



Administration Office

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2005 ANNUAL REPORT

FLAGSTAFF COUNTY COUNCIL



Division 1
Reeve
BILL
REISTER



Division 2
Councillor
GERALD
KUEFLER



Division 3
Councillor
HENRY
HAYS



Division 4
Councillor
GUNNAR
ALBRECHT



Division 5
Councillor
CHARLOTTE
CURTIS



Division 6
Councillor
RICK
BERGSETH



Division 7
Councillor
GERALD
STAYURA

In Memory of Jim Tindall, Councillor of Division 6 from 1989 to 2005.
His memory we shall always keep.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Shelly Armstrong	Chief Administrative Officer	780 384-4101
Cheryl Bergman	Administrative Assistant	780 384-4114
Pat Hanson	Assessor	780 384-4102
Deb Brodie	Senior Financial Officer	780 384-4109
Brent Hoyland	Ag. Fieldman/Development Officer	780 384-4104
Sean Sheedy	Assistant Agricultural Fieldman	780 384-4108
Kim Borgel (on leave)	Agriculture Secretary	780 384-4118
Kristin Cuss	ESA Technician	780 384-4121
Kevin Luntz	Protective Services Coordinator	780 384-4105
Cory Bronson	Special Constable	780 384-4111
Leslie Heck	Payroll & Benefits Officer	780 384-4117
Marilyn Patten	Accounts Payable Clerk	780 384-4112
Janice Kroetsch	Receptionist/Tax Clerk	780 384-4100
Gwenda Poyser	Village of Galahad	780 384-4115
Nicolle Griffith	Economic Development Officer	780 384-4123

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Vacant	Public Works Superintendent	780 384-4103
Darrell Szott	Assistant Public Works Superintendent	780 384-4107
Trina Lassu	Public Works Office Assistant	780 384-4110
John Sarasin	Field Coordinator – Construction/Maintenance	780 384-4119
Berle Radchenko	Field Coordinator - Gravel	780 336-5083
Gary Longhe	Field Coordinator - Oiling	780 336-5102
Murray Moulder	Shop Supervisor	780 384-4106
Sharon Pope	Parts Assistant	780 384-4116
Richard Erickson	Mechanic	
Steve Kroetch	Mechanic	
Cyril Lindseth	Mechanic	
Jordy Cox	Apprentice Mechanic	

GRADER OPERATORS

Robert Meckler	Maintenance Area 1
Darcy Bergman	Maintenance Area 2
Terry Thompson	Maintenance Area 3
Randy Brodie	Maintenance Area 4
Doug Lang	Maintenance Area 5
Brent Thompson	Maintenance Area 6
Brent Kuntz	Maintenance Area 7
Lester Robinson	Maintenance Area 8
Lee Martin	Maintenance Area 9
Ken Bennefeld	Seasonal Maintenance Area 10
Jason Hellier	Full Time Grader Operator

OFFICE HOURS

The County Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday except statutory holidays. The Office is closed daily from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

www.flagstaff.ab.ca

See our website for information on Council meetings, Agricultural Service Board, development and planning, emergency services, employment opportunities, law enforcement, tender and quote information as well as a Community guide and staff and council directory.

Look for our newly re-designed website in 2006!

FLAGSTAFF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular County Council meetings run every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month beginning at 9:00 a.m. Notice of Special Council meetings (not held on a regularly scheduled date) will be posted on the bulletin board in the County Office, on the web page or, if time permits, will be published in the Community Press. Notice of Council Committee meetings will be posted on the bulletin board in the County Office 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Copies of the adopted Council meeting minutes are available to the public for a nominal fee. One copy of the most recently adopted Council meeting minutes will be posted on the bulletin board in the County Office. This copy will be available for the public until the minutes of the next meeting are adopted and posted. Minutes of the past year can also be viewed on our web site.

Under Section 198 of the Municipal Government Act, the public has a right to be present at Council and Committee meetings that are conducted in public.

Given the public nature of Council and Committee meetings, an individual writing to a Councillor or administration of a municipality, please be advised that this correspondence including their name and address could be disclosed at these meetings.



Flagstaff County Facts
Population (Rural) – 3697
Size of County – 4051.41 sq. km.

REEVE'S REPORT 2005

Agriculture seemed to be back on track this year, until harvest started, then the damp weather affected the majority of crops, downgrading them and with that the prices dropped. This year brought new challenges to the County. With the Provincial Government predicted surplus, they announced new money for infrastructure. Along with the booming oil economy this brought a shortage of workers, high wage offers resulting in a number of our employees leaving their positions with the County. Our administration continues to struggle to complete our programs. Increasing costs in all areas caused Council to consult the ratepayers in two public meetings to see what expectations are for the future of our infrastructure, mainly on the oil road system. Early in 2006 a decision to reduce oiled road inventory was made and will be implemented starting with the 2006 season.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

County Council is pleased to establish a new department and they have fully committed to address some serious concerns about growth and sustainability issues in our communities. In order to enhance rural living we must focus on retaining businesses and establishment of new businesses. We need to promote and market our community to ensure our communities can continue to be sustainable.

We have hired an Economic Development Officer, Nicolle Griffith to ensure these initiatives are accomplished. You can gather more information about this exciting area further in this report.

PUBLIC WORKS

In 2005 our Public Works program was successfully completed. The largest component of our program remains our contract construction. Hauser Construction built 7.75 miles of local roads and we are extremely pleased with the quality and the cost effectiveness of these roads. We continue to evaluate our oiling program. We hosted two public meetings in 2005 to seek input for solutions to address the failing condition of oiled roads. As Council decided to substantially reduce the inventory of oiled roads, 100 miles of oiled roads will eventually be returned to gravel roads. This will enable us to properly maintain our inventory. We continue to maintain an adequate rotation on our gravel roads and are pleased with their above average conditions.

We are also planning projects to utilize the grant funding received from the Provincial Government. The grants received are to be utilized for infrastructure projects.

The Public Works program is further detailed in this annual report.

FLAGSTAFF REGIONAL HOUSING GROUP

Flagstaff County is a member of Flagstaff Regional Housing Group which is responsible for senior's housing in our communities. This area continues to be a focus for our communities as the demand increases due to our aging population. This group continues to face challenges of operating efficiently and effectively within budget constraints.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Flagstaff County ambulance provides an exceptional level of care to our residents and communities. We contract our services to our Towns and Villages and provide our hospitals with transfer services. Our call volume for 2005 was a total of 745 which is an increase of 142 calls (23.5%) from last year. We are experiencing tremendous difficulty recruiting staff. In addition the ambulance staff has begun a certification process to belong to a union called the Health Sciences Association of Alberta. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their dedication towards the provision of such an important service.

Fire – Fire services are provided to County residents through partnerships with our Towns and Villages. We have entered into new funding agreements with the Towns and Villages. We have financially contributed towards 50% ownership of one fire truck in each Town or Village. In addition, we have committed to share 50% of the operating costs attributable towards the jointly owned fire truck and its operation. We are also in discussions regarding partnering with the Towns and Villages in an initiative towards hiring a regional fire chief.

Rescue - The rescue unit continues to provide rescue services to our communities. We have responded to a total of 39 calls in 2005, an increase of 16 calls. We are pleased to provide this crucial component of emergency response.

AGRICULTURE

The Agricultural Service Board has been very busy with their involvement in many projects.

We continue with all of our regular projects which are described later in this report. We are pleased to finalize all five of our tank loading sites which will provide a reliable source of water. The Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society continues to create awareness with the assistance of our AESA technician.

Our concern for our farmer's and their various issues is often a focal point of our discussions. We would encourage you to call our Agricultural Service Board Members and provide suggestions that can assist you in the area of agriculture.

RECREATION

Flagstaff County continues to support recreation by contributing \$250,000 in operational funding paid out to our Towns and Villages. The distribution is based on the facilities in each area. The 2005 recreation grants paid were:

· Alliance	\$ 8,937	· Heisler	\$ 9,395
· Daysland	\$ 31,164	· Killam	\$ 41,705
· Forestburg	\$ 43,080	· Loughheed	\$ 19,936
· Galahad	\$ 9,395	· Sedgewick	\$ 38,726
· Hardisty	\$ 37,122	· Strome	\$ 10,541

The Towns and Villages must commit to match the funding on a per capita basis in order to receive this funding. In addition we continued with our program to fund capital projects. The County established a \$45,000 capital program with the maximum funding per project to be \$25,000. A total of \$26,700 was paid to various clubs.

In 2005 we funded all applications received as listed below:

Daysland Arena:	\$ 25,000
Friends of Heisler:	\$ 1,200
Alliance Fun for all Social Club:	\$ 500

County Council would like to express their gratitude to the staff for their dedication. We would also like to express our appreciation to our ratepayer's for their support and we look forward to serving you in 2006.

FLAGSTAFF BUSINESS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Flagstaff Business & Community Development is a new Department within Flagstaff County. Flagstaff County Council started this initiative to stay abreast with the ever changing business and community environments.

In 2005, Nicolle Griffith was hired as our full-time Economic Development Officer. Recently (May 2006), Nicolle resigned and this position is now vacant.

Flagstaff Business & Community Development has been working on a few initiatives since its start. County Council established the following goals and objectives for the Economic Development Department:

- To market and promote the County and its services that it offers;
- To assist with the creation of new businesses;
- To help in the retention and expansion of existing businesses;
- To help promote tourism and recreational activities;
- To plan for sustainable growth by way of working through a business and investment attraction plan;
- To maintain relationships with post secondary institutions to develop existing workforce;
- To offer opportunities to attract new employees;
- To identify possible needs or opportunities that may encourage workforce expansion.

Some activities Flagstaff County is doing to achieve our goals are:

- Investigating and researching all businesses within the rural and urban areas of the County and gathering an inventory of our assets.
- Developing a business database and directory to be able to better promote the services that we offer.

- Working on a business attraction and investors brochure for potential clients.
- Working on developing a new Flagstaff County Website to better serve our residents.
- We are also hosting a photo contest to run throughout 2006. We will be awarding a cash prize for the first place picture in each of the four categories being; Landscape, Historical, Recreational & Sporting Events, and Seasonal.

We would be very interested to hear your input if you have any ideas that would assist Flagstaff County in enhancing Economic Development.

We look forward to enhancing Flagstaff County to ensure our communities grow and remain viable.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact our Economic Development Department at 780 384-4100.

DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, GAS & PERMITS

The Safety Codes Act requires that permits must be obtained for the construction or renovation of all residences, including mobile homes. Building permits are also required for any building to be used for non-farm purposes (industrial, commercial). These permits are required to ensure construction meets the Building Code.

The County has contracted an accredited agency, Alberta Permit Pro to issue permits and perform inspections.

Applications for Building, Electrical, Plumbing & Gas Permits may be obtained at the County Office or from Alberta Permit Pro at 1-800-282-6145.

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

The County Land Use By-law states that no development shall be undertaken within the municipality unless an application for it has been approved and a development permit has been issued. The Development Permit is required to ensure that:

1. Setback regulations are adhered to.
2. The land is properly zoned for the building use (residential, industrial, and commercial).
3. All buildings or improvements must be set back a minimum of 50 meters (164 feet) from the center of a County road.
4. Shelterbelts shall be set back from the property line a minimum of 30 meters (98 feet) if adjacent to a primary or secondary highway or 15 meters (49 feet) if adjacent to a County road right-of-way.
5. Dugouts shall be set back from road allowances a minimum of 50 meters (164 feet).

Applications for Development Permits may be obtained at the County Office.

SUBDIVISIONS

Flagstaff County's Subdivision Process:

1. Submission of a completed application with the required fee.
2. Referral to municipal staff, utility companies, and government departments, among other agencies for comment.
3. Notification of subdivision application to adjacent landowners and receipt of input.
4. Decision (tentative approval, tentative approval with conditions, or refusal), normally within 60 days. This occurs when Municipal Planning Services (Alberta) Ltd. prepares a recommendation and submits it to the County Council for approval.
5. Submission of a descriptive plan, Plan of Survey, or other instrument to Municipal Planning Services, together with the required fee for endorsement (final approval).
6. Registration of the Plan or document at the Alberta Land Titles Office.

Applications for Subdivisions may be obtained at the County Office.

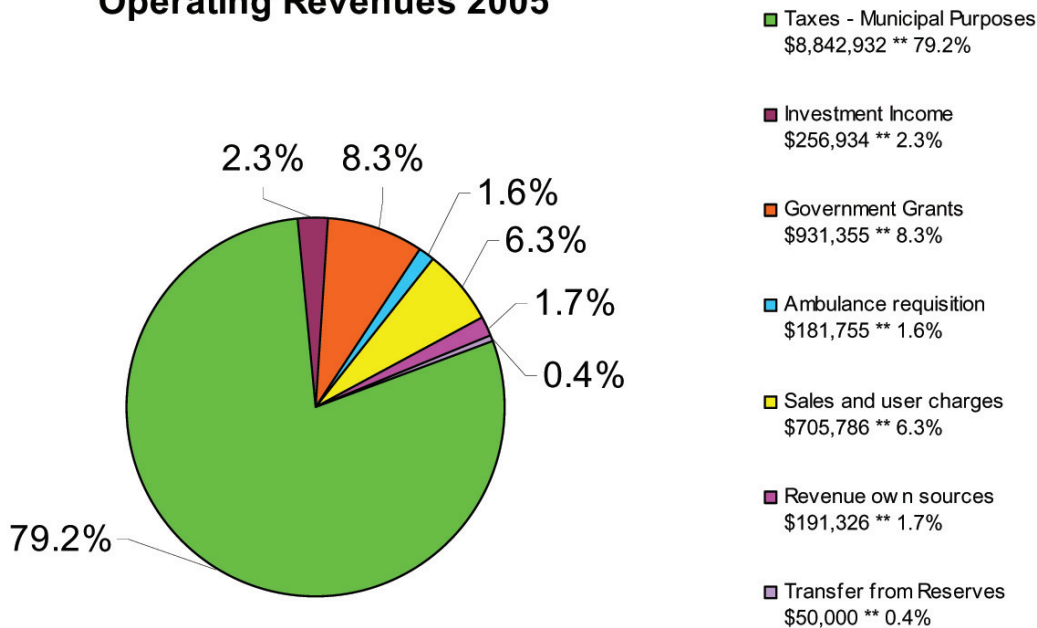
**For further information contact
Brent Hoyland, Ag Fieldman/Development Control Officer 780 384-4104**

FLAGSTAFF DEVELOPMENT FACTS

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Development Permits Issued	38	26	30
Value of Development Permits Issued	\$4,789,350	\$2,188,184	\$4,139,500
Subdivision Applications		16	26
Pipeline Crossing Consents		96	93
Approach Consents		153	163
Oil & Gas Notifications		308	480

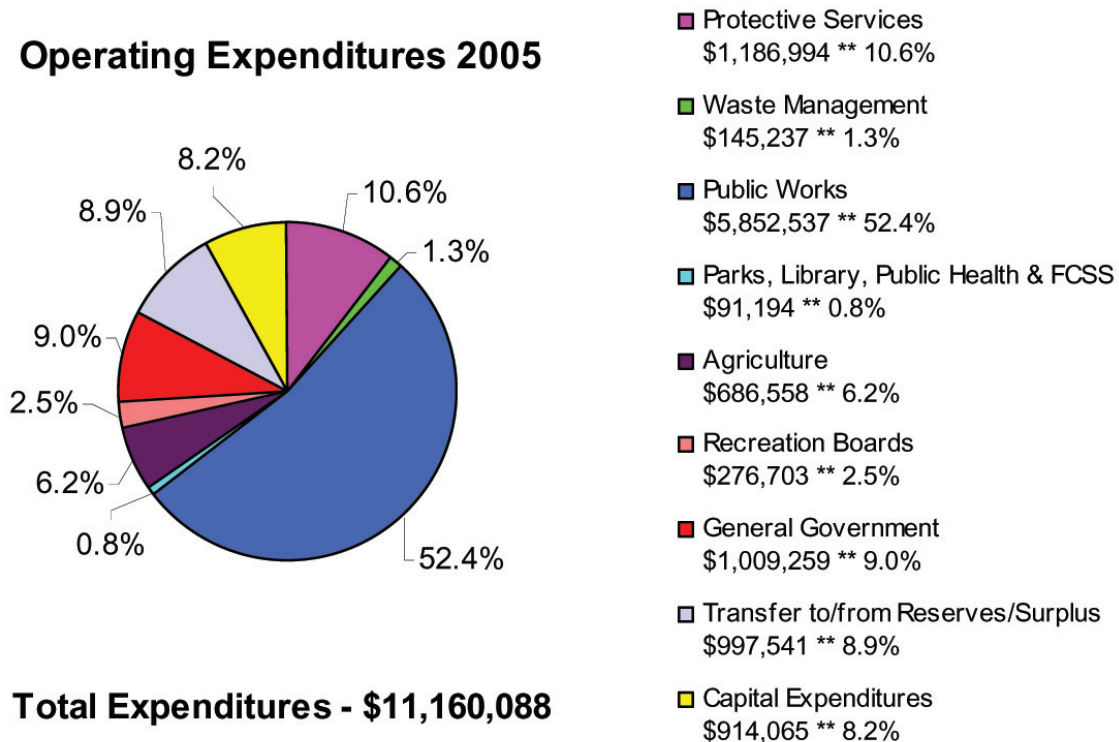
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Operating Revenues 2005



Total Revenues - \$11,160,088

Operating Expenditures 2005



Total Expenditures - \$11,160,088

Flagstaff County has copies of the 2005 Financial Statement available for the public.

Copies can be obtained by contacting the County office at Box 358, Sedgewick, AB T0B 4C0 or calling (780) 384-4100. You may also go to the Flagstaff County website at www.flagstaff.ab.ca and download or view a PDF version of the 2005 Financial Statement.

ASSESSMENT

Municipal Assessment continues to evolve with increased computer automation and more monitoring by Alberta Municipal Affairs auditors. Provincial statutes and regulations dictate how properties in Alberta are to be valued for property tax purposes (i.e. assessed). Assessed values are changed each year and 2005 property taxes were calculated using the assessed values from the previous year (2004).

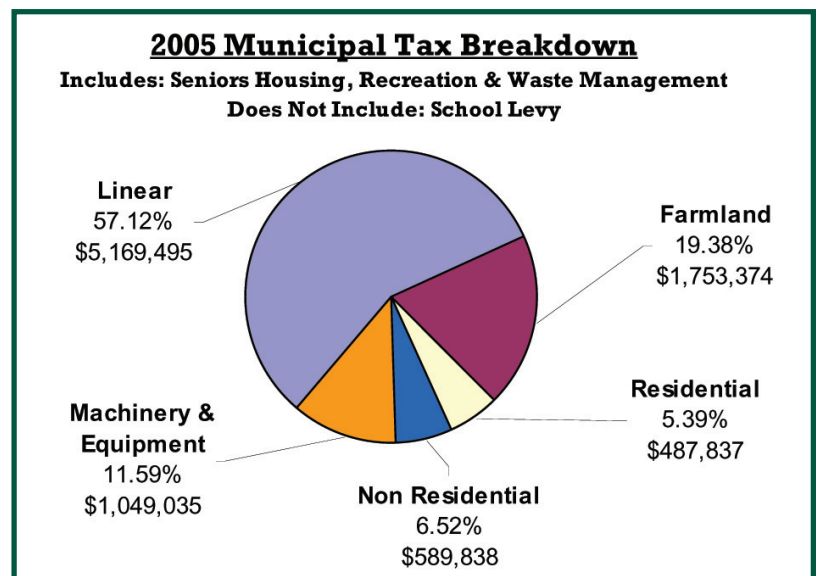
Many property types, such as Residential property (including farm residences) are assessed at market value. Market value is the probable price a property might reasonably be expected to sell for if sold by a knowledgeable, willing seller to a willing buyer after appropriate time and exposure in an open market. The two common methods of determining market value are: 1) Sales comparison approach, and 2) Cost approach.

Other property types are assessed using rates and methods as regulated by the Alberta Legislature. These are referred to as “regulated properties” and are comprised of the following four property types:

1. Farmland: Agricultural land used for farming operations is valued based on potential productivity. The best farmland in Alberta can be assessed at no more than \$350 per acre.
2. Machinery and Equipment: Example: Oil and Gas processing equipment such as compressors, separators, dehydrators, etc., as found in refineries, gas plants, battery sites and chemical plants, machinery and equipment are valued using regulated rates or actual cost.
3. Linear Property: These are properties such as pipelines, power lines and telephone systems that are assessed using regulated rates by the Assessment Services Branch of Municipal Affairs.
4. Railway Property: Consist of trackage and right of way. These are valued at a regulated fixed dollar amount per kilometer based on annual tonnage transported on the right of way.

Farmland market values continued to increase however this does not affect the farmland assessment values as a provincially regulated rate is used that is not tied to the market value.

Residential property market values increased by approximately 5% on average. This is mainly due to the increasing cost of construction materials, labour and servicing (i.e. waterwell, natural gas, power and septic system). Most of the 29 development permits issued by the County were for residential development (21). The County continues with its four year reinspection cycle for residences. These residential inspections are usually carried out during the spring and summer months by a contracted assessor.



Industrial development, primarily by the oil and gas industry, continued at a healthy rate. This adds substantially to the taxable assessment. Linear and Industrial assessments continue to make up approximately 65% of the assessment base generating approximately 70% of the County property taxes.

If you have any questions regarding assessment, contact Pat Hanson, Assessor at 780 384-4102.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

RENTAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Shelterbelt Disc w/Gandy Applicator	\$25.00/day
Tree Planter	\$25.00/day
Solar Watering System for livestock	n/c (2 week demo only)
Skid Mounted Handgun Sprayer	\$25.00/day
Eco-Bran Applicator	\$25.00/day

The County also offers custom spraying on private land for the control of small patches of persistent perennial weeds such as Toadflax, Scentless Chamomile, Common Tansy and Leafy Spurge.

Flagstaff County Agricultural Service Board would like to continue to work in cooperation with all landowners, assisting with identification and control of noxious weeds.

PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

Pocket Gopher Trap	\$10.00 + GST
Rolled oats (Warfarin) Mouse Bait	\$ 2.00 + GST
Skunk Trap	\$75.00 refundable deposit
Magpie Trap	\$75.00 refundable deposit

BEAVER DAM CONTROL

The County will blast unwanted beaver dams on private land for a one-time fee of \$100.00 per 12 months.

SHELTERBELT ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAM

The Agricultural Service Board offers a Shelterbelt Establishment Program to all Landowners who plant a field shelterbelt 1/3 of a mile in length or longer. All trees must be ordered through PFRA. Applications are available at the County Office. Flagstaff County will plant the trees and provide an initial watering at no cost under this program. Flagstaff County ASB is offering this service to landowners to help promote, establish and maintain healthy shelterbelt. Flagstaff County will continue to provide planting services for a minimal charge to landowners who are not eligible under this program. The tree planter is available to rent to the landowner; however it should be reserved for a designated time due to demand.



BRUSH SPRAYING

Roadside Brush Spraying that is done in areas designated by Flagstaff County or by a landowner will be sprayed up to 500 feet before a farm site and continue 500 feet past the farm site. Brush spraying will not occur if the brush is over 2 meters in height, unless otherwise directed by the Ag Fieldman.

Flagstaff County ASB recognizes the fact that certain landowners/tenants are not in favor of having municipally owned roadsides adjacent to their property treated with herbicide for weed and brush control. These landowners/tenants are asked to sign a No Brush Spray Agreement prior to June 1st of each year. “Do Not Spray,” signs will be available to the landowner/tenant and should be posted along roadsides that are not to be treated for brush or weed control. The landowner/tenant then assumes the responsibility of maintaining weed and brush along these designated areas to municipal standards.

PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION SITES

The locations of the pesticide collection bins will be at the following manned waste transfer sites in the County.

Science Hill Waste Transfer Site	NW 31-40-10-W4
Alliance Waste Transfer Site	SE 16-40-13-W4
Strome Waste Transfer Site	SW 19-44-14-W4
Lougheed Waste Transfer Site	SE 33-43-11-W4
Forestburg Waste Transfer Site	NE 34-41-15-W4
Daysland Waste Transfer Site	SE 16-45-16-W4
Flagstaff Waste Management (Sedgewick)	SW 11-45-12-W4

AESA PROGRAM

2005 marked the first of a renewed three year Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) program in Flagstaff County in joint partnership with the County of Paintearth. The goal of the program is to increase awareness and adoption of beneficial management practices. The programs main priorities continue to be pasture and riparian area management, but also include nutrient management and integrated crop management.

One of the extension activities held in 2005 was the first Pasture School Series. This series, held over six sessions focused on a broad range of topics that influence pasture health including: watering systems and electric fencing, pasture health assessments, touring existing grazing systems, plant identification, weed identification and control, stocking rates, riparian areas and much more. Due to the success of the Pasture School Series another will be planned for 2006.





Other extension activities held over the year were: Pesticide Applicators Workshop, Classroom Agriculture Program, Battle River Tour, Soil Quality Day, Wood and Water Pancake Breakfast, “Spreading for Success” Manure Management Workshop, Women’s Grazing School and Environmental Farm Plan Workshops. Many of these workshops were put on with one or more of the programs partners: Battle River Research Group, Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society, Cows and Fish and many others.

In 2006 look for events such as the Pasture School Series, Feed Wastage Demonstration, Women’s Grazing School and much more.

For more information on sustainable agriculture practices, the AESA program, or any related question please contact Kristin Cuss, Rural Conservation Technician at 780-384-4100.

IRON CREEK WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

The Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society (ICWIS) continued with watershed programming in 2005. Funding from Flagstaff County, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Stewardship-in- Action Program and PRFA’s Greencover Canada have all contributed to the programming that the producer-based group undertook.

The year began with the 2nd Annual Supper and Information Night. Speakers discussed water quality data from the past season and gave a presentation on the Life and Times of the Battle River watershed. A riparian health field day was held in July.



Producers visited a section of Iron Creek to learn how to identify and assess the factors that contribute to creek health. The day wrapped up with a barbeque at Sedgewick Lake. The group also put on a Wood and Water Pancake breakfast to educate the public about the importance of trees on our landscape to agricultural productivity, water quality and quantity.

The ICWIS received funding from Greencover Canada in 2005 to do another riparian health inventory study on Iron Creek in the summer of 2006. In 2001, Iron Creek had a riparian health inventory conducted by the Cows and Fish organization. The group would like to revisit the site to see how health has changed in response to management changes, weather patterns and other factors. Iron Creek will be one of the first creeks to be revisited in the central region.

For more information please contact the ICWIS Chairman, Don Ruzicka, at 780-385-2474.

TANK LOADING FACILITIES

Flagstaff County ASB, through the National Water Supply Expansion Program, has established five tank loading facilities within the municipality. These facilities were established to ensure that rural residents have a reliable and adequate supply of water to utilize for agricultural purposes. The water at these facilities is not treated and is therefore non-potable.

The facilities are situated at:

- NE 11-44-11 W4 – Near Loughheed
- SE 27-41-16 W4 – Near Forestburg
- SW 10-45-16 W4 – Near Daysland



Flagstaff County has also completed the development of two more tank loaders which will be operated on a seasonal basis. These wells contain levels of Arsenic over the guidelines for livestock watering, however the water is suitable for crop spraying and irrigation purposes. These facilities are located at:

- NE 08-41-12 W4 – North East of Alliance
- SW 27-41-10 W4 – South of Hardisty

Monitoring Program:

Flagstaff County ASB, with the assistance of PFRA, initiated an automated water well monitoring program in 2005. This project monitors the aquifer levels at each of the tank loader wells. This data is collected daily and will help to determine aquifer levels and track long term trends in the water table.

TESTING & ANALYSIS

Flagstaff County ASB will send samples of feed, soil and water for analysis on behalf of landowners at a cost recoverable charge.

GRASSHOPPER PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to provide assistance to farmers controlling grasshopper outbreaks during the growing season. Treatment of municipal roadsides adjacent to a farmer's land will be eligible for funding of \$4.00/acre. Farmers treating the same acres more than once will be eligible for a \$4.00/acre payment per treatment (maximum of 3 treatments). Program applications must be received by December 31, 2006. Application forms are available at the Flagstaff County Office.

The Agricultural Service Board includes all Councillors and the following appointed members:

Jesper Nielsen	Grant Blaeser	Wyatt Hinkey	Garth Johnson
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The Agricultural Service Board Staff Members include:			
Brent Hoyland Ag. Fieldman	Sean Sheedy Assistant Ag. Fieldman	Linda Skoberg/ Kim Borgel (on leave) Ag. Secretary	Kristin Cuss ESA Technician

SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for elected municipal officials, the Chief Administrative Officer and Designated Officers as required by provincial regulation.

2005					2004
	# of Persons	Salary	Benefits & Allowances	Total	Total
Reeve Division 1	1	\$29,417	\$3,027	\$32,444	\$29,377
Councillor Division 2	1	\$25,214	\$2,325	\$27,539	\$25,162
Councillor Division 3	1	\$25,214	\$2,325	\$27,539	\$25,162
Councillor Division 4	1	\$25,214	\$2,325	\$27,539	\$25,162
Councillor Division 5	1	\$25,214	\$2,325	\$27,539	\$25,162
Councillor Division 6	1	\$18,911	\$688	\$19,599	\$24,528
Councillor Division 7	1	\$25,214	\$2,325	\$27,539	\$25,162
Chief Administrative Officer	1	\$90,994	\$16,254	\$107,248	\$102,477
Designated Officers	2	\$136,018	\$26,493	\$162,510	\$151,266

- a) Salary includes regular base pay and gross honoraria.
- b) Benefit and allowance figures for the Chief Administrative and Designated Officers include the employer's share of Canada Pension, Employment Insurance, Local Authorities Pension, health care, dental coverage, dependent life insurance, accidental disability and dismemberment insurance, and long term disability insurance.
- c) Benefit and allowance figures for the Councillors include the employer's share of Canada Pension and the additional taxable benefit of group life insurance paid for by the employer as well as the RRSP Contribution County portion.

PUBLIC WORKS

2005 ROAD PROGRAM

Work on this season's Road Program was officially completed in November 2005. This year's work can be broken down in the following major areas:



ROAD CONSTRUCTION:

A total of approximately 7.75 miles of local road was upgraded during the 2005 construction season at an approximate total cost of \$1,347,194. We received a provincial grant of \$640,781 to help support this work.

This cost includes equipment, labour, gravel, culverts, fencing, damages, engineering, survey, rock picking, and utilities. This work was completed under the road construction program.

MAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

Hauser Construction of Rosalind did the 7.75 miles of main construction completed in the 2005 season at an approximate cost of \$1,347,194. This cost includes gravel, culverts, fencing, surveys, utilities, etc. These miles were completed at the following locations:

C-3-5A-2005	NNW 34-42-11-W4	E 3.0 miles
C-1-2-2005/C-1-3-2005	NNW 11-41-13-W4	E 4.75 miles

ROAD OILING:

A total of 16.5 miles of road were addressed (re-oiled/maintained) during the 2005 season at an approximate cost of \$709,312. This cost includes asphalt, gravel, equipment, and labour.

The oil road maintenance patching was done with a three-man patch crew, which operated as required during the season. We also completed a number of ripping and relaying projects with a grader and packer.

ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION GRANTS:

In 2005, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation introduced two new grants available to municipalities for the next five years. New Deal for Cities and Communities is a federal grant of \$66,940 per year and the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program is a provincial grant of \$702,157 per year. These grants are to be utilized to fund capital infrastructure projects and expenditures.

DUST CONTROL:

A total of approximately 12 dust controls were completed in the 2005 season. The County offers to do dust controls on a cost share basis as per County policy.

All requests must be received by May 1st.

ROAD GRAVELING:

This season the loading and hauling of gravel was once again tendered. The contract was awarded to Tri B Enterprises Ltd. of Daysland. During the 2005 season approximately 181,709 tonnes of gravel was used for the gravel program (re-gravel, patching, emergency gravel, miscellaneous, oiling, construction, tank loading facilities and sales), at an approximate cost of \$1,819,042. This cost includes hauling and loading for the contractor and County trucks as well as material costs.

Flagstaff County Maintained Roads

Gravel Roads	1326 miles
Oiled Roads	152 miles
Bladed Dirt Roads	289 miles
Paved Roads	4.5 miles

There are 151 miles of Secondary roads in the County maintained by TSM – Killam

OTHER 2005 PROGRAMS

GRAVEL PRODUCTION:

Three crushing projects were completed in 2005. The projects were as follows:

CR-01-2005:

This project was for the crushing and stockpiling of gravel at the Mazure Pit (NE 16-43-09-W4). A total of 105,051 tonnes of gravel was crushed at an approximate cost of \$246,723. This project was completed in May 2005 by McNabb Construction Ltd.

CR-02-2005:

This project was for the crushing and stockpiling of gravel at the Rosiechuk/Buchanan Pit (NW 36-41-10-W4). A total of 62,662 tonnes of gravel was crushed at an approximate cost of \$327,196. This project was completed in June 2005 by McNabb Construction Ltd.

CR-03-2005:

This project was for the supply, crushing and stockpiling of gravel at the Norman Pit (NW 05-42-17-W4). A total of 105,062 tonnes of gravel was crushed at an approximate cost of \$467,652. This project was completed in November 2005 by McNabb Construction Ltd.

ROAD RECOVERY:

This is a program that rehabilitates a “road grade” to its original form, when initially constructed. The work may include pre-spraying the side slopes and ditches with glyphosate to eliminate vegetation fiber, pulling up the side slopes, improving drainage, reworking the sub-grade to improve compaction and restoring the crown to improve drainage. These roads are then replenished with gravel. In 2005 the “Coal Trail” (Township Rd 410 – the section between Hwy 36 and Secondary Hwy 872) was completed for 17 miles and Range Rd 160 from Hwy 26 to Township Rd 462 for 4 miles.

ROAD STABILIZATION:

Calcium Chloride was applied to 17 miles of the “Coal Trail” (Township Rd 410 – the section between Hwy 36 and Secondary Hwy 872) to stabilize the gravel surface and benefits as a dust suppressant. Calcium Chloride will be applied to this road annually as a trial to evaluate if there is a reduction in road maintenance and re-gravel costs.

ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE:

The following programs are to improve roads for snow removal, site problems and weed control.

The County contracted the mowing of roadsides to John Niehaus for the 2005 season. There were 151 miles mowed for a total cost of \$8,725. The contractor is required to begin operations August 1st and work is to be completed by September 1st.

ROADSIDE CLEANUP:

Landowners are not to dump rocks and debris in the County right-of-way. This debris causes hazards in the right-of-way. The landowner will be responsible for the clean up of any new rock piles found.

SUMMER/WINTER MAINTENANCE

This summer 10 maintenance area graders will once again maintain the gravel roads. Each grader is responsible for blading approximately 160 miles of road. During the winter the gravel road system is maintained by 8 regular maintenance graders along with the back-up graders, which were stationed at the County shop in Sedgewick. All oiled roads are maintained by 3 snowplow trucks, which are equipped with sanders.

**During the winter season residents are not to push snow out onto the road.
This causes problems and is very hazardous to traffic traveling on the road.
Snow piles must be 12 feet off the shoulder of the road.**

If you are aware of any roads which require summer maintenance, winter plowing or sanding, please notify the Public Works Office in Sedgewick at (780) 384-4100. This number is a 24-hour service; please leave a detailed message with your name and number.

NOTICE

This year the County once again offers to plow lanes and driveways. Any persons who would like their laneway or driveway plowed in the winter must pick up an agreement at the County Office. You are required to purchase flags from the County office, which are to be placed at the end of your laneway or driveway when plowing is required. If you have any questions concerning this please call the Public Works office at (780) 384-4100. Flagstaff County also provides this service free of charge for seniors residing at rural residences. Any seniors interested in this program please contact the County office in Sedgewick. The work is done at the discretion of the grader operator (road maintenance has priority). The Hold Harmless Agreements are to be signed by October 31st for the upcoming winter season.

BRUSHING:

There shall be **NO BRUSHING** on road allowances without authorization from the County.

Flagstaff County policy states that there shall be no unauthorized brushing, cultivation or cropping operations of existing undeveloped road allowances. Permission to agriculturally develop County road allowance shall be granted by resolution of Council only.

If a landowner requires any type of access or brushing/back-sloping on County road allowance please contact the Public Works Department for further information.

HAYING:

Haying operations shall be the only acceptable farm operation permitted on County road allowances. Adjacent landowners shall be given the first opportunity to put up hay on County road allowances until July 31st of each year. After July 31st applications must be made to and permission must be granted by the Agricultural Fieldman.

Persons utilizing the County road allowance for haying purposes shall have thirty (30) days to remove the bales from the road allowance. Flagstaff County also encourages people to leave cut hay off the road as this interferes with road maintenance operations.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many landowners, renters, utility companies, contractors and any others who helped our staff perform their duties this past year.
Your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated.

New Public Works Organizational Structure as of April 1, 2006

Public Works Superintendent	Vacant
Assistant Public Works Superintendent	Darrell Szott
Shop Supervisor	Murray Moulder
Field Coordinator – Construction/Maintenance	John Sarasin
Field Coordinator – Gravel	Berle Radchenko
Field Coordinator – Oiling	Gary Longhe
Public Works Assistant	Trina Lassu

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The dedicated and professional staff at each of the ambulance divisions continually provides exceptional care to the community. The teamwork and dedication by the EMS staff is proven time and time again amongst themselves in addition to the co-operation with all other emergency service partners. The ambulance fleet consists of 4 active ambulances throughout the County and one to be used as a mechanical back-up and special event ambulance. The EMS staff is to be commended on their hard work and dedication to the communities of Flagstaff County by providing exceptional pre-hospital medical care.

Call Volume

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Daysland	127	112	100	122	143	128	173	197	210
Killam	144	145	184	222	216	201	224	204	252
Hardisty	102	100	106	101	80	81	76	86	121
Forestburg	93	78	95	98	113	109	126	116	162
Total	466	435	485	543	552	519	599	603	745

2005 Ambulance Response Rates

	Non-Insured	Alberta Blue Cross Government Plans	Alberta Blue Cross Group and Individual Plans
Base Rate	\$198.83	\$146.00	\$211.00
Standby Rate	\$129.94	\$ 96.00	\$138.00
Response Rate (Without transport)	\$129.94	\$ 96.00	\$138.00
Kilometer Rate	\$2.67/km	\$2.29/km	\$2.83/km

DISASTER SERVICES

The County's Municipal Emergency Plan (MEP) is constantly being updated with new information and although it has yet to be utilized in a situation, remains as a resource for all County departments and emergency agencies should the need arise.

911 SERVICE

The 911 service for Flagstaff County is provided by Camrose Police Service. This 911 centre provides Flagstaff County with a call answer/call forward system. Rather than directly dispatching a service, the caller would simply be transferred to the appropriate agency. The caller would then speak directly to a local person who would then dispatch the emergency service required. The 911 service has proven to be an advantage to the residents and travelers in the area.

We are currently in a partnership with all of the Towns & Villages to provide enhanced 911 communications. We will contract the City of Camrose as our service provider who will give us full fire and ambulance dispatch services. This project is currently being developed and scheduled to be available by the end of 2006.

SPECIAL CONSTABLE SERVICES

Flagstaff County employs two (2) Special Constables and in addition to patrolling the rural areas throughout the County, they also patrol the following urban municipalities who have contracted the patrol service:

- Strome · Killam · Sedgewick · Forestburg
- Hardisty · Heisler · Galahad



If you observe a suspicious act that may be illegal or dangerous in nature, please contact a Special Constable. If immediate assistance is necessary please call the RCMP.

Speed Limit – The speed limit on all rural roads (gravel and oiled), is 80 km/h, unless otherwise posted.

Traffic Signs – Traffic signs are in place throughout the County to maintain safety on our roads. If a traffic sign has been removed or displaced, or a specific area is in need of a traffic sign, please contact the Protective Services Department.

Road Bans – Throughout the year, various roads within Flagstaff County will be banned to some extent but may also vary from year to year and/or road to road. When a particular road has a ban in place, a sign will be posted stating the percentage of axle weight that is permitted to travel on the road. Road bans are placed on roads to protect them from damage that may be caused by heavier vehicles.

Road ban information for any road in our County can be found by calling Road Data at 1-888-830-7623 or by viewing our website at www.flagstaff.ab.ca.

Overload Permits – Permits to exceed permitted axle weights on any roads within Flagstaff County can be obtained from Road Data Services at 1-888-830-7623.

FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection in the rural areas of Flagstaff County is provided by the 10 urban fire departments. Each fire department has a specified area surrounding their respective town or village and are contracted to provide fire service in that area of the County. Fire protection is constantly being upgraded by each of the departments through personnel training and equipment upgrades through grant and capital budgeting. The fire chiefs throughout the County meet on a regular basis to discuss fire department activities and present day items.



Fire permits are required within Flagstaff County between April 1st and October 31st.

Fire permits are free of charge and can be issued from the County office or a County Council member.

Fire Department Rural Responses								
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alliance	3	2	6	8	8	4	1	1
Daysland	7	4	2	4	2	3	4	4
Forestburg	10	2	5	13	3	7	5	7
Galahad	7	1	3	3	3	2	2	2
Hardisty	3	3	6	7	3	0	2	4
Heisler	2	2	0	7	1	3	3	3
Killam	8	4	3	7	2	5	1	8
Lougheed	7	0	3	10	2	3	2	6
Sedgewick	8	4	6	7	6	6	3	6
Strome	5	1	2	5	1	1	1	2
Total	60	23	36	71	31	34	24	43

RESCUE SERVICE

The Flagstaff County Rescue Service continues to be provided by the volunteers of the Killam Fire Department. The rescue truck, a 1996 Freightliner FL80, continues to be a very valuable asset to the protective services department. The rescue service itself has also become a vital part of the County's emergency response system and continues to prove its effectiveness when the need arises.

Rescue Responses
(Includes both Rescue and Medical Assistance)

1998	9
1999	14
2000	17
2001	27
2002	10
2003	23
2004	23
2005	39



Kevin Luntz
Protective Services Coordinator
780 384-4105

Sean Sheedy
Flagstaff County Fire Chief
780 384-4108