap mobile

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+16473744685, 85635085254# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

1. CALL-TO-ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approves the agenda as presented.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of Council held on January 27th, 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopts the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held January 27th, 2025, as presented.

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1. Update Council on Peace Wapiti Public School Division Operation  
Bob Stewart, Superintendent, Peace Wapiti Public School Division  
Wendy Kelm, Ward 5 Trustee, Peace Wapiti Public School Division

7pm

5. FINANCE

5.1. Bank Financials for January 2025

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council accepts the bank financials for January 2025 for information.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

7. BY-LAW8. POLICIES9. CAO REPORT10. OLD BUSINESS11. NEW BUSINESS12. REPORTS

- 12.1. Audit Committee
- 12.2. Community Futures
- 12.3. Community and Protective Services Committee
- 12.4. FCSS Advisory Board
- 12.5. Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership
- 12.6. Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership Committee
- 12.7. Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee
- 12.8. Grande Prairie Regional Tourism
- 12.9. Grande Spirit Foundation
- 12.10. HR Committee
- 12.11. Healthy Communities Committee
- 12.12. Helen E. Taylor Advisory School Council
- 12.13. ICF & IDP Steering Committee
- 12.14. Northern Alberta Elected Leaders
- 12.15. Parks and Recreation
- 12.16. Peace Airshed Zone Association (PAZA)
- 12.17. Peace Library System Board
- 12.18. South Peace Physician Attraction & Retention Committee
- 12.19. Wapiti Area Synergy Group (WASP)
- 12.20. Water North Coalition
- 12.21. Wembley and District Agricultural Society
- 12.22. Wembley-Dimsdale-Saskatoon Lake Recreation Board
- 12.23. Wembley Elementary School
- 12.24. Wembley Public Library
- 12.25. West Grande Prairie County Regional Landfill

**12.25.1. West Grande Prairie County Solid Waste Authority Minutes 2024-11-20**

- 12.26. 911 and Emergency Services
- 12.27. By-Law Enforcement Services

**12.27.1. County of Grande Prairie Bylaw Enforcement Wembley Monthly Report -  
January 2025**

12.28. Beaverlodge RCMP Detachment

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council accepts the above committee(s) report(s) as information.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

13.1. 2024 Wembley Fire Depart Report

13.2. Wembley Minor Hockey 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Nashville Draw Windup Event April 12, 2025

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council accepts the above correspondence as information.

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**15. COUNCIL REPORTS**

**16. ROUND TABLE**

**17. CLOSE SESSION**

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
of the Town of Wembley, in the Province of Alberta,  
held in the Wembley Municipal Office  
this 27th Day of January 2025.**

1. CALL-TO-ORDER

Present: Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.  
CAO Noreen Zhang  
Councillor Berlasty  
Councillor Ketchum  
Councillor Baker (via Zoom)

Regrets: Councillor Johnson  
Councillor Skinner  
Councillor Underwood

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION #2025-0018**

**Moved by** Councillor Berlasty Council approve the agenda as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting of Council held on January 13, 2025.

**MOTION #2025-0019**

**Moved by** Councillor Ketchum Council adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held January 13, 2025.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. DELEGATIONS

5. FINANCE

5.1 Bank Financials for December 2024

**MOTION #2025-0020**

**Moved by** Councillor Berlasty Council accept the bank financials for December 2024 for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. PUBLIC HEARING

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Bylaw 772: Town of Wembley/Aquatera Utility Bylaw

A Bylaw regulating and providing for the terms, conditions, rates, and charges for the supply and use of the Water and Wastewater Utilities provided by Aquatera Utilities Inc. in the Town of Wembley.

**MOTION #2025-0021**

**Moved by** Councillor Ketchum Council give first reading to Bylaw 772, being the Town of Wembley/Aquatera Utility Bylaw.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Bylaw 772 was then read for the first time.

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Initials

**MOTION #2025-0022**

**Moved by** Councillor Berlasty Council gives second reading to Bylaw 772.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Bylaw 772 was then read for the second time.

**MOTION #2025-0023**

**Moved by** Councillor Ketchum Council gives third reading of Bylaw 772 at this meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION #2025-0024**

**Moved by** Councillor Berlasty Council gives third and final reading to Bylaw 772.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Bylaw 772 was then read for the third time and finally passed.

- 7.2 Bylaw 773: Municipal Borrowing Bylaw  
Being a Bylaw of the Town of Wembley in the Province of Alberta to approve borrowing for current municipal expenditures.

**MOTION #2025-0025**

**Moved by** Councillor Ketchum Council gives first reading to Bylaw 773, being the Municipal Borrowing Bylaw.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Bylaw 773 was then read for the first time.

**MOTION #2025-0026**

**Moved by** Councillor Berlasty Council gives second reading to Bylaw 773.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Bylaw 773 was then read for the second time.

**MOTION #2025-0027**

**Moved by** Councillor Ketchum Council gives third reading of Bylaw 773 at this meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION #2025-0028**

**Moved by** Councillor Berlasty Council gives third and final reading to Bylaw 773.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Bylaw 773 was then read for the third time and finally passed.

8. POLICIES

9. CAO REPORT

9.1 Community Events Discussion Meeting

- The meeting with various groups was attended and had great insight into the activities being planned for Wembley. Coordination between groups was already starting, which is a great start. The information gathered at the meeting is going to be distributed to the community groups as well as other resources that may be of help.

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Initials

- 9.2 Intermunicipal Meeting – Town of Wembley Hosting
- A date has been set (April 25, 2025) and will be reaching out to different departments for agenda items.
- 9.3 Meetings/Training Attended
- January 10, 2025 – GPREP Manager Interviews/City Hall, Grande Prairie
  - January 11, 2025 – Wembley Fire Department Christmas Party and Awards Ceremony/Saskatoon Hall
  - January 17, 2025 – GPREP Shareholders Meeting/Grande Prairie
  - January 21, 2025 – Community Events Discussion Meeting

**MOTION #2025-0029**

**Moved by** Councillor Baker Council accept CAO report as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

10. OLD BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

- 11.1 Aquatera Rate Increases Town of Wembley 2025

12. REPORTS

- 12.1 Audit Committee
- 12.2 Community Futures
- 12.3 Community and Protective Services Committee
- 12.4 FCSS Advisory Board
- 12.5 Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership
- 12.6 Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership Committee
- 12.7 Grande Prairie Regional Recreation Committee
- 12.8 Grande Prairie Regional Tourism
- 12.8.1 Shape the Future of GPRTA Open House - February 6, 2025**
- 12.9 Grande Spirit Foundation
- 12.10 HR Committee
- 12.11 Healthy Communities Committee
- 12.12 Helen E. Taylor Advisory School Council
- 12.13 ICF & IDP Steering Committee
- 12.14 Northern Alberta Elected Leaders
- 12.14.1 NAEL Minutes November 08, 2024**
- 12.15 Parks and Recreation
- 12.16 Peace Airshed Zone Association (PAZA)
- 12.17 Peace Library System Board
- 12.18 South Peace Physician Attraction & Retention Committee
- 12.19 Wapiti Area Synergy Group (WASP)
- 12.20 Water North Coalition
- 12.21 Wembley and District Agricultural Society
- 12.22 Wembley-Dimsdale-Saskatoon Lake Recreation Board
- 12.23 Wembley Elementary School
- 12.24 Wembley Public Library
- 12.25 West Grande Prairie County Regional Landfill
- 12.26 911 and Emergency Service
- 12.27 Bylaw Enforcement Services

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Initials

## 12.28 Beaverlodge RCMP Detachment

**MOTION #2025-0030****Moved by** Councillor Ketchum Council accept Committee reports as information.**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**13. CORRESPONDENCE14. NOTICE OF MOTION15. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Councillor Baker  
Attended Agi meeting and was very impressed with new president.
- Councillor Ketchum  
Had first GPRTA meeting with new Executive. Discussions centered on agricultural and culinary tourism. GPRTA received \$50,000 from Alberta Tourism towards this project. There will also be a Training Information Night for the second Alberta Farms Day coming up in March. Also attended WASP meeting and they have a new Chair and Treasurer. Was very impressed with the attendance at the Community Events Planning session.

16. ROUND TABLE

- Councillor Baker  
Busy week with hockey.
- Councillor Berlasty  
Nothing to report.
- CAO Zhang  
Packages for those wishing to run in the upcoming election are now available for pick-up. Information is also available on the Town of Wembley's website. There will also be staff changes in the Finance Department in February. Waiting for assessments to come in so that taxes can be calculated. Also looking at researching more information, to present to Council, as it pertains to the Town of Wembley going for the Guinness World record in number of people wearing inflatable dinosaur costumes.
- Councillor Ketchum  
Nothing to report.
- Mayor Peterson  
Nothing to report.

17. CLOSED SESSION18. ADJOURNMENT**MOTION #2025-0031****Moved by** Councillor Ketchum Council adjourn at 7:40 p.m.**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**


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 Mayor – Kelly Peterson

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 CAO – Noreen Zhang

# MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JANUARY 2025

	General Account 24	Bus. LOC \$590,000	General Savings 79	Off-Site Levy 25	2020 MOST 26	Skateboard 27	MDP project 28	2020 MSI grant 29	Land Tax Sale 30	T-Bill 31	TRUST CHOISAV 32	grant AQUACWFF 84	NRED GRANT FUNDS 78	T O T A L
Balance shown on Bank Statement	782,068.08		405,770.29	286,341.38	180,557.01	7,412.63	168,521.20	387,316.43	22,305.05	147,671.73	45,936.28	5,190.42	207,251.12	\$ 2,646,341.62
Deposits not on statement	25.00	0.00	0.00											\$ 25.00
Subtotal	782,093.08	0.00	405,770.29	286,341.38	180,557.01	7,412.63	168,521.20	387,316.43	22,305.05	147,671.73	45,936.28	5,190.42	207,251.12	\$ 2,646,366.62
Less Outstanding Cheques	66,618.53													\$ 66,618.53
Bank Balance at end of Month	715,474.55	0.00	405,770.29	286,341.38	180,557.01	7,412.63	168,521.20	387,316.43	22,305.05	147,671.73	45,936.28	5,190.42	207,251.12	\$ 2,579,748.09
Computer Bank Balance at end of Month	715,474.55		405,770.29	286,341.38	180,557.01	7,412.63	168,521.20	387,316.43	22,305.05	147,671.73	45,936.28	5,190.42	207,251.12	\$ 2,579,748.09
Adjustments	0.00													
Reconciled Bank Balance at end of Month	\$ 715,474.55		\$ 405,770.29	\$ 286,341.38	\$ 180,557.01	\$ 7,412.63	\$ 168,521.20	\$ 387,316.43	\$ 22,305.05	\$ 147,671.73	\$ 45,936.28	\$ 5,190.42	\$ 207,251.12	\$2,579,748.09

NOTE:  
Adjustment:

MAYOR

CAO

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# **County of Grande Prairie No. 1**

## **West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: County of Grande Prairie No.1 Administration Building and Microsoft Teams

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**      Chairperson Peter Harris – County of Grande Prairie Representative  
Vice Chairperson Jonathan Siggelkow – Sexsmith Representative  
Authority Member Bob Marshall – County of Grande Prairie Representative  
Authority Member Brian Peterson – County of Grande Prairie Representative  
Authority Member Karen Rosvold – County of Grande Prairie Representative  
Authority Member Kelly Peterson – Town of Wembley Representative  
Authority Member Noreen Zhang – Town of Wembley Representative  
Acting Authority Member Alex Worries – Sexsmith Representative

**STAFF PRESENT:**      Dalen Peterson, Director, Municipal Utilities  
Danielle Kussyk, Analysis and Reporting Accountant II  
Rob Beaupertuis, General Manager, Finance and Business Planning Services  
Ray Collier, Solid Waste Supervisor

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**      Katrina Oravec, Director, Administrative Support

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

### **2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

#### **2.1. Agenda Approval**

**Resolution # RL20241120.01**

**MOVED** by Vice Chairperson Jonathan Siggelkow

That the agenda for the November 20, 2024 West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority meeting be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **3. MINUTES APPROVAL**

#### **3.1. West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority Meeting Minutes - July 10, 2024**

**Resolution # RL20241120.02**

**MOVED** by Authority Member Bob Marshall

That the minutes for the July 10, 2024 West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority Meeting be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **4.1. Future Operation of West County Regional Landfill -Transfer Station Approval**

Previous decisions regarding the landfill vs. transfer station options were recapped.

**Resolution # RL20241120.03**

**MOVED** by Authority Member Bob Marshall

That the West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority approve operating the West County Regional Landfill as a transfer station.

**CARRIED**

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1. Transfer Station Capital Costs**

There was additional discussion on:

- Intermediate capping requirements;

- Review of costs required to complete an intermediate cap when not developing a new cell;
- Partial vs. full closure capping indications;
- Logistics and implications of capping; and
- Erosion control.

After reviewing the 2024 actuals vs. budget and brief discussion on the future of the landfill site, the Authority revisited this topic.

Updated project costs for temporary closure of the landfill were presented for the Authority to review.

Dalen Peterson, Director of Municipal Utilities, discussed two (2) options for capping:

- synthetics and clay liner.

There was additional discussion on:

- leachate;
- closure, post-closure and monitoring;
- requirements for final capping;
- reserves to fund temporary capping, and remaining reserve funds; and
- appetite for smaller municipalities to invest in a future landfill.

#### **Resolution # RL20241120.04**

**MOVED** by Authority Member Bob Marshall

That the West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority approve funding full capping of the existing cell to a maximum amount of \$2,000,000 including contingency in 2025-2026, with funding to come from West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority reserve funds.

**CARRIED**

#### **5.2. Liquidation of Equipment and Fences**

There was discussion on:

- the state of the equipment and supplies; and
- ability to use and repair fences for use at the Clairmont Center for Recycling and Waste Management.

#### **Resolution # RL20241120.05**

**MOVED** by Authority Member Brian Peterson

That the West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority approve liquidation of the track loader and compactor with funds to go to the West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority Equipment Replacement Reserve.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution # RL20241120.06**

**MOVED** by Vice Chairperson Jonathan Siggelkow

That the West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority approve the sale of 8 various fences and panels to the County of Grande Prairie at a cost of \$1000.00 per item, for a total cost of \$8,000.00 with funds to go to the West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority Equipment Replacement Reserve.

**CARRIED**

**5.3. Contacted Operator Negotiations**

Changes to operations and the effects to the current contact with the contracted operator were highlighted.

**Resolution # RL20241120.07**

**MOVED** by Authority Member Karen Rosvold

That the West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority approve County Administration to engaging R360 in contract negotiations.

**CARRIED**

**5.4. Operating Cost Comparison**

It was noted that the cost to operate the Regional Transfer using a contracted operator is less than staffing internally.

**5.5. Tipping Fees at the Clairmont Landfill for Residents of Partnering Municipalities**

**Resolution # RL20241120.08**

**MOVED** by Authority Member Karen Rosvold

The tipping fees for residents of partnering municipalities discussion be tabled for further information.

**CARRIED**

**5.6. Schedule of Fees Update**

Ray Collier, Solid Waste Supervisor, reviewed proposed Schedule of Fees changes for 2025.

**Resolution # RL20241120.09**

**MOVED** by Authority Member Kelly Peterson

That the West Grande Prairie Solid Waste Authority recommend the Schedule of Fees updates as presented be taken to County Council for approval in the 2025 Schedule of Fees, Rates and Charges bylaw.

**CARRIED**

**5.7. Load Size**

There was discussion on:

- problems faced when large loads are taken to the transfer stations;
- amount of changes being proposed to operations at once; and
- sight design, capacity and proposed operations as the Regional proceeds as a transfer stations.

**Resolution # RL20241120.10**

**MOVED** by Authority Member Brian Peterson

That the load size item be tabled to a future meeting for further information.

**CARRIED**

**5.8. Hours of Operation**

**5.9. Town Clean Ups**

Town were encouraged to contact and work with Clairmont Center for Recycling and Waste Management staff when conducting town clean ups.

**6. BUDGET**

**6.1. Future Landfill Analysis (Partner Contribution Maximums)**

Danielle Kusyk, Analysis and Reporting Accountant II, noted that a long term plan for saving is not in place with approximately 2.6 million remaining in reserves after capping.

She noted that the cash required for capital investing will be approx. 4.8 million, leaving the Authority significantly short.

Administration needs direction from the Authority regarding financing options to investigate.

There was further discussion on:

- financial viability of saving to re-open as a landfill;

- value of the site as a landfill vs. operating as a landfill; and
- tipping totals vs. cost of contribution per municipality was reviewed including total tipping fees at the Regional Landfill.

## 6.2. 2024 Budget vs. Actuals to Date

2024 actuals to budget were reviewed.

Highlights included:

- interest;
- revenues;
- contracted fees expenses - on budget to date;
- there was inquiry and discussion on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implications because of new legislation;
- depreciation; and
- engineering fees.

## 6.3. 2025 Operating and Capital Budget and 2026-2027 Fiscal Plan

Danielle Kusyk reviewed the 2025 Operating and Capital Budget and 2026-2027 Fiscal Plan including:

- revenues;
- lease and rent;
- contracted fees; and
- various expenditures.

There was additional discussion on transfer station upgrades including:

- bin fees and damages;
- engineering;
- design; and
- project efficiencies if the transfer station upgrade and capping at the same time.

## 7. ROUNDTABLE

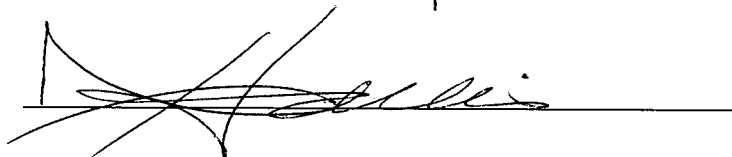
### 7.1. Roundtable

There was discussion on prompt updating of signage clarifying that the site is a transfer station.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

These minutes approved the 20<sup>th</sup> day of DECEMBER 2024.

Reference # RL 2024/12 20:02



# WEST GRANDE PRAIRIE SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY CHAIR





## SCHEDULE "B"

### January 2025 MONTHLY REPORT TO THE Town of Wembley FOR PEACE OFFICER SERVICES

1. Dates and times spent: (attached)
2. Number of Tickets issued: 12
3. Type of Tickets issued:
 

Traffic Safety:	<u>12</u>
Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis:	<u>          </u>
Other Provincial Statutes:	<u>          </u>
Municipal Bylaw:	<u>          </u>
4. Number of Complaints/Occurrences: 13
5. Type of Complaints/Occurrences:
 

Traffic Safety:	<u>0</u>
Warrants:	<u>1</u>
24-hour Suspension:	<u>0</u>
Criminal Code:	<u>0</u>
Commercial Vehicle:	<u>0</u>
Parking:	<u>1</u>
Off-highway Vehicle:	<u>0</u>
Bylaws:	<u>3</u>
Unightly Premises:	<u>1</u>
Other:	<u>7</u>
6. Town Priorities:
  - a) Parking in alleys
  - b) Speeding - 101 St, 97 St, 94 Ave and 99 St
  - c) Sidewalks





## CONTRACT TIME DETAILS FOR BILLING

REPORTING PERIOD: 2025-01-01 to 2025-01-31

MUNICIPALITY: WEMBLEY

ADMINISTRATION 1.00 HOURS

EVENT	START/END	HOURS	MUNICIPALITY	ACTIVITY	TYPE	NOTES
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TYPE: PEACE OFFICER

1		1.00		ADMINISTRATION		
2	2025-01-02 13:05:00 2025-01-02 13:35:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
3	2025-01-02 21:35:00 2025-01-02 22:05:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
4	2025-01-02 22:10:00 2025-01-02 22:40:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
5	2025-01-03 18:20:00 2025-01-03 18:50:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
6	2025-01-03 18:45:00 2025-01-03 19:00:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	PARKING	
7	2025-01-03 23:12:00 2025-01-03 23:42:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
8	2025-01-03 23:44:00 2025-01-03 23:59:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	PARKING	
9	2025-01-04 19:00:00 2025-01-04 19:45:00	0.75	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
10	2025-01-05 18:45:00 2025-01-05 19:30:00	0.75	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
11	2025-01-06 12:35:00 2025-01-06 12:50:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
12	2025-01-06 12:50:00 2025-01-06 13:05:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
13	2025-01-07 10:52:00 2025-01-07 11:37:00	0.75	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	BYLAWS	
14	2025-01-07 11:20:00 2025-01-07 12:20:00	1.00	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
15	2025-01-07 12:30:00 2025-01-07 13:00:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
16	2025-01-07 12:44:00 2025-01-07 13:44:00	1.00	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
17	2025-01-07 13:30:00 2025-01-07 13:45:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
18	2025-01-07 13:45:00 2025-01-07 14:00:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
19	2025-01-07 17:46:00 2025-01-07 18:01:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
20	2025-01-08 12:00:00 2025-01-08 13:00:00	1.00	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
21	2025-01-10 11:15:00 2025-01-10 11:45:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
22	2025-01-10 11:25:00 2025-01-10 11:55:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		

23	2025-01-10 12:41:00 2025-01-10 12:56:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
24	2025-01-10 20:30:00 2025-01-10 21:30:00	1.00	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
25	2025-01-10 20:43:00 2025-01-10 21:43:00	1.00	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
26	2025-01-11 11:34:00 2025-01-11 12:04:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	BYLAWS	
27	2025-01-11 23:15:00 2025-01-11 23:30:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
28	2025-01-11 23:30:00 2025-01-12 00:00:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
29	2025-01-12 12:45:00 2025-01-12 13:15:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
30	2025-01-12 12:50:00 2025-01-12 13:50:00	1.00	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
31	2025-01-12 13:39:00 2025-01-12 13:54:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	PARKING	
32	2025-01-12 18:05:00 2025-01-12 18:35:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
33	2025-01-13 12:03:00 2025-01-13 12:48:00	0.75	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
34	2025-01-13 12:35:00 2025-01-13 12:50:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
35	2025-01-15 09:15:00 2025-01-15 09:30:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
36	2025-01-15 09:30:00 2025-01-15 09:45:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
37	2025-01-15 09:45:00 2025-01-15 10:00:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
38	2025-01-15 10:00:00 2025-01-15 10:15:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
39	2025-01-15 10:30:00 2025-01-15 10:45:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
40	2025-01-15 18:10:00 2025-01-15 18:40:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
41	2025-01-16 11:35:00 2025-01-16 11:50:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
42	2025-01-16 11:40:00 2025-01-16 12:25:00	0.75	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
43	2025-01-16 11:40:00 2025-01-16 12:40:00	1.00	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
44	2025-01-17 13:45:00 2025-01-17 14:30:00	0.75	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
45	2025-01-17 14:25:00 2025-01-17 14:55:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
46	2025-01-18 08:20:00 2025-01-18 08:35:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	BYLAWS	
47	2025-01-18 13:00:00 2025-01-18 13:15:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	PARKING	
48	2025-01-21 13:50:00 2025-01-21 14:05:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
49	2025-01-22 08:45:00 2025-01-22 09:15:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
50	2025-01-22 10:15:00 2025-01-22 10:30:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	

51	2025-01-22 10:30:00 2025-01-22 10:45:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
52	2025-01-22 10:45:00 2025-01-22 11:00:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
53	2025-01-22 11:00:00 2025-01-22 11:15:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
54	2025-01-22 11:15:00 2025-01-22 11:30:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	SNOW REMOVAL	
55	2025-01-24 09:30:00 2025-01-24 10:00:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	TRIAL PREPARATION / TRIAL		
56	2025-01-24 14:50:00 2025-01-24 15:05:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
57	2025-01-25 20:30:00 2025-01-25 21:00:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
58	2025-01-27 19:55:00 2025-01-27 20:10:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
59	2025-01-28 08:27:00 2025-01-28 08:42:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	TRIAL PREPARATION / TRIAL		
60	2025-01-28 09:30:00 2025-01-28 11:00:00	1.50	WEMBLEY	TRIAL PREPARATION / TRIAL		
61	2025-01-31 11:18:00 2025-01-31 11:48:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		

TOTAL HOURS: 30.00  
PEACE OFFICER HOURS: 30.00

TOTAL EVENTS: 61  
PEACE OFFICER PERCENTAGE: 100.0%



**January 2025      MONTHLY REPORT TO THE      Town of Wembley  
FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES**

1.	Dates and times spent: (attached)	
2.	<b>Number of Tickets issued:</b>	<u>0</u>
3.	<b>Number of Complaints/Occurrences:</b>	<u>5</u>
	Running at large:	<u>3</u>
	Barking:	<u>1</u>
	Bite/Attack Animal:	<u>0</u>
	Bite/Attack Human:	<u>0</u>
	Too many dogs:	<u>0</u>
	Vicious/Restricted:	<u>0</u>
	Cat:	<u>0</u>
	Other:	<u>1</u>





## CONTRACT TIME DETAILS FOR BILLING

REPORTING PERIOD: 2025-01-01 to 2025-01-31

MUNICIPALITY: WEMBLEY

EVENT	START/END	HOURS	MUNICIPALITY	ACTIVITY	TYPE	NOTES
TYPE: ANIMAL CONTROL						
1	2025-01-02 18:00:00 2025-01-02 18:15:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
2	2025-01-03 17:55:00 2025-01-03 18:10:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
3	2025-01-04 12:33:00 2025-01-04 13:18:00	0.75	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
4	2025-01-04 12:35:00 2025-01-04 12:50:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
5	2025-01-06 11:21:00 2025-01-06 12:21:00	1.00	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
6	2025-01-07 08:48:00 2025-01-07 09:03:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - BARKING	
7	2025-01-07 09:45:00 2025-01-07 10:00:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - BARKING	
8	2025-01-07 12:08:00 2025-01-07 12:23:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - BARKING	
9	2025-01-07 13:22:00 2025-01-07 13:37:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
10	2025-01-07 13:57:00 2025-01-07 14:42:00	0.75	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - RAL	
11	2025-01-08 10:19:00 2025-01-08 10:34:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
12	2025-01-08 12:00:00 2025-01-08 12:15:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - RAL	
13	2025-01-08 13:33:00 2025-01-08 13:48:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - RAL	
14	2025-01-13 15:14:00 2025-01-13 15:29:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - RAL	
15	2025-01-16 12:25:00 2025-01-16 12:55:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
16	2025-01-16 12:55:00 2025-01-16 13:25:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - RAL	
17	2025-01-23 14:50:00 2025-01-23 15:50:00	1.00	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
18	2025-01-24 13:10:00 2025-01-24 13:55:00	0.75	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
19	2025-01-25 14:04:00 2025-01-25 14:34:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	PATROL		
20	2025-01-28 08:46:00 2025-01-28 09:01:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - RAL	
21	2025-01-28 13:39:00 2025-01-28 13:54:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - RAL	
22	2025-01-29 12:54:00 2025-01-29 13:09:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - BARKING	

23	2025-01-30 09:30:00 2025-01-30 10:00:00	0.50	WEMBLEY	TRIAL PREPARATION / TRIAL		
24	2025-01-30 16:26:00 2025-01-30 16:41:00	0.25	WEMBLEY	OCCURRENCE	ANIMAL CONTROL - BARKING	

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TOTAL HOURS: 10.00	TOTAL EVENTS: 24
ANIMAL CONTROL HOURS: 10.00	ANIMAL CONTROL PERCENTAGE: 100.0%

**Monthly Occurrences By Zone**

Reporting Period: 2025-01-01 to 2025-01-31 23:59:59

Printed on:2025-02-05 01:17:16

Municipality:WEMBLEY

Zone	Complaint Type	Occurrences Count
WEMBLEY	PARKING	1
WEMBLEY	ANIMAL CONTROL - RAL	3
WEMBLEY	SNOW REMOVAL	7
WEMBLEY	ANIMAL CONTROL - BARKING	1
WEMBLEY	ANIMAL CONTROL - OTHER	1
WEMBLEY	UNSIGHTLY PREMISES	1
WEMBLEY	WARRANTS	1
WEMBLEY	BYLAWS	1
WEMBLEY	NOISE BYLAW	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>



## County of Grande Prairie No. 1

### Monthly Ticket

Reporting Period: 2025-01-01 - 2025-01-31

Pay Centre: WEM

Ticket No	Ticket Date	Ticket Time	Charge	Statute	Activity	Pay Centre	Member	Fine Amount
A0570725 1J	20250115	0921	160(1) 53(1)(A)	TSA	OWNER OF MV INVOLVE D IN A CONTRA VENTION OF Section 53(1)(A) of the TRAFFIC SAFETY ACT	WEM		\$162
A0570724 0J	20250115	0921	160(1) RROR44( N)	TSA	OWNER OF MV INVOLVE D IN A CONTRA VENTION OF Section RROR44( N) of the TRAFFIC SAFETY ACT	WEM		\$81
A0570723 6J	20250115	0915	160(1) RROR44( N)	TSA	OWNER OF MV INVOLVE D IN A CONTRA VENTION OF Section RROR44( N) of the TRAFFIC SAFETY ACT	WEM		\$81



A0586052 5J	20250112	1339	160(1) RROR44(I )	TSA	OWNER OF MV INVOLVE D IN A CONTRA VENTION OF Section RROR44(I ) of the TRAFFIC SAFETY ACT	WEM	\$81
A0586076 1J	20250112	1510	115(2)(P)	TSA	Exceed max speed limit estab'd/pre scribed for hwy	WEM	\$126
E0167326 5B	20250110	2116	115(2)(P.1 )	TSA	Exceed max speed limit for hwy under constructio n/repair	WEM	\$126
E0171406 4B	20250110	1226	115(2)(P)	TSA	Exceed max speed limit estab'd/pre scribed for hwy	WEM	\$348
E0171309 5B	20250108	1040	53(1)(A)	TSA	Drive/park MV/trailer w/o lic plates properly displayed	WEM	\$162
E0167322 1B	20250107	1247	167(1)(B)	TSA	Failure to provide P.O. w/ cert of reg	WEM	\$243
E0171306 2B	20250107	1205	167(1)(B)	TSA	Failure to provide P.O. w/ cert of reg	WEM	\$243
E0171304 0B	20250107	1134	53(1)(A)	TSA	Drive/park MV/trailer w/o lic plates properly displayed	WEM	\$162
E0170577 1B	20250105	1859	52(1)(A)	TSA	Operate MV/trailer w/o subsisting cert of reg	WEM	\$324

**Ticket Count:12**

**\$2139**



# 2024

## ANNUAL FIRE SERVICE REPORT

Prepared by

**Station Captain Mike Moon**



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# Letters From Administration

## Introduction

The committed team of staff and volunteers at the Wembley Fire Department present to you the 2024 Annual Fire Service Report. This report reflects a year of passionate service to the Town of Wembley and surrounding communities. Within its pages, we celebrate our accomplishments, address the challenges we encountered, and delve into key events and significant developments that shaped the year.

## Operational Challenges

The Wembley Fire Department faced a pivotal year in 2024, marked by significant transitions within its ranks. A notable challenge arose from the departure of three long-standing members which included two senior officers and one firefighter, who left to pursue full-time firefighting careers. These departures collectively represented a loss of over 13 years of invaluable experience.

While this was undoubtedly a significant adjustment for the department, it also stands as a testament to the Wembley Fire Department's dedication to professional growth and development. The success of these individuals in achieving their career aspirations reflects the department's commitment to fostering a culture of excellence and supporting the advancement of its members within the fire service. We are grateful for their service to the Town and wish them all the best in their fire service careers.

## Department Highlights

The year 2024 marked a record-breaking year for the Fire Department, with firefighters responding to 404 incidents, becoming the highest number of responses in the department's 74-year history. In response to the growing call volume, the Town of Wembley Council approved the implementation of a paid-on-call system in 2024. This system was introduced to offset financial burdens on volunteers while also enhancing recruitment and retention efforts in the face of declining volunteerism.

Despite the departure of three long-serving members pursuing full-time careers in 2024, the department successfully retained 10 new local recruits, who have commenced training and service to their community. In 2023, we set a clear objective to increase the number of town-based responders. This goal was realized in 2024 with the successful addition of these local responders. Alongside these new additions, internal leadership development

was prioritized, with one long-standing member promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and three others advancing to the role of Senior Firefighter, strengthening the department's leadership team.

The County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service also expanded its commitment to developing future firefighters through the launch of the ATCO Cadet Program in 2024. This initiative provides high school students aged 16–18 with the opportunity to begin training towards their NFPA 1001 certification while earning school credits, similar to the RAP (Registered Apprenticeship Program). Four cadets participated in this program during the year in Wembley alone, reflecting its potential to foster the next generation of fire service professionals.

Thanks to substantial investments from Ovintiv in 2023 and 2024, the Fire Department completed significant upgrades to its training facility. Two additional sea cans were purchased in late 2023, with the construction of the expanded Class A live-fire training facility finalized in 2024. The Wembley Fire training facility underscores the department's commitment to achieving and maintaining the required annual competencies while delivering professional public safety services through comprehensive and realistic training opportunities. This facility is now operational, serving as one of two live-fire training centers in the Grande Prairie Region. The second facility also finished construction in 2024 and replaced the aging Class-A live fire training center used by the County of Grande Prairie. The new state-of-the-art Class-B facility is located at the Dunes Fire Station and was a joint investment between the County of Grande Prairie, City of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview.

The year 2024 stands as a testament to the department's resilience, adaptability, and dedication to excellence.

## Looking Ahead

In 2025, the Wembley Fire Department is committed to advancing its capabilities and services through targeted improvements. One key focus will be on continued education and training for our recently on-boarded members, ensuring they are equipped to meet the demands of the role effectively. We will also prioritize efforts to increase the recruitment of local responders, reinforcing our ability to provide efficient and effective service to the community. Alongside this, repair and maintenance work on training props and structures at our training grounds will begin in the spring. The focus will be on maintenance and repair to the older structures and props utilized for training.

Enhancing community presence will be a significant focus throughout the year, as we aim to promote public safety and strengthen community accessibility to our department. With

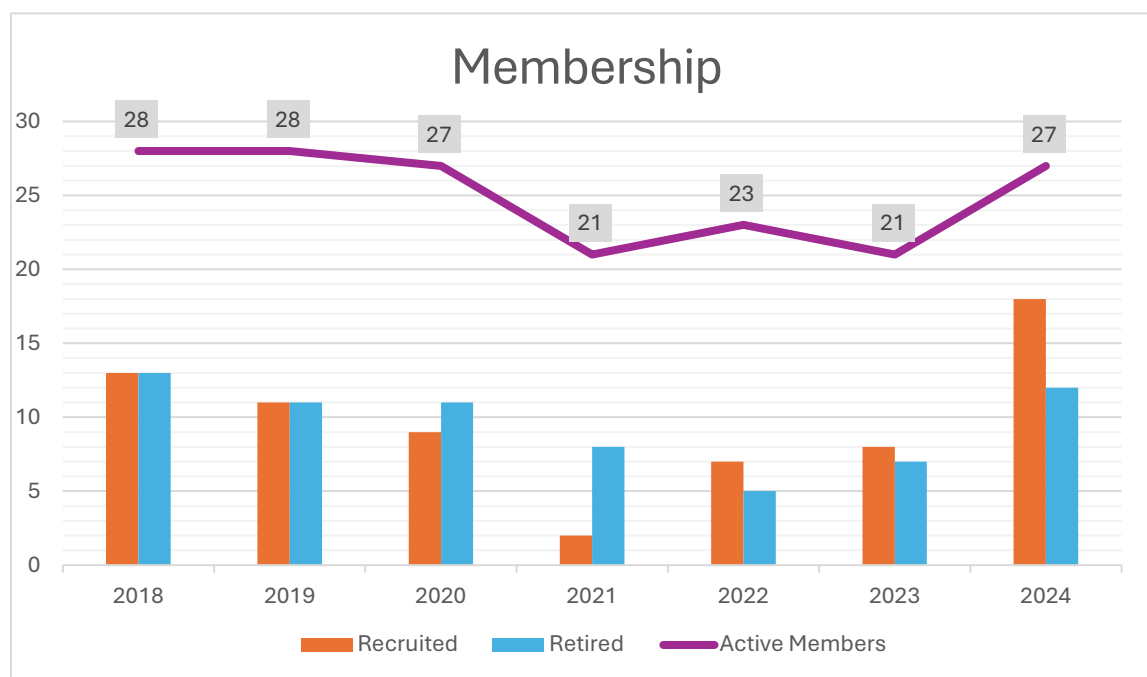
the support of the County administration team, inspections and public education will become further areas of focus.

We plan to source grants and donations to finalize our transition to battery-operated extrication tools for Wembley's Engine 611. The addition of battery-operated spreaders, also known as the "Jaws of Life," will complete this critical project. These tools demonstrated their value in 2024 during multiple collisions requiring extrication, highlighting their importance to our operations.

Lastly, the replacement of two thermal imaging cameras has been identified as a priority by our equipment committee. These new cameras will update the aging technology currently used in our frontline apparatus. To minimize the financial impact on ratepayers, the department will pursue grants, procure donations and utilize the Wembley Firefighters Association to support this project.

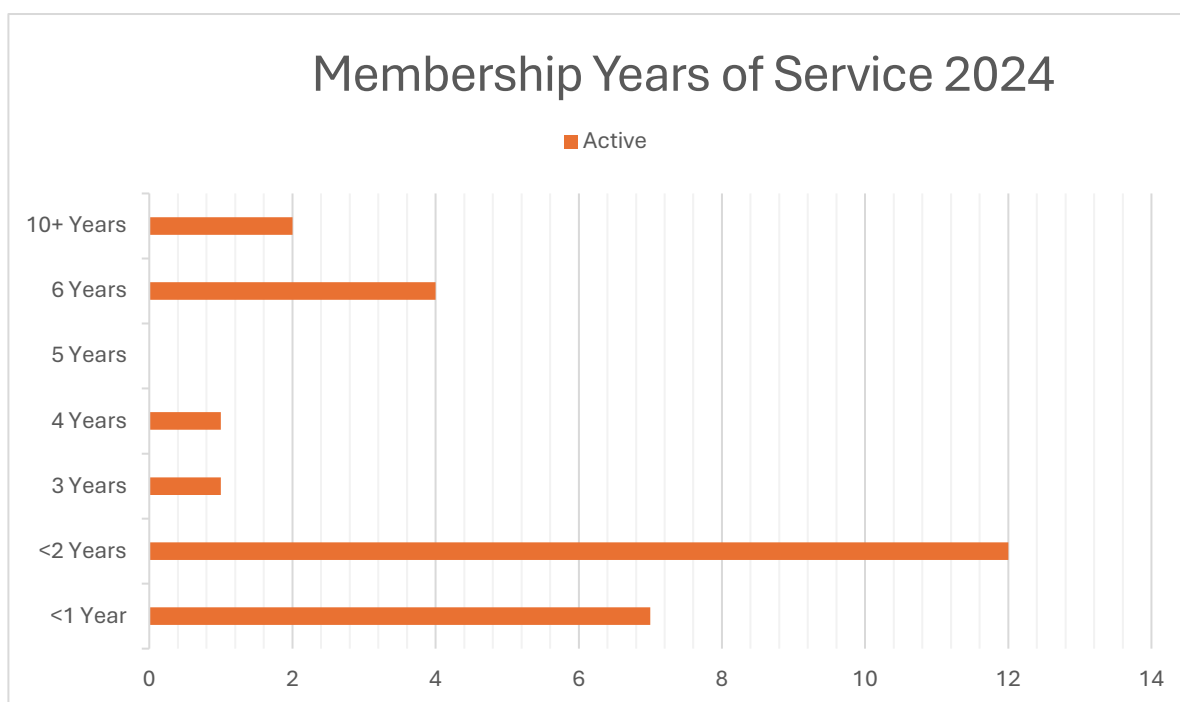
## Membership Update

In contrast to 2023, where recruitment was a primary challenge, 2024 presented membership difficulties due to the departure of experienced leaders and firefighters. Over the course of the year we on-boarded 17 new members, retaining 11 of the 17. In total we experienced the loss of 12 members, including 6 new recruits, 3 senior personnel, and 3 recruits from the 2023 cohort.



The implementation of the paid-on-call system has proven highly effective in retaining firefighters, particularly as volunteerism continues to decline across various sectors, including the volunteer fire service. Approved by Wembley Council for the 2024 calendar year, this system provided a much-needed morale boost for firefighters.

Increasing call volumes, coupled with rising living costs, have created challenges for many volunteers, who in recent years faced financial and time constraints that hindered their ability to continue serving. The paid-on-call system addresses these concerns, ensuring that volunteering does not impose a financial burden on members to serve their community. It does not extend to activities such as training, community events, or mandatory station duties, maintaining a focus on operational response.



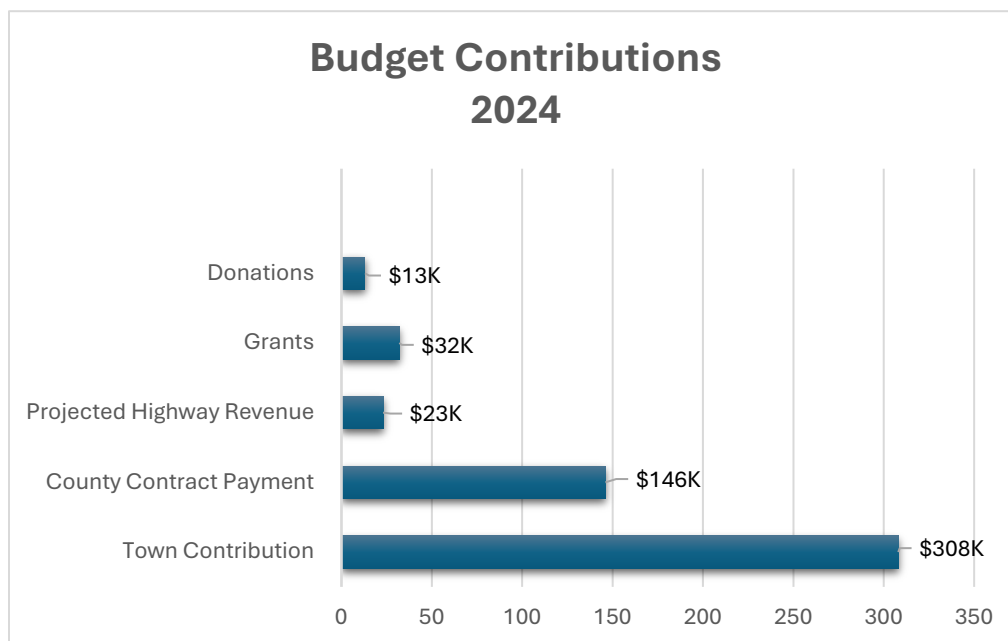
*Above: Like 2023, the continued loss of experienced members results in an abundance of new members with limited fire service experience. 69% of our membership has less than 2 years of experience. The County Fire Services Rural Firefighter Training Program is utilized to bring these new firefighters up to the level required for the challenges they may face while on the job. Additional training is provided weekly to continue the skills learned, and work on advanced techniques.*



## Budget, Contracts & Partnerships

The department remains dedicated to minimizing the financial burden on ratepayers while maintaining a high level of professional fire services. Significant effort is invested in building strong relationships with local businesses and community partners to secure funding for new equipment, training, and sponsorship of department-hosted events. As municipalities and businesses across the country face rising costs, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering high-quality service at the lowest possible expense to our community.

For example, to address these financial challenges in 2024 the department sought support from organizations like the Alberta Fire Aid Society. This non-profit group provides equipment to fire departments across Canada and beyond. This enabled us to acquire essential equipment such as our protective coats, pants, boots and helmets that meet the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) required 10-year service life standards. By sourcing equipment through non-profit organizations, we can reduce costs without compromising the safety and well-being of our firefighters. The department also heavily leans on the Wembley Firefighters Association, a non-profit volunteer organization which works to raise funds to support the department.



*Above: This chart represents the contributions to our yearly budget in 2024. These numbers make up the departments overall operating budget which range from day-to-day expenses, power, water, equipment, fuel, staff, paid on-call program and administrative fees paid to the County of Grande Prairie to name a few. A detailed budget can be viewed on the Town of Wembley's website.*

## County of Grande Prairie Fire Services Contract

The Town of Wembley and County of Grande Prairie completed the updated fire services agreement in 2024 through the Intermunicipal Cooperation Framework (ICF). This agreement outlined joint funding between the Town and County for the upcoming years.

Town of Wembley Mayor Kelly Peterson said, “The renewed agreements between the County of Grande Prairie and the Town of Wembley represent a significant milestone in our commitment to collaboration. By jointly investing in recreational and fire services, we are not only enhancing the quality of life for our residents but also ensuring our communities thrive together.”

## Partnerships & Grants

Community partnerships have always been instrumental in maintaining a high standard of fire services for our citizens and ensuring our firefighters have the equipment they need. Over the past decade, the Wembley Fire Department has received hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations, which have directly supported critical operational areas, including tools, protective equipment, apparatus, and training resources.

Ovintiv was a key contributor to these efforts. In 2024, the company committed \$10,000 annually for three years, providing vital support to support our operations. Ovintiv also made an additional \$3,000 donation to support our Fire Prevention Open House in October, funding a free community BBQ and door prizes. Their generosity further extended to our annual Lights and Sirens Food Drive, resulting in a successful partnership that brought in 800 pounds of food for the Wembley Food Bank.

Ovintiv's \$30,000 contribution in 2023 also funded the significant upgrades made to our training facility.

In addition to these donations, three grants were secured to support our operations and personnel. Alberta Health Services (AHS) awarded two grants totaling \$10,703, which enabled the purchase of innovative training tools, including two virtual reality headsets. These headsets allow our members to engage in realistic medical scenarios, honing their skills in real-time, and providing critical interventions to virtual patients. The remaining funds from these grants were allocated to our Paid On-Call program, covering the costs associated with medical co-responses.

## Incident Statistics

In 2024 the Fire Department responded to **404** calls for service.

### WEMBLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 Responses



ALARMS

35



SERVICE CALL/CITIZEN ASSIST

18



MEDICAL CO-RESPONSE

165



STRUCTURE FIRE

4



MUTUAL AID

115



VEHICLE FIRE

4



CHIEF RESPONSE

13



SMOKE INVESTIGATION

3



MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

29



VEGETATION FIRE

10



OUTSIDE FIRE

3



WATER RESCUE

1



ELECTRICAL HAZARD

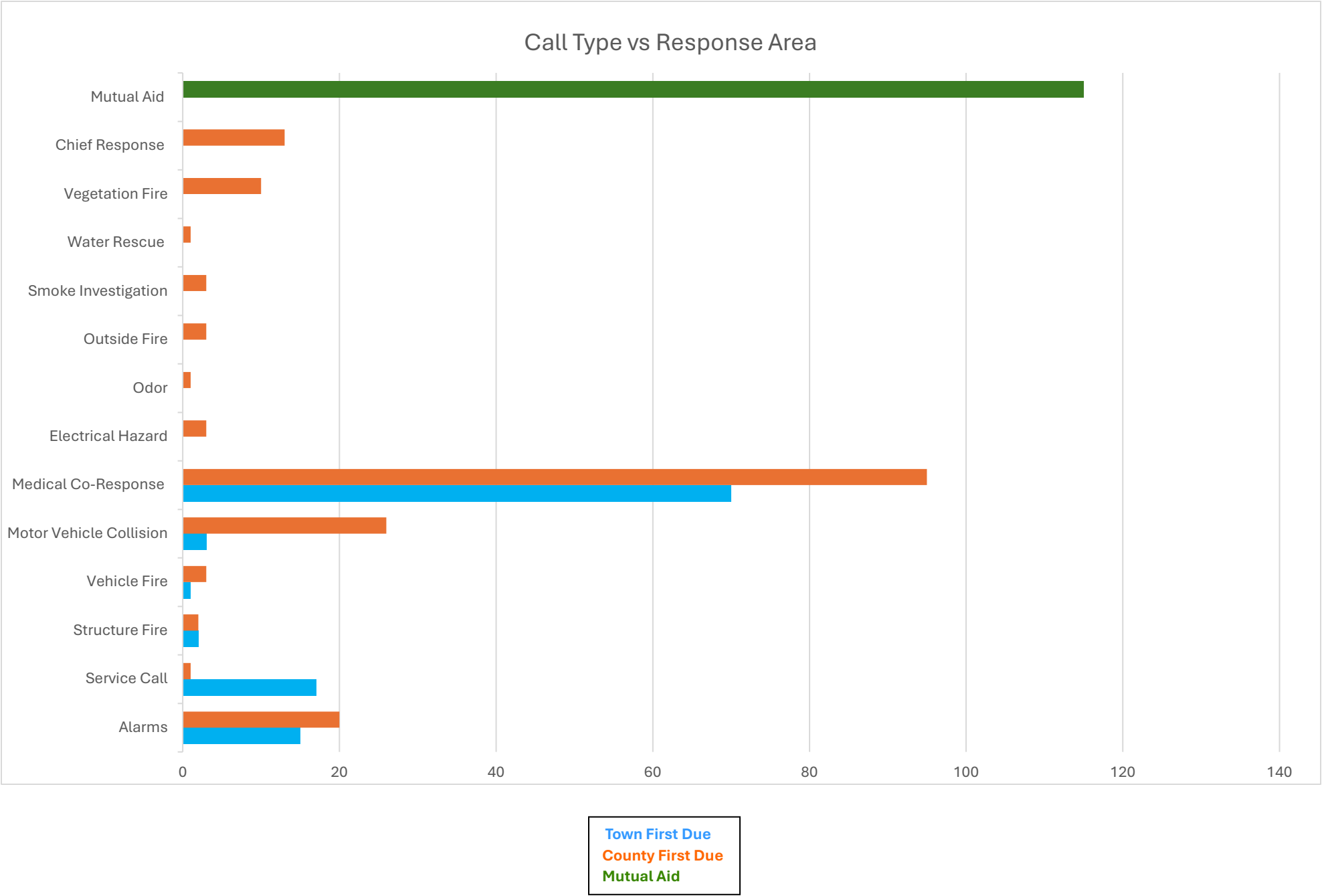
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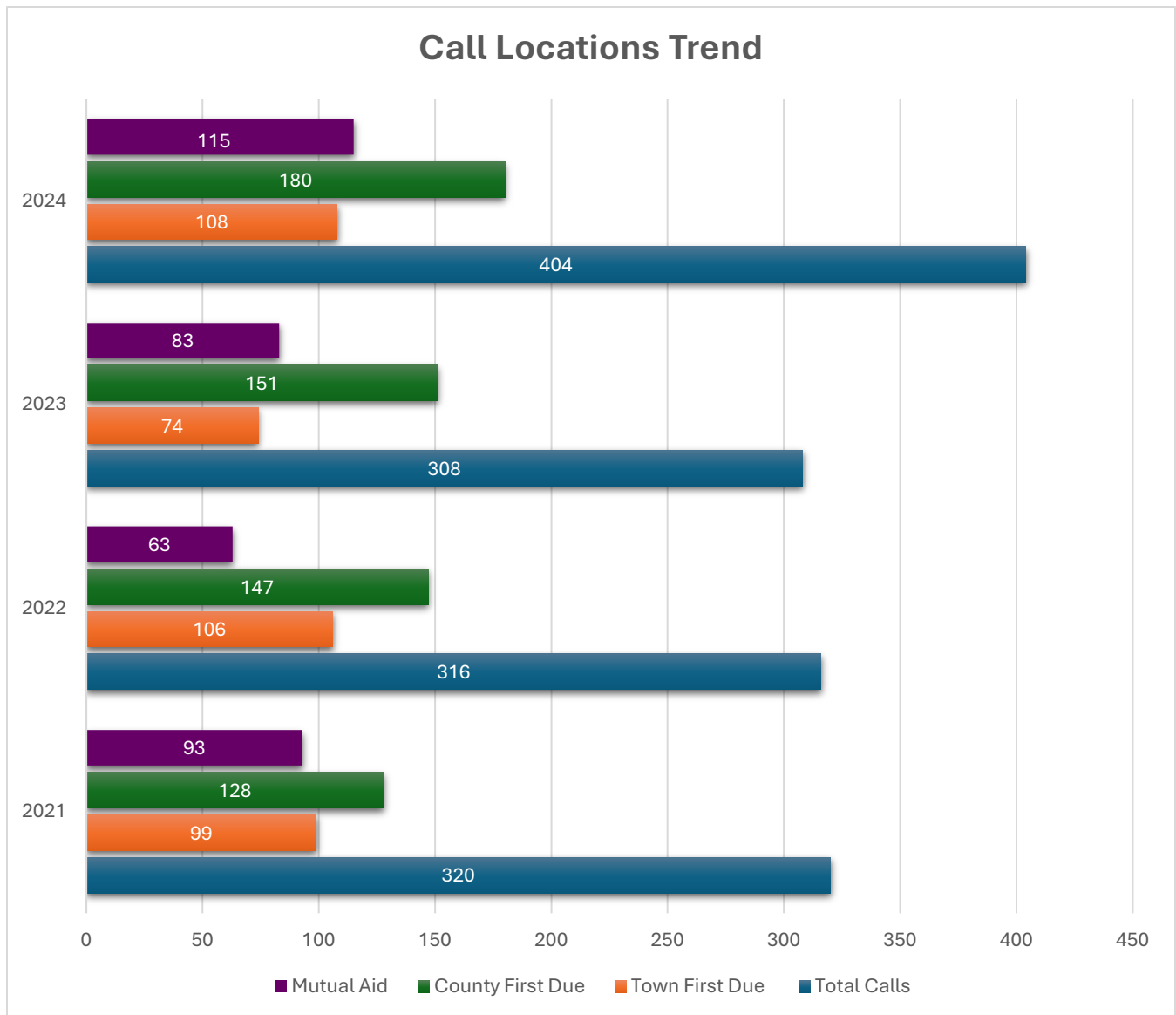


ODOUR

1

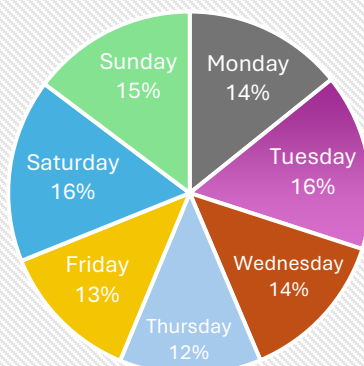
**TOTAL RESPONSES 2024 = 404**





*Above: The above charts shows the total calls across the Town, County and Mutual Aid Partners. “First Due” refers to the areas that the department is immediately responsible for. This includes calls within the Town of Wembley and the contracted area assigned to Wembley within the County of Grande Prairie. Mutual Aid includes any call responded to outside of these two primary districts. 2024 saw a 26.9% increase in calls compared to 2023. The increases across these different locations was strikingly consistent with an increase of 32 Mutual Aids, 30 County First Due and 34 Town Calls making up the increase in 2024.*

### Percentage of Calls (Days of the Week) 6 Month Average 2024



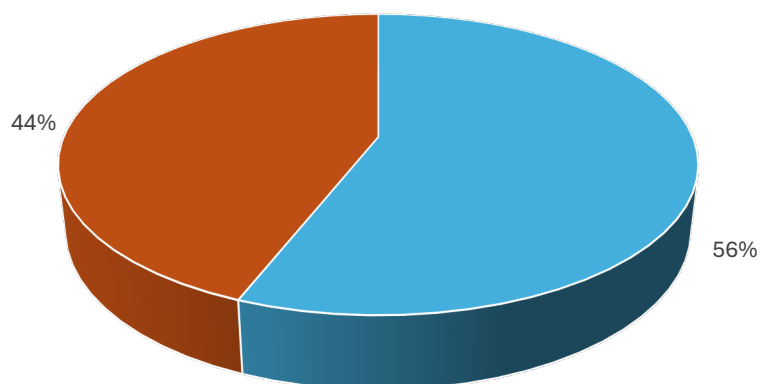
*Above: Averaging 6 months of data, Saturday and Tuesday were the busiest days for responses. However, a comparison with data from the previous year reveals that response volumes in 2024 were more evenly distributed across all days of the week, with only minor variations in the number of incidents between days.*

*Below: The chart indicates that the majority of responses occurred between 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM, consistent with trends observed in previous years. Notably, there was a 5% increase in responses during these hours compared to 2023. Given that most members travel outside the community for employment, the daytime staff plays a crucial role in supplementing call coverage during these hours, effectively compensating for the reduced availability of volunteers due to work commitments.*

### Time of Responses 2024 6 Month Average

7:30am-5:30pm

5:30pm-7:30am

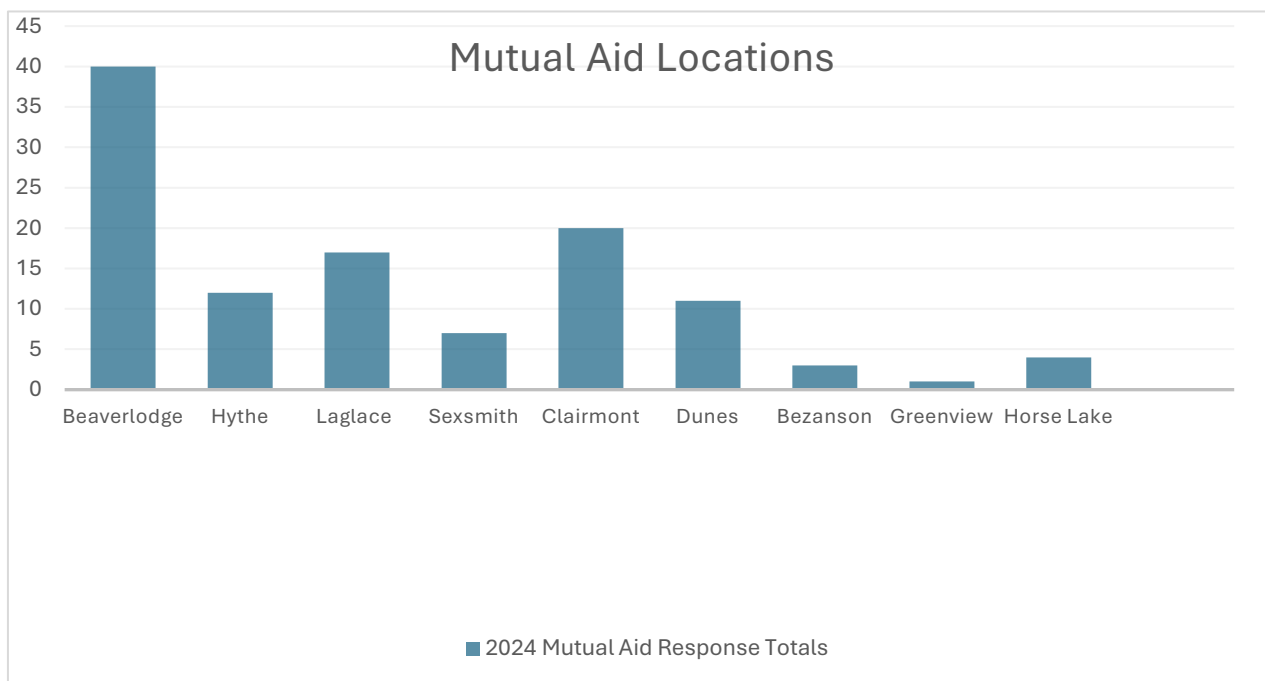


## Mutual Aid Response

Mutual Aid continues to play a critical role in our fire service model. The purpose of mutual aid is to ensure that fire departments receive the necessary support to effectively manage incidents that exceed their available resources or abilities. This prevents under-resourcing and ensures effective emergency management. This assistance is reciprocal, meaning resources from across the County can assist each other whenever it is needed. Given the vast area that stations must cover, it is crucial to dispatch sufficient resources to match the severity of an incident. If an adequate response package is not sent initially and an arriving unit is unable to manage the scene, crews could face delays of 10–15 minutes waiting for additional support. In critical situations, such delays could be life-threatening.

On the other hand, if the first arriving unit determines that the incident can be effectively managed by one or two resources, the additional units can simply be canceled en-route. This proactive approach ensures readiness, reinforcing the principle: it is better to have the resources and not need them, than to need them and not have them.

The data provided below reflects calls made outside the Town of Wembley and beyond our contracted area. These mutual aid responses include incidents within stations managed solely by the County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service which include Hythe, La Glace, Teepee Creek, Bezanson, Clairmont, and the Dunes. Additionally, responses for Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Horse Lake, and MD of Greenview are also shown. For these stations, the numbers include calls within their municipal limits and their contracted areas for the County of Grande Prairie.



## Paid On-Call

In 2024, the Wembley Fire Department transitioned to a Paid-On-Call (POC) system, marking a significant shift for the last volunteer fire department in the area to adopt the model. With support from Wembley Council, members began receiving compensation for emergency responses starting January 1, 2024. This decision was driven by several key factors affecting volunteer fire departments nationwide.

For years, volunteerism has been in decline across all sectors, which for many volunteer fire departments has led to a staffing crisis. A major contributor for fire departments is the reduced local employment opportunities in small communities, which often require residents to work outside the area, making them unavailable for emergency calls during business hours. Additionally, the demands of modern work and family life have left people with less time to dedicate to volunteer service.

The evolving nature of firefighting has most certainly played a role. Over the past two decades, operational demands have increased, shifting on-scene tasks toward more critical and technically demanding interventions. The expectations of firefighters have extended past just fire suppression, requiring the modern-day firefighter to be proficient in a vast array of skills to suit every emergency.

Historically, many volunteers have also faced personal financial costs, including purchasing their own equipment due to limited funding, transportation expenses, and lost wages from time away from work during extended incidents.

The transition to a POC system aims to address some of these challenges by ensuring members are not financially burdened while serving their community. It is not intended as a sole source of income but rather as a means to offset costs associated with volunteering. Despite this change, members continue to volunteer thousands of hours annually for training, teaching, department duties, and community events without financial compensation.

In 2024, a portion of funding for the POC system came from various grants and donations. The program will continue into 2025, with plans to use grant funds and donations to sustain the system.



## Public Events & Initiatives

The Wembley Fire Department maintains a strong connection to our community and its residents. Particularly in a small town, and we take pride in contributing to local events whenever possible. These efforts ensure the fire department remains visible, accessible, and engaged with the community. In 2024, we actively participated in and hosted numerous events in the Town of Wembley, including:

- Fire Department vs. Helen E Taylor Students Basketball Game
- (2) What's Up Wembley
- Fluid Pro Ice Surface Cleaning
- Touch-a-Truck
- Roadside Cleanup
- Seniors Week BBQ
- Wembley Elementary Bike Rodeo
- Wembley Mud Bogs
- Wembley Town Water Fight
- Street Performers
- Fire Department vs Youth Ball Hockey Game
- Canada Day Pancake Breakfast
- Demo Derby
- 1st Day of School Safety
- Fall Fair Parade
- Pre-School Fire Prevention
- Elementary School Fire Prevention
- Fire Prevention Open House
- Halloween Costume Swap
- Pumpkin Carving
- Skeleton Crawl
- Halloween Patrols
- Breakfast with the Guys
- Movember Stache For Cash
- Remembrance Day
- Lights and Sirens Food Drive
- Winter Solstice Parade
- Ice Rink Flooding



## Public Initiatives

We introduced the "Positive Ticket" program in 2024 to recognize and encourage youth in our community who demonstrated acts of kindness or practiced safety, such as wearing bicycle helmets or using crosswalks correctly. In partnership with Corner Grocery, these tickets could be redeemed for a free small slushie at the grocery store. The program aimed not only to promote safety and kindness but also to foster trust and positive relationships between the fire department and the youth in our community.

The annual "*Stache for Cash*" fundraiser was held in November, with the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation selected as the 2024 recipient. Participants grew and "sold" mustaches, raising a total of \$1,360, which was donated directly to the foundation in support of its initiatives.

## Internal Initiatives

In 2023, we launched the Firefighter Physical Wellness Program, which continued to gain traction over the past year. This initiative was designed to prioritize the physical health of our firefighters, addressing the significant risks of occupational illness within the fire service. Occupational cancer remains the leading cause of death for firefighters in Canada, followed by traumatic injuries, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory illness.

Following the example of our neighboring fire departments, we began offering our volunteer firefighters annual job-related medical assessments with a physician. These evaluations include advanced screenings, with results compared year-over-year to monitor health trends. The Wembley Medical Clinic graciously partnered with us in 2023 and 2024 to provide these appointments, while the Wembley Firefighters Association generously covered the cost for each members appointment. In addition to medical evaluations, the need for developing a dedicated physical fitness program was realized. A lack of available space for fitness equipment has challenged the department in previous years.

Efforts are currently underway to design a program that effectively leverages the firefighting equipment already available along with equipment at the gym in the FluidPro Arena. For many years now the Wembley Agricultural Society with the FluidPro Arena has graciously provided our members with free gym memberships to ensure the Wembley firefighters are able to access fitness equipment and facilities.

This approach will ensure the fitness program is customized to align with operational requirements, optimize existing resources, and reduce costs.

## Capital Projects & Replacements

### Training Facility

In 2024, the Wembley Fire Department proudly completed the additions to its Live Fire Training Facility, funded by a generous donation from Ovintiv in 2023. Training began just days after the facility's early 2024 completion. This Class-A facility utilizes combustible materials such as hay and lumber to create realistic live fire training scenarios. It is the last Class-A facility in the Grande Prairie area, as the County of Grande Prairie transitioned to a Class-B propane facility in the summer of 2024.

The structure, built from sea cans, expands significantly on the department's previous single-container setup. With the addition of two new sea cans, members can now train to the national standards for above-grade, on-grade, and below-grade fires, scenarios that were simply not possible with the earlier facility. The facility includes two burn chambers, one on each floor, designed to endure extreme temperatures while ensuring safety for both firefighters and instructors.

A dedicated anchor point at the rear of the structure enables training in victim rescues and self-rescues, with safety as the top priority. This facility is invaluable for enabling realistic, scenario-based training and ensuring firefighters stay current with evolving techniques and strategies. It has already been utilized extensively by Wembley Firefighters and serves as a secondary training site for the County of Grande Prairie's rural firefighter program.

Looking ahead, the department plans to continue enhancing the training grounds and maintaining other critical props on the property. These include wooden structures, vehicle fire props, dumpster fire props, entanglement obstacles, a rescue maze, and flammable liquid props—many of which were built by dedicated members who volunteered their time to ensure the training materials align with real-world needs.

The burn facility will also see ongoing adjustments to meet the department's evolving training requirements. We extend our heartfelt thank you to Ovintiv for their generous support of this project and their commitment to public safety.

## Pickup Truck

The Wembley Fire Department operates a diverse fleet of small, medium, and large apparatus to support a variety of emergency responses. While larger units are essential for many operations, small and medium vehicles are crucial for scenarios where large apparatus cannot access effectively. Responses such as medical co-response, backcountry rescue, wildfires, and water rescue often require the agility and versatility of smaller vehicles.

Over the past decade, the operational demand for smaller fleet vehicles has grown significantly. In response to this need, the department acquired a retired enforcement vehicle in 2017 from the County of Grande Prairie—a 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe, for approximately \$2,000. This vehicle served extensively during its time in the fleet. In 2022, the County further supported the department by donating two additional small vehicles: a 2011 Ford F-150 and another retired enforcement vehicle, a 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe.

By 2024, both 2011 vehicles began to present significant challenges. High mileage, increasing repair costs, reduced reliability, and extended downtime started to outweigh their benefits. The 2011 Ford F-150 was permanently retired in mid-2024 following a critical steering failure that rendered it inoperable. The 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe, while still operational, was relegated to a reserve role due to ongoing mechanical issues. Necessary repairs for these vehicles included a complete engine replacement for the pickup along with a steering rack replacement. The SUV required front and rear differential replacements among other costly repairs.

In late 2024, the Wembley Town Council approved the purchase of a new pickup truck for inclusion in the 2025 budget, funded through a Provincial Government grant. This vehicle will replace the two 2011 response units. Both retired vehicles will be prepped for sale in the spring of 2025. While the revenue is not expected to be significant due to the state of these units, the sale should help to offset costs to outfit the new pickup truck with the required emergency response equipment.

Notably, this will be only the second light vehicle purchased newly by the fire department since our inception in 1950. The first newly purchased light vehicle, a Ford Expedition purchased in 2011, remains in service today. While purchasing used vehicles or receiving donated used response vehicles has been a common practice of the department for years, the Fire Department and Town Council feel these options are no longer a responsible and viable long-term solution. Increasing maintenance and repair costs remain an ongoing challenge, compounded by the unreliability of these vehicles during emergency responses. Additionally, operating worn or damaged vehicles reflects poorly on both our community and the Fire Service, undermining public confidence.

To ensure a cost-effective and operationally suitable choice, research began in 2024 for a new truck. The new pickup truck is expected to have a service life well exceeding 10 years, offering long-term value and reliability to meet the needs of the department and the community.

By leveraging government grants, the Town will be able to purchase the truck without any cost to the ratepayers. This ensures the department and community receive a capable and reliable response vehicle that suits their needs, while maintaining fiscal responsibility and community trust.

## Battery Operated Tools

Over the past few years, significant efforts have been made to equip the Town of Wembley's frontline fire engine with advanced battery-operated tools or "e-tools". Advancements in battery technology have seen the fire service undergo a notable shift toward e-tools over the past five years. Since 2022, we have successfully transitioned our combination tool, cutters, ram, and ventilation fan to battery-operated versions, thanks to major financial contributions from Keyera Corp. and Ovtintiv. This shift has eliminated the need for hydraulic lines, power plants and re-fueling, resulting in more efficient and powerful equipment. The new e-tools significantly reduce on scene response times to trapped victims during rescue efforts, as firefighters can now simply retrieve the tool and activate it. The setup previously required for power plants and hydraulic lines were cumbersome and limited to powering two tools simultaneously.

Additionally, battery-operated chainsaws and rotary saws have been integrated in recent years to complement their gas-powered counterparts. In 2024, our e-tool lineup saw extensive use in numerous extrications and structure fires, proving their value and reliability in the field.

The department applied for grants in 2024 to acquire a battery-operated spreader, commonly referred to as the "Jaws of Life" as the final piece to the e-tool transition. While the current frontline engine is equipped with a battery-operated combination tool that offers cutting and spreading functions, it cannot match the performance and efficiency of a dedicated spreader. Unfortunately, the grant application for this critical piece of equipment was unsuccessful in 2024. However, we remain committed to securing grants or sponsorships in the future for this project.



## Conclusion

We extend our sincere gratitude for the unwavering support the Wembley Fire Department receives year after year. To our residents, Town Council, Town staff, industry partners, local businesses, and all others who have supported us in fulfilling our mission, we offer our heartfelt thank you.

To our dedicated firefighters, we express our deepest appreciation for your selfless service to the department. Your passion for helping others, professionalism, and commitment enable us to deliver high-quality emergency services when our community needs it the most.

On behalf of the Wembley Fire Department, we wish everyone a prosperous and safe 2025. We look forward to another year of success and continued service to our community.



*Photo Courtesy of: Andy Petzel*



**TO WEMBLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**WEMBLEY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE  
AT OUR 1ST ANNUAL**

# **NASHVILLE DRAW**

**THEME WIND UP EVENT**

**ON**

**12-04-2025**

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DOORS OPEN AT	ENTRY \$ 60 EACH
5:00 PM	\$100/PAIR

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**FLUIDPRO ARENA AND REC CENTER**

**DINNER BY BETTER THAN FRED'S**

**LIVE MUSIC BY NIGHT RIDERS**

**Please RSVP Your Attendance**

**Contact: Margo Sundstrom 250-219-2165**

**To reserve your table in support of WMHA**