

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



## TABER POLICE SERVICE

HONESTY • INTEGRITY • COMPASSION • ACCOUNTABILITY • PROFESSIONALISM



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## TABER MUNICIPAL POLICE COMMISSION

The Taber Municipal Police Commission governs the Taber Police Service under the authority of the Police Act of Alberta.

2020 was particularly challenging in the governance of the Taber Police Service due to the impact and pressures of COVID-19, but that did not stop the work that needed to be done. Nowhere in the Police Act does it say, "this is how you govern during a pandemic". Despite all of this, I am proud of the work that the Commission has accomplished this past year.

The largest change came in the form of adding an administrative secretary for the Commission, Tenille Miller, who was hired at the end of 2020. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the contributions of the five members of the public who comprise our Commission that volunteer and take the time out of their busy schedules to act in this very important capacity.

I would like to thank Vice Chair Wanda Osburne-Campbell, John MacDonald, Terry Zucht, and Danny Remfert for their contributions. I would also like to thank our elected representatives, Jack Brewin and Joe Strojwas, for their work on the Commission and their liaison with Town Council. Lastly, I thank Kerry VanHam and Raeanne Keer who helped us transition to an independent secretary and for all of the work they have contributed to the Commission in the past.

With my time in as the Chairperson, I can unequivocally state that we have a special organization in the Taber Police Service. The Taber Police Service are a professional, well trained and caring organization that provides quality policing services to our community in a way that is the envy of many other communities in Alberta.

I am proud to be a part of this organization and am committed in providing my time and efforts to continue to make Taber a safe community.

Martin Sorensen

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



**CHIEF OF POLICE**

What a year it has been! When I was promoted to the Office of Chief of Police with the Taber Police Service I never thought I would have the experience to lead an organization and watch it adapt and change with the impacts of a pandemic in our community. The police officers and civilian staff of the Taber Police Service met the challenges head on, understood the need to educate, assist, and lead our community in the response to enforce the Orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, to provide advice where required, and to lend a helping hand when needed. What I am most proud of is that we have been able to do so keeping a balance, without having to be obligatory in our response. This should have come as no surprise to me as each and every day I have the privilege of working with an awesome team at the Taber Police Service; what I consider to be the best little police service in Alberta.

COVID brought about some significant challenges and opportunities, one of which was the inability to fill one of our Constable positions. We are on track to do that in 2021! COVID also brought about a well behaved community, for the most part. Crime in Taber in 2020 dropped significantly with most of our crime categories falling, except for a few. Our School Resource Officer Program and our policing philosophy has greatly reduced youth crime and once again Taber, for a town our size, is one of the safest places to live in Alberta. I give credit to the staff of the Taber Police Service for what they do to keep our community safe, bringing a sense of pride to Taber, and for living with their families in this place we call home.

I would like to thank the Commission and Council for their continued support, and the community for their commitment to partner with the Taber Police Service. We are truly the little petri dish of community policing and many communities look to us to establish best practices in this regard. Let's keep up the hard work to make Taber and area an awesome place to grow!

Dr. Graham Abela



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## MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Taber Police Service established in 1904.

We strive to Inform, Involve and Protect the community of Taber.

We, the members of the Taber Police Service, believe that:

- Police work is performed through relationships; there needs to be a partnership between the police and the community;
- We exist to serve and are, therefore, accountable to the community;
- The citizens of Taber are the ultimate consumers of police services and should be provided the opportunity for input into our priorities; we must determine community concerns and be proactive in the community to address those concerns;
- Every effort must be made to inform the community of what we are doing and the results of our efforts.

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## CORE VALUES

**HONESTY:** We believe in an honest work environment that encourages trust and respect of fellow employees, as well of that of the community

**INTEGRITY:** We believe that our actions should be based on an internally consistent framework of principles and furthermore, that everything we do as a police service or as individuals is based on our defined set of core values

**COMPASSION:** We believe that we should treat each other as employees, as well as those in the community for which we serve, with kindness and empathy

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** We believe that our actions as a police service and individuals should be transparent and that we are responsible for our decisions and policies. We understand that we are accountable and answerable to the community of Taber and our governing body

**PROFESSIONALISM:** We believe that we should adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and that we should maintain our standards through reflection, review and audits





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TABER POLICE SERVICE

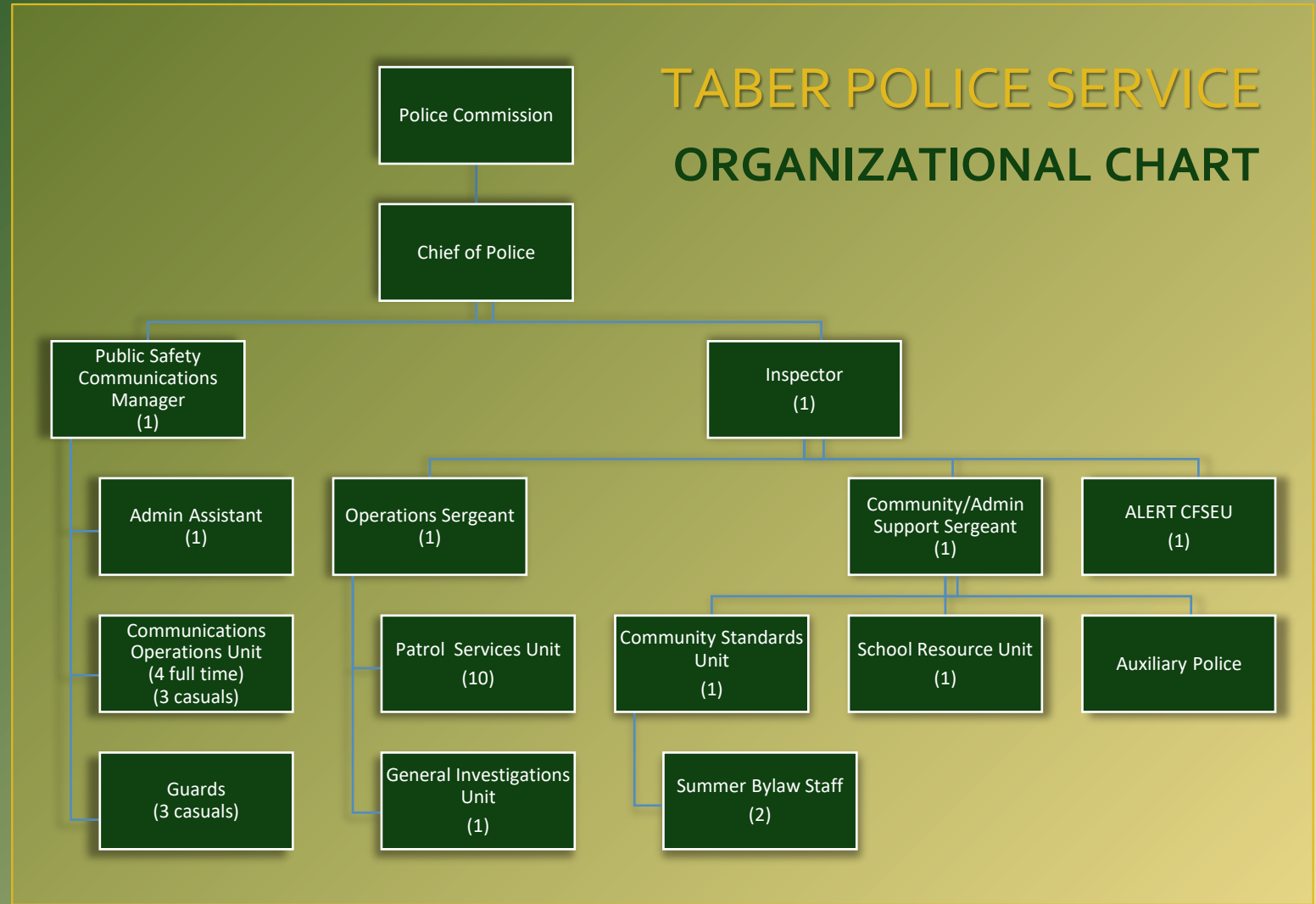




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## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





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## POLICE HUMAN RESOURCES

### OPERATIONAL STRENGTH

18 (Authorized)

17 (Actual)

### Demographics:

16 male

2 female

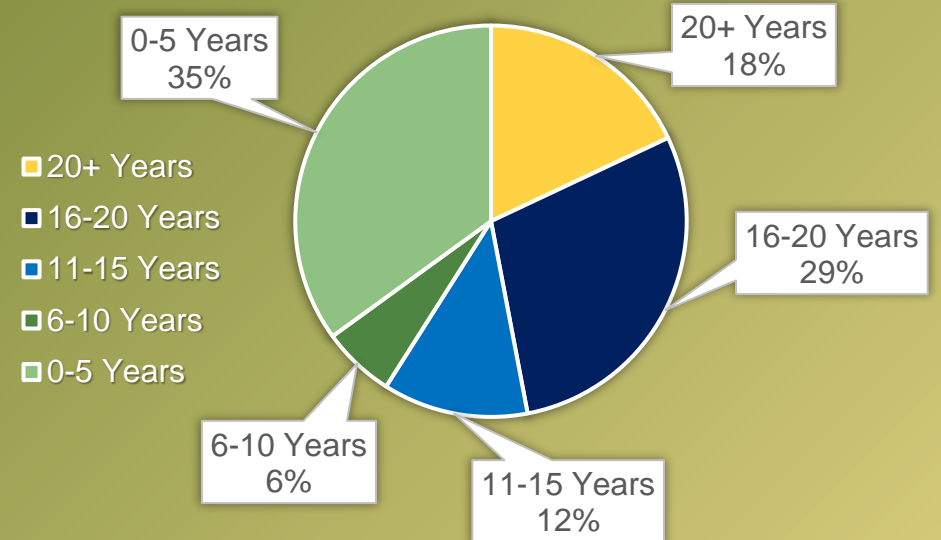
### Background of Officers:

1 FNMI

2 Asian

15 Caucasian

### Members Years of Service



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## CIVILIAN HUMAN RESOURCES

1 Public Safety Communications  
Manager

Communications Operators:

4 Fulltime

3 Casuals

1 Administrative Assistant

2 Community Standards Bylaw  
Officers (Summer)

4 Cell Block Guards

Numerous Volunteers







## FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

In November 2020, Chief Abela reported to the Commission the results of the 2016-2021 Five Year Plan. In 9/15 categories, we attained goals at 100%. Those categories where we did not obtain 100% were rolled into the 2021-2026 Five Year Plan for completion or re-evaluation.

Each Graph represents the percentage towards completion of the Five-Year Goal. Full report can be viewed at [www.taber.ca](http://www.taber.ca).





## FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

In November 2020, Chief Abela reported to the Commission the results of the 2016-2021 Five Year Plan. In 9/15 categories, we attained goals at 100%. Those categories where we did not obtain 100% were rolled into the 2021-2026 Five Year Plan for completion or re-evaluation.

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In September 2020, the Taber Police Service commenced a review of our priorities and established our goals in the creation of a new five-year strategic plan.



The plan was created following a community survey, focus group sessions and input from the Taber Municipal Police Commission and Taber Police Service staff.

## FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Core services and key strategic priorities were identified within the new strategic plan. The five-year plan is divided into four phases. Each phase contains several goals that are to be obtained within a specific time frame.

The strategic plan is reviewed quarterly with the Taber Municipal Police Commission. A report card is provided at that time to monitor the progress in achieving these goals. The first year of our progress will appear in the 2021 annual report.





## FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

### CORE SERVICES

- Policing Services
- Public Safety Dispatch & Support
- Community Support

Refer to 2021-2026 Business Plan for further details.





## FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

### KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- **Community Safety**
- **Community Collaboration**
- **Community Awareness**
- **People & Technical Professionalism**

Refer to 2021-2026 Business Plan for further details.

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## FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

### COMMUNITY SAFETY GOALS

1. Public Safety
2. Safety of Property
3. Safety of Police
4. More Police Operational Debriefings

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATION GOALS

1. Maintain Auxiliary Program
2. Strengthen Partnership With C.O.P.
3. Bring More Cultural Awareness & Diversity into the Service
4. Recruit & Attract New, Diverse Background Employees
5. Maintain Highly Recognized SRO Program
6. Increase Community Collaboration & Response to Sexual Assault
7. Increase Community Collaboration & Response to Domestic Violence

Refer to 2021-2026 Business Plan for further details.





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## FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

### COMMUNITY AWARENESS GOALS

1. Increase Police Profile Through Social Media
2. Develop a Community Camera Registry Program
3. Report the Number of Citizen Contacts and Complaints to the Taber Municipal Police Commission

### PEOPLE & TECHNICAL GOALS

1. Provide Adequate & Effective Dispatch Services
2. Maintain Health & Safety Program
3. Develop a Critical Incident Stress Management Program
4. Ensure All Staff Receive Yearly Performance Assessments
5. Ensure Dispatch Clients Provide Feedback
6. Maintain 911 Alberta Standard Compliance

Refer to 2021-2026 Business Plan for further details.



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## BUDGET 2020 FUNDING AND EXPENSES

FUNDING	2020
Tax Supported	\$2,808,247
Government Grants	\$562,832
Fine Revenue	\$502,500
Sales & User Fees	\$171,672
Total	\$4,045,251

EXPENSES	2020
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,128,400
Contracted & General Services	\$373,733
Amortization	\$194,968
Materials, Goods, & Supplies	\$156,550
Purchases From Other Governments	\$76,000
Internal Charges	\$115,600
Total	\$4,045,251



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## PATROL SERVICES UNIT

The Taber Police Service - Patrol Services Unit is the largest and most visible component of the Taber Police Service.

Comprised of 10 members, the Patrol Services Unit's core function is to provide professional Policing Services 24 hours a day, every day, in the form of proactive and preventative Public Safety services. They are the initial responders to self generated and caller-based complaints to assist, defend or protect the general public and their property.

The Patrol Services Unit plays many policing rolls such as creating a visual presence throughout the Town of Taber, proactive policing, primary investigators for all calls for service such as break & enters, frauds, assaults, traffic collisions, domestic disputes and other Criminal Code investigations.

The Patrol Services members carry investigative files from the onset of the complaint all the way through to the laying of charges and the creation of disclosure packages for prosecution services in Court.

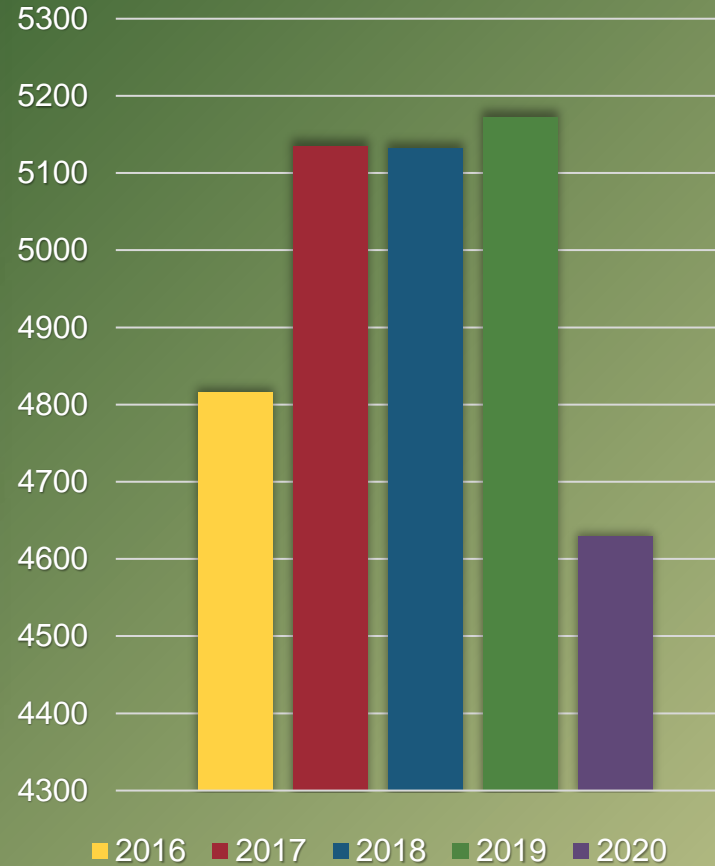
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## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

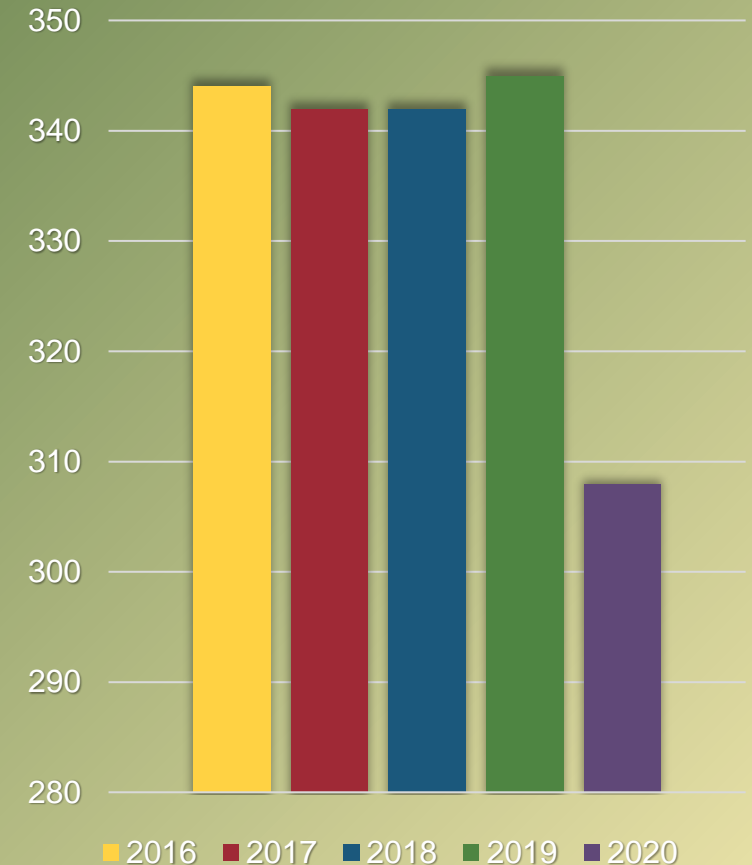


## POLICE OCCURRENCES

### Number of Police Occurrences



### Police Occurrences Per Officer



TABER POLICE SERVICE

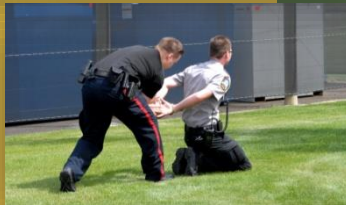
These charts show the number of Police Occurrences investigated over a 5 year period and the number of occurrences dealt with per Officer.





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## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



## CLEARANCE RATES

Geography <sup>6</sup>	Statistics	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
		<b>Number</b>				
Camrose, Alberta, municipal [48015]	Weighted clearance rate <sup>7, 8</sup>	56.01	58.11	55.75	55.39	49.20
Lacombe, Alberta, municipal [48052]	Weighted clearance rate <sup>7, 8</sup>	40.82	39.73	41.08	53.88	48.28
Taber, Alberta, municipal [48088]	Weighted clearance rate <sup>7, 8</sup>	60.57	61.61	58.82	59.86	56.72
Brooks, Alberta, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, municipal [48708]	Weighted clearance rate <sup>7, 8</sup>	58.51	53.83	48.36	54.50	41.60
Taber, Alberta, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, rural [48826]	Weighted clearance rate <sup>7, 8</sup>	63.08	48.72	39.48	39.03	35.77

The Taber Police Service clearance rate is 23.73% above the Provincial Average of 32.99%.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

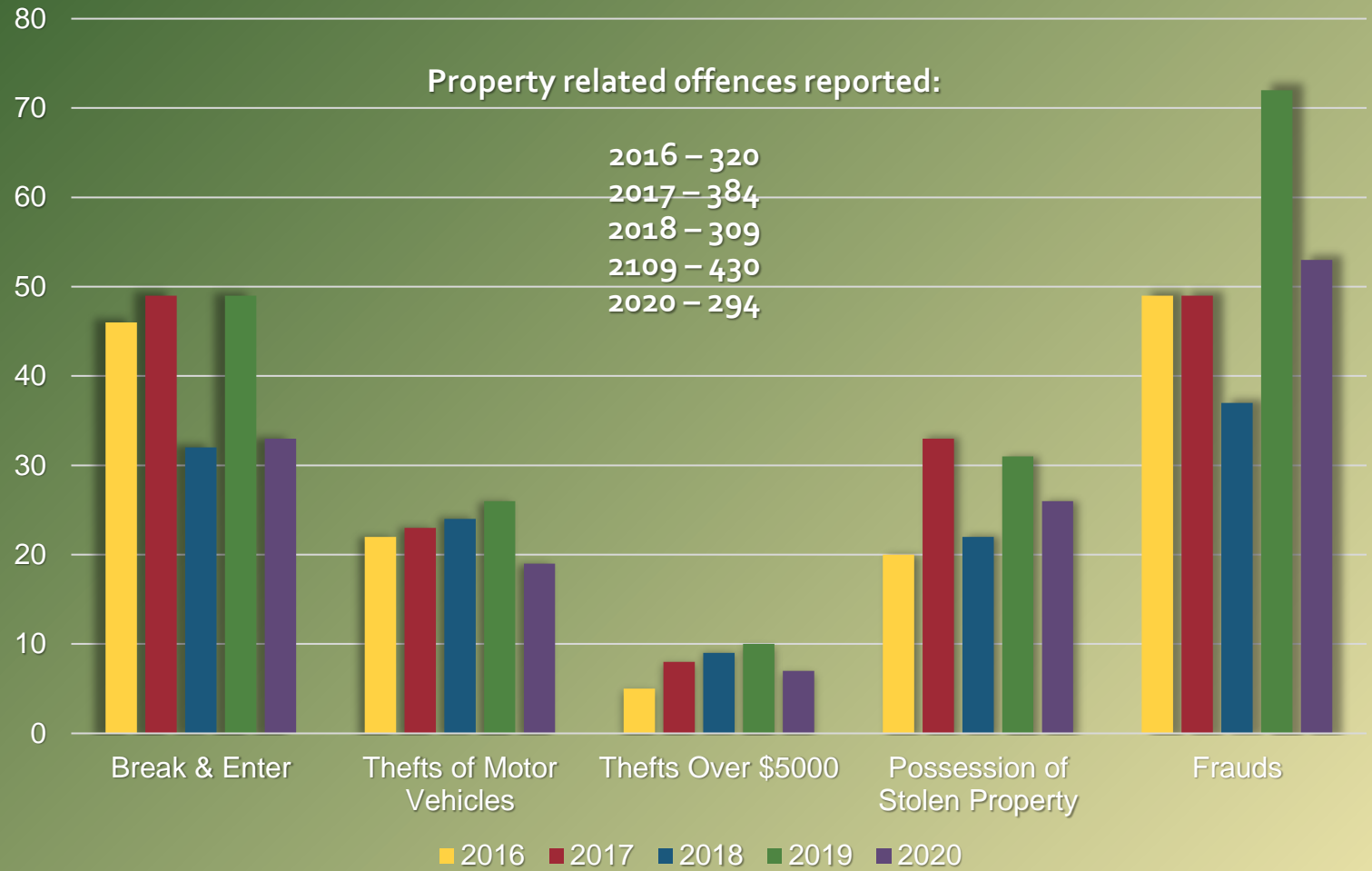


## PROPERTY OFFENCES

### Property Offences 2016 to 2020

Property related offences reported:

2016 – 320  
 2017 – 384  
 2018 – 309  
 2019 – 430  
 2020 – 294

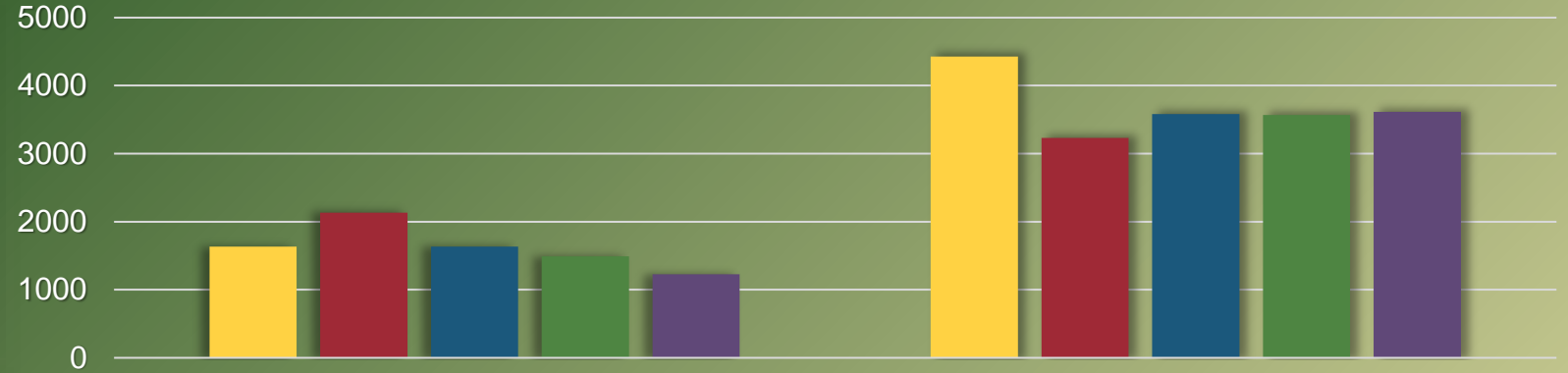


There was a 32% decrease in total property offences in 2020 after a 39% increase in 2019.



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

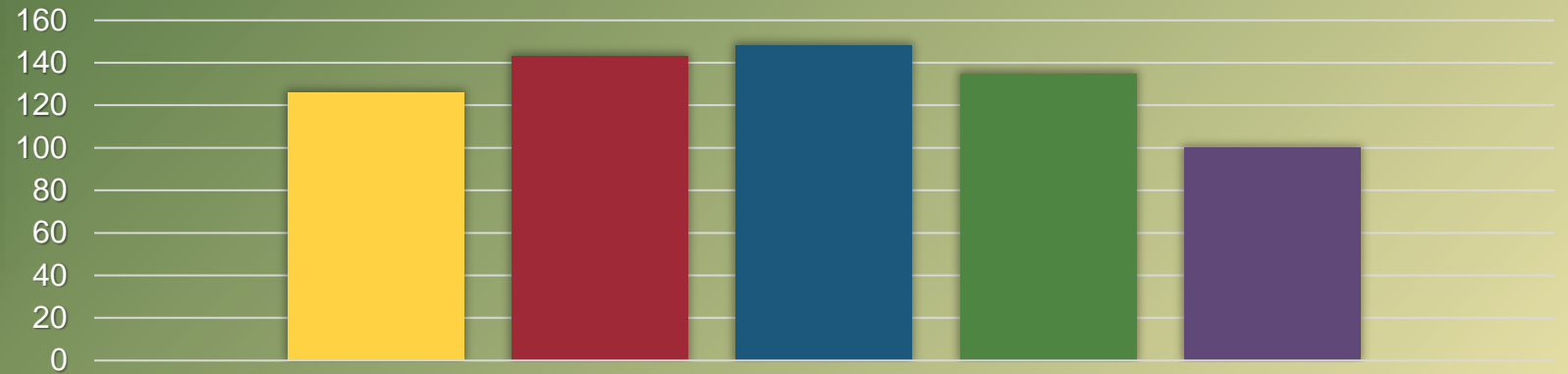
## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Officer Initiated Tickets

Photo Radar

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020



Number of Collisions

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

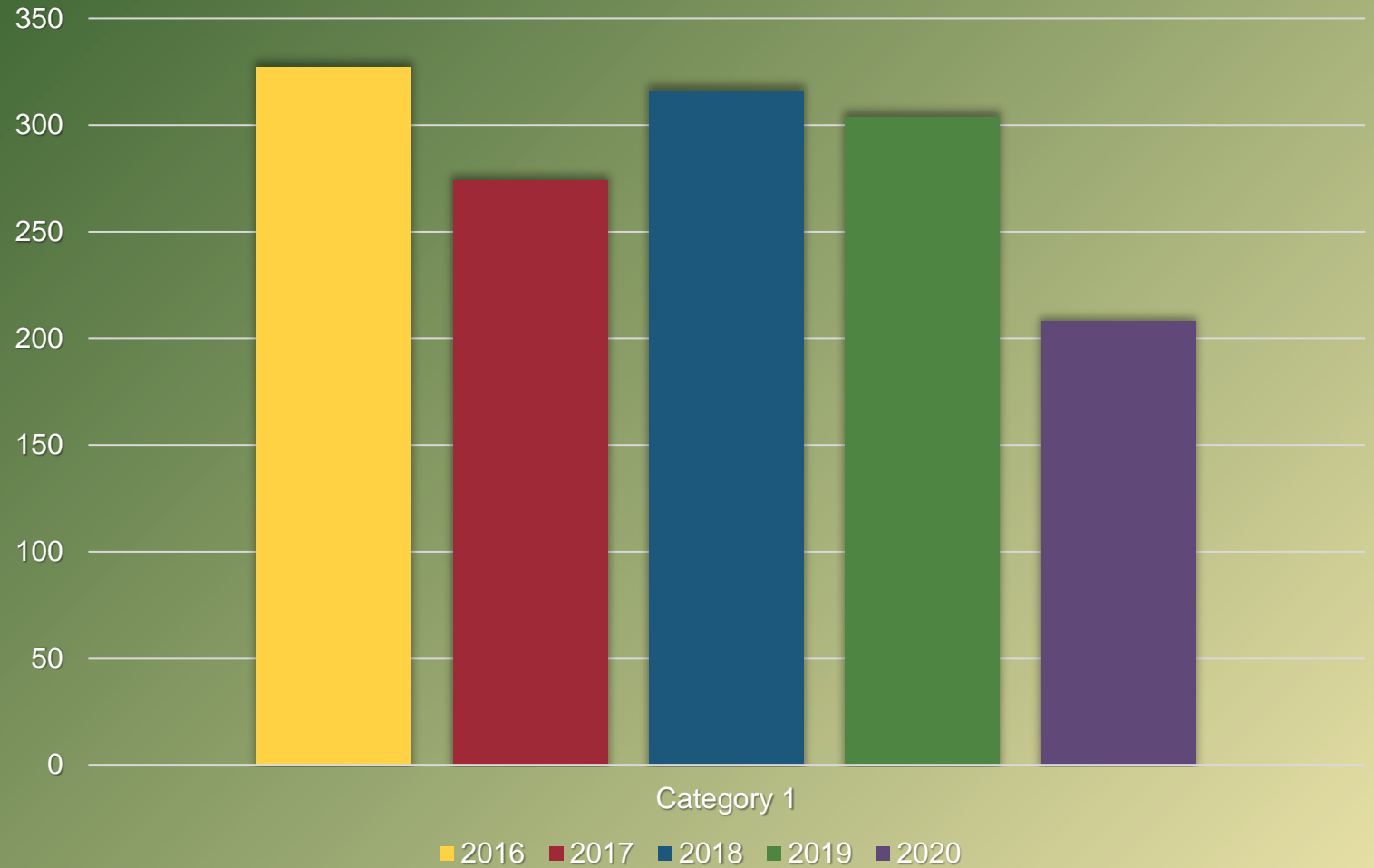
There was an 18% decrease in total Traffic Safety Act offences in 2020.





### PRISONERS

### Number of Persons Held in Police Custody



There was a 32 % decrease in the number of persons held in custody from 2019-2020.

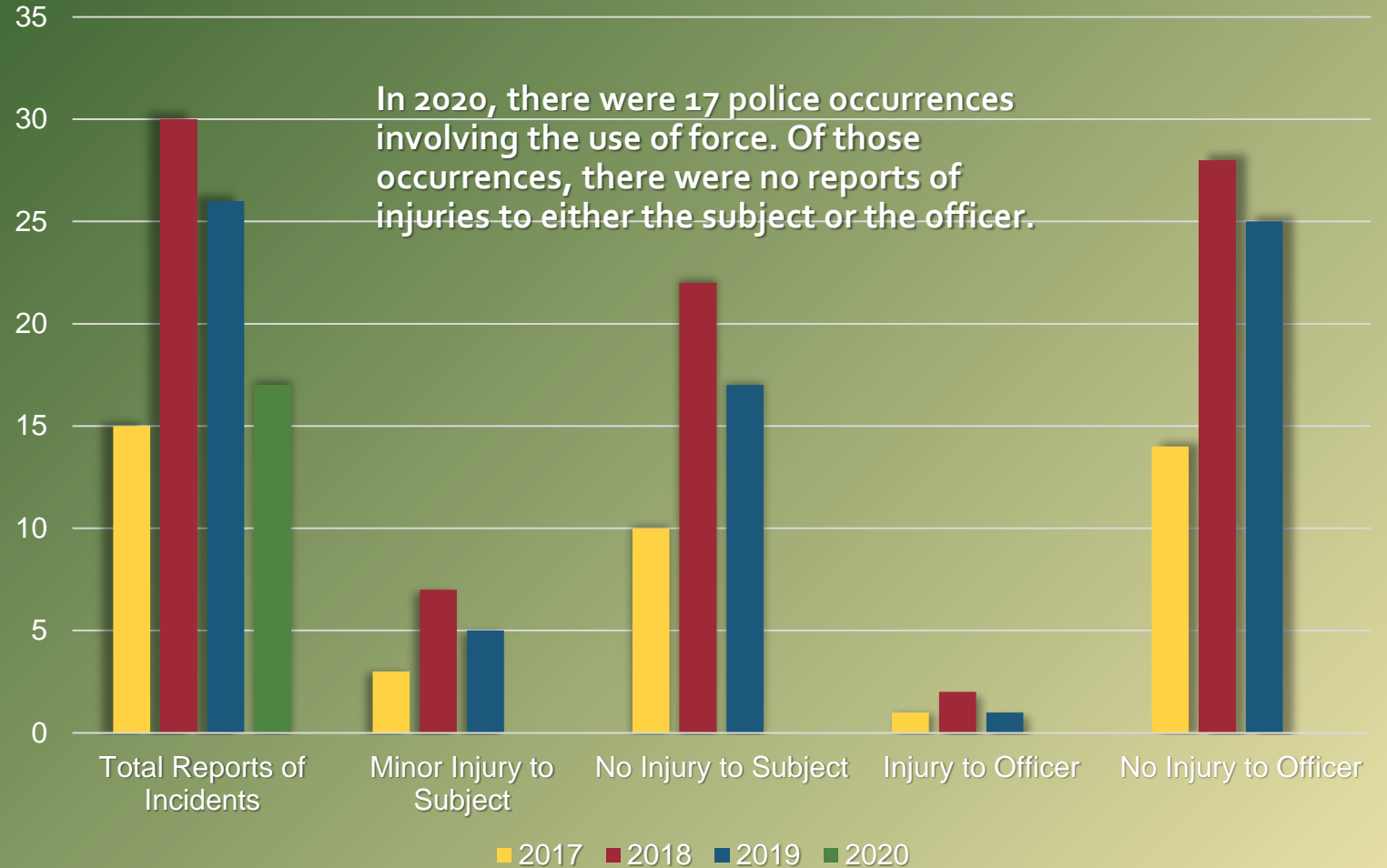






### Control Tactics Reports

In 2020, there were 17 police occurrences involving the use of force. Of those occurrences, there were no reports of injuries to either the subject or the officer.



## USE OF FORCE

Reports of Assault on Police officers increased in 2020. There were no reports in 2019 and 6 in 2020.



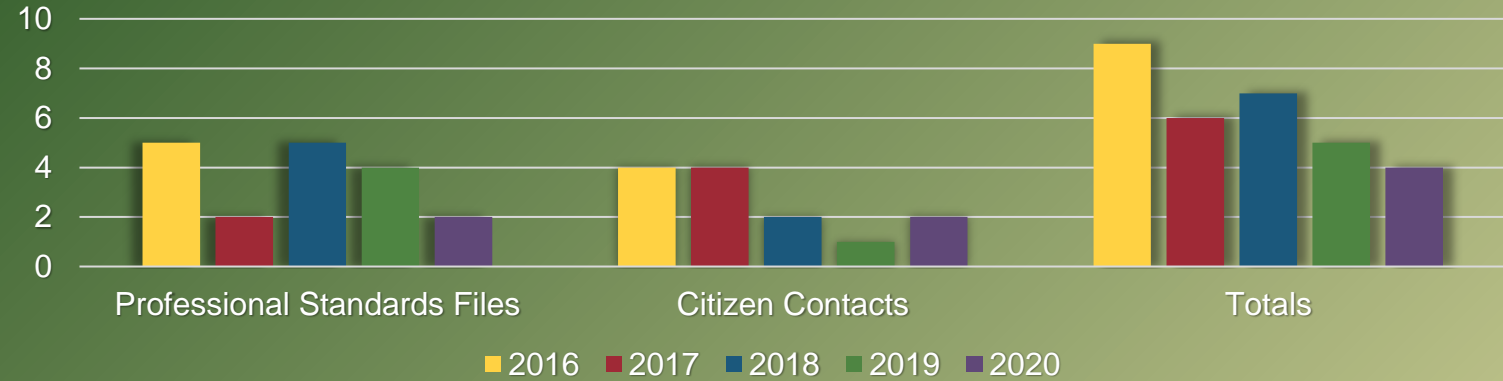
In 2020, the Taber Police Service received a total of 4 Professional Standards Files.

Citizen contacts, which are informal concerns raised by a member of the public, are resolved through discussion and mediation. In 2020, there were 2 citizen contacts that were resolved informally.

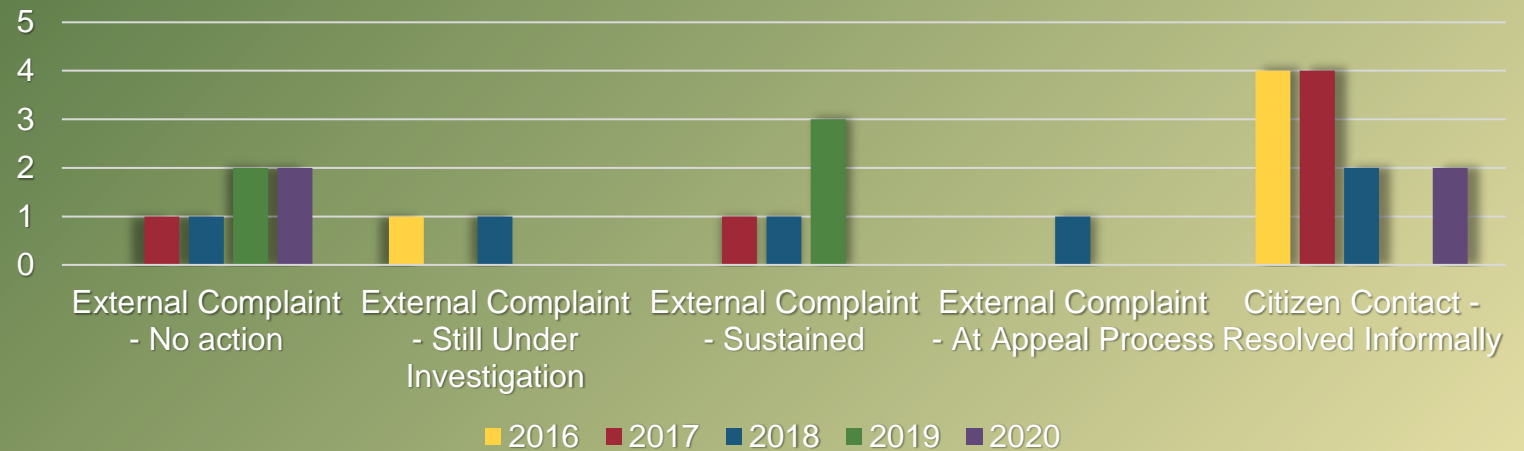
Allegations that are serious or sensitive in nature are sent to the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team or the originating agency. We had no complaints of this nature.

### PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

### Police Complaints



### Dispositions



Public complaints may be received from the public or initiated internally and can be criminal/statutory in nature and/or identified as an officer misconduct or complaint against police under the Police Act.





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## PATROL SERVICES UNIT





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2020 marked the third full year of existence for the Community Standards Unit. The mandate of the Community Standards Officer (CSO) includes enforcement of community standards issues and provincial traffic offences. Although not their primary function, the CSO has full authority under the Criminal Code and applicable provincial statutes to enforce criminal and provincial offences.

During the summer months, the Community Standards Unit is supplemented with two summer students, generally Criminal Justice students from the Lethbridge College, to assist in their duties.



## COMMUNITY STANDARDS UNIT

CSU Monthly Stats – 2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	2020
Calls for Service	14	16	18	27	45	52	56	41	25	37	28	15	374
Municipal Bylaw – Other	1	2	1	2	3	8	10	2	4	1	7	0	41
Bylaw Parking Offences	0	3	2	2	8	9	7	10	7	0	5	7	60
Items Lost and Found	4	2	1	2	3	4	8	4	4	7	0	1	40
Provincial Moving/Non-Moving	16	13	5	2	11	15	18	20	18	15	23	19	175
Total Notices issued	22	12	13	17	140	126	103	46	55	40	44	31	649





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## SCHOOL RESOURCE UNIT

The Taber Police Service - School Resource Unit was established in 1999 in partnership with the Horizon and Holy Spirit School Divisions in the Town of Taber.

The School Resource Unit provides eleven Taber schools with a dedicated School Resource Officer (SRO).

The primary focus of the SRO is to offer schools a variety of problem-solving resources, to provide law enforcement information and advice to students, parents and staff and to provide a positive Police presence within each of the schools.

The School Resource Unit promotes building positive relationships within the schools and the community.

## School Resource Officer Survey 2019

100 %

Satisfaction with the SRO's professionalism

85.2%

Satisfaction with the impromptu attendance of the SRO

96.3%

Satisfaction with timely communication with SRO

81.5%

Satisfaction with the participation of the SRO in school events/meetings etc.

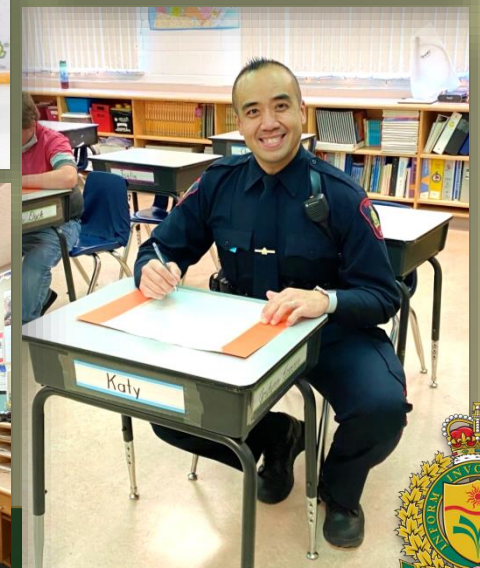
SCHOOL  
RESOURCE  
UNIT

\* Due to COVID-19, in-person learning was disrupted in March of 2020. It was again disrupted on numerous occasions thereafter when classes resumed in the fall of 2020. Therefore, no SRO survey was able to be completed for 2020.





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## SCHOOL RESOURCE UNIT





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## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS UNIT

Our Communications Operators are supervised by the Public Safety Communications Manager (PSCM). The PSCM reports to the Chief of Police

Our regional E911 communications center receives calls for service from the citizens of the Town of Taber and the M.D of Taber, they dispatch the Taber Police Service and local and regional fire services, and they forward ambulance calls to the Alberta Health Services Southern Communications Centre based out of Calgary. They also forward police calls for service to the RCMP when the incidents are not within the Town of Taber. Communications Operators are also responsible for the monitoring of 6 Community Peace Officer organizations as well as call taking/monitoring for a private security company.

Taber Police Service Communications Operators' responsibilities do not end with the dispatch function. Their responsibilities also include administrative support of Taber Police Service members through file creation, court/release document preparation and data information gathering to name a few.

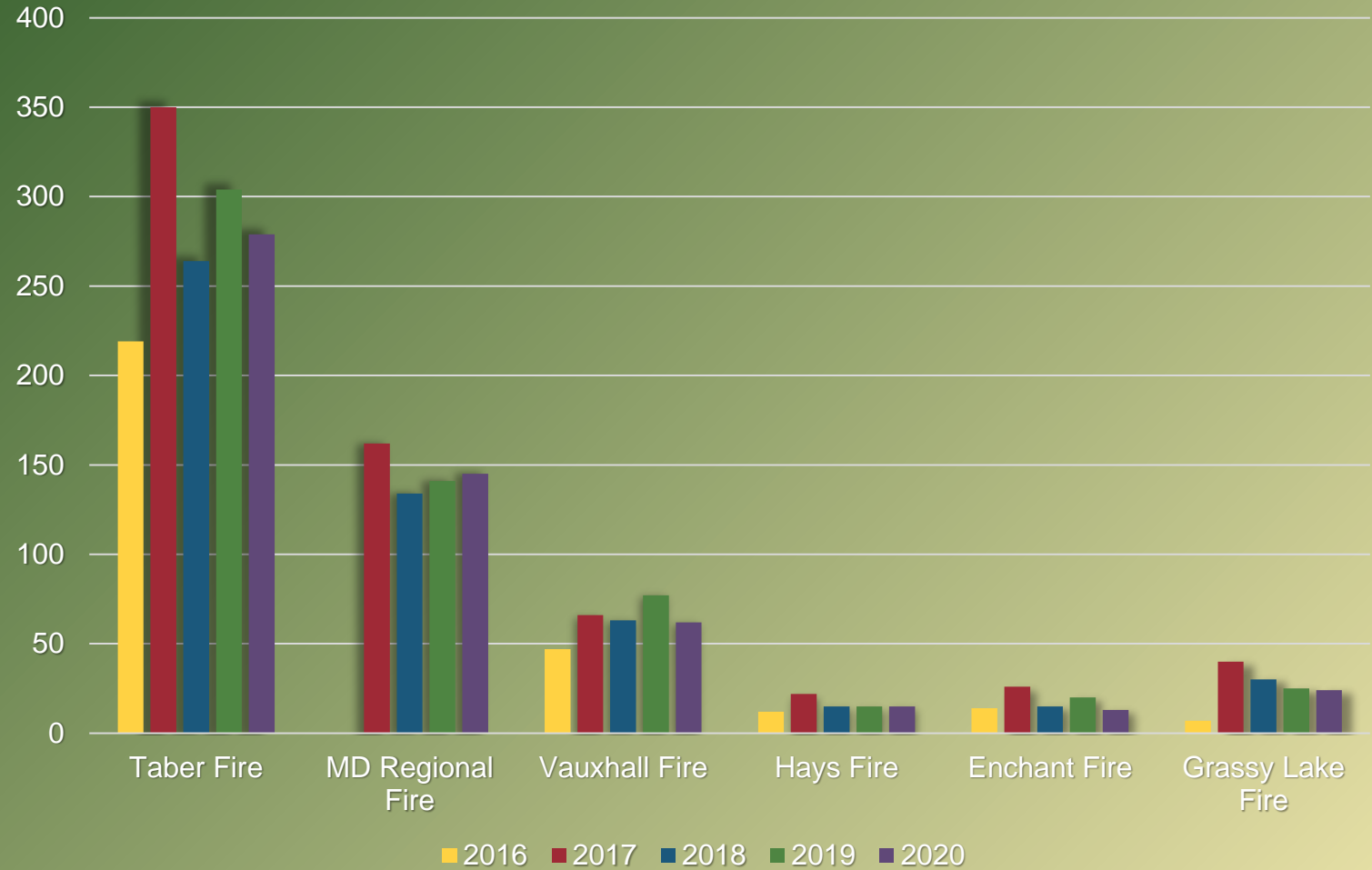


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## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS UNIT

### Total Dispatched Calls

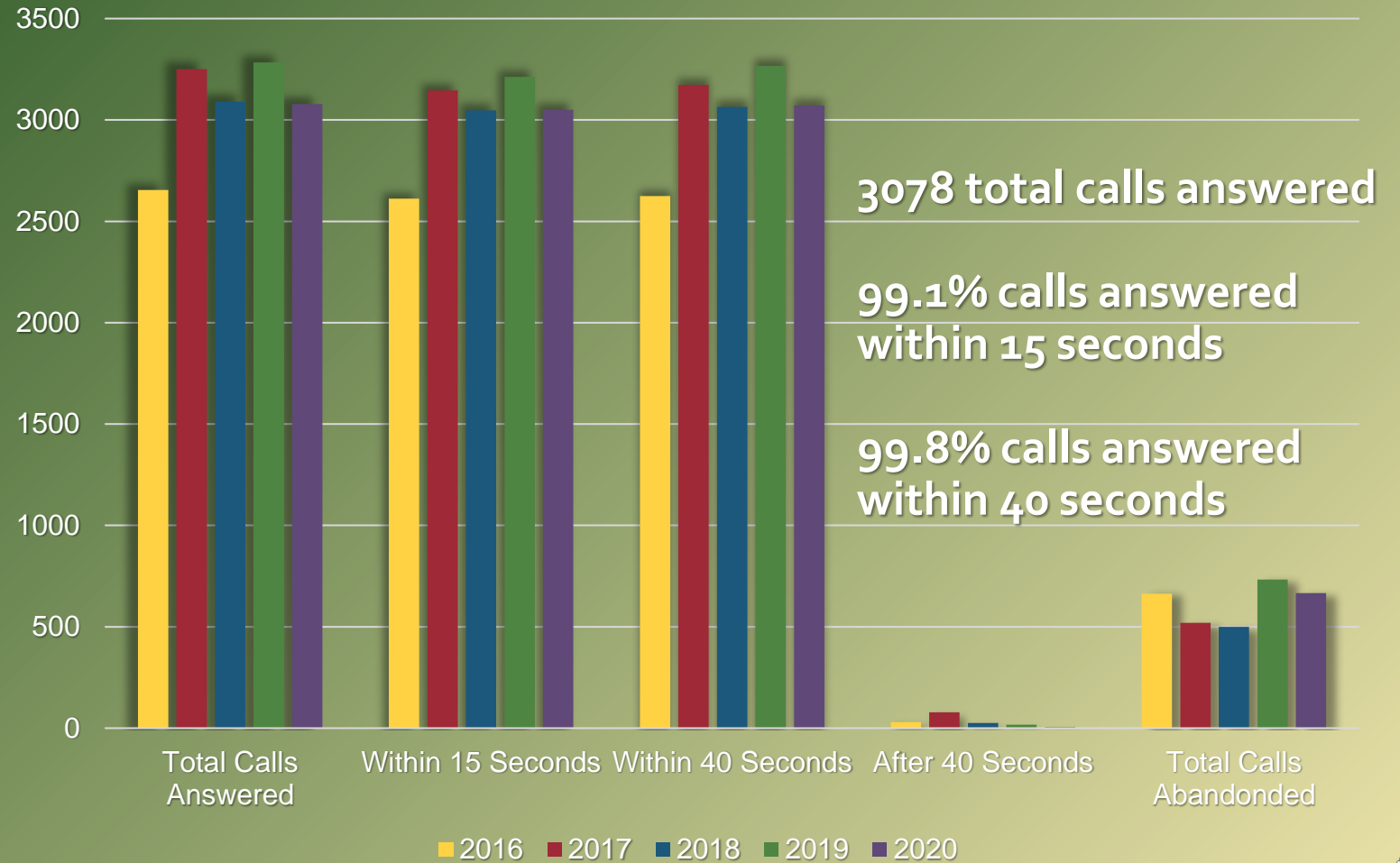


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## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS UNIT

### 911 Call Answering



NFPA Standards require that 95% of alarms received on emergency lines be answered within 15 seconds and 99% of alarms shall be answered within 40 seconds.



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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The staff of the Taber Police Service pride themselves in being part of the community of Taber. Being part of the community means being involved, both on and off duty.

This commitment to Taber is the backbone of the community policing philosophy. We believe that without having this relationship with our community we would not be as effective in solving crime and maintaining Taber as being one of the safest communities in Alberta to call home.

Challenges existed in 2020, with the COVID pandemic greatly reducing the number of community involvement opportunities for our members. Our members adapted and got involved in new and unique ways, ensuring our connection to the community continued.

The following is a list of examples of what the Taber Police Service members have committed to within our community.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Legion Ceremonies

Taber Minor Football

Taber Rebels Football

Apex Youth Awards

Horizon Victim Services

Air Cadets

Citizens on Patrol

Justin Hall Memorial  
Committee

Special Olympics Law  
Enforcement Torch Run

Family Violence Awareness  
Walk

Clearview Lodge Parade

Lindenview Parade

Numerous Birthday Parades

SRO/Teacher Parades

COP Cards

Crimestoppers

Taber Community Against  
Drugs

Taber Community Action and  
Prevention Society

Taber Public Library

Safe Haven



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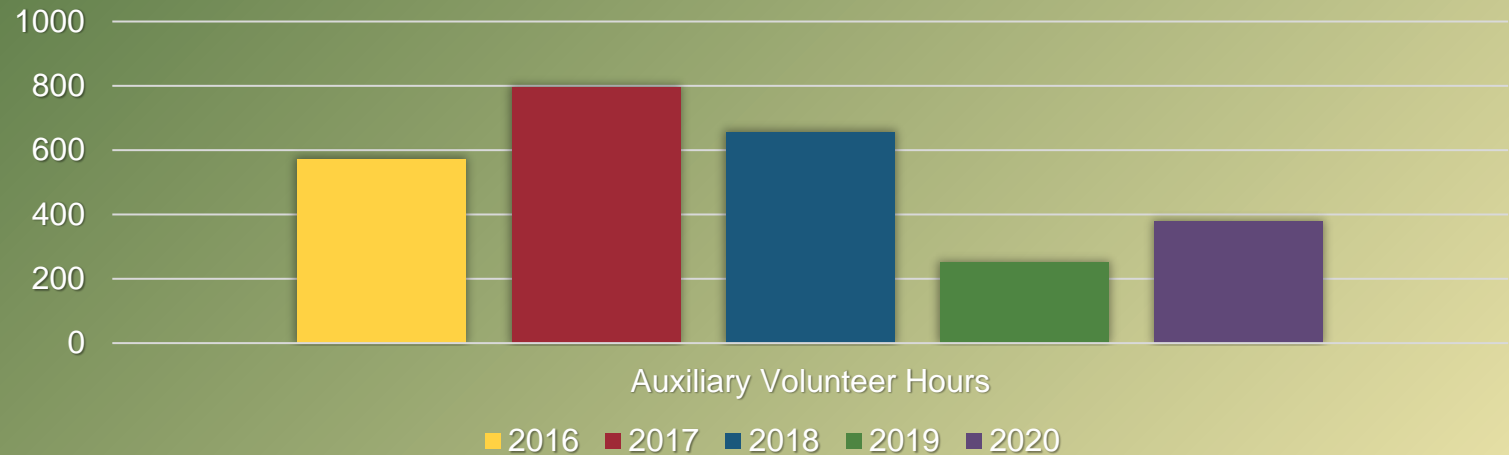


One of our volunteer initiatives that fosters community involvement and partnerships is the Taber Police Service Auxiliary Officer Program. This program compliments our members by providing an extra set of eyes and ears and allows for positive community contact.

The 2020 auxiliary officers, all residents of the Town of Taber, included a pastor, a provincial employee, a teacher and an employee at a local agriculture business.

This program was a recipient of a 2019 Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Community Justice Award for service enhancement.

## AUXILIARY OFFICER PROGRAM



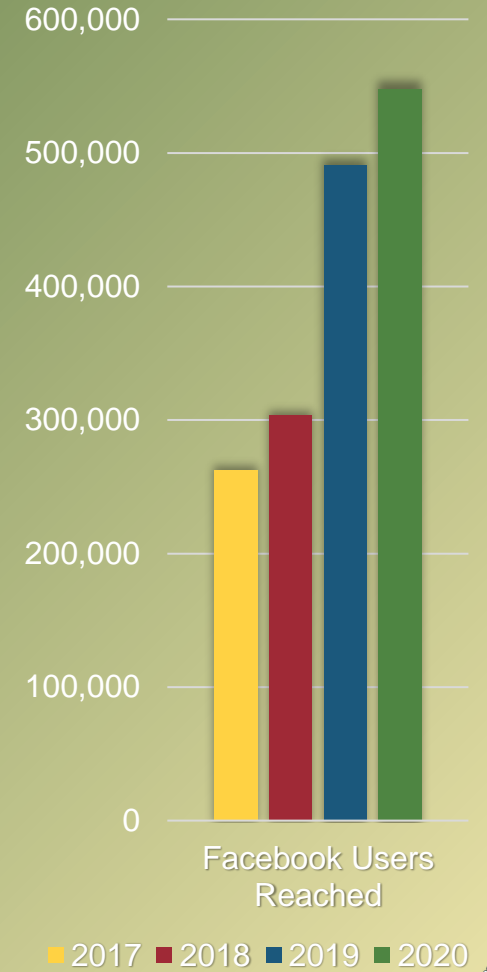
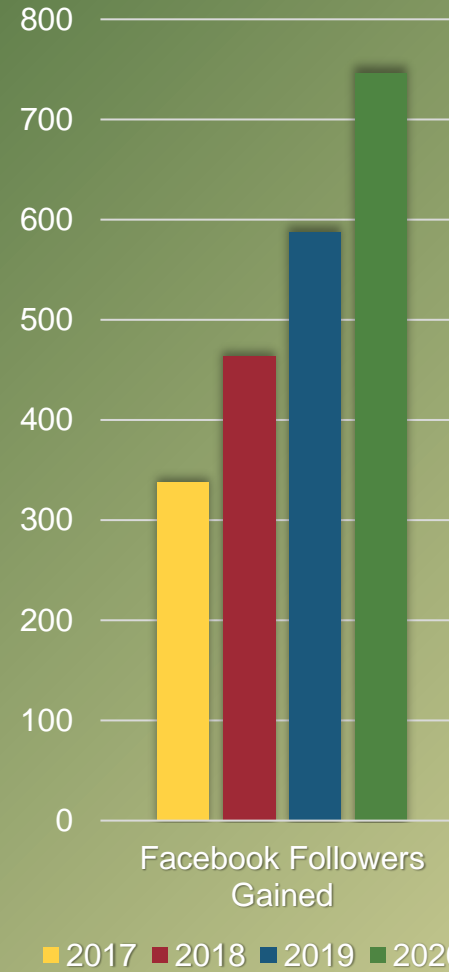
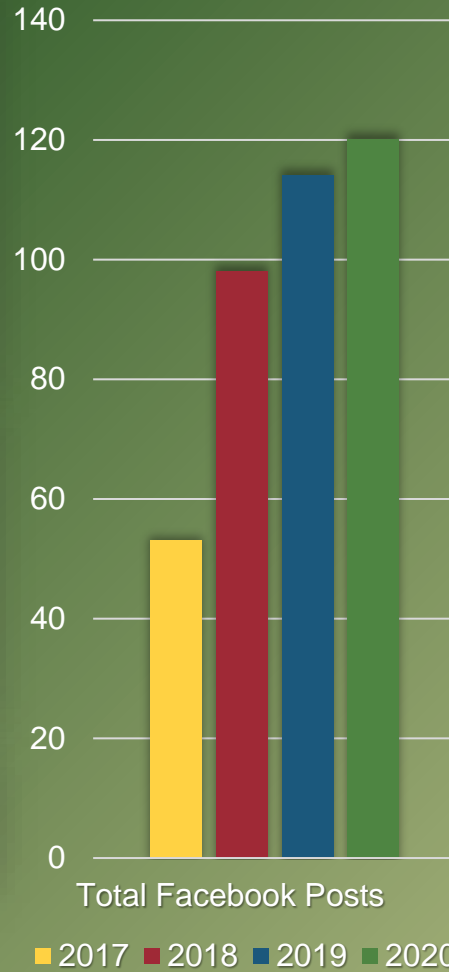
Despite the complications and challenges arising from the Public Health Measures due to COVID-19, our Auxiliary Officers accumulated 34% more hours in 2020 compared to 2019.



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## SOCIAL MEDIA



The Taber Police Service Instagram page was launched on February 22, 2019. By the end of 2019, we had 773 followers. That number increased to 1023 at the end of 2020, a 32% increase in followers.







## RECOGNITIONS

### CHIEF'S COMMENDATION

Senior Constable Andrew Evanson

Constable Mark Valgardson

Constable Lexi Blackmer

Constable Greg Schneider

Communications Operator Cole Swarbrick

### PROMOTIONS

Inspector Howard Kehler

Sergeant Dave Gyepesi

Senior Constable Juanita Fudge



### APPOINTMENT TO REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Constable Christopher Nguyen

### ALBERTA EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL

Senior Constable David Dube



### ALBERTA POLICE OFFICER LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION MEDAL

&

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S POLICE EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL

Sergeant Dave Gyepesi

Constable Christopher Nguyen

## RECOGNITIONS



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

For more information regarding this report, please contact the Chief of Police at (403) 223-8991 or at [gabela@taberpolice.ca](mailto:gabela@taberpolice.ca)



HONESTY

INTEGRITY

COMPASSION

ACCOUNTABILITY

PROFESSIONALISM

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Taber Police Service Annual Report 2020 completed by Sgt. Steve Meggison & Cst. Christopher Nguyen.

