

# THE RURAL FOOTHILLS POLICING COMMITTEE AGENDA

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 9:30 a.m.  
Foothills County Administration Office - M02/M03



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# MINUTES OF THE RURAL FOOTHILLS POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 14, 2025, 9:30 a.m.  
FOOTHILLS COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBER

- Present: Chair – Ted Mills, Foothills Rural Crime Watch  
Dave Schroeder, High Country Rural Crime Watch Association  
Paul Ariss, Okotoks Area Range Patrol and Crime Watch  
Reeve Delilah Miller  
Councillor R.D. McHugh  
Councillor Suzanne Oel  
Jen Magnus, Member  
Dan Killam, Member
- Administration: Cpl. Tiffany McGregor, High River RCMP  
S/Sgt. Mike Zinck, Okotoks RCMP  
S/Sgt. Don Racette, Diamond Valley RCMP  
Inspector Jason Delaney, Alberta Sheriffs Branch  
Rick Saulnier, Director of Community and Emergency Services  
Peter Stapley, Deputy Director of Community and Emergency Services  
Krista Conrad, Legislative Services
- Guests: Sgt. Ryan Suffesick, Alberta Sheriffs Branch  
Sgt. Jason Cann, High River RCMP  
Sgt. John Klassen, Okotoks RCMP
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## 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Rural Foothills Policing Committee meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

### 1.1 **Election of Chair for 2025**

P. Stapley called for nominations for chair of the Rural Foothills Policing Committee.

Suzanne Oel nominated Ted Mills. Ted Mills accepted the nomination for chair.

No further nominations were received.

Ted Mills was acclaimed as the chairperson of the Rural Foothills Policing Committee.

## 2. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

### **Resolution 01**

**Moved by:** Jen Magnus

That Traffic Safety Plan and Alberta Sheriffs Branch be added to the Rural Foothills Policing Committee agenda for January 14, 2025, and that the Confidential Session and Round Table session be re-ordered for the January 14, 2025 and future agendas.

**CARRIED**

### **Resolution 02**

**Moved by:** Jen Magnus

That the agenda for the January 14, 2025 Rural Foothills Policing Committee be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 November 12, 2024

**Resolution 03**

**Moved by:** Paul Ariss

That the minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting of the Rural Foothills Policing Committee be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 High River RCMP Update

The following updates were presented by Cpl. McGregor:

- All positions are currently filled in the detachment
- Statistics from November 4, 2024 to January 13, 2025:
  - 259 investigations opened, 48 resulting in charges
  - 118 traffic investigations - moving offences, non-moving offences, and warnings
  - 1 impaired driving, 2 suspensions for use of alcohol
  - 4 vehicles stolen
  - 1 property damage file
  - 1 break-and-enter file
  - 12 well-being checks
- Trespassing took a spike in the fall, but since then it has come to a stop. The solar farm on Highway 2A was having difficulty due to a social media challenge, which resulted in youth trespassing on the land. High River RCMP issued 14 violation tickets, and trespassing has ceased
- Rural visits continue
- Overall in 2024 for Southern Alberta there was a 5.7% decrease in persons crimes, a 5.3% decrease in property crimes, and a 7% overall decrease in criminal code investigations
- In the last quarter, a search warrant was executed east of Aldersyde. An arrest was made, and charges are pending
- A young adult male was charged with possession of stolen property and is now under court monitoring conditions after an investigation discovered he was responsible for break-ins that occurred in Cayley

5.2 Diamond Valley RCMP Update

The following updates were presented by S/Sgt. Racette:

- The detachment has had two soft vacancies, but two individuals are returning within the week
- Statistics from September 2024 to December 2024:
  - 82 Provincial statutes written within Foothills County in the area Diamond Valley RCMP polices

- 1 break-and-enter where the house was empty on a rural property
- 6 thefts, including 1 vehicle theft
- 7 calls to 911
- In total there were 379 calls and 89 collisions
- The detachment is looking for feedback for the annual performance plan, to hear about initiatives the committee would like to see within the region
- The detachment is in process of transitioning from Turner Valley RCMP to Diamond Valley RCMP

### 5.3 Okotoks RCMP Update

The following updates were provided by S/Sgt. Zinck:

- The detachment has been filling hard vacancies, with seven of eight positions occupied and one member on special leave returning within a few months
- Equipment inventory has increased with a new taser implemented in Okotoks, which all officers carry. A commercial spike belt has been purchased due to the increasing number of calls for service on commercial vehicles and a training spike belt. Body worn cameras are due to arrive March 29, 2025 and the detachment has been prepared on the IT side.
- In Q3 there were 771 calls in Foothills County:
  - One of the most significant calls for service was an investigation in conjunction with Calgary Police Service in the Heritage Lake area involving an abduction, in which the victim was recovered safely
  - There were 242 traffic contacts, including violation tickets and written warnings. Of those, 28 were for impaired driving violations. A total of five traffic operations were held, including check stops and school zones.
  - 129 collisions were attended
  - The detachment made three school visits and participated in two community events. In the coming months the number of community event attended is expected to increase
  - There were eight break-and-enter calls
  - The detachment responded to 19 mental health-related calls
- The detachment launched the reorganization of GIS unit (plainclothes section) - now called the Community Action Unit
  - A Corporal is overseeing the unit, there a Crime Reduction Constable, and a Community Policing Officer has been selected
  - This has been adopted as a pilot project because public safety surveys identified a need to increase police visibility, road safety, and enforcement
  - There are three key initiatives: road safety, community engagement, and crime reduction
  - The detachment is optimistic it will give opportunity to meet needs within the Town and the County

### 5.4 Foothills Enforcement Services 4th Quarter Update

The following updates were provided by Manager Beaudette:

- Foothills Enforcement Services is currently developing its 2024 year-end report, which will be presented to the committee in March
- An experienced peace officer has been hired, and currently waiting for appointment from the assistant general's office
- Two Mount Royal University practicum students will begin January 15. They will be trained in the deployment of traffic data collection devices and will be deploying the educational speed trailers, and develop and educational pamphlet to have updated information for cyclists and traffic issues by summer

#### 5.9 Traffic Safety Plan

D. Beaudette provided Committee members with the proposed Traffic Safety Plan for Foothills Enforcement Services, which covers priorities for the next three years.

The Traffic Safety Plan will be reviewed by the Committee and discussed at its special meeting on February 4, 2025 prior to forwarding to Foothills County Council for review.

#### 5.5 Alberta Sheriffs Branch Update

The following update was provided by Inspector J. Delaney:

- There are three members of the Alberta Sheriffs Highway Patrol who work out of the Spitzee Building in High River
- The focus is on traffic enforcement on highways, collision investigation, and assisting with the local RCMP for crime scene containment or with enforcement at large events including the upcoming G7 Summit in Kananaskis
- Members of the Sheriff Highway Patrol are CVSA trained to conduct commercial vehicle enforcement
- The Patrol is required to provide a Traffic Safety Plan as a peace officer agency, which is developed internally
- All Sheriff vehicles are equipped with in-car video systems and officers wear body mics, with body cameras expected within the next two months
- The G7 Summit will involve approximately 120 Highway Patrol frontline members, but it is not anticipated to affect day-to-day operations
- Sheriff Highway Patrol is currently working on a joint project with the Calgary Police Service traffic unit, which entails joint enforcement work on Stoney Trail with a trade-off opportunity to share the CPS arrest processing unit services, which the Sheriffs branch does not have at its disposal.
  - The main purpose is to target aggressive and impaired driving behaviour on Stoney Trail
- The Criminal Interdiction Patrol has added 51 new positions with one team in Edmonton and one in Calgary, and work at the border. Criminal Interdiction Patrol will include roving units to focus on detecting and apprehending travelling criminals involved in human trafficking, drug trafficking, and contraband
  - This will also include four K9 units, which is new to Highway Patrol

## 5.6 Rural Crime Watch Updates

### 5.6.1 High Country Rural Crime Watch Association

The following updates were provided by D. Schroeder:

- There will be a board meeting at the end of the month
- The AGM is scheduled for mid-March

### 5.6.2 Okotoks Area Range Patrol and Crime Watch

The following updates were provided by P. Ariss:

- The Okotoks Crime Watch sent a letter in October 2024 to the Minister of Public Safety, Minister of Justice, MLA RJ Sigurdson, Foothills County Reeve Miller, Alberta NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi, Federal Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, and Foothills MP John Barlow
  - The letter dealt with concerns raised by the crime watch membership regarding the effectiveness of current laws; pressures that law enforcement agencies are facing with staffing, recruiting, and overtime; the effectiveness of the penal system; the efficiency of the court system; and the inability of the judicial system to satisfy concerns from the general public. There were a total of 13 points.
  - Three responses have been received from Reeve Miller, who offered to take these concerns to the next Rural Municipalities Association convention; the Prime Minister's officer, who offered to pass the letter on to the Attorney General, and a 10-page response from Alberta Justice that addressed all 13 points raised in the letter
  - A copy of the letter was sent to other crime watch associations in the County

### 5.6.3 Foothills Rural Crime Watch

The following updates were provided by T. Mills:

- S/Sgt Racette attended the last meeting of the Foothills Rural Crime Watch
- The next quarterly meeting will be February 18, 2025
- The AGM is scheduled for March 1, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
- Many concerns have been related to cyber theft. The crime watch will be looking for a speaker on this topic for the AGM.

## 5.7 Special Meeting - February 4, 2025

P. Stapley informed the Committee the Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers has conducted a duty response study, which includes a number of conditions. The report is not public.

A special meeting is suggested for February 4, 2025, for the Committee to review and discuss the report in a Confidential Closed Session, and determine the action that should be recommended to Foothills County Council.

- The Foothills Enforcement Traffic Safety Plan will also be presented in open session
- Law enforcement agencies will not be in attendance other than Foothills Enforcement

### **Resolution 04**

**Moved by:** R.D. McHugh

That the Committee hold a special meeting on February 4, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. to review the confidential report from the Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers.

**CARRIED**

5.8 Diamond Valley Shared Services Agreement

P. Stapley provided an update on the shared services agreement between Foothills County and Diamond Valley.

- Foothills County administration received direction from Council and reached out to Diamond Valley to provide Council's recommendations, including:
  - to provide 0.5 km coverage on primary highways outside Diamond Valley, as well as municipal roads such as Dunham Lane, which parallels the municipal boundary, a small portion of Seclusion Valley - Highway 22 between Diamond Valley east and Diamond Valley west, 402 Ave W up to and including Foothills Cemetery
  - in return, Diamond Valley allows Foothills County Enforcement to have authority throughout the Town to issue traffic violations.
- These agreements are common, so if one enforcement agency witnesses a violation they may handle the situation without having to request authorization
- Diamond Valley was in agreement with coverage on Dunham Lane, Seclusion Valley, 402 Ave W, and Highway 22, but advised the 0.5 km of primary highways outside of town be removed as they do not feel these portions of the road are safe to conduct traffic stops.

**Resolution 05**

**Moved by:** R.D. McHugh

That the Committee acknowledge the proposed Diamond Valley Shared Services Agreement and the recommendation from Diamond Valley to amend the agreement, and direct administration to bring the Shared Services Agreement to Foothills County Council for review and approval.

**CARRIED**

7. ROUND TABLE

Round table discussion occurred.

6. CONFIDENTIAL CLOSED SESSION

**Resolution 06**

**Moved by:** Jen Magnus

That, in accordance with Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, the Rural Foothills Policing Committee move into Closed meeting at 11:37 a.m. to discuss advice from officials as per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIP).

**CARRIED**

6.1 Return to Open Session

**Resolution 07**

**Moved by:** Jen Magnus

That the Rural Foothills Policing Committee return to its open session at 11:56 a.m.

**CARRIED**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution 08**

**Moved by:** Jen Magnus

That the January 14, 2025 meeting of the Foothills County Rural Policing Committee be adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

**CARRIED**





**FOOTHILLS COUNTY  
ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

**TRAFFIC SAFETY PLAN  
2025 - 2028**

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To respond to the needs of Foothills County citizens and to be a leading partner in building community safety.

## **VISION**

For citizens of Foothills County to live in a safe community facilitated by a peace officer service that strengthens public trust through partnerships and excels in service delivery.

## **CORE VALUES**

***Community*** This is our county; we are invested in making it safer and stronger for everyone through collaboration and partnerships.

***Innovation*** We pursue excellence and creativity focusing on community-based solutions.

***Respect*** We respect others and understand that everyone deserves to be treated fairly under the law.

***Integrity*** We are honest, ethically accountable and do what is right, even when it is hard.

Our primary objective is to provide an enhanced level of municipal law enforcement services, relating to both provincial statutes and municipal bylaws, within Foothills County. Our community peace officers work collaboratively with partner law enforcement agencies in our region, which include three RCMP Detachments (Okotoks, Diamond Valley and High River), Alberta Sheriffs in Highway Traffic and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement.

Our department's goal is to work in support of the Office of Traffic Safety's enforcement calendar priorities and to coordinate our response to local and regional issues with our partner agencies.

The top priority of this traffic safety plan is to reduce the number of unsafe driving practices within Foothills County. The plan will focus on non-compliance issues such as excessive speed, stop sign violations, distracted driving, occupant restraints and commercial vehicle enforcement. By targeting these issues, our department's goal is to prevent motor vehicle collisions, preserve life and reduce the severity of injuries suffered as a result of motor vehicle collisions.

Foothills Enforcement Services will work towards achieving the goals and objectives noted above, by engaging in the following activities / actions:

- Providing an enhanced level of traffic enforcement that targets excessive speed, stop sign violations, distracted driving, occupant restraints and commercial vehicle enforcement, while working in conjunction with our regional partner agencies.
- Ensuring that appropriate training is provided, and continues to be provided, to our peace officers to ensure that they can appropriately interpret and apply applicable legislation and to utilize appropriate enforcement tools.
- Whenever possible, to engage in raising public awareness of traffic laws and the inherent dangers of non-compliance in relation to collisions and injury severity.
- Participating in targeted enforcement initiatives, consistent with the Office of Traffic Safety's Calendar, and in response to complaints and requests for service from the community we serve.

The effectiveness of the program will be assessed through any notable changes or evolving trends in traffic law compliance and yearly motor vehicle collision statistics.

## **Part 1      Foothills County**

Foothills County is a rural municipality located adjacent to and immediately south of the City of Calgary. Covering an area of approximately 3,600 square kilometers in area, located in the foothills of southern Alberta, Foothills County surrounds the Towns of Okotoks, High River, Diamond Valley, the Village of Longview, and the Bearspaw First Nation.

The population of Foothills County, according to the 2021 Stats Canada census, was 23,199. In comparison with the 2016 census, the population within the county increased by approximately 2.6 % over this five-year period.

The County is diverse, with subdivisions ranging from those similar to communities found in large cities on the north end to large agricultural areas of the south. Foothills County is also home to and administers services for the hamlets of Blackie, Cayley, Aldersyde, Heritage Pointe, DeWinton, Millarville, Priddis, Priddis Greens, Naphtha and Hartell.

Many residents of the County and surrounding areas work in the City of Calgary, which results in area roads experiencing very high volumes of commuter traffic. The County also contains several industrial parks adjacent to primary highways which generates a high volume of commercial vehicle traffic on the road system. Additionally, many residents of Calgary and surrounding areas come to Foothills County to enjoy a wide variety of

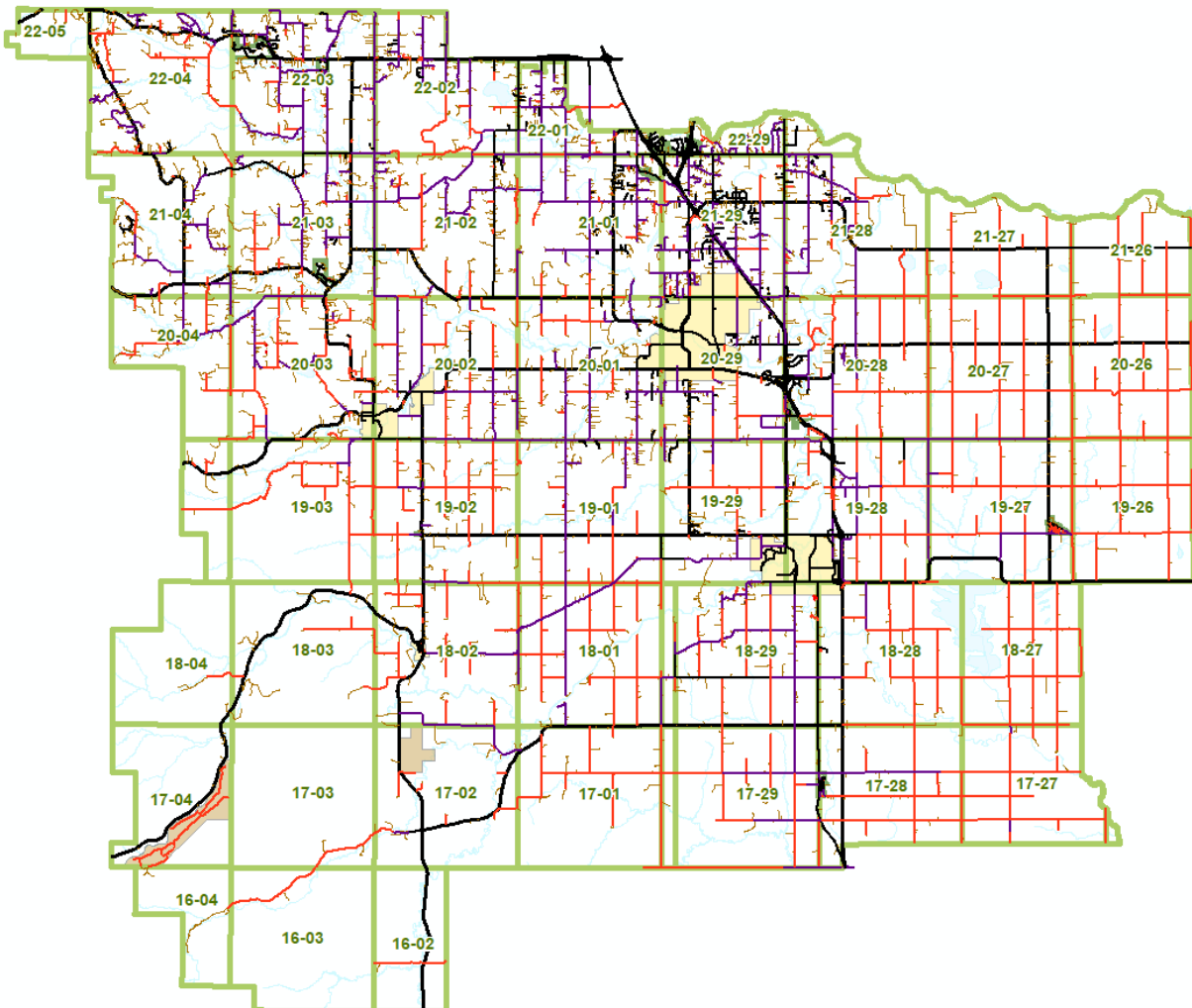
activities and attractions located in our communities, resulting in large amounts of both vehicular and cyclist traffic in our region.

Foothills County maintains approximately 2000 kilometers of local roads and contains some of the busiest highways in the province, including all or portions of Highways 2, 2A, 7, 22, 22X, 23, 66, 540, 541, 543, 546, 547, 549, 552 East, 552 West, 552X, 762, 783 and 799. A map of the area has been included in this section to provide an overall view of the total area of the County.

Foothills County currently operates 2 speed notification trailers for the purposes of driver education and speed deterrence. The speed trailer program is staffed by a summer student between May 1 and August 31 annually. Mount Royal University practicum students will assist with traffic studies to support targeted enforcement activity.

Foothills County's policing is provided by three RCMP Detachments: Okotoks, High River, and Diamond Valley, through the existing provincial model.

## FOOTHILLS COUNTY MAP



## Part 2 COLLISION STATISTICS

Both Foothills County experienced numerous traffic related collisions, which resulted in property damage, personal injury and death. The cause of these collisions can primarily be attributed to driver error with a small percentage being attributed to environmental and other exigent or rare conditions.

### Foothills County

\* As reported by High River Rural RCMP (K0781), Okotoks Rural RCMP, (K0821), Turner Valley Rural RCMP (K0835), Canadian Pacific Railway Police (CPRP), and Canadian National Railway Police (CNRP) and excluding collisions that occurred within the Towns of Okotoks, High River, Diamond Valley.

	2024 Q1	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Totals
<b>Collision Severity<sup>(2)</sup></b>							
Fatal Collisions	6	8	3	2	4	8	31
Injury Collisions	35	179	116	126	105	93	654
PDO Collisions	210	914	570	36	2	2	1734
<b>Total Collisions</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2419</b>

Limited information on PDO Collisions from 2019-2021.

2024 partial year information provided.

\*Office of Traffic Safety- Alberta Transportation March 2024

## Part 3 TRAFFIC SAFETY PLAN STRATEGIES

Monday through Friday – patrols will target commuter traffic on local roads as well as in school and playground zones, before and after school. Presence will be increased during peak traffic hours that will focus on speed enforcement, stop signs, distracted driving, general unsafe driving habits and commercial vehicle enforcement.

As staffing resources increase, patrols will be conducted on a random and rotating basis to include evenings and weekends. Patrols throughout Foothills County will be made with emphasis on high traffic areas which lead to popular local commercial and recreational areas within the County.

Commercial vehicle enforcement and intersection related offences will be conducted while attending to other enforcement duties as mandated by Foothills County Enforcement Services as well as responding to complaints and request for patrols files.

Foothills Enforcement Peace Officers recognize that driver education and public awareness are important components of any successful traffic safety enforcement program. Our officers will continue to work collaboratively with our regional law enforcement partners and local media, in an effort to proactively provide and discuss

education and enforcement relating to offences outlined in the Office of Traffic Safety Enforcement Calendar.

#### **Part 4      SUMMARY**

The 2025 – 2028 Foothills Enforcement Traffic Safety Plan serves as a general guide for traffic enforcement operations for Foothills County. By continuing to work collaboratively with our regional law enforcement partner agencies, following the provisions of the Office of Traffic Safety Enforcement Calendar and this Traffic Safety Plan, our goal is to provide effective traffic enforcement services that results in a reduction of collisions, injuries and deaths throughout our municipalities.