



2006

ANNUAL

REPORT

Administration Office

4902 - 50th Street
Box 358
Sedgewick AB T0B 4C0

Tel 780.384.4100
Fax 780.384.3635
Toll Free 1.877.387.4100
www.flagstaff.ab.ca

FLAGSTAFF COUNTY COUNCIL



Division 1
Reeve
BILL
REISTER



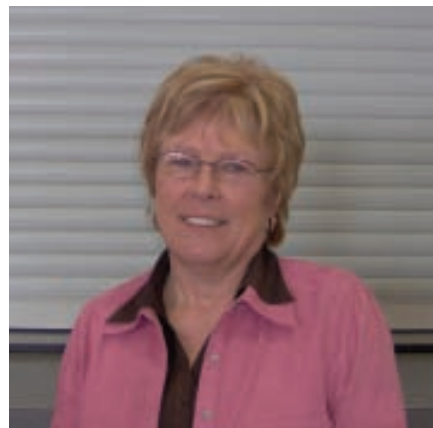
Division 2
Councillor
GERALD
KUEFLER



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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Shelly Armstrong	Chief Administrative Officer	780 384-4101
Deb Brodie	Senior Financial Officer	780 384-4109
Pat Hanson	Assessor	780 384-4102
Kelly Larson	Assistant Assessor	780 384-4122
June Larson	Economic Development Officer	780 384-4123
Brent Hoyland	Ag. Fieldman/Development Officer	780 384-4104
Sean Sheedy	Assistant Agricultural Fieldman	780 384-4108
Penny Suddaby	Agricultural Secretary	780 384-4118
Kristin Cuss	ESA Technician	780 384-4121
Kevin Luntz	Protective Services Coordinator	780 384-4105
Mike Kuzio	Peace Officer	780 384-4113
Travis Lund	Peace Officer	780 384-4111
Leslie Heck	Payroll & Benefits Officer	780 384-4117
Marilyn Patten	Accounts Payable Clerk	780 384-4112
Cheryl Bergman	Administrative Assistant	780 384-4114
Roseanne Hampshire	Receptionist/Tax Clerk	780 384-4100
Gwenda Poyser	Village of Galahad	780 384-4115

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF

Darrell Szott	Superintendent	780 384-4107
John Sarasin	Field Coordinator – Construction/Maintenance	780 384-4119
Berle Radchenko	Field Coordinator – Gravel	780 390-0308
Gary Longhe	Field Coordinator – Oiling	780 390-0310
Trina Lassu	Administrative Coordinator – Industry Liaison	780 384-4103
Janice Kroetsch	Public Works Office Assistant	780 384-4110
Murray Moulder	Shop Supervisor	780 384-4106
Kevin Kinzer	Shop & Parts Assistant	780 384-4116
Richard Erickson	Mechanic	780 384-4116
Steve Kroetch	Mechanic	780 384-4116
Cyril Lindseth	Mechanic & Welder	780 384-4116
Jordy Cox	Mechanic & Apprentice Heavy Duty Mechanic	780 384-4116
Murray Dylke	Mechanic & Apprentice Welder	780 384-4116

GRADER OPERATORS

Robert Meckler	Maintenance Area 1 (Alliance)	Steve Savage	Maintenance Area 2 (Forestburg)
Terry Thompson	Maintenance Area 3 (Hardisty)	Randy Brodie	Maintenance Area 4 (Killam)
Brent Kuntz	Maintenance Area 5 (Heisler)	Brent Thompson	Maintenance Area 6 (Lougheed)
Doug Lang	Maintenance Area 7 (Strome)	Lester Robinson	Maintenance Area 8 (Daysland)
Lee Martin	Maintenance Area 9 (Lougheed)	Ken Bennefeld	Maintenance Area 10 (Seasonal)
Roy Darling	Full Time Grader Operator		

OFFICE HOURS

The County Office is open from 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

Visit our web site for information on Council meetings, Agriculture 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 2007!

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) – 3506
Size of County – 4051.41 sq. km.

MESSAGE FROM REEVE BILL REISTER

As Alberta's economy continues to be strong we feel the effects of its prosperity. One of our most affected areas of employee shortage is our ambulance department. Our Hardisty station has been short staffed by two personnel for part of 2006. This has resulted in the Hardisty station operating half time. The local residents have been very concerned and we continue to recruit with no success. Also in the ambulance area, our committee has spent many days negotiating a contract with the union for our ambulance staff. An agreement has not been reached as we head into 2007. In other areas we have been fortunate to hire some new qualified staff such as an Assistant Assessor. There are not many assessors in Alberta and we were able to hire one with several years of experience.

In other areas we continue to partner with all our ten Towns and Villages in a committee called the Flagstaff Intermunicipal Partnership Committee. Through this initiative this committee is in the process of hiring a Regional Emergency Services Co-ordinator. This person will work for the County and the Towns and Villages to provide operational and administration service to all committee members. Funding for this position will be available from a grant obtained through this committee. The Provincial Government has announced more funding in the upcoming years, much of it based on partnerships. We look forward to working with the Towns and Villages to develop new ideas to take advantage of this opportunity.

Council also continues to have busy Public Works programs. Our 2006 activities are further discussed in this report. One notable item Council approved was the allocation of the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program grant of \$3,500,000. A portion (\$2,500,000) was dedicated to the future paving of Secondary Highway 856 from Strome to Forestburg. The remaining funding will be utilized for local construction in the future. Some other activities Council decided to move forward with in 2006 were the construction of an addition to our County Shop and a Grader Shed in Alliance. It is hoped these buildings will be completed in 2007.

We are also pleased to have hired another Economic Development Officer. It is our hope with the "local" roots of this person, that this will encourage her to remain on staff and be able to complete some of our goals and objectives set for this program. This department is working with a consultant to re-develop our website, so you can look for a re-launch in the near future. As part of this program we were extremely pleased to host the first annual Small Business Appreciation Night in October 2006. This evening was extremely successful honoring many small businesses in our community. Three businesses from each Town or Village and three businesses from the County were saluted for their contribution to the success of the economy in our community. We are looking forward to hosting another event in 2007.

Our Agricultural Service Board continues to focus on core issues of weed control, soil and water resource conservation and pest management. The service board also continues to work co-operatively with provincial and various private agricultural and environmental organizations to deliver programs beneficial to our residents.

Other organizations where we represent the County are Waste Management, Flagstaff Regional Housing Group, Flagstaff Family and Community Services, Battle River Research Group, Parkland Regional Library and the County Library Board.

Recreation

Flagstaff County continues to support recreation by contributing **\$250,000** annually in operational funding paid out to our Towns and Villages. The distribution is based on the facilities in each area. The Towns and Villages must commit to match the funding on a per capita basis in order to receive this funding. The 2006 recreation grants paid were:

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

In addition to the above, 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. In 2006 we funded all applications received which totaled \$68,283 as listed below:

Daysland Arena	\$ 25,000
Killam Agriplex	\$ 7,500
Sedgewick Rec. Centre	\$ 8,618
Forestburg Athletic Association	\$ 17,165
Valley Ski Hill	\$ 5,000
Spring Lake Sports Grounds	\$ 5,000

Flagstaff County contributed a total of \$318,283 towards recreation in our Towns and Villages in 2006.

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 2007.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Flagstaff County is committed to enhancing rural living through economic development opportunities. The focus is to retain and support growth in existing businesses and to attract and assist in the establishment of new businesses.

The County hired June Larson as the Economic Development Officer in December of 2006. June is accountable to promote and market Flagstaff County in order that all communities can continue to be sustainable. She is a member of the Economic Developers of Alberta and Canada.



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

Economic Development Goals and Objectives

Business Retention and Expansion

- Create an open dialogue with new and existing businesses to learn more about their business and industry
- Attract services to Flagstaff County and the municipalities within that will support business development
- Promote the Flagstaff County business community
- Participate in community events that involve stakeholders

Investment Attraction

- Collect, maintain and make available data to support business development activities
- Market Flagstaff County for commercial, industrial and residential development
- Collaborate with regional partners in business attraction initiatives

Community Promotion

- Produce promotional materials and create a new Flagstaff County website that will reflect the quality of life found in Flagstaff County to attract new business, residents and tourists
- Support the marketing activities of developers and business through partnership in promoting the communities of Flagstaff County
- Participate in events that showcase the community

Economic Development Planning

- Participate in long term planning to support sustainability, growth and redevelopment strategies

Since joining the Flagstaff County Staff in December 2006, June has been involved in Economic Community Development in a variety of ways.

Flagstaff County is a member of the Flagstaff Inter-Municipal Partnership (FIP) Committee, along with the ten municipalities in the County. June is working with the FIP Committee on a project to address Business and Community Development. The County is also a member of the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development and the Trail of the Buffalo Tourism Association and June attends the business meetings as a Flagstaff County representative.

As a tool for Community Promotion, Flagstaff County has a new display booth to showcase our rural community. To date, the display has been exhibited at the Small Communities Conference in Forestburg and at the Rural Routes Trade Show in Calgary.

In co-operation with the communities in Flagstaff, June is updating the asset and business inventories of the area. The new Flagstaff County website will have access to these inventories as well as other pertinent business and community source information.



**For further Economic Development information please contact
June Larson, Economic Development Officer
Phone (780) 384-4123 or Email: jl Larson@flagstaff.ab.ca**

DEVELOPMENT

Building, Electrical, Plumbing, Gas and 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, *Albert 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, improvements and dugouts 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 municipal right of way a minimum of 15 meters.

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 or
online at www.munplan.ab.ca**

FLAGSTAFF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<u>Development Permits</u>			
Number of Permits Issued	26	31	31
Average Value of Permits Issued	\$91,174	\$142,741	\$134,500
<u>Subdivisions</u>			
Number of Subdivisions	19	24	24
Average Size of Subdivisions (acres)	15.37	19.71	15.17

**If further information is required contact
Brent Hoyland, Development Officer at 780 384-4100**

SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

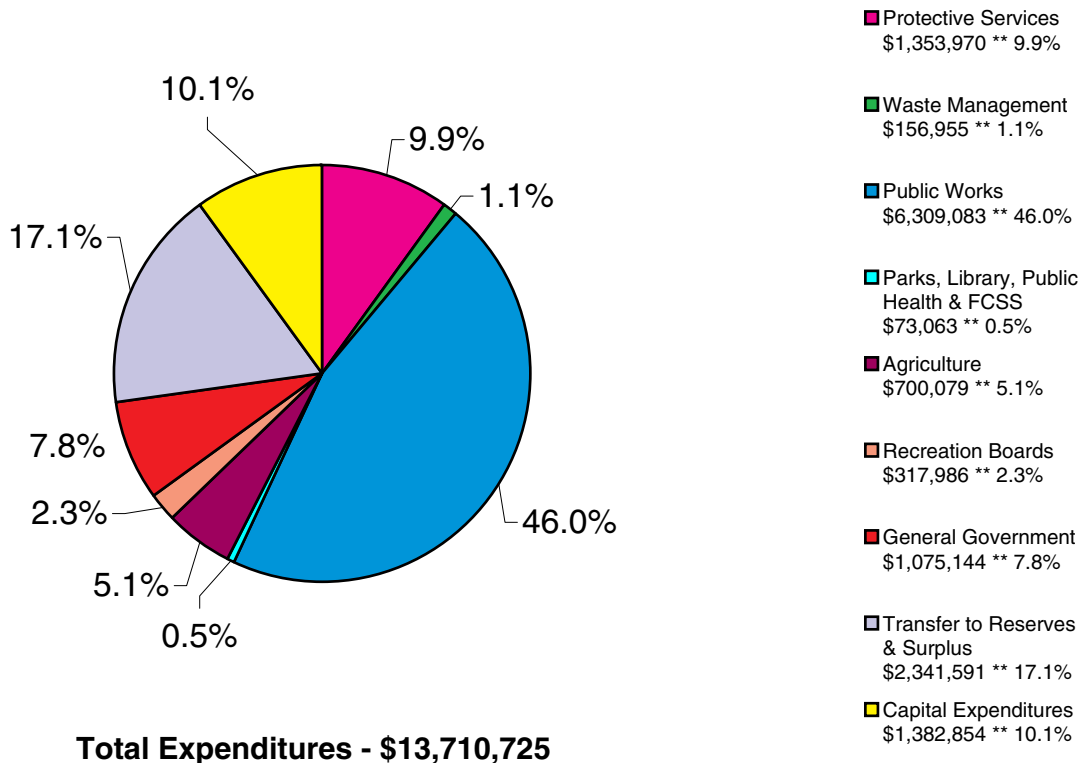
	2006			2005
	Salary	Benefits & Allowances	Total	Total
Reeve Division 1	\$30,466	\$3,420	\$33,867	\$32,444
Councillor Division 2	\$26,097	\$2,915	\$29,012	\$27,539
Councillor Division 3	\$26,097	\$2,915	\$29,012	\$27,539
Councillor Division 4	\$26,097	\$2,915	\$29,012	\$27,539
Councillor Division 5	\$26,097	\$2,915	\$29,012	\$27,539
Councillor Division 6	\$26,097	\$2,852	\$28,949	\$19,599
Councillor Division 7	\$26,097	\$2,915	\$29,012	\$27,539

- a) Salary includes regular base pay and gross honoraria.
- b) Benefits and allowances 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.

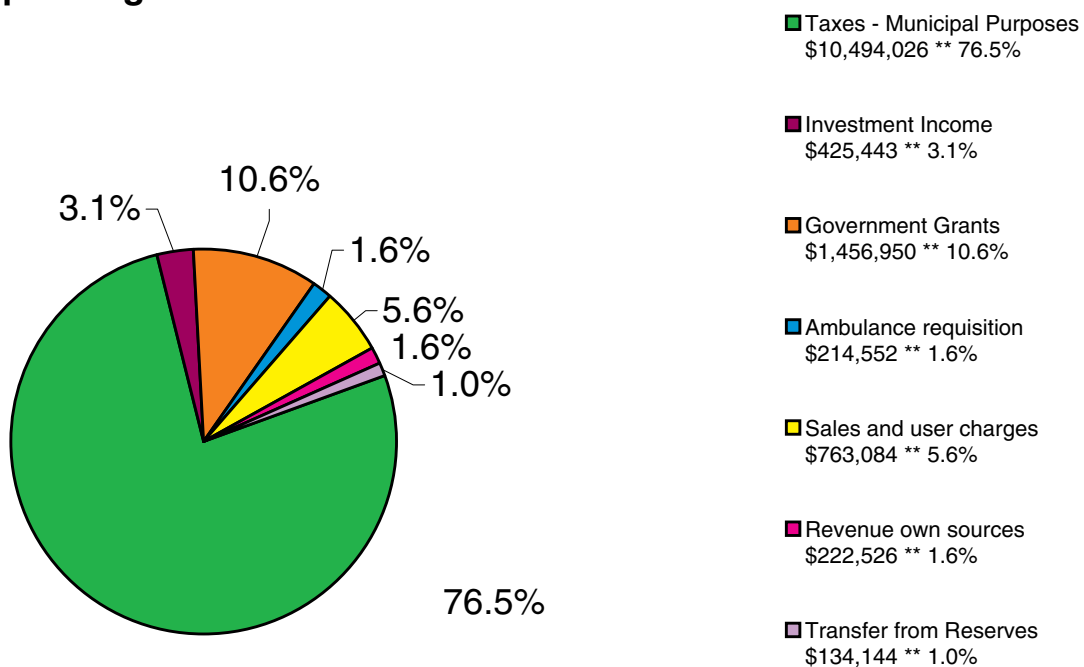
Flagstaff County has copies of the 2006 Financial Statement available for the public and can be obtained by contacting the County office at Box 358, Sedgewick, AB, T0B 4C0 or calling (780) 384-4100. You may also go to the Flagstaff County website at www.flagstaff.ab.ca and download or view a PDF version of the 2006 Financial Statement.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

Operating Expenditures 2006



Operating Revenues 2006



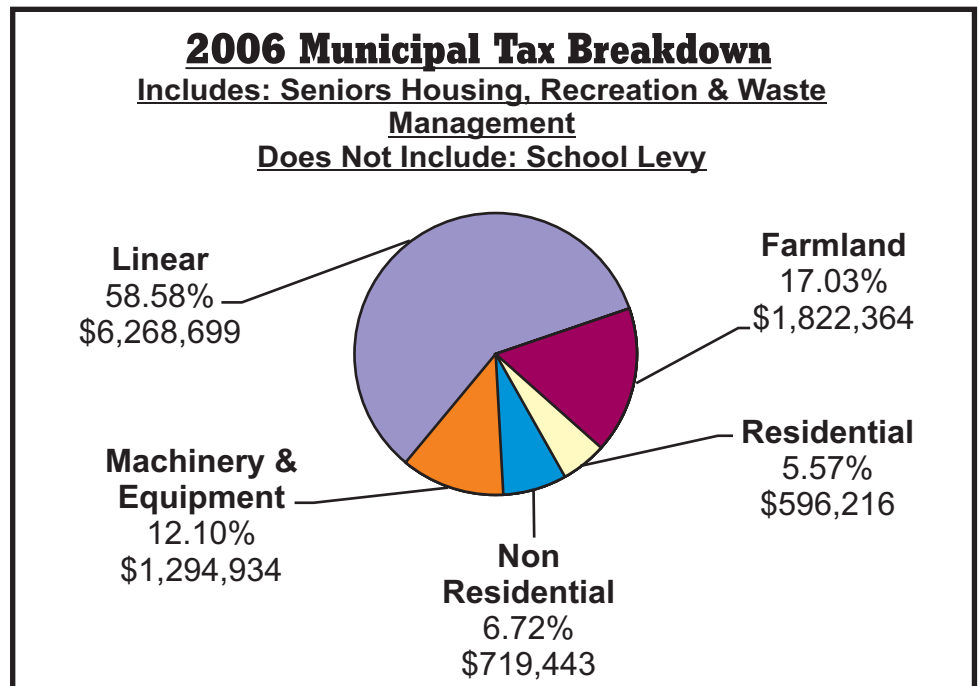
ASSESSMENT

Municipal Assessment is continually evolving 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 are calculated to reflect property values from the previous year. Property taxes are calculated by multiplying the assessed value (determined by the assessor) by the appropriate mill rate (determined by council).

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 knowledgeable, 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 is valued using regulated rates or actual cost and a regulated depreciation factor. Machinery & equipment does not receive the education tax levy.
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 railway track on right of way and station grounds. 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.

In the past year (2005) some vacant residential market values have increased by as much as 25%. Most residential properties though, have seen less than a 15% increase. This is mainly due to Alberta's booming economy increasing the cost of construction materials; labor and servicing (i.e. water well, natural gas, power and septic system). There is also increasing demand for a relatively limited supply of residential properties.

In 2006 the County completed its four year inspection cycle on residences. These residential inspections have been carried out during the spring and summer months by a contracted assessor.



In the spring of 2007, Flagstaff County was very fortunate to have hired Kelly Larson as a full time Assistant Assessor. She comes to us with several years of experience and will be of great benefit to us in maintaining the County's assessment. Kelly will begin the next residential inspection cycle in the spring of 2007, commencing on the west side of the County.

Substantial industrial development continued, primarily in the oil and gas sector. This adds substantially to the taxable assessment. Linear and Industrial assessments continue to make up approximately 70% 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

The Agricultural Service Board continues to focus on core issues of weed control, soil and water resource consideration and pest management.

The service board also continues to work cooperatively with provincial and various private agricultural and environmental organizations to deliver programs beneficial to our residents. If you have concerns relating to local, provincial or national agricultural issues, please contact a member of our Agricultural Service Board.



FLAGSTAFF COUNTY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

Equipment Rentals

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

Custom Spraying

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



Beaver Dam Removal

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



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

Feed and Water Testing

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

Roadside Haying Along Flagstaff County Right-of-Ways

Flagstaff County has implemented a permit system for all landowners within Flagstaff County wanting to hay municipal right of ways.

- Landowners must apply for a roadside haying permit from Flagstaff County prior to May 15th of each year.
- All landowners permitted to hay municipal right of ways must have their haying completed by July 15th of each year.

Flagstaff County intends to mow all municipal right of ways twice commencing June 1, 2007.

The purpose of this permit system is to minimize conflict between the municipality and landowners who intend to cut and bale hay along municipal right of ways.

Application forms are available at Flagstaff County or online at www.flagstaff.ab.ca.

Century Farm and Ranch Awards

The Alberta Century Farm and Ranch Award recognize those families that have continuously owned and operated the same land for 100 or more years. The criteria set to be eligible for this provincial recognition include:

- Land must be continuously and actively farmed by your family for 100 years or more.
- You can provide evidence clearly demonstrating the kinship ties between you and the founder of the farm.
- You can provide the legal land location.
- You can provide the date of homestead establishment.
- You can provide the current ownership land title.
- The current size of the original homestead or land base must be 160 acres of land.

Flagstaff County recognizes all recipients of this provincial award. To date there has been 30 families that have received the Century Farm and Ranch Award within our municipality.

If you are eligible or require further information please contact our ASB Department.

Shelterbelt Establishment Program

The Agricultural Service Board continues to offer 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 shelterbelts. Flagstaff County will continue to provide planting services for a minimal charge to landowners who are not eligible under this program. The tree planters are available to rent to the landowner; however it should be reserved for a designated time due to demand.



WEEDS OF CONCERN WITHIN FLAGSTAFF COUNTY:

SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE

Characteristics

- Winter annual
- Short lived perennial
- Similar weeds are Ox Eye Daisy, Pineapple Weed and Stinking Mayweed
- Mature plant is capable of producing 300,000 to 3 million seeds
- Seeds can remain viable in the soil for many years
- Seeds survive for longer periods in undisturbed soil than in cultivated land



How It Grows

- During the year of germination mainly vegetative growth is produced
- Only a small percentage of these plants will flower
- If allowed to overwinter, the plant will become large and bushy with a high seed potential



Habitat

Predominantly found in:

- Headlands
- Right-of-Ways
- Industrial Areas - Waste Areas
- Slough Edges - Water Courses
- Forage - Non Croplands
- ** Peas & Canola

Prevention

- Regularly inspect all fields
- Treat small areas before they become large
- Avoid seeding legume forage & peas on land that has been infested with Mayweed
- Request a weed seed analysis certificate with all purchased grass seed
- When purchasing Feed (Hay & Straw) know the source



WHITE COCKLE

Characteristics

- Biennial
- Short lived perennial
- Separate male and female plants
- White flowers open in full sun and close in evening.
- Hairy stems
- Similar to bladder Campion and Night Flowering Catch Fly.
- Female plants capable of producing 24,000 seeds



How it grows

- Emerges early in the spring
- First forms a taproot followed with spreading lateral roots
- New plants can start from root pieces



Habitat

- Reduced tillage
- Forage crops
- Roadsides
- Waste areas
- Sunny fertile areas

Prevention

- Regular monitoring of non crop areas
- Request a weed seed analysis certificate when purchasing forage seed
- Prevent seed set in White Cockle
- When purchasing hay and straw know the source.

**For *information* on control options
please contact the
Agricultural Service Board.**



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 favour 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. Summer hours effective April 1 – September 30:

Alliance Waste Transfer Site	SE 16-40-13-W4M Wed. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sat. 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Daysland Waste Transfer Site	SE 16-45-16-W4M Tues. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 a.m.
Forestburg Waste Transfer Site	NE 34-41-15-W4M Mon. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Lougheed Waste Transfer Site	SE 33-43-11-W4M Mon. 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Flagstaff Waste Management (Sedgewick)	SW 11-45-12-W4M Mon. 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Science Hill Waste Transfer Site	NW 31-40-10 W4M Wed. 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Strome Waste Transfer Site	SW 19-44-14-W4M Tues. 1:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AESA Program

2006 marked the second year of a renewed three year Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESAs) program in Flagstaff County in 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.

Several extension events were held in 2006 to meet the programs goals and objectives. A pasture school series was held again in June and July and focused on topics such as soil management, livestock handling with Dr. Temple Grandin, grazing systems, pasture walks and fence layout and design. Other extension events that were held this year in Flagstaff County or the County of Paintearth include: Environmental Farm Plan workshops, Age Verification Workshops, Women's Grazing Schools, Iron Creek Watershed (ICWIS) Improvement Society Annual Supper, Joint Vermillion River and ICWIS Summer Tour, a Crop Pest and Disease Workshop and more.



Feed Wastage demo in January



Observing soil structure during a Pasture School Series Session

Our AESA program had the opportunity to partner with other organizations such as the Battle River Research Group and Chinook Applied Research Association, and other municipalities such as the M.D. of Wainwright, Beaver and Lamont Counties to bring in some well known speakers. Jim Gerrish spoke at a meeting in Hardisty themed "Cattlemen: Building Today for Tomorrow." Jim shared his expertise on grazing management with producers.

In 2007 we plan on holding more exciting extension events for producers including pasture walks with Wayne Burleson.

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



Livestock watering system in use on Iron Creek

In 2006 the Iron Creek Watershed Improvement Society (ICWIS) continued with watershed extension programming. This past year the ICWIS received funding from several sources including Flagstaff County, the PFRA Greencover Technical Assistance Program, Alberta Stewardship Network and the Stewardship-in-Action program from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

The PFRA Greencover funding was received to conduct a riparian health inventory in 2005 and will continue until 2007 when the project is completed. The riparian health inventory was done on Iron Creek in the summer of 2006.

The first inventory of the creek was conducted in 2001 and most of the same sites were reassessed in 2006. The group was interested in the results of the assessments to see how the health of the creek had changed since 2001.

The ICWIS also received funding in 2006 to set up a riparian grazing demonstration site on Iron Creek. Funding was received to put up fencing in the riparian area so a grazing plan could be managed and an off-site livestock watering system was set up. A bird species inventory was conducted by Glen Hvenegaard from the U of A, Augustana Campus. The site will be continually observed to see how riparian health and biodiversity change now that the management changes have been put into action.



Participants discuss aquatic life on the ASN site tour

The ICWIS also receives funding and technical support from Flagstaff County. For more information about ICWIS contact the chairman, Don Ruzicka, at 385-2474.

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

Rod Strauss

Tom Zwack

Wyatt Hinkey

Garth Johnson

Agricultural Service Board Staff Members:

Brent Hoyland, Agricultural Fieldman
Sean Sheedy, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
Penny Suddaby, Agricultural Secretary
Kristin Cuss, ESA Technician

Parks

Flagstaff County maintains two parks within our municipal boundary. This includes the Diplomat Trout Pond Park which is a day use area and Fish Lake Park which is an overnight campground.



Diplomat Trout Pond

Located along Secondary Highway 855, 8 km South of Highway 53.

Fish Lake Park

Located 2 km west of Hardisty. There is a charge of \$15.00 per night for camping at Fish Lake on a first come - first served basis.

For further information please contact the Agricultural Service Board office.

PUBLIC WORKS

2006 ROAD PROGRAM

Work on this season's Road Program was officially completed in November 2006. This year's work can be broken down in the following major areas:

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

A total of approximately 5.50 miles of local road was upgraded during the 2006 construction season at an approximate total cost of \$1,338,635. We received a provincial grant of \$640,781 to help support this work. This cost includes equipment, labor, gravel, culverts, fencing, damages, engineering, survey, rock picking, and utilities. This work was completed under the road construction program.



We contracted Hauser Construction of Rosalind, Alberta to construct all construction projects in 2006. These miles were completed at the following locations:

C-1-2A-2006	NNW 10-41-13-W4	E 1.0 miles
C-1-12-2006	ENE 10-40-12-W4	S 2.0 miles
C-3-5B-2006	NNW 36-42-11-W4	E 2.5 miles

ROAD OILING

A total of 3 miles of road were re-oiled south of Forestburg during the 2006 season at an approximate cost of \$386,524. Work was completed by in-house crews. This cost includes asphalt, gravel, equipment, and labor.

Also, on the same road, south for an additional 2.5 miles the grade was widened, ripped, relayed and a seal coat was applied.

The oil road maintenance patching was done with a three-man patch crew, which operated as required during the season. We also completed 46 miles of ripping and relaying projects.

ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

In 2006, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and the County committed to enter into a cost sharing agreement to pave Secondary Highway 856 (from Highway 13 to Highway 53), with a 25% contribution from the County to a maximum of \$2,500,000. The Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program, introduced in 2005, will fund the County's portion.

DUST CONTROL

A total of approximately 31 residential dust controls were completed in the 2006 season. The County offers to do dust controls on a cost share basis as per County policy. **All requests must be received by May 1.**

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 2006 season approximately 142,603 tonnes of gravel was used for the gravel program (re-gravel, patch and emergency gravel, miscellaneous, oiling, construction, and sales), at an approximate cost of \$1,706,566. 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 Carillion – Killam

OTHER 2006 PROGRAMS

GRAVEL PRODUCTION

There were two crushing projects completed in 2006. The projects were as follows:

CR-01-2006

This project was for the supplying, crushing and hauling of gravel to the Szott Stockpile (SE 13-45-17-W4). A total of 55,077 tonnes of gravel was crushed at an approximate cost of \$582,978. This project was completed in July 2006 by McNabb Construction Ltd.

CR-02-2006:

This project was for the crushing and stockpiling of gravel at the Skori Pit (NE 08-46-11-W4). A total of 115,048 tonnes of gravel was crushed at an approximate cost of \$508,560. This project was completed in November 2006 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 sideslopes, improving drainage, reworking the sub-grade to improve compaction and restoring the crown to improve drainage. These roads are then replenished with gravel. A total of 6.25 miles of road recovery was completed in 2006. The road recovery projects were completed at the following locations:

E 08-42-16 W4 - 2 miles / E 36-44-16 W4 - 3.75 miles / SE 21-44-16 W4 - .50 miles

ROAD STABILIZATION

Calcium Chloride was applied to 17 miles of the “Coal Trail” (Township Road 410 – the section between Highway 36 and Secondary Highway 872) to stabilize the gravel surface and provide additional benefits of a dust suppressant. Calcium Chloride will be applied to this road annually as this method has proven to reduce road maintenance and re-gravel costs.

Calcium Chloride was applied to 4 miles of the Viking Energy Road (Range Road 123, South of Secondary Highway 608). This is on a cost shared basis.

ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE

In 2006 Flagstaff County Agricultural Service Board mowed 1,481 miles of roadside ditch for a cost of \$40,000. This work was completed from the start of July until the middle of October. This program improves roads for snow removal, site problems and weed control.

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 ten 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 eight regular maintenance graders. Oiled roads are maintained by three 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.

FENCING

Flagstaff County would like to remind all ratepayers that the legal placement of fences is as follows:

FENCES MUST BE: Installed on private land *not* on the County right of way (road allowance).

- Typically this will be 10 metres back from the centre of the road.
- A few exceptions may exist if the right of way is wider than 20 metres.
- If you require clarification on the width please contact the Public Works Department.
- This applies only to local roads (not Secondary or Primary Highways which may have different requirements).

This must be strictly adhered to in order to ensure trespass has not occurred on County right of way.

We recognize that many fences may be on our right of way. In order to protect the County from any liability risk we must ensure the fences are not on our property.

We have begun a program to identify fences that have been improperly placed. If they impede access, passage of traffic or impose a liability risk, we will notify the landowner and they will be required to relocate or remove the fence.

We look forward to your co-operation with this issue to make our County a safer place to travel!

OTHER SETBACKS

Trees: Shelterbelts shall be set back from the municipal right of way a minimum of 15 meters. (Permit not required)

Buildings and dugouts: must be set back a minimum of 50 meters (164 feet) from the center of a County road. (Permit required)

If you have any questions regarding these setbacks, please contact Brent Hoyland, Development Officer at (780) 384-4100.

The Public Works Department 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.

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 four active ambulances throughout the County and one to be used as a mechanical back-up and special event ambulance.



In December 2005 the Ambulance Staff applied to the Alberta Labour Relations Board to have the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (H.S.A.A.) certified as their bargaining agent. The certification vote was successful and bargaining commenced in the spring of 2006. A collective agreement was not able to be reached through collective bargaining between the parties. A mediator was appointed and although we continued to meet, we were not able to resolve the dispute. Ambulance staff voted in favor of striking and strike notice was served to the County. Before the strike commenced the Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry established a Disputes Inquiry Board. By establishing the Disputes Inquiry Board before the strike began, the union cannot strike during this process. The parties are continuing to meet with the Disputes Inquiry Board and Flagstaff County continues to negotiate an agreement that is fair, affordable and will continue to provide quality ambulance service for our communities.

Call Volume

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Daysland	127	112	100	122	143	128	173	197	210	225
Killam	144	145	184	222	216	201	224	204	252	273
Hardisty	102	100	106	101	80	81	76	86	121	108
Forestburg	93	78	95	98	113	109	126	116	162	172
Total	466	435	485	543	552	519	599	603	745	778

2006 Ambulance Response Rates

	Non-Insured	Alberta Blue Cross Government Plans	Alberta Blue Cross Group and Individual Plans
Base Rate	\$198.83	\$146.00	\$226.00
Standby Rate	\$129.94	\$ 96.00	\$148.00
Response Rate (Without transport)	\$129.94	\$ 98.00	\$148.00
Kilometer Rate	\$2.67/km	\$2.29/km	\$3.03/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.

A Communications Exercise will be held in early 2007 to test the Municipal Emergency Plan and the communications systems that would be used in an emergency.

911 SERVICE

The 911 service for Flagstaff County is provided by Camrose Police Service. In 2006 the Camrose Police Service started providing dispatch service for all emergency services in Flagstaff County. When a 911 call is made the caller speaks to a professional dispatcher in Camrose who gathers all of the necessary information and immediately dispatches the appropriate emergency responders via alpha numeric pager. The call is then ended or if required the dispatcher will remain on the phone with the caller to provide such things as instructions for CPR and First Aid and reassurance until emergency services arrive. 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 communications with the Camrose 911 Center. The project will result in a direct radio link to the Camrose 911 Center, allowing emergency responders to communicate with dispatchers in Camrose via two way radio. This project is currently being constructed and is scheduled to be available by the summer of 2007.

PEACE OFFICER SERVICES

On May 1, 2007 Flagstaff County Special Constables will become *Peace Officers* under the Peace Officer Act, Peace Officer Regulation and Peace Officer (Ministerial) Regulation. Watch for uniform and vehicle decal changes in 2007.



Peace Officer Mike Kuzio

In 2006 Flagstaff County welcomed two new Peace Officers. Mike Kuzio replaced Special Constable Ryan Eshpeter. Mike is originally from Camrose and came to us from Alberta Transportation where he was employed in Edson as a Transport Officer with the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch.

Travis Lund replaced Special Constable Cory Bronson. Travis is from the Boyle area and came to us from the County of Wetaskiwin where he was employed as a Special Constable.



Peace Officer Travis Lund

In addition to patrolling the rural areas throughout the County, the Peace Officers also patrol the following urban municipalities who have contracted the patrol service:

· Strome · Killam · Sedgewick · Hardisty · Loughheed · Forestburg

If you observe a suspicious act that may be illegal or dangerous in nature, please contact a Peace Officer. 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	2006
Alliance	3	2	6	8	8	4	1	1	8
Daysland	7	4	2	4	2	3	4	4	4
Forestburg	10	2	5	13	3	7	5	7	5
Galahad	7	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Hardisty	3	3	6	7	3	0	2	4	14
Heisler	2	2	0	7	1	3	3	3	1
Killam	8	4	3	7	2	5	1	8	7
Lougheed	7	0	3	10	2	3	2	6	5
Sedgewick	8	4	6	7	6	6	3	6	9
Strome	5	1	2	5	1	1	1	2	0
Total	60	23	36	71	31	34	24	43	55

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
2006	42



Kevin Luntz
Protective Services Coordinator
780 384-4105

Sean Sheedy
Flagstaff County Fire Chief
780 384-4108