

Flagged Item # 2	Flagged Item #2 – Ratio of Firefighters to Population Comparison THAT Administration provide a breakdown of the ratio of firefighters to population for Strathcona County in comparison to the ratio for other comparable municipalities with similar emergency service delivery models.
Date of Request	November 17, 2023
Moved By	Councillor Hartwick
Response Required by	November 21, 12:00 pm
Department / Division	Emergency Services / Community Services

Response:

The following chart reflects information regarding comparator integrated services in Alberta, with the total number of current permanent FTE's in Fire Suppression to population. This includes Firefighters and Officers, with the exception of Medicine Hat, which only reflects Firefighters and does not include Officer ranks.

Municipality	FTEs in Suppression	Population	Population Year	
Strathcona County	170	100,362	2022	0.169%
City of St. Albert	117	70,422	2022	0.166%
City of Lethbridge	174	104,254	2022	0.167%
City of Medicine Hat	80	65,949	2022	0.121%
City of Red Deer	180	105,883	2022	0.170%
City of Spruce Grove	56	40,842	2022	0.137%
Wood Buffalo	143	106,059	2021	0.135%

The ratio of Firefighter to population is only one consideration in defining the appropriate number of firefighters and stations required to provide the appropriate fire protection to a community. Every community must consider its risk profile. (density, physical makeup, heavy industry, multi family, high-rises, highway systems and dangerous goods corridors). These factors must be taken into consideration when determining fire suppression needs as well as other vital factors such as population growth, response times, first due apparatus (time it takes for the first truck to arrive) and effective response force (the appropriate number of firefighters required to complete critical tasks)

Flagged item # 2**Budget Process, November 2023**

Event concurrency (multiple events occurring at the same time) increases with population growth which is expected to continue at an accelerated rate. SCES has seen event concurrency increase significantly in recent years:

2005-2011 Concurrent events			
Year	plus 1	plus 2	plus 3
2005	128	1	0
2006	152	5	0
2007	218	12	0
2008	300	12	2
2009	319	18	1
2010	243	19	4
2011	136	9	0

2016-2023 Concurrent events				
Year	plus 1	plus 2	Plus 3	Plus 4+
2016	295	71	12	2
2017	380	81	17	7
2018	387	126	26	9
2019	325	70	14	4
2020	292	42	6	0
2021	459	126	19	5
2022	563	165	35	8
2023(ytd)	356	220	68	54