



Town of Diamond Valley
2024 Annual Report

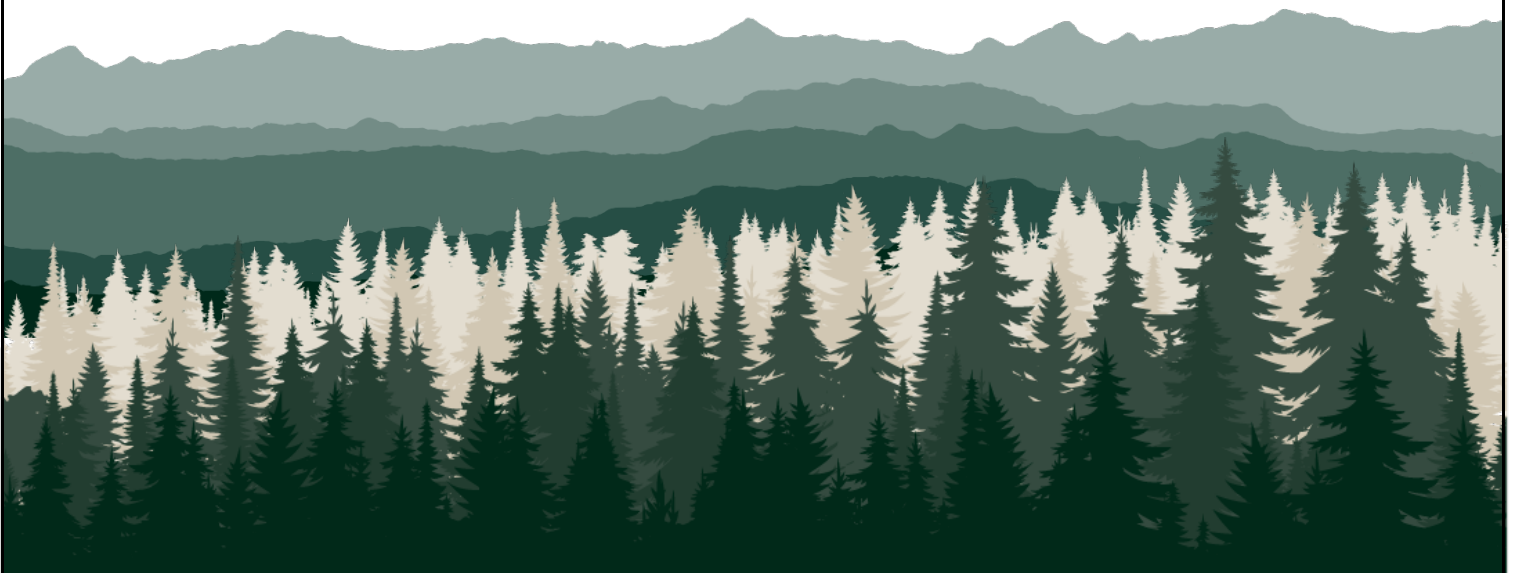


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Land Acknowledgment

The Town of Diamond Valley acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Dene Tsuut’ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations) and the Metis Nation of Alberta.



1. Introduction

Town of Diamond Valley 2024 Annual Report

This report highlights the progress, key achievements, and financial status of the Town of Diamond Valley over the past year. It aligns with Council's [Strategic Plan](#) and includes the Town's 2024 [audited consolidated financial statements](#) and a financial summary. The annual report outlines projects and activities undertaken in 2024 to inform residents, businesses, and stakeholders of the Town's ongoing progress and governance.

2. Background

The Town of Diamond Valley was officially established on January 1, 2023, through the amalgamation of the towns of Black Diamond and Turner Valley, forming Alberta's newest municipality. With a combined population of 5,341 ¹ (2021 federal census) and adjoining boundaries, the amalgamation represented a logical step - geographically, developmentally, operationally and politically. This unification positions the Town to navigate future growth more effectively, particularly as nearby Calgary - Canada's fastest-growing major city - continues to expand.

The amalgamation transition has taken place amid broader societal shifts, including post-pandemic supply chain disruptions, high inflation, demographic changes, rising living costs and housing challenges. While these factors are not the primary focus of this report, they provide important context. Many of the challenges the Town faces are not caused by amalgamation but are part of these broader trends affecting communities across the country. Amalgamation offers a more coordinated framework for addressing these challenges, even as its timing adds complexity to the transition.

Recent land annexation ensures long-term land supply. Access to outdoor recreation, major transportation routes, modern infrastructure, and a growing, skilled workforce make Diamond Valley a prime location for investment, living, and employment.

¹ Statistics Canada, Census Profile, 2021 [Turner Valley](#), [Black Diamond](#)



3. Mayor's Message

I am pleased to share with you, on behalf of Council, the Town of Diamond Valley 2024 Annual Report. The year was full of new challenges as we entered our second year as an amalgamated community.

In 2024, Council set its priorities on developing efficiencies and creating forward-thinking initiatives to prepare the Town for anticipated growth. Council announced a major step forward in shaping the future of Diamond Valley by embarking on the development of its first [Municipal Development Plan \(MDP\)](#). This long-term plan is designed to guide the Town's growth over the following 20+ years - focusing on land use, transportation, housing, and environmental stewardship - while staying true to the values that make the community unique. From thoughtful development to preserving natural landscapes and heritage, the plan represents a shared vision built together with the community. Council welcomes feedback as it works toward a thriving, connected, and resilient Diamond Valley.

At the same time, Council navigated some difficult budget decisions. Rising costs—such as a significant increase in RCMP services and infrastructure repairs—placed additional pressure on an already stretched budget. To keep increases as low as possible, a service level review was undertaken, with the goal of reducing or eliminating non-essential expenses. Cost-cutting measures were implemented where feasible in 2024, with a plan to implement fully in 2025. While the decisions have not been easy, Council remains committed to balancing financial responsibility with community needs.

Council thanks the community for being an active part of the conversation as we plan for a strong and sustainable future - together.

Barry Crane
Mayor
Town of Diamond Valley



4. CAO Message

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Town of Diamond Valley. This year marked our second as an amalgamated community, and it has been a period of significant change and adaptation for our Administration.

In 2024, Administration focused on enhancing operational efficiency and implementing strategic initiatives to support the Town's anticipated growth. A key initiative was beginning the development of the Town's first Municipal Development Plan (MDP), crafted with community input to guide our growth over the next two decades. The MDP is slated for completion in the fall of 2025.

Operationally, we faced challenges with rising costs in essential services such as policing and infrastructure maintenance. To address these financial pressures, we conducted a service level review to identify and reduce non-essential expenses while maintaining the quality of essential services. Despite these challenges, we remained focused on delivering reasonable services to our residents.

A significant focus this year was on change management and stabilizing our staffing situation after a period of high turnover. We have been dedicated to building a strong, cohesive team to ensure continuity in our operations. This involved recruiting talented individuals and fostering a supportive work environment that promotes retention.

We also introduced new initiatives to enhance our operational efficiency, such as the implementation of [e-Services](#), offering residents the convenience of e-billing and optional automatic payments.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building a strong, resilient, and connected Diamond Valley. I would like to thank our dedicated staff for their hard work, and our residents for their continued support and involvement. Together, we are shaping a bright future for our community.

Adam Davey
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Diamond Valley



5. Organizational Structure

The Town of Diamond Valley operates under a municipal government system led by an elected Council comprised of a Mayor and six (6) Councillors and supported by a dedicated administrative team.

- **Town Council:** Responsible for setting policy direction and strategic priorities.
- **Administration:** The Chief Administrative Officer implements Council's direction, manages municipal operations, and delivers services to the community through the following departments:
 - Finance
 - Civic Operations
 - Planning and Development
 - Community Services and Recreation
 - Legislative Services
 - Public Safety



6. Strategic Priorities, Vision, Mission

Vision

To be a thriving, resilient, and unified community that embraces sustainable growth while honouring our natural surroundings and small-town character.

Mission

To provide high-quality, responsive municipal services through innovative governance, strategic planning, and community partnerships.

Strategic Priorities

The Town of Diamond Valley Council has thoughtfully outlined its primary strategic priorities, serving as a compass to navigate decisions concerning municipal operations and capital investments. These strategic priorities act as a deliberate allocation of our valuable resources, channeling our efforts towards the services and initiatives that are most critical to the Town's success and growth.

6.1. Priority Projects

PRIORITY PROJECTS	YEAR ONE: 2024				YEAR TWO: 2025 (budgeted)				YEAR THREE: 2026 (projected, unbudgeted)			
	2024 Q1	2024 Q2	2024 Q3	2024 Q4	2025 Q1	2025 Q2	2025 Q3	2025 Q4	2026 Q1	2026 Q2	2026 Q3	2026 Q4
PLANS (BUDGETED)												
Municipal Development Plan (MDP)												
Fire Master Plan (FMP)												
Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF)												
Emergency Management Plan												
Infrastructure Management Plan (IMP)												
PROJECTS (CAPITAL, BUDGETED)												
1ST AVE INFRASTRUCTURE												
ICE PLANT REPLACEMENT												
Sheep River Water Crossing Replacement												
Facility/security upgrades												
Linear projects (Frontenac, Dunham Lane)												
BYLAWS, POLICIES, AMALGAMATION												
Utility Rates & Bylaw												
RCMP Service Agreement (MPSA)												
HR - updated plans, policies, procedures												
Procedural Bylaw												
Council Task Tracker												
Repurpose the MPC to MDP Steering Committee												
Fire Bylaw												
Land Use Bylaw												
Off-Site Levy Bylaw												
PRIORITIES, OTHER (UNBUDGETED)												
Flood mapping & mitigation plan (FREC)												
Town hall plan / sale of TV site												
FUTURE PROJECTS/PLANS (UNBUDGETED)												
Parks & Recreation Master Plan												
Financial Management System												
Information Management System (IMS)												
Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP)												

Key

Underway, Budgeted
Complete
Future Years, Unbudgeted
Issues / Delay
Failing / Not Done



7. Initiatives and Challenges

7.1. Key Initiatives

- Inaugural Diamond Valley [Municipal Development Plan](#)
- Expansion of intermunicipal partnerships and regional service delivery agreements
- Completion of major infrastructure projects
- Customer service level review and revisions
- Policy and bylaw revisions

7.2. Key Challenges

- Transitioning legacy systems and operational frameworks from the former municipalities
- Managing fiscal responsibility amidst inflationary pressures
- Balancing growth while maintaining small-town values and environmental stewardship
- Strengthening emergency services capacity to support a growing population
- Strong interest from developers and builders required a pivoted focus on establishing clear planning strategies.

8. Initiated/Completed Projects

- Plans and Partnership Initiatives Inaugural Diamond Valley [Municipal Development Plan](#)
- [Fire Master Plan](#)
- Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework
- Emergency Management Plan
- Shared Services Agreements Review and Revisions
- Infrastructure Management Plan (IMP)



8.1. Capital Projects

- 1st Avenue Infrastructure Repairs (1 Ave NE/NW from 4A Street to 1 Street NE)
- Oilfields Arena Refrigeration System Replacement
- Pool Facility (shower upgrades, tiling) and Equipment Upgrades
- Town Entrance and Municipal Facility Signage
- Facility Security Upgrades
- Equipment Upgrades
- Safety: Speed Radar Signs

8.2. Bylaws, Policies Review and Revisions

- [Water and Wastewater Utility Bylaw](#)
- Human Resources (updated plans, policies, procedures)
- [Council Procedure](#) and [Committees Bylaws](#)
- [Fire Bylaw](#)
- Offsite Levy Bylaw Review
- External Municipal Communication Policy
- Council Donation Policy
- Engineering and Construction Standards Policy
- Vacant Property Tax Rate Review

8.3. Administrative Projects

- [e-Gov](#) and [e-Services](#): Online Account Information Access and Tax and Utility Payments
- Enhanced Financial Reporting and Investment Strategies
- RCMP Service Agreement Negotiations
- Council Project and Task Tracker
- Repurpose Municipal Planning Commission to Municipal Development Steering Committee
- Transition to Vehicle Leasing Model



- Service Level Review – Programming and Services
- Response Management System implemented

8.4. Other Priority Projects

- Flood Mapping and Mitigation Plan
- Disposal (sale) of Life-Cycled/Redundant Equipment and Fleet
- Sale of Former Turner Valley Municipal Building
- Town Events - Transition to Community Organizations
- Infrastructure Master Plan (IMP)
- [Westend Regional Sewage Services Commission](#) (WRSSC) Lagoon Project
- WRSSC Decommissioning Initiation
- Playground Equipment Repairs and Replacements
- Municipal Buildings Assessment (Town Office)

9. Financial Overview

9.1. 2024 Budget and Financial Strategy

The Town continued to implement prudent fiscal management practices in 2024, with a focus on long-term financial sustainability. The 2024 [Capital](#) and [Operating](#) budgets reflected strategic investments in infrastructure while managing the growing financial pressures faced by municipalities.

9.2. Audited 2024 Financial Statements

The Town's [audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2024](#), are included in full within the report. These statements provide a detailed account of the Town's financial performance and position.

Key highlights include:

- Positive year-end results
- Ongoing investments in capital projects and infrastructure renewal
- Focus on building of reserves and compliance with debt limits



9.3. Financial Reporting

The Town remains committed to transparent and accountable financial governance. Annual audits and regular public reporting ensured compliance with provincial legislation and alignment with best practices in municipal finance.

The Town continues to implement prudent fiscal management practices with a focus on long-term financial sustainability. The 2024 budget reflected strategic investment in infrastructure, service delivery, and community well-being.

For a full digital version of this report and supporting documents, visit the [Town of Diamond Valley website](https://www.diamondvalley.town).

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