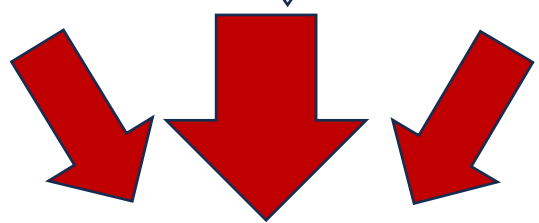


# 2024 PONOKA COUNTY NEWSLETTER



**Important announcement regarding the dust control program on the back page!!**



Greetings on behalf of the staff and Council of Ponoka County. Every new year comes with new expectations and unique challenges. With 2023 presenting record drought and a subsequent decrease in crop yields; increasing inflation adding strain to household management costs - both the rural and urban community have felt the impact of these challenging events. The Ponoka County Team remains steadfast and committed to the high level of service it has provided throughout the years to its ratepayers.

The Council has proven resilient, withstanding many unprecedented circumstances; a pandemic, unpaid oil and gas taxes and the effects of severe weather. This group of elected officials has effectively advocated for the community interests - thanks in no small part, to the collective 13+ years of experience. As Reeve and Division 4 Councillor it is my privilege to represent and serve this hard-working community of rural Albertans with a mindful, strategic, and balanced approach.

Looking ahead, the goal remains to address challenges as they arise with continued development of broadband connectivity; responsible land use development and stewardship; as well as mitigation of severe weather effects. Keeping in mind that change is inevitable, we remain dedicated to education, promoting growth and focused on supporting the needs of the people we represent. As always, we strive to maintain the lowest tax rate of any Alberta municipality while still meeting the demands of infrastructure maintenance.

**Reeve Paul McLauchlin**  
Division 4 Councillor

A stylized illustration of a house with a grey roof, a chimney, a red door, and a window with a blue sky view. There are small green plants in pots on the porch.

**Property Taxes**  
Due June 30, 2024

# Financials

Mill Rate Allocation 2023	Residential	Linear & Non-Residential	Farmland	Machinery & Equipment	Small Business
Legislative	0.038	0.206	0.114	0.206	0.154
Public Works	0.725	4.025	2.230	4.025	3.021
Administration	0.152	0.844	0.467	0.844	0.633
Provincial School Requisition	2.309	3.531	2.309	-----	3.531
Capital Surplus	0.419	2.326	1.288	2.326	1.746
Industry Write-Offs	0.138	0.768	0.426	0.768	0.577
Requisitions	0.160	0.887	0.492	0.887	0.666
Waste Management	0.115	0.638	0.354	0.638	0.479
Agriculture Service Board	0.070	0.390	0.216	0.390	0.292
Fire/Protective Services	0.133	0.736	0.408	0.736	0.552
<b>TOTAL(S)</b>	<b>4.259</b>	<b>14.351</b>	<b>8.304</b>	<b>10.82</b>	<b>11.651</b>

The complete audited financial statements are available on our website <https://www.ponokacounty.com/administration--finance.html>

## Mill Rate

*one-thousandth of a dollar*

The mill rate is the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property. Property tax in dollar terms is calculated by multiplying the assessed property value and the mill rate and dividing by 1,000.

*Example of a simple mill rate calculation based on a \$380,000 assessed value of a residential property with a yearly mill rate set at 4.259:*

$$380,000 \times 4.259 = 1,618,420$$

$$1,618,420 \div 1,000 = \$1,618.42$$

*Property assessments in Alberta are conducted annually and must be based on the value of the property on July 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. For example, a 2024 property assessment will be based on the value of the property on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This is called the Valuation Date.*

Have you ever wondered how property taxes in Ponoka County compare to surrounding municipalities? See below for a brief comparison. Ponoka County Council has always prioritized keeping taxes low while providing excellent service to the residents.

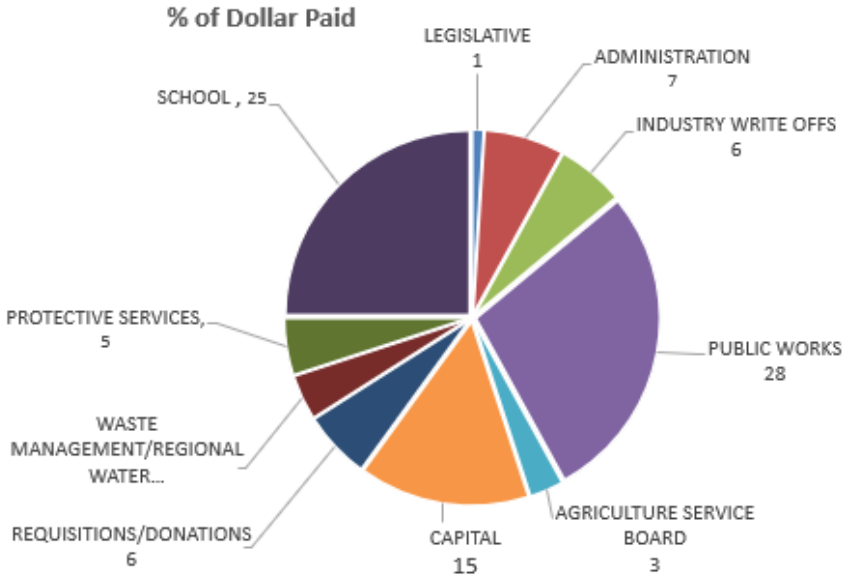
## Residential Tax Comparison With Neighboring Counties Based on 2023 Rates

	Ponoka County	Clearwater County	Lacombe County	Leduc County	Mountainview County	County of Wetaskiwin	Camrose County	Red Deer County	Stettler County	Flagstaff County
2023 Mill Rate	4.259	5.2101	5.312	5.4016	5.5865	6.1515	6.23585	6.7641	7.8862	8.3602
Property	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00
Taxes	\$ 1,490.65	\$ 1,823.54	\$ 1,859.20	\$ 1,890.56	\$ 1,955.28	\$ 2,153.03	\$ 2,182.55	\$ 2,367.44	\$ 2,760.17	\$ 2,926.07
Property	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 450,000.00
Taxes	\$ 1,916.55	\$ 2,344.55	\$ 2,390.40	\$ 2,430.72	\$ 2,513.93	\$ 2,768.18	\$ 2,806.13	\$ 3,043.85	\$ 3,548.79	\$ 3,762.09
Property	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00
Taxes	\$ 2,555.40	\$ 3,126.06	\$ 3,187.20	\$ 3,240.96	\$ 3,351.90	\$ 3,690.90	\$ 3,741.51	\$ 4,058.46	\$ 4,731.72	\$ 5,016.12
Property	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00
Taxes	\$ 3,407.20	\$ 4,168.08	\$ 4,249.60	\$ 4,321.28	\$ 4,469.20	\$ 4,921.20	\$ 4,988.68	\$ 5,411.28	\$ 6,308.96	\$ 6,688.16



# Financials Continued...

Where exactly does the money from property taxes go...

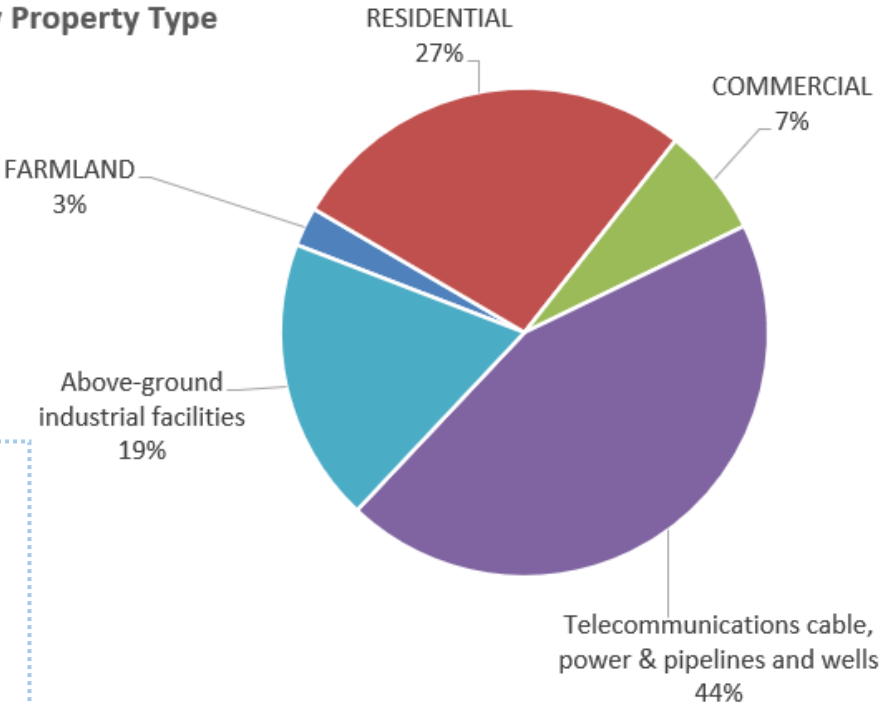


The following chart shows you how much money goes to each division for every \$100 you pay in taxes

Legislative	1
Agriculture Service Board	3
Waste Management/Regional Water	4
Protective Services	5
Requisitions/Donations	6
Industry Write Offs	6
Administration	7
Capital	15
School	25
Public Works	28

## Contribution by Property Type

Of the taxes levied in 2023 (\$26,905,053.09), the oil & gas sector contributed 63% (16,950,183.45) of the total property taxes levied in our county.



### TIPPs (Tax Installment Pre-Payment Plan)

The TIPPs program is available to pay your property taxes in monthly payments throughout the year. Payments are withdrawn from your bank account on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you wish to join TIPPs, there are applications on our website or you may reach out at 403-783-3333.

Please note, if you want to be on TIPPs your account must be at a zero balance.

# Public Works



**mainroad**

Proudly Maintaining Your Highways  
Counties: Wetaskiwin | Ponoka | Lacombe | Red Deer

Report road conditions 24/7  
**1 877 875 3263**



For current road conditions on Twitter, safely follow @511Alberta or download the 511AB App

Having an overall long-term plan is essential for Ponoka County to ensure that all 2,253 kilometers of road and 178 bridge structures are adequately repaired or rebuilt in a timely fashion. Often, it can be a lengthy process obtaining all necessary Provincial, Federal and landowner approvals prior to the project start date.

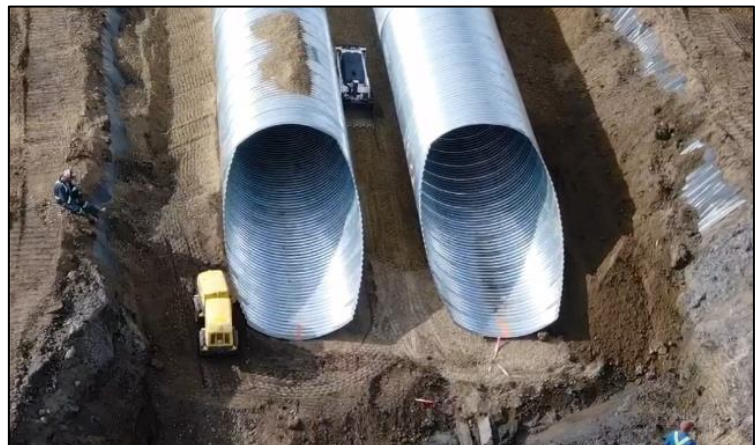
The public works department also manages chipseal and patching, seasonal upgrading and roadside brushing programs as well as nine grader divisions with an annual gravel program consisting of crushing and hauling 150,000 tonnes a year.

## SNOW REMOVAL

Plowing or pushing snow across a roadway can create ridges in the road which can make the road dangerous to drive on, leaving you liable in the event of accidents. Please refrain from pushing snow across the road and into the ditch. In addition, large piles of snow in the ditch can impede drainage in the spring.



Construction on the removal of the single span bridge on RR 271. The old bridge was removed and two massive 2800 mm culverts were installed.





# Waste Services

Rimber transfer station is excluded from the following:

## Accepted Waste



- Household garbage
- Scrap metal & wire
- Wood
- Asphalt shingles
- Tires
- Electronics (TVs, computers, microwaves etc)
- Appliances
- Oil filters
- Silage bags, tarps and twine
- Cement (Bluffton only with all metals cut off)
- Stucco (Broken down into 24" chunks)
- Paint
- Used oil not mixed with water or fuels
- Batteries

## Not Accepted Waste



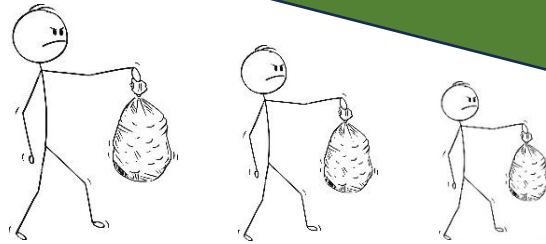
- Septic waste
- Flammable liquids
- Dead animals or birds
- Brush, hay, grain, and straw
- Herbicide containers
- Cement (Mecca Glen and Ponoka)

## Recycling



There are recycling bins available at both the Ponoka and Mecca Glen stations

- Plastic containers with the recycle symbol
- Tin or aluminum cans
- Cardboard and non glass drink containers



As of January 1, 2024, herbicide containers are no longer accepted at any of the disposal locations. Residents are to return the containers back to the supplier.



Friendly reminder that the transfer stations do not accept any size of oxygen or acetylene tanks. We do accept propane tanks up to 100 lbs

## County Waste Disposal Locations



### Bluffton Landfill

NE 6-44-2-W5

1 mile north of Bluffton on RR 30

Open: Wednesday & Saturday 9am-5pm

### Rimber Waste Transfer Station

Ph: 403.843.2950

NE 28-42-2-W5

6200-40<sup>th</sup> Street

Open: Tuesday & Saturday 9am-5pm

### Ponoka Waste Transfer Station

Ph: 403.783.8796

NE 36-42-26-W4

From Hwy 2A drive 1/2 mile west on 39<sup>th</sup> Ave

Open: Wednesday & Saturday 9am-6pm

### Mecca Glen Waste Transfer Station

SW 29-42-23-W4

From Hwy #53 turn south onto RR 235

Open: Tuesday & Saturday 9am-6pm

## ELECTRONICS EXPANDED



### SMALL APPLIANCES

- Clock
- Fan
- Hair dryer
- Heater
- Iron
- Microwave
- Residential Air Conditioner
- Toaster
- Shaver
- Vacuum



### AUDIO VISUAL

- CD Player
- Clock Radio
- Digital Camera
- DVD Player
- Headphones
- Satellite Dish
- Satellite Radio
- Speakers
- Video Camera



### TELECOM

- Answering Machine
- Cell Phone
- Landline Phone
- Modem and Router
- Pager
- Satellite Phone
- Speakerphone



### POWER AND AIR TOOLS

- Drill
- Grinder
- Miter Saw
- Nail Gun
- Residential Air Compressor
- Sharpener
- Shop Vacuum
- Skillsaw
- Table Saw



### GAMES, TOYS AND MUSIC

- Action Figure
- Amplifier
- Guitar
- Keyboard
- Microphone
- Ride-on Toy
- Toy Robot
- Toy Vehicle
- Video Gaming Equipment

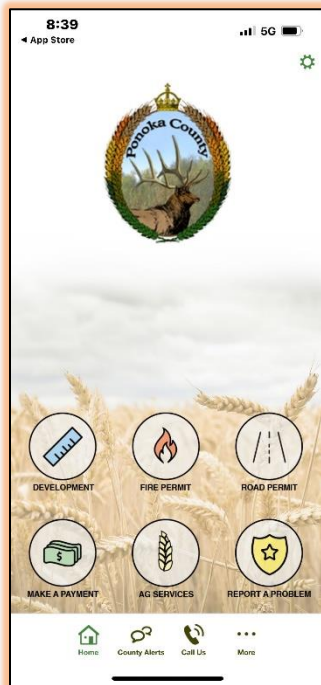
Ask us about other electronics not listed above or visit [albertarecycling.ca/epilot](http://albertarecycling.ca/epilot)

## Fire Season is from March 1 to October 31

and permits will be required for all open burns  
while fireworks require a permit year round

Filling out a permit is quick, easy  
& free on our County app or  
website

[Fire Permit - Ponoka County](#)



Always exercise safe burning practices regardless of being in fire season or not.

- Have someone on site monitoring the burn the entire time
- Have adequate tools, water and equipment on site when burning
- Monitor the weather and wind conditions (wind speeds less than 15km/hr is ideal)
- Monitor the smoke conditions giving consideration to roads and neighbors
- When the burn is done, spread out the remaining material and soak the area if possible
- Check the burn site multiple times in the following weeks to ensure it has not reignited

**Thank you** for helping keep the residents and the community safe – a controlled burn can become out of control very quickly!

**Did you know...** You can also apply for a development or road permit on our app? Not only can you apply for permits, but you can also make payments, report invasive weeds and pests; and report road safety concerns.

Three or more loads in one day require a Road Use Permit for all travel regardless of commodity weight or time of the year. Applying for a permit on our app or website is simple and quick! If you have one or more loads overweight, you **MUST** apply for a permit.

Chip seal roads are always banned at 50%



The **Municipal Rural Address System** [blue sign] was implemented for Ponoka County residents in 2010, primarily for emergency services dispatch. Generally, rural residents have three 'addresses':

- **LEGAL** address - assigned by Land Titles
- **MAILING** address - assigned by Canada Post
- **MUNICIPAL** address [blue sign] - assigned by Ponoka County

*\*Further detail regarding your municipal address and how to understand it can be viewed at [www.ponokacounty.com/maps](http://www.ponokacounty.com/maps)*

Please contact our office to ensure we have your proper mailing address

424009  
RGE RD 235

**424** - Township Road Number  
**009** – Interval 009 of the 40 metre grid  
**RGE RD 235** – The property's driveway is located on Range Road 235

Driveways on the north and west side of the road will end with an even number and driveways on the east and south side of the road will end in an odd number.



## Ponoka County Regional Fire Services

In 2023 our East & West District Fire Services logged a total of 11,329 hours of service responding to calls, practice and training. Our dedicated and selfless firefighters also logged a total of 1,661 community involvement hours. **Thank you for your service!**

### East District- 500 calls

16.5%- Alberta Transportation Highway Calls  
 31%- Ponoka County  
 51%- Town of Ponoka  
 1.5%- Mutual Aid

### West District- 151 calls.

8%- Alberta Transportation Highway Calls  
 2%- Summer Village Parkland Beach  
 42.5%- Town of Rimbey  
 46.5%- Ponoka County  
 1%- Mutual Aid

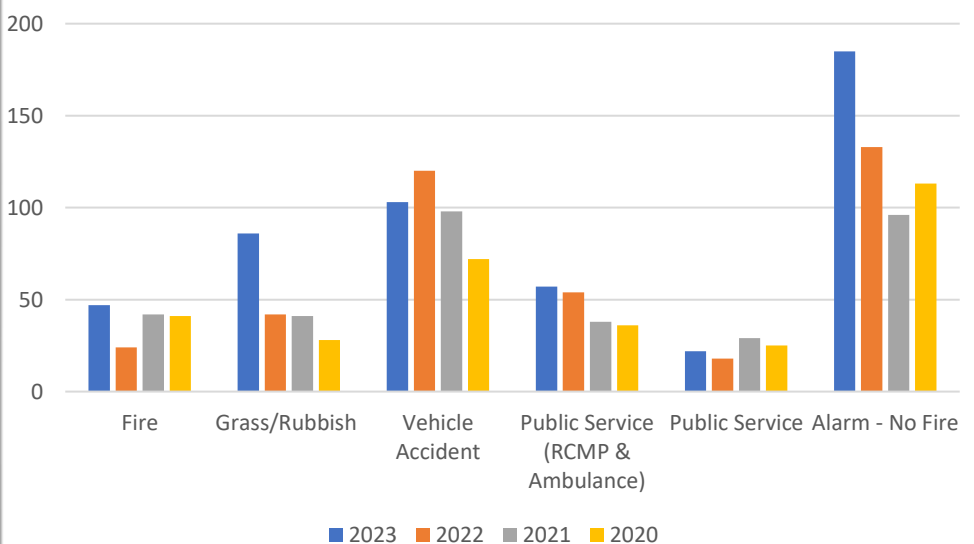


# THANK YOU

Ponoka County Regional Fire extends a big thank you to Keyera for another generous donation of a bump station that will be used to charge and calibrate the 6 – MSA ALTAIR 4XR electrogas monitors that they donated in 2022.



Calls Per Category





# Dust Control Program

Applications for the dust control program will be open from **April 1, 2024 to May 17, 2024** to have your request for dust control in.

The county will begin planning **one** organized round of dust control mid May and start applying calcium the last week of May. This change was made to operate the program more efficiently.

The cost of calcium is \$1.35/ft plus GST with a minimum of 400'. The County subsidy is \$275.00 per residence. **The total cost of 400' to the residence will be \$278.25.**

Oil based dust control is \$10.73/ft with a rebate of \$2.00/ft. A minimum of 400' is required. The total cost of 400' is \$3,666.60 including GST.

**Please call the office at 403-783-3333 with your request for dust control by May 15, 2024**

Ponoka County would like to ask residents to reach out and supply the best contact phone number for their property (which will be used for internal use only). Considering last year's wildfire in the Battle River area west of town, we would like to better prepare for potential future emergencies. You can send us an email with your name, phone number, and roll number to [ponokacounty@ponokacounty.com](mailto:ponokacounty@ponokacounty.com) or call us at 403-783-3333.



If you have a security system, it is critical that your alarm company has your **blue sign address** as the dispatch address for emergency services. If they have any other form of address in place of your blue sign address, emergency services will be unable to respond in a timely manner.



Back L to R: Paul McLaughlin, Mark Matejka

Front L to R: Doug Weir, Nancy Hartford, Bryce Liddle

Division 1 – **Bryce Liddle** | 403.963.2476  
BryceLiddle@ponokacounty.com

Division 2 – **Mark Matejka** | 403.783.9857  
MarkMatejka@ponokacounty.com [Deputy Reeve]

Division 3 – **Doug Weir** | 403.783.0394  
DougWeir@ponokacounty.com

Division 4 – **Paul McLaughlin** | 780.995.7339  
PaulMcLaughlin@ponokacounty.com [Reeve]

Division 5 – **Nancy Hartford** | 403.783.9895  
NancyHartford@ponokacounty.com