

Cypress County Highlights

Al Hoggan shared some Post-Election reflections on the administration's role with a focus on orienting new councillors and preparing for the next four years. He also shared key highlights, including:

1. Organizational Changes

- Cypress County restructured its administration to better support Council's service level goals.
- Emphasis on defining service levels through policy for more accurate budgeting and program evaluation.

2. Planning & Development

- Completed the Municipal Development Plan with extensive public input.
- Currently rewriting the Land Use Bylaw to simplify regulations and support responsible development.
- Aims to streamline development approvals and reduce red tape.

3. Economic Development Initiatives

- Created a full-time Economic Development Specialist position.
- Developed and adopted an Economic Development Strategy and Business Attraction Strategy.
- Formed an Economic Development Task Force with Council and business community members.
- Hosting the Site Link Conference in 2026 to attract industrial investment.
- Approved the Dunmore Junction Conceptual Plan for a prime 200-acre development site.

4. Regional Collaboration

- Refreshed the Inter-Municipal Development Plan with Medicine Hat and Redcliff.
- Worked on potential designs for the Heron Crossing Trail.

5. Fire Services Enhancements

- Opened new fire halls in Seven Persons and Box Springs.
- Renovated Dunmore fire hall, improving training space and housing the Community Peace Officer and SEASAR.

6. 2026 Budget & Capital Projects

- Completed budget deliberations, transferring \$8.5M to reserves.
- Anticipates road and bridge work, and a \$4.5M investment in a recreation center.
- Awaiting provincial approval for the Cypress Hills Emergency Egress Route.

7. Public Safety & Staffing

- Adding a second Community Peace Officer for broader coverage.
- Continuing to lobby for more provincial police support.

Looking Ahead to 2026, Cypress County will be looking at refreshing the Strategic Plan, completing the Land Use Bylaw, maintaining strong regional partnerships and maintaining its commitment to enhancing quality of life and welcoming visitors.