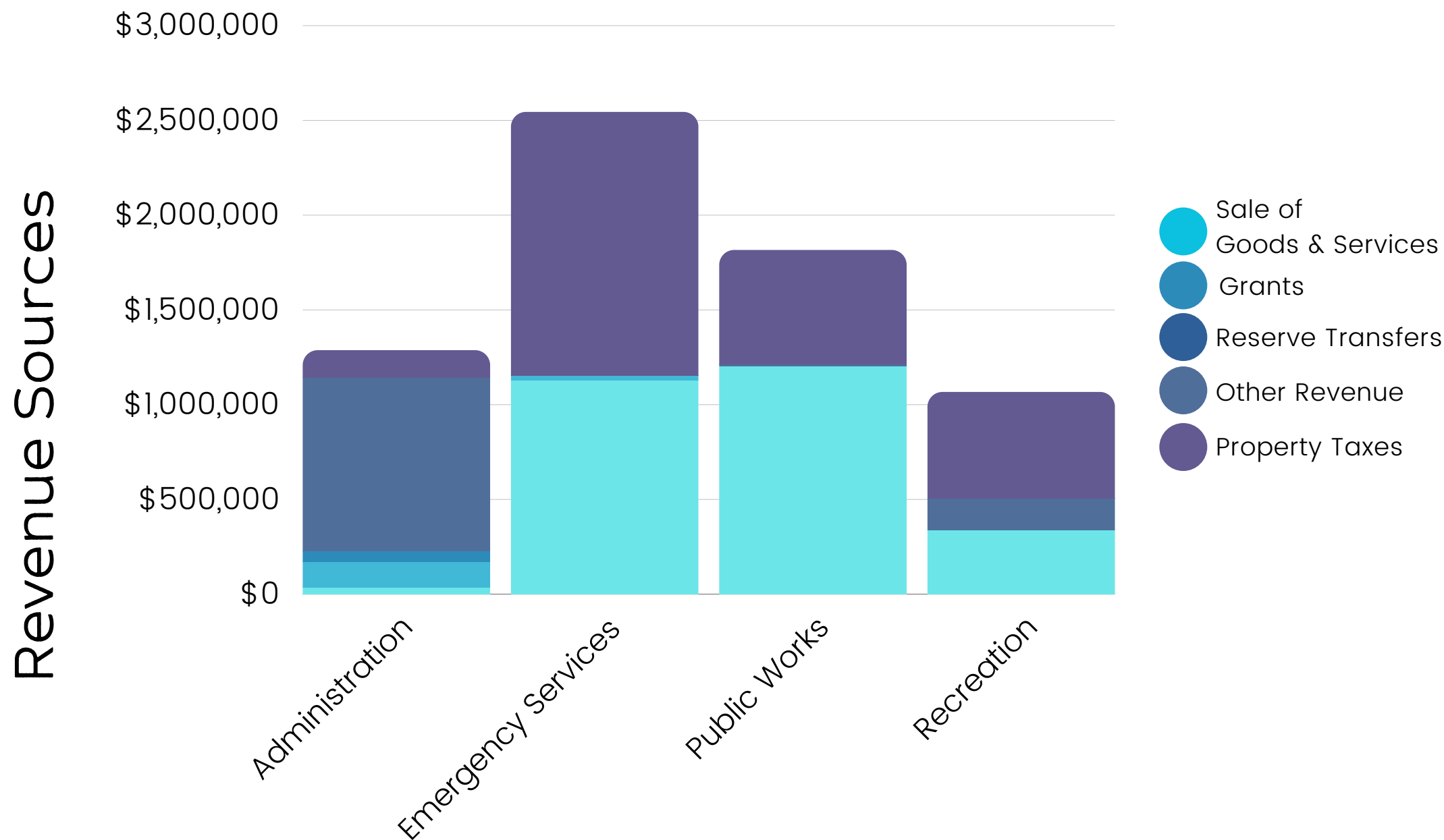


# BACK IN 2023



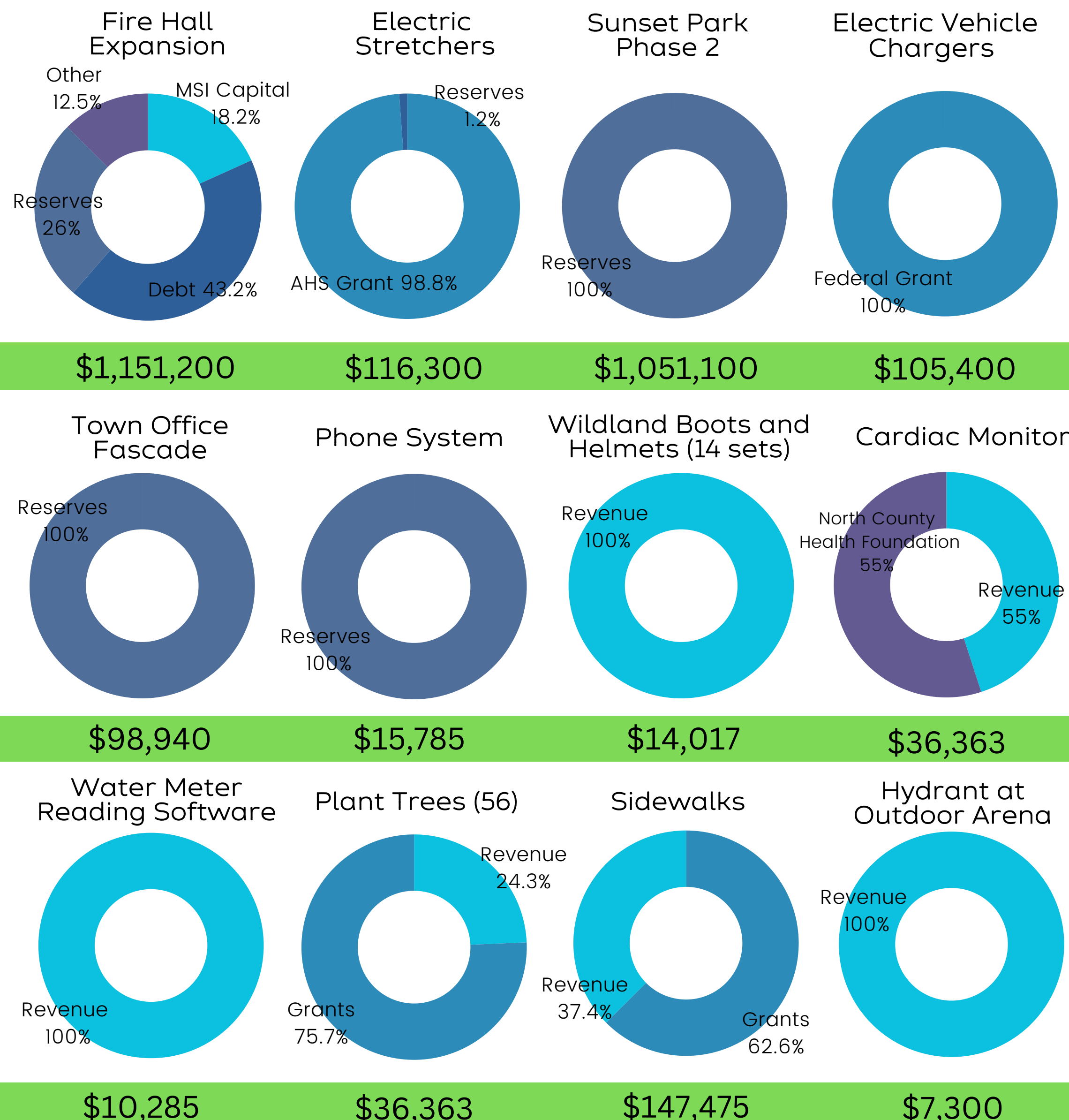
## Where does the money come from?



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Ambulance Services took part in a pilot project with AHS to deliver inter-facility transfer services
- SCADA systems upgraded at the Water Treatment Plant
- Picture Butte Elks donated for a Dolphin pool cleaner
- Operating surplus used to pay off remaining pool loan
- Arena building assessment conducted
- Two Pickleball courts added to the tennis courts
- New floor and paint in kitchen of Library
- Wireless internet added to Community Centre
- Implemented Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit for Volunteers and Businesses
- 130 Fire and rescue events and 161 medical event
- 246 Bylaw compliance files,
- 23 at-large dogs captured
- 26 development permits issued

## Where was the money spent?



## STRATEGIC PLAN

Council developed a Strategic Plan in 2022 to create a plan and goals that help guide the Community over the next five years. These goals consist of:

- Goal 1: Improved Quality of Life
- Goal 2: Beneficial, sustainable growth
- Goal 3: Continually improved governance
- Goal 4: Community Pride
- Goal 5: Better stewardship of the environment

Council is able to create strategies that support the goals. During budget deliberations, Council is then able to set their priorities for projects based on how they align within their Strategic Plan.

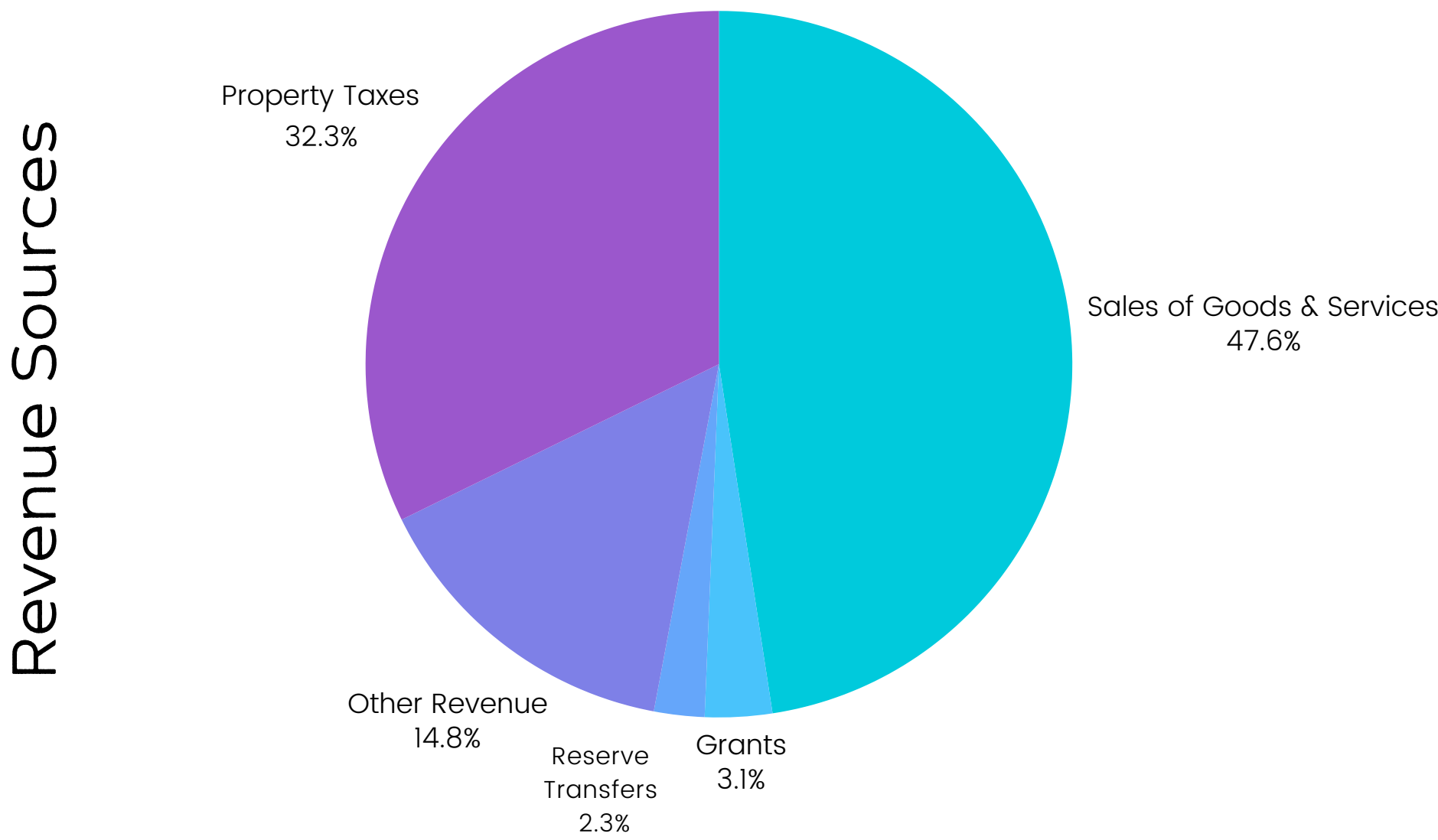
The 2022-2026 Strategic Plan can be found on the Town website [www.picturebutte.ca](http://www.picturebutte.ca) under Government.

- Revenue consists of property taxes and sales of goods and services from the operating budget.



# 2024 BUDGET

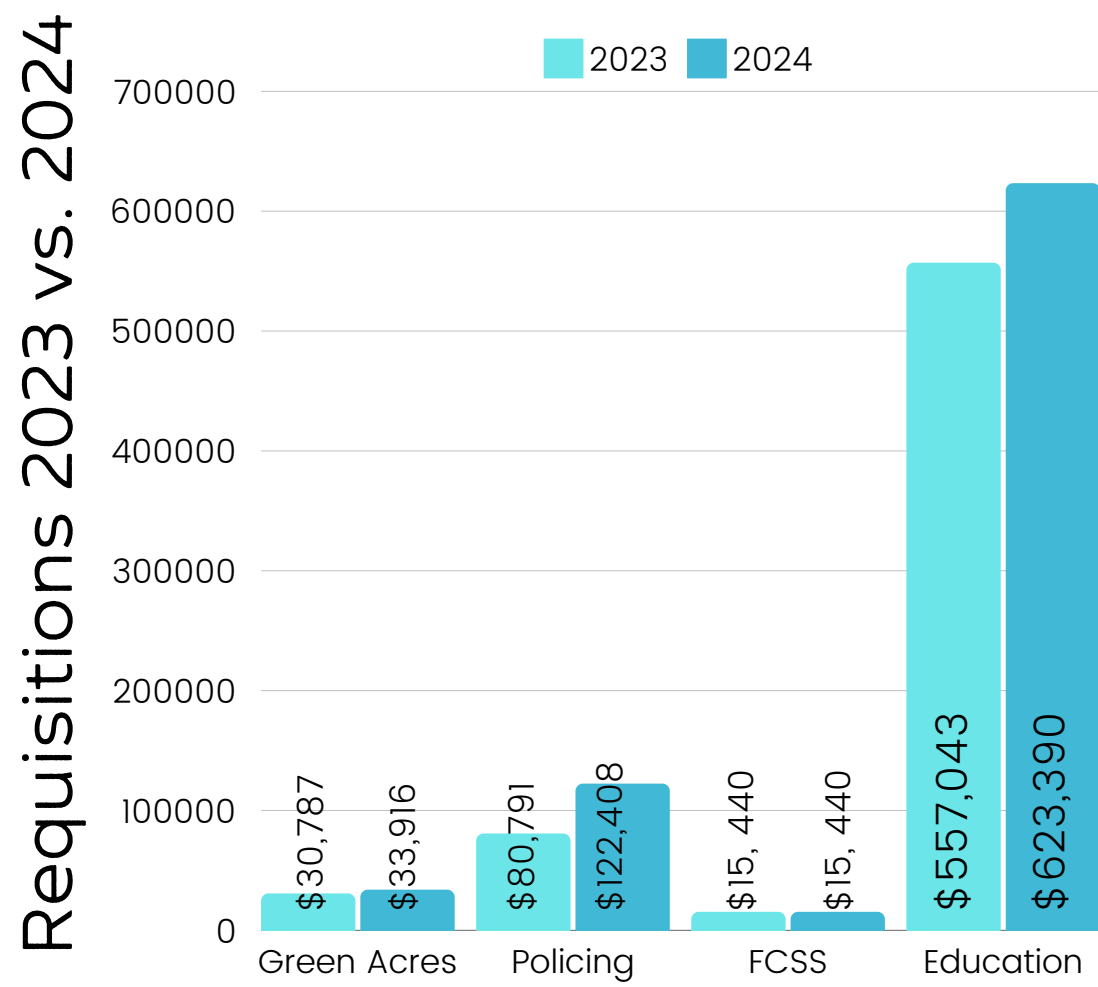
## Where does the money come from?



## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- 4% Revenue increase
- Lower residential mill rate
- Water meter replacements to start this year
- Requisitions increased 6% overall
- New Volunteer Firefighter retention program to take effect
- Economic Development Committee to start meeting
- New Doctor in Town taking over for Dr. Mohamed
- New electric Olympia ice resurfacers
- New flooring in the Library
- Increased property assessments
- Increased the budget contributions to the Library
- New dump box on the Dodge 5500

## What makes up my Property Tax bill?



Tax Year	Residential	Non-Residential
2024	6.4739	8.6300
2023	7.0401	8.6300
2022	7.0401	8.6300
2021	7.0401	8.6300
2020	7.0401	8.6300

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2019 the Pool was built for \$3,900,000. This project was funded in part by donations by local residents and a community fundraiser. The remaining amount of \$625,000 was taken out as a loan to be paid in 9 years. The Town has successfully paid off the loan in 4.5 years using an operational surplus and saved \$32,700 in interest.

## PROPERTY TAX NOTICE EXAMPLE

FCSS Requisition - 0.7%	\$15.91
Green Acres Foundation - 1.5%	\$34.90
Education - 25.3% Palliser Division/Holy Spirit	\$596.24
Policing - 3.9%	\$92.06
Municipal Portion - 68.6% Residential/Non-Residential	\$1,618.47
<b>Total Tax Bill</b>	<b>\$2,357.58</b>

Above is an example of a Property Tax Notice that breaks down how your tax bill is calculated based on the assessment of your property. In the example, the property is assessed at \$250,000. Assessments are reflective of the market value as of July 1st of the prior year. The Town's assessor is Ryan Vogt of Benchmark Assessment Consultants.

Council sets a municipal tax rate each year using a formula that includes the total revenue required from property tax to balance the budget divided by the total assessment of properties in Town.

Requisitions are set by the appropriate parties and sent to the Town of Picture Butte to collect on behalf of and remit to the organizations. Council does not approve the rates nor can Council make any changes to the rates.

### Education Tax - Palliser School District or Holy Spirit School District

Education requisition is set by the Government of Alberta. On your property tax notice, you will see under school support if your education tax is being allocated to the public school district or to the separate school district which in our area is the Holy Spirit School District. Every property owner is mailed a school support notice at time of purchasing a property where they can declare if they are Roman Catholic and have the education tax allocated to the Holy Spirit School Division.

### Policing - R. C. M. P.

This was implemented by the Government of Alberta in 2019 to have all Municipal governments pay towards policing. This amount changes yearly.

### F.C.S.S. - Family and Community Support Services

F.C.S.S. operates out of the Community Centre in Picture Butte and in many neighbouring communities in Lethbridge County. They offer counselling services, child and youth programs, seniors services, family programs and supports for newcomers in the community. Most programs and services are free of charge or have a minimal charge. Check out their website [www.fcss.ca](http://www.fcss.ca) for local programs going on.

### Green Acres Foundation - Piyami Lodge

Green Acres Foundation operates many senior's housing facilities of all levels of care in the Lethbridge area including our own Piyami Lodge. Piyami Lodge is one of the top employer's within the Town of Picture Butte. They offer a place for residents to remain in the Community they love, with their family, after retirement with any healthcare assistance needed. If you are interested in what Green Acres has to offer or are looking to volunteer, see their website [www.greenacres.ab.ca](http://www.greenacres.ab.ca).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2024?



## Replacing the final Sanitary Main

The final phase of the sanitary main on 4th Street from Highway 25 to Crescent Avenue will be replaced this year. Along with it will come new sidewalks and streetscapes to complete downtown 4th Street.

Estimated Project Cost

**\$568,000**

Estimated Project Start Date

**April 29**

Total Grant & Reserve Funding

**100%**

Estimated Project Completion Date

**June 30**

## Upgrading the Wastewater Treatment Lagoons

With new Provincial and Federal wastewater regulations the Town must upgrade our current wastewater lagoon system. The upgrades will include:

- Twinning the existing force main pipe from the lift station to the lagoons
- Installing a pipeline to the Oldman River
- Upgrading the treatment methods at the lagoons to meet the new effluent regulations

Estimated Project Cost

**\$10.4 M**

Estimated Project Completion Date

**To be determined**

Total Grant Funding

**62%**

Total Debt for Project

**\$ 3.9 M**

## Water Meter Replacements

The water meters installed in residential homes in Town have reached the end of their life expectancy of 20 years. All meters installed will be upgraded to "radio read meters". This reduces the need for Town staff to access resident properties for meter readings. The meter can be read from a further distance away. This will also reduce the number of days it takes to read meters at the end of the month and prevent meters from not being able to be read during extreme temperatures. The Town has created a three-year plan to replace all meters in Town excluding newly built homes. In 2024, Route 2, with homes along Crescent Avenue will be the first of the routes to be replaced. Appointments will be made with homeowners for a convenient time and the meter switch out can be completed in under 15 minutes.

Meters to be Purchased in 2024

**242**

approx.

Funded by Grants

**\$150,000**

in 2024

## New Electric Olympia

The Olympia ice resurfer finally made an appearance after a long project turnaround time. It didn't quite make it for the 2023/2024 ice season but it will be ready to go for October. It was funded from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) grant and the remaining costs were graciously donated by Serfas Farms and Schooten & Sons Feedlots. It will be replacing the propane fueled Olympia that served the Community for 20 years. Look for the Olympia at Jamboree Days!

