

A Strategic Session is a standing Committee of Council for the purpose of reviewing specific municipal matters in a strategic, collaborative, discussion-based meeting setting.

#### Enforcement Services/Peace Officer Program

Council met to discuss the future direction of Lac La Biche County's Peace Officer program. There are currently five vacancies in the Protective Services department: a manager, a full-time clerk (maternity leave) and three Level 1 Peace Officers (one vacancy is a maternity leave). Council met with Tammy Spink, Manager of the Public Security Peace Officer program for Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, to discuss the roles and responsibilities of Community Peace Officers and explore the different models of the Peace Officer program in the province.

According to Spink, the Community Peace Officer program gives municipalities the ability to enhance community safety, enforce bylaws and meet County specific law enforcement needs by augmenting the duties of the RCMP. The role of the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's office is to ensure the training and accountability standards of the Peace Officer programs for the province.

There are two designations for Community Peace Officers. Level 2 Peace Officers are responsible for providing security, bylaw enforcement and animal control. Level 1 Peace Officers have a higher level of authority and responsibility, with the mandate to provide a safe and secure environment for public and private property. Spink assured Council that Community Peace Officer programs are intended to meet the needs of each municipality, and top priorities—like bylaw enforcement and education—can be tailored by Council and Administration.

Council also met with representatives from the Lac La Biche RCMP detachment. RCMP representatives indicated that local police officers found value in the County's Peace Officer program, particularly the Level 1 Peace Officer designation, with their authority to enforce provincial statutes as well as municipal bylaws.

County Administration researched the Peace Officer programs of nearby municipalities like Athabasca and Bonnyville. Council discussed a number of different enforcement models, including the opportunity to provide funding for an additional RCMP member at the Lac La Biche detachment.

Council approved a motion to defer the Enforcement Services discussion to a later date, and directed Administration to bring forward more information on specific enforcement models and associated costs.