

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE
PUBLIC & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

July 8, 2025, 9:30 A.M.
Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT	G. Blackmore G. Berg J. Clayton (virtual)	Deputy Chair Councillor Mayor
MEMBER(S) ABSENT	C. Thiessen	Committee Chair
ALSO PRESENT	D. Bressey M. O'Connor K. O'Toole W. Pilat S. Bourke (virtual) D. Lemieux D. Whiteway B. Glavin P. Bailey A. Van Beekveld M. VanWerkhoven M. Byers	Councillor Councillor Councillor Councillor City Manager City Manager, Acting Chief Financial Officer Chief Operating Officer Chief Strategy Officer Council Committee Coordinator Fire Chief Grande Prairie Police Service Senior Strategic Advisor

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:53 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED by G. Berg
Committee adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED (3 to 0)

3. DELEGATIONS

4. REPORTS

4.1 Service Area Update

D. Lemieux, Acting City Manager, presented Committee with an update on the current and projected activities planned throughout the service area:

- Enforcement Services - Peace Officers were deployed on bike patrols throughout the downtown core and Muskoseepi Park during Canada Day celebrations. An education campaign was launched on June 25, beginning with property owners within the Swanavon neighbourhood; residents received an informational flyer

highlighting the dangers of releasing domestic rabbits and the environmental impacts of an expanding feral rabbit population. The campaign reinforces key local bylaws, including the prohibition on feeding wild or feral animals.

- RCMP - Several RCMP members attended the Grande Prairie Traditional Pow Wow in Red Serge and had an opportunity to participate in the Grand Entries.
- Events & Programming - Over 20,000 people attended the 2025 Canada Day celebrations, enjoying the Canada Day Parade, festivities at Muskoseepi Park, and the evening fireworks display. More than 40 individuals registered for the Accessibility Pass program, which received overwhelmingly positive feedback from families. The Grande Prairie Triathlon welcomed 340 participants this weekend, with 206 athletes taking part in Kids of Steel categories. The event was supported by over \$16,000 in sponsorship from local businesses. Of that, \$9,500 was dedicated to the Kids of Steel, enabling free registration for all participants aged 13 and under. Upcoming events include: Special Olympics Alberta Summer Games July 11-13; Western Canada Ribfest Tour July 18-20; Crash Test Dummies August 2; and Heritage Day August 2. The Bonnetts Energy Centre Box Office has been busy supporting both City events and Northwestern Polytechnic Theatre performances. Summer Camps officially kicked off on July 3 and are currently 75% subscribed.
- Housing & Community Development - The Province has approved the City's 2024 Family & Community Support Services final report. Program participation has grown steadily year over year, with 12,000 participants in 2022, 15,000 in 2023, and over 26,000 in 2024; this significant increase reflects rising demand for FCSS-funded services, particularly among children, youth, and families in our community. While participation has increased, volunteer engagement has declined since 2022. Total volunteer hours dropped sharply in 2024, in part due to the dissolution of the Grande Prairie Regional Association of Volunteer Organizations.
- Grande Prairie Fire Department - There has been a notable increase in uptake for the FRIAA FireSmart Home Assessments, with approximately 80 now completed. FireSmart representatives were on-site at the July 1 festivities and reported significant interest with an estimated 1,000 citizen interactions through the day. GPFD responded to over 1100 incidents between April 1 and June 30, which suggests 2025 is on track to be another busy year; this included 507 medical, 327 alarms, 61 motor vehicles collisions, 24 structure fires, 19 wildfires, 22 outside fires (e.g. dumpsters), and 8 vehicle fires.
- Emergency Management - Between April and June 2025, the Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP) supported three emergency activations: Deer Ridge Estates Wildfire; Kiskatinaw River (Kelly Lake) Wildfire; and Margaret Edgson Manor Fire.

4.2 GPFD Medical Response Realignment

M. VanWerkhoven, Fire Chief, presented Committee with information regarding Medical First Response and Medical Co-Response in the City.

MOVED by G. Berg

Committee receive this report for information.

CARRIED (3 to 0)

4.3 Definition of "Peace Officer" Amending Bylaw

M. Byers, Grande Prairie Police Service Senior Strategic Advisor, presented Committee with a proposed bylaw that will align the definition of Peace Officer across all City bylaws.

MOVED by G. Berg

Committee recommend Council give three readings to Bylaw C-1489, being the Definition of a Peace Officer Amending Bylaw.

CARRIED (3 to 0)

5. CORRESPONDENCE

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. BYLAW & POLICY REVIEW

8. OUTSTANDING ITEMS LIST

The Committee reviewed the Public & Protective Services Committee Outstanding Items List for July 8, 2025.

MOVED by G. Berg

Committee receive the July 8 Outstanding Items List, as presented, for information.

CARRIED (3 to 0)

9. ADJOURN

The meeting ended at 10:12 a.m.

Deputy Chair

Council Committee Coordinator