



2022

Annual Report

"Pride in Service" Since 1960



@PictureButteFireDept



@picturebutteemergencyservices



@PButteFire



Message from the Fire Chief

Progress Through Adversity



*Fire Chief
Frank West*



*Deputy Chief
Casey West*

The Mission of
Picture Butte
Emergency Services

*To the best of our
ability, protect the
life and property of
all residents and
visitors of the Town
of Picture Butte and
surrounding area by
providing
professional fire,
rescue, and
emergency medical
services.*

I am proud to present the 2022 Annual Report on behalf of the members of Picture Butte Emergency Services. It is my honour to lead this organization and highlight the extraordinary work accomplished through the difficult circumstances of the past year. As the public is aware, the service demand of 2022 and the lingering effects of both the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing opioid crisis have placed an unparalleled strain on our provincial EMS system.

Locally, we saw a 23% increase in emergency medical calls for service, and our ambulance crews were subject to many long shifts coupled with call volume and extended wait times at hospitals. This trend of rising EMS volume is compounded by the fact that 2022 was the 5th consecutive year of significant EMS increases. I cannot stress enough the outstanding work that our paramedics have done rising to meet these new challenges and how appreciative the community is of their work. As we look to the future of EMS, we are encouraged by the public demand and support from the provincial government towards impactful improvements to the EMS system. We know that no matter the outcomes, Picture Butte Emergency Services will continue to rise to any challenges our community may face.

Despite the challenges faced by our department in 2022, our organization was also able to see real progress on several projects, including the replacement of our SCBA fleet, the implementation of our new Technical Rescue Team, and the groundbreaking of our fire station expansion. We are thankful for the support of Picture Butte Town Council and the community in helping make these successes a reality. On behalf of the firefighters, paramedics, and officers of Picture Butte Emergency Services, please enjoy this report on the activities of your fire department in 2022.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief Frank West

Director of Emergency Services

Honour, Pride, Brotherhood, Dedication



29

Motor Vehicle
Collisions



13

Structure Fires



3

Vehicle Fires



24

Wildland/Outdoor
Fires



1

Technical Rescues



49

Tender Responses



1068

Ambulance
Responses

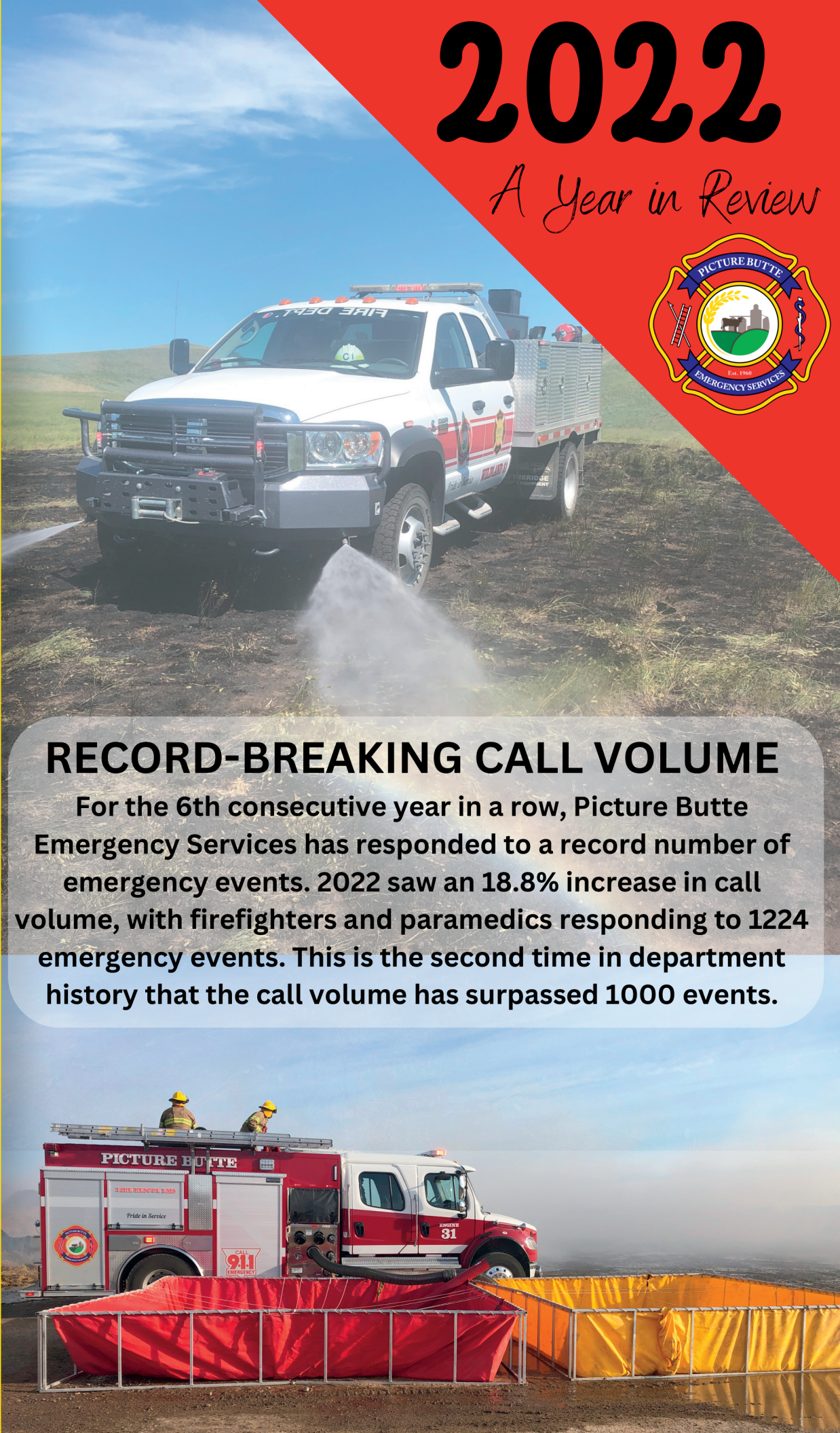


154

Fire Medical
Responses

2022

A Year in Review



RECORD-BREAKING CALL VOLUME

For the 6th consecutive year in a row, Picture Butte Emergency Services has responded to a record number of emergency events. 2022 saw an 18.8% increase in call volume, with firefighters and paramedics responding to 1224 emergency events. This is the second time in department history that the call volume has surpassed 1000 events.

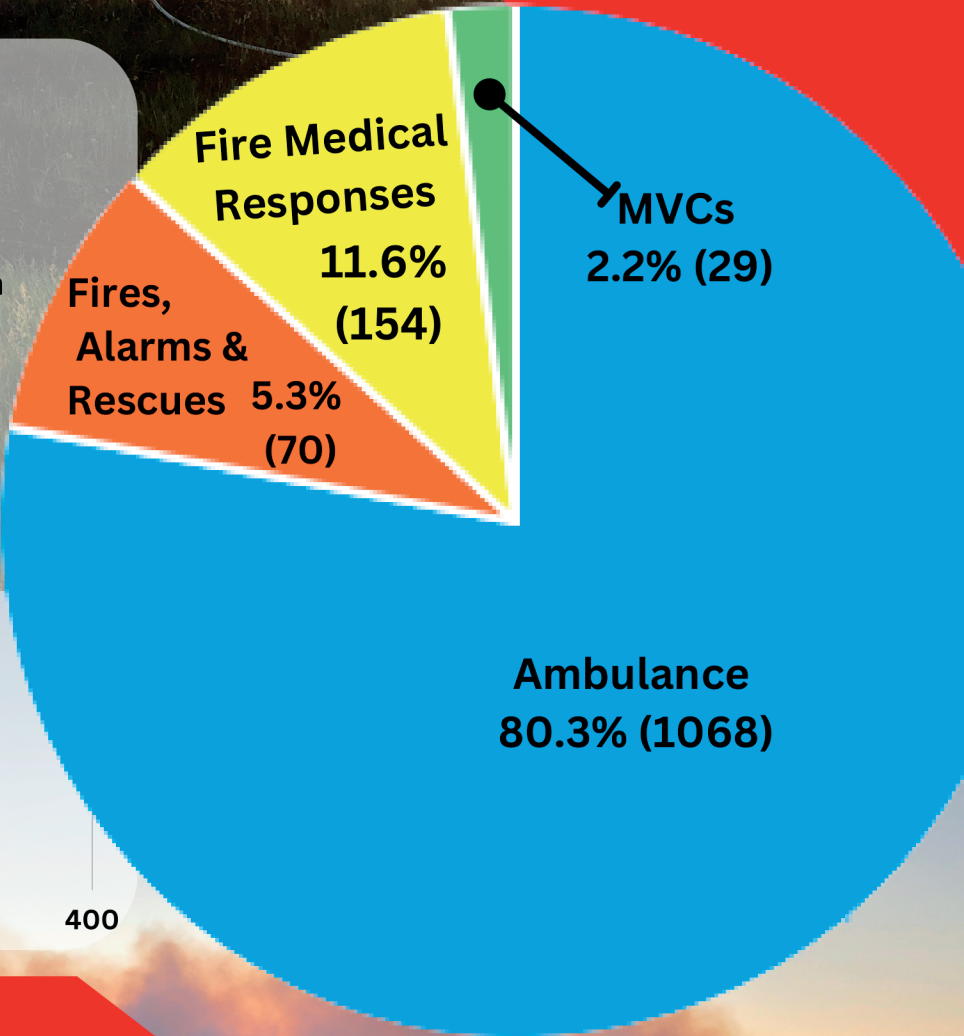
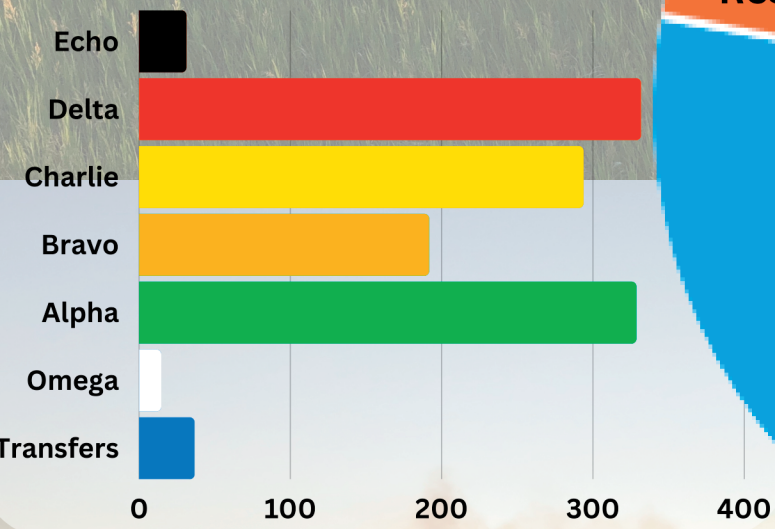
2022

A Year in Review



Omega = Public Service Call
Alpha = Single Unit Cold Response
Bravo = Single Unit Hot Response
Charlie = Multiple Unit Response
Delta = Multiple Unit Hot Response
Echo = Imminent Life-Threatening Situation
***Transfers** from health facilities to living facilities

2022 Event Priority



1224 Events

1476 Unit Responses



Communities Served by Picture Butte Emergency Services

- Picture Butte (360)
- Lethbridge County (227)
- Nobleford (72)
- Barons (13)
- Coalhurst (12)
- City of Lethbridge (419)
- Coaldale (14)
- Vulcan County (30)
- MD of Willow Creek (5)
- MD of Taber (15)
- Other (5)



YOUR PICTURE BUTTE FIREFIGHTERS HARD AT WORK IN 2022





2022

A YEAR IN REVIEW

18%

\$0.18 of every Picture Butte tax \$1.00 goes to emergency services.

\$170 000

Tax dollars saved thanks to volunteer firefighters

Emergency Services Funding

Firefighting, rescue, bylaw and emergency management services in the Town of Picture Butte are all funded by municipal tax support from home and business owners within the town. We could not provide the services we do without the support of our community.



Lethbridge County Agreement

The Town of Picture Butte provides fire and rescue services to Lethbridge County under a fee-for-service. Picture Butte Emergency Services have been serving the

citizens of Lethbridge County for over 70 years. Picture Butte Emergency Services protects the largest geographical district of Lethbridge County and assists our regional partners in all areas of the county.

Alberta Health Services Contract

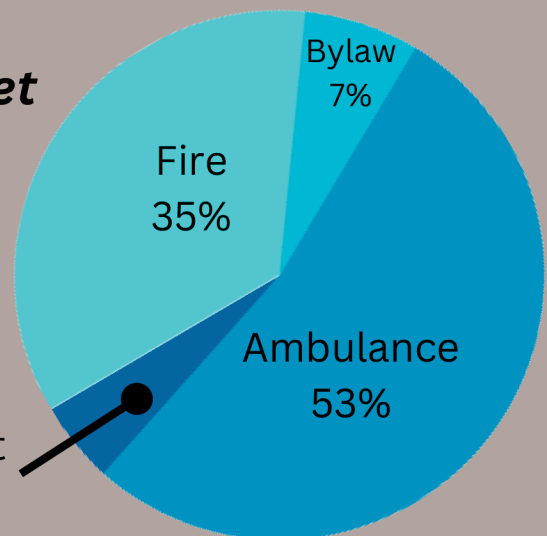


Picture Butte Emergency Services has contracted our Basic Life Support ambulance to Alberta Health Services since the province assumed responsibility for emergency medical services in 2009. In 2022, the funding received from AHS covered 65% of the expenses to operate the EMS division, with the remaining 35% generated through patient billing. Picture Butte Emergency Services provides ambulance services to the citizens of Picture Butte without additional municipal tax funding.

Emergency Services Operating Budget



Emergency Management
5%



2022

A Year in Review



A sister organization of Picture Butte Emergency Services is the Picture Butte Firefighters Association. The PBFFA is a registered society comprised of past and present Picture Butte Emergency Services members. The goal of the PBFFA is as a fundraising source to support projects of both Picture Butte Emergency Services and the community itself.

Projects funded by the Picture Butte Firefighters Association in 2022 included 20 MSA SCBA cylinders worth \$30 000 and a trailer for our Technical Rescue Team worth \$20 000.



Picture Butte Emergency Services completed 2 recruit intakes in 2022, adding 10 new probationary firefighters to the team!

- Amy Han
- Ashlee Good
- Austin Hengerer
- Emil Kyjac
- Edric Vande Bruinhorst
- Josh Walsh
- Kyle Molnar
- Levi Pellet
- Meg Kowalzik
- Shawn Lysons

3768 Volunteer Hours

7 Certification Courses that a total of 34 members attended

61 Training Sessions

19 CPR - BLS RECERTIFICATIONS



Your Picture Butte firefighters are always training!



2022

A Year in Review

Striving for a safe community through prevention and education

Picture Butte Emergency Services provides fire and life safety education to the public through fire inspections, school visits and fire station tours, and fire extinguisher training. Our Safety Codes Officers can educate building owners on their requirements under the provincial fire code and the Safety Codes Act.

The Bylaw Services division provides education and enforcement of the Town of Picture Butte's bylaws. The Bylaw Officer, Ryan Mosby, also fills the role of Assistant Development Officer of the Town of Picture Butte and is the first contact for anyone looking to build and change property in the town requiring a development permit.

Officer Mosby regularly patrols the town to proactively identify bylaw infractions and respond to complaints received from the public. Anyone in Picture Butte that notices a bylaw infraction that requires attention by the Bylaw officer, please reach out to Officer Mosby at one of the contact options below:

Bylaw Officer Contact:

Office: 403-732-4555

Cell: 403-894-9400

Email: bylaw@picturebutte.ca



11
Fire Code
Compliance
Inspections



6
Public
Education
Sessions



26
Fire
Investigations



314
Bylaw
Enforcement
Files



165
Development
Files



Bylaw Quick Tip

Town of Picture Butte *Unightly Premises* Bylaw #797/06

In accordance with Bylaw #797/06, Section 16, an owner, or the occupant(s) of a residence, shall ensure the removal of all snow and ice from any improved public sidewalk located adjacent to the property, whether deposited by natural or unnatural means, within 24 hours of deposit.

Beyond 2022

A Look to the Future

Fire Station Construction

After three years of extensive planning, Phase 1 construction of our Fire Station expansion began in the fall of 2022, adding three additional double bays to the west side of the existing building. This addition will provide parking space for all the department's support apparatus' that are currently stored outside and allow the larger apparatus' to pull out into the parking lot instead of onto the highway. The new space will alleviate the existing fire station's main health and safety issue by having adequate space around the apparatus' for firefighters to work—completion of this project is scheduled for June 2023.



Equipment Replacement



Included in the 2023 Capital Budget is the replacement of two pieces of vital equipment for Picture Butte Emergency Services. Our extrication tools (Jaws of Life) and our frontline ambulance's cardiac monitor are scheduled for upgrades this year.



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**Picture Butte
Emergency Services
120 4th Street North,
Picture Butte, AB
T0K 1V0
P.O. BOX 670
403-732-4100**