

LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 Council Chamber, City Hall 4:00 p.m.

- 1. Meeting Called to Order
- 2. Acknowledgement Statement
- 3. Approval of Agenda
- 4. Consent Agenda
 - a. March 26, 2025 Commission Meeting
- 5. Recognitions
 - a. Promotions
 - a. Staff Sergeant Ashlin Snowdon
 - b. Staff Sergeant Danny Lomness
 - c. Sergeant Michael Fielding
 - d. Sergeant Nathan Shenton
 - b. Chief Mehdizadeh Vice President of the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police
- 6. Inquiries from the Public
 - Complaints about the conduct of a police officer or any ongoing investigations are not topics for this forum
- 7. Presentations
- 8. Standing Items
 - a. Lethbridge Police Service Report Chief Mehdizadeh
 - b. Monthly Compliments Chief Mehdizadeh
 - c. Lethbridge Police Service Crime Report Deputy Chief Grobmeier
- 9. New Business

10. Closed Session

Continuation of Open Session

11. Reports

- a. Finance Committee Report Commissioner Visser
- b. Human Resources Committee (Policy and Governance Subcommittee)
 Report Commissioner McHugh

12. Upcoming Events and Meetings

- a. Regular Meeting of May 28, 2025
- b. Regular Committee Meetings:
 - i. Human Resources Committee (Policy and Governance Subcommittee) – May 19, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.
 - ii. Finance Committee May 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- c. Future Events
 - Safety and Social Standing Policy Committee submission on the Commission's Annual Plan - May 15, 2025
 - 2. Town Hall November 4, 2025
- d. Conferences
 - 1. Alberta Association of Police Governance Westlock May 2-3, 2025
 - Canadian Association of Police Governance Victoria August 14-16, 2025

13. Meeting Adjournment



LETHBRIDGE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 Council Chamber, City Hall 4:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Commission Members:

Members Brett Carlson (arrived at 4:27 p.m.), Clement Esene, Hunter Heggie, Nick Paladino, Noella Piquette, Jenn Schmidt-Rempel, Douglas Thornton

Absent:

Matthew McHugh, Jen Visser

Lethbridge Police Service Executive:

Chief Mehdizadeh, Deputy Chief Grobmeier, Inspector Lawrence, Inspector Klassen, Inspector Walper

Other:

Legal Counsel to Lethbridge Police Service Lee Cutforth, Finance Manager Kim Ordway, LPS Strategic Communications Manager Kristen Saturley, Executive Assistant to the Chief Carmen Hellawell, Commission Clerks David Sarsfield and Elizabeth Thompson

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Piquette opened the meeting of the Lethbridge Police Commission on March 26, 2025, the time being 4:00 p.m.

2. Acknowledgment Statement

Chair Piquette read the Acknowledgement Statement.

3. Approval of Agenda

Item 9a (2024 Lethbridge Police Service Annual Report) was removed from the agenda as it was presented at the February Meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Heggie BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the March 26, 2025 Lethbridge Police Commission Meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the February 26, 2025, Lethbridge Police Commission Meeting were circulated for approval in the consent agenda.

<u>Moved by Commissioner Paladino</u>, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lethbridge Police Commission adopt the Consent Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

5. Recognitions

Inspector Klassen was recognized as being appointed an Inspector for the Lethbridge Police Service.

Inspector Tomkins from the Lakeshore Regional Police Service was present to observe the proceedings.

6. Inquiries from the Public

None

7. Presentations

a. Subject Behaviour Officer Response Annual Report – Sergeant Evenson

<u>Moved by Commissioner Esene</u>, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lethbridge Police Commission receive as information the presentation on the Subject Behaviour Officer Response Annual Report.

CARRIED

b. Fail to Stop Annual Report – Staff Sergeant Meyers

<u>Moved by Commissioner Carlson</u>, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lethbridge Police Commission receive as information the presentation on the Fail to Stop Annual Report.

CARRIED

8. Standing Items

- a. Lethbridge Police Service Report Chief Mehdizadeh
- b. Monthly Compliments Chief Mehdizadeh
- c. Lethbridge Police Service Crime Report Deputy Chief Grobmeier

<u>Moved by Commissioner Thornton</u>, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lethbridge Police Commission receive as information the following reports:

- Lethbridge Police Service Report,
- Monthly Compliments, and
- Lethbridge Police Service Crime Report.

CARRIED

9. New Business

b. 2025 Lethbridge Police Service Annual Policing Plan

Moved by Commissioner Schmidt-Rempel, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lethbridge Police Commission receive as information the 2025 Lethbridge Police Service Annual Policing Plan.

CARRIED

c. 2024 Annual Street Check Report

<u>Moved by Commissioner Carlson</u>, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lethbridge Police Commission receive as information the 2024 Lethbridge Police Service Annual Street Check Report.

CARRIED

d. 2025 Lethbridge Police Commission Annual Plan

Moved by Commissioner Schmidt-Rempel, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lethbridge Police Commission receive as information the 2025 Lethbridge Police Commission Annual Plan.

CARRIED

10. Closed Session

Moved by Commissioner Esene, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lethbridge Police Commission enter into a closed meeting at 4:54 p.m. to discuss confidential matters as per sections 17 (Harmful to Personal Privacy), 20 (Harmful to Law Enforcement), 23 (Local Public Body Confidences), and 24 (Advice from Officials).

CARRIED

The Commission and the Commission Clerks attended the entirety of the closed session meeting The LPS Staff exited the closed session at 5:35 p.m. The Chief of Police exited at 5:40 p.m.

Due to his position as the Presiding Officer of the LERB required Hearing, Commissioner Carlson recused himself for item 7 and left the closed session at 7:18 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Esene, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lethbridge Police Commission adjourn the closed meeting at 7:25 p.m.

CARRIED

11. Reports

a. Finance Committee Report

Moved by Commissioner Heggie, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lethbridge Police Commission accept the Finance Committee Report as information; and

FURTHER THAT the Lethbridge Police Service Fee Schedule be approved.

CARRIED

- b. Human Resources Committee (Policy and Governance Subcommittee) Report
- c. Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference <u>Moved by Commissioner Paladino</u>, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lethbridge Police Commission authorize any member of the Lethbridge Police Commission to attend the 2025 annual Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference. CARRIED

<u>Moved by Commissioner Heggie</u>, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the closed session meeting discussions, reports, and documents relating to:

Finance Committee Report Chief Report

remain confidential, pursuant to Sections 23 (Local Public Body Confidences), and 24 (Advice from Officials) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Police Commission proceed with the confidential direction provided during the Commission with Lethbridge Police Service Closed Session.

CARRIED

d. Lethbridge Police Commission Bylaw

<u>Moved by Commissioner Paladino</u>, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the closed session meeting discussions, reports, and documents relating to:

Professional Standards
Complaints
Human Resources
Lethbridge Police Commission Bylaw
LERB Investigation

remain confidential, pursuant to Sections 17 (Harmful to Personal Privacy), 20 (Harmful to Law Enforcement), 23 (Local Public Body Confidences), and 24 (Advice from Officials) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Police Commission direct administration to:

- 1. draft the recommended amendments as discussed in closed session for the Lethbridge Police Commission Bylaw 5969;
- 2. provide the draft to the Commission for final approval via email; and
- 3. provide the approved recommendations to the City Solicitor and Governance Standing Policy Committee of the City of Lethbridge; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Police Commission proceed with the confidential direction provided during the Commission Only Closed Session.

CARRIED

<u>Moved by Commissioner Paladino</u>, BE IT RESOLVED THAT time limit extensions be granted until June 25, 2025 for File No. 2024-050 and 2024-083.

CARRIED

12. Upcoming Events and Meetings

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

13. Meeting Adjournment

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LPS Monthly Report Lethbridge Police Commission

April 2025

The Lethbridge Police Service is committed to providing a safe community for all. Monthly highlights from each division that contribute to our organizational priorities — community safety, community engagement and healthy organization — and in line with our annual policing plan goals:

- Reduce crime
- Increase capacity by reducing police response to calls that can be alternatively reported and do not require the attendance of an officer
- Increase citizen perceptions of safety
- Increase community crime prevention initiatives
- Increase satisfaction with LPS
- Increase visibility within the community
- Promote information-sharing and collaboration with partner agencies
- Enhance employee health and wellness initiatives
- Increase diversity within the organization to better represent the community we serve
- Enhance technology to address security issues and keep pace with organizational needs

Field Operations Division:

- Following the sudden death (non-criminal) of a high school student, the Youth Engagement Officer assisted in the roll-out of the Traumatic Event System, developed by the Center for Trauma Informed Practices. This is a crisis response practice that provides leaders and professionals with the tools they need to prepare, intervene and support individuals through the complex effects of trauma.
- Youth Engagement also co-presented with members of the City of Lethbridge Building Safer
 Communities program to different school groups and provided an interviewing presentation for the
 Holy Spirt School Division along with instructors from Lethbridge Polytechnic.
- The FASD Liaison Officer provided multiple presentations about online safety and the Youth Criminal Justice Act to multiple several high school classes.
- FASD Liaison also completed three sessions with the University of Lethbridge on Cross-Sector Collaboration for Youth Mental Health Care.
- The Diversity Liaison Unit (support position) organized a sweat for members of the current cadet class in partnership with Elders Morris Little Wolf and Harley Crowshoe.
- Members of the Traffic Response Unit completed a pedestrian safety initiative with assistance from Alberta Sheriffs in and around local schools that focused on educating students, staff and parents about crosswalk safety.



LPS Monthly Report Lethbridge Police Commission

April 2025

Criminal Investigation Division:

- During Fraud Prevention Month, members of the Economic Crimes Unit provided five community presentations.
- Members of the Violent Crimes Unit are completing professional development training to further their knowledge and skills with regard to sexual assault investigations.
- There are currently ongoing enforcement projects involving the Property Crimes Unit and Crime Suppression Team to target criminal activity in the downtown core. Details will be communicated further upon completion.
- An in-house surveillance course was conducted by members of the Criminal Investigation Section.

Support Services Division:

- The Recruiting Unit travelled to Victoria, BC and attended Camosun College for a first responder career fair and hosted APCAT testing at the school.
- Recruiting hosted first and second-year students from the College of the Rockies (Cranbrook, BC) for a tour of the police station and numerous unit demonstrations. This is the third year in a row the program has attended Lethbridge.
- In partnership with Lethbridge Polytechnic, the Recruiting Unit concluded a six-week training program to help female applicants and potential female applicants pass the APREP.
- The Training Unit has been busy assisting with cadet training in firearms, control tactics and verbal judo, along with preparations for upcoming emergency vehicle and Gracie control tactics courses.
- The Quality Assurance, Audits, and Accountability Unit (QAAA) continues to work on a review/audit of the LPS short term holding facility policies and procedures.
- Legislatively required quarterly audit of street check reports was completed with no issues or concerns identified.
- For the period of March 1 31, 2025, the Governance and Compliance Unit reviewed/updated/created and published nine directives:
 - Intimate Partner Violence Manual
 - Police Firearms
 - Facility Access and Security
 - Domestic Investigations Guidelines, Training Policy Review
 - Release of Information from Police Disciplinary Hearings
 - Extended Range Impact Weapons
 - Short Term Holding Facility Policy
 - Technology Asset Management
 - Elder Abuse Investigations
- The Government of Alberta Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services Policing Standards and Audits Section continues to review LPS documents as part of the scheduled compliance audit for 2021-



LPS Monthly Report Lethbridge Police Commission

April 2025

2024. The Governance and Compliance Unit is in the final stages of completing Stage One (compliance files and required data).

- The Records Management Unit hired two new casual staff who started training mid-April.
- Victim/Witness Services received training from an LFS Immigration Specialist who shared some trends and information about newcomers to Canada who are arriving and making a home in Lethbridge.
- Thanks to donations to V/WSU, the unit was able to launch a lending resource library of books on a
 wide variety of topics such as leadership, self-development, victim experience and Indigenous learning.
 These books can be borrowed through the newly released Wellness Hub intranet website. V/WSU
 expresses much gratitude to Grassroots Realty and a private donor for helping bring this dream to
 reality.

Monthly Compliments March 2025



Citizen / External (7)

Cst. McElroy

sent an email to express a compliment to Cst. McElroy, writing "I met this officer on March 14 2025 at Park Place Mall. He was friendly and answered all my questions about the police force. Please thank him for the work that he does. He is an asset to your organization."

Sgt. Talbot

sent an email to thank Sgt. Talbot for his fraud awareness presentation to members of the Centennial Quilters Guild who found it very informative and helpful.

Cst. P Davis, Cst. M LeBlanc

wanted to extend sincere appreciation for the response of Cst. P Davis and Cst. M LeBlanc who responded to 911 call after two frantic teenage boys had run up to screaming for help, writing "Within minutes, two officers arrived. One spoke with the boys while the other went to search for the suspect. The remaining officer took the time to speak with me and ensure the kids felt supported. By the time the situation was resolved, the boys were calm and, with the second officer's card in hand, comfortable enough to continue their walk to Dairy Queen rather than accepting a ride from me or the police.

I believe this may have been the first time these boys interacted with police, and I want to express how important I feel positive experiences like this are for young people. The way these officers handled the situation; with professionalism, kindness, and reassurance, will likely leave a lasting impression. Feeling heard, safe, and supported in moments of crisis can shape a person's perspective on law enforcement for years to come."

LPS Traffic Response Unit

sent a thank you note for the recent and noticeable traffic patrols in the area of Heritage Heights. Speed and excessively loud vehicles have been an on-going concern in the neighbourhood, and the increased police visibility in the area is appreciated.

Cst. Andrade

A member of the public sent an email to the Chief of Police expressing their appreciation for the service of LPS members including Cst. Andrade for their work with a family member who suffers from FASD and ADHD. This family has faced physical, verbal, and emotional aggression in their home over the past 10 years. The writer was grateful for the specially trained members of the LPS as well as many regular beat officers who have helped the family preclude and deal with aggression in their home. The family was appreciative for the many ways LPS equips its members with on-going and cutting-edge knowledge techniques in all aspects of keeping the peace in our community.

Cst. Toner

VSU sent a note on behalf of a complainant to express appreciation to Cst. Toner for her kindness and compassion during a recent investigation that progressed through the court process. The complainant's mother also praised all the work LPS did and how complainant and family received no judgement from anyone they worked with throughout the case.

Chief Mehdizadeh and LPS members

sent a card to the Chief of Police thanking him and the LPS for their hard work and success they've achieved working for the citizens of Lethbridge.

Internal (4)

Cst. Pierzchala

Accident Support Services (Collision Reporting Centre) manager Chris Johnson emailed a compliment regarding front desk Cst. Pierzchala and the manner in which she recently assisted a member of the public who faced a significant setback when his bag, containing his passport, was stolen impacting his ability to leave Canada on a planned trip. The complainant struggles to communicate with people which is often misinterpreted as hostility, in turn affecting how they responded to him. This cycle leads to frustration on his part, which is then perceived as further hostility.

Constable Pierzchala however took the time to understand what the complainant's issue was going well above and beyond in her efforts to help him get his passport issue resolved so that he would be able to get on his plane with no issues. Chris Johnson was amazed at the level of commitment and professional integrity Cst. Pierzchala demonstrated in helping the complainant. She raised the bar for helping difficult people by stepping up to the challenge that others were not able to handle.

Cst. Middleton-Hope

Congratulations to Cst. Middleton-Hope for his recent successful completion of the Polygraph Examiners Course at the Canadian Police College in Ottawa where he was awarded a certificate for being the top student. This is a notable achievement given the challenging nature of this course!

Robyn Kereliuk

PCU Sgt. Breedon sent a big thank you to Robyn Kereliuk for her support and integral behind the scenes work to ensure the basic surveillance course recently hosted by LPS was successfully implemented.

VSU Danielle F. and Emily W.

Sgt. Birrell wished to acknowledge some great work by VSU Advocates Danielle F. and Emily W. 14 "LPS members recently attended a call for service involving a suicide and LPS members on-scene were having difficulty making any connection with family members during their time of tragedy. Things changed once Danielle and Emily arrived – the family was more open to discussion. This allowed officers to obtain information required of the investigation. I attribute this change to the Advocates approach in the support they were providing. The Advocates were empathetic, and demonstrated active listening."

Community Partner (2)

Kanwarpreet Kaur, Tashiah Robbins, Abel Markos

Bobbi Urness with PSCC wanted to identify a job well done by The Watch members Kanwarpreet Kaur, Tashiah Robbins, Abel Markos who responded to a call of an unsteady male in downtown Lethbridge. They checked on the community member, confirmed he was not having a mental health crisis or suicidal, and really connected with him. The Watch then contacted DOT and arranged a safe ride for the community member to the shelter.

Cst. E Enkirch

RCMP K-Division Expert Witness Program Coordinator Cpl. Lintott sent an email to acknowledge the contributions and expertise of Cst. E Enkirch regarding providing expert opinions that has been invaluable in advancing complex investigations and prosecutions, writing "The development and maintenance of qualified expert witnesses require significant commitment, and it is clear that Lethbridge Police management recognizes the importance of fostering this expertise. Having the backing of leadership is essential to ensuring that experts like (Cst. E) Enkirch can continue refining their knowledge, testifying effectively in court, and ultimately strengthening the administration of justice."

COMMISSION'S REPORT

2025-04-16



MONTHLY REPORTING TO COMMISSION

UCR CRIME DATA

JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2019-2025

Data Extraction as of 2025-04-16

April 2025

REPORTED CRIME VIOLATIONS IN LETHBRIDGE: JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2019-2025

Executive Summary

Note: The CSI score chart does not include some crime types

- Since Robbery is reported under a single UCR code, the CSI score chart will follow a similar pattern to the violation count chart
- Theft of Motor Vehicle and Mischief have uniform CSI scores across their respective UCR codes, resulting in the same chart pattern as violation counts

When comparing January-February 2025 to January-February 2024:

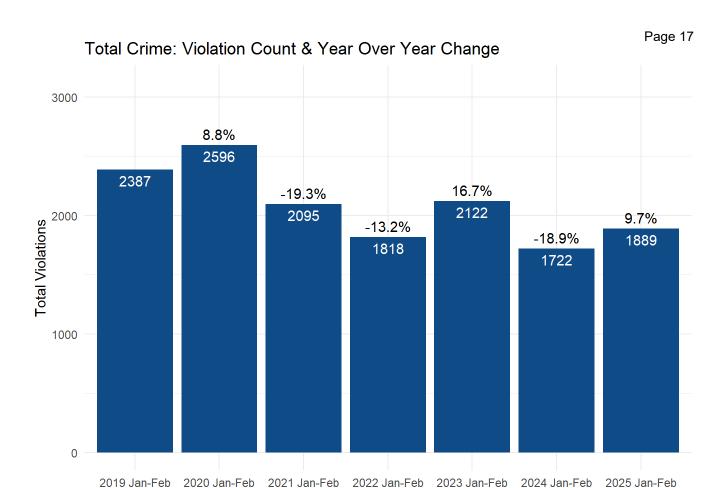
- Total crime violations increased by 9.7%, and total Crime Severity Index (CSI) score increased by 4%
- Person crime violations increased by 8.5%, and person crime CSI score increased by 2.9%
- Property crime violations increased by 11.9%, and property crime CSI score increased by 3.7%

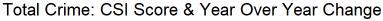
When comparing February 2025 to February 2024:

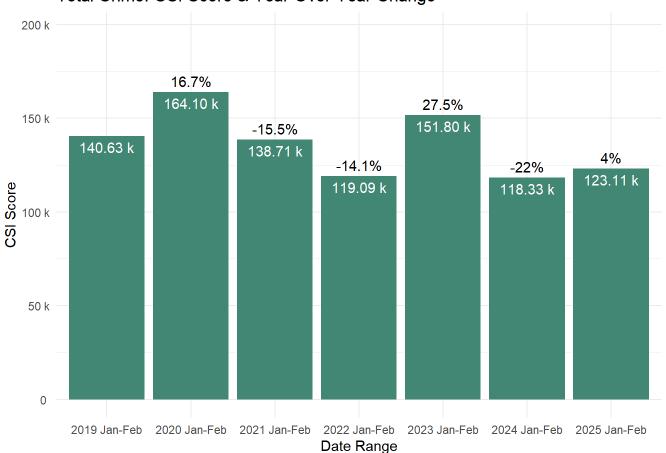
- Total crime violations increased by 14.7% and total crime Severity Index (CSI) score increased by 9.5%
- Person crime violations increased by 1.3% and person crime CSI score decreased by -2.2%
- Property crime violations increased by 33.8% and property crime CSI score increased by 39.8%

Crime by City Region: January-February 2025 compared to 2024

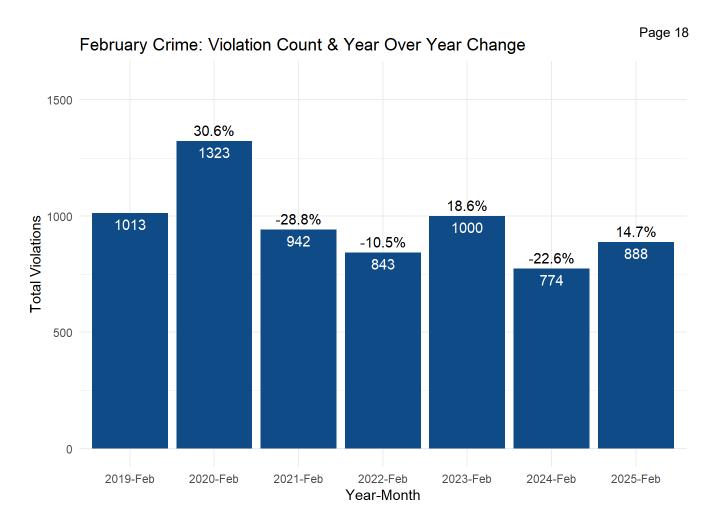
- Downtown Lethbridge; crime violations increased by 23% and CSI score increased by 25.8%
- North Lethbridge; crime violations increased by 22.3% and CSI score increased by 7.4%
- South Lethbridge; crime violations decreased by -15% and CSI score decreased by -17.7%
- West Lethbridge; crime violations increased by 9.5% and CSI score increased by 10.1%

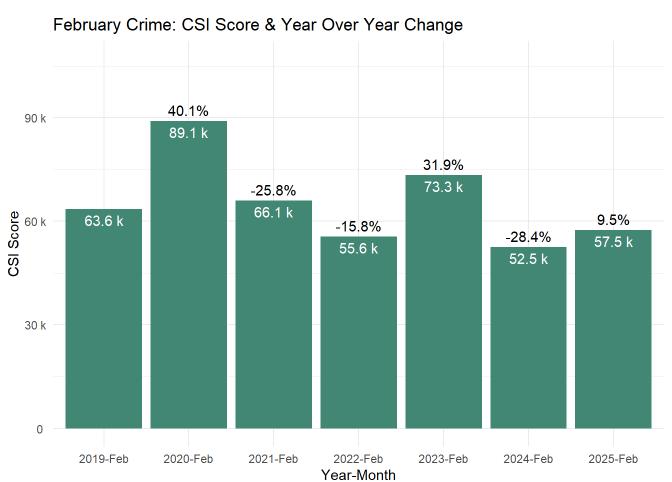




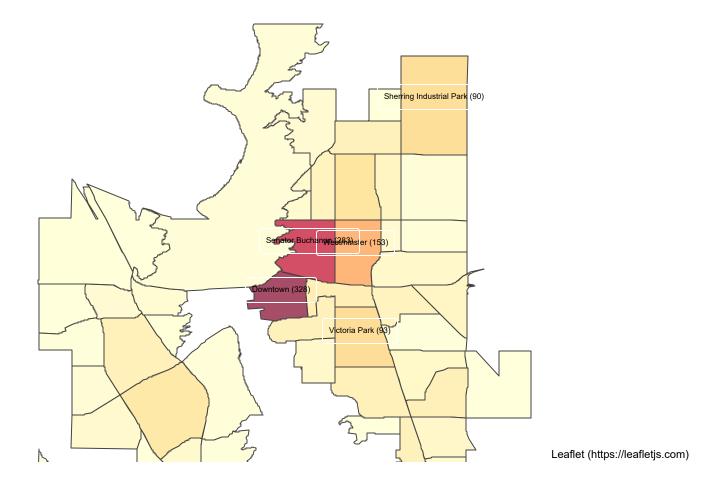


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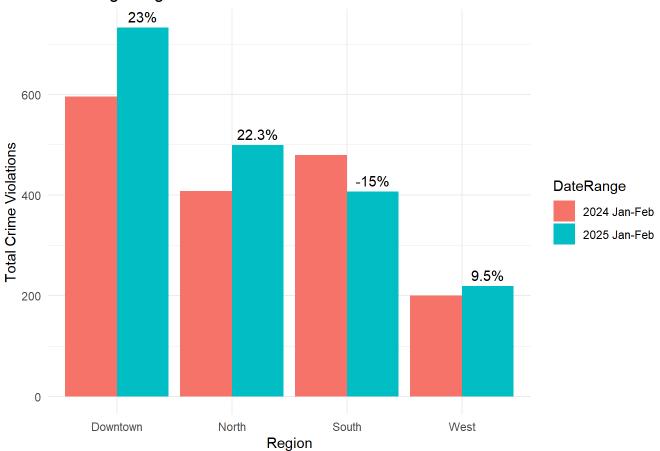




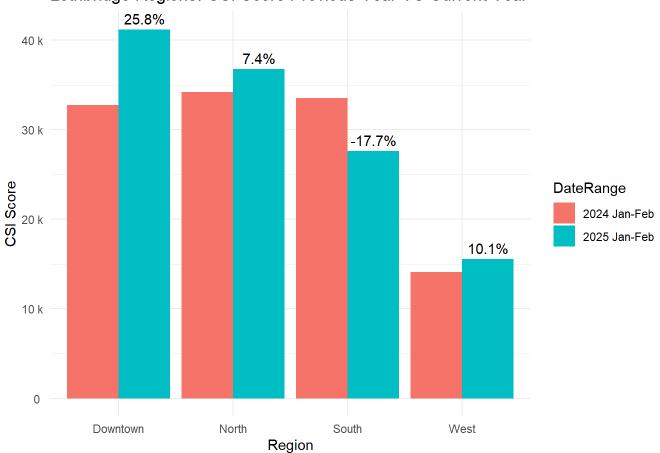
Crime Hotspots: Top Neighborhoods January to February 2025



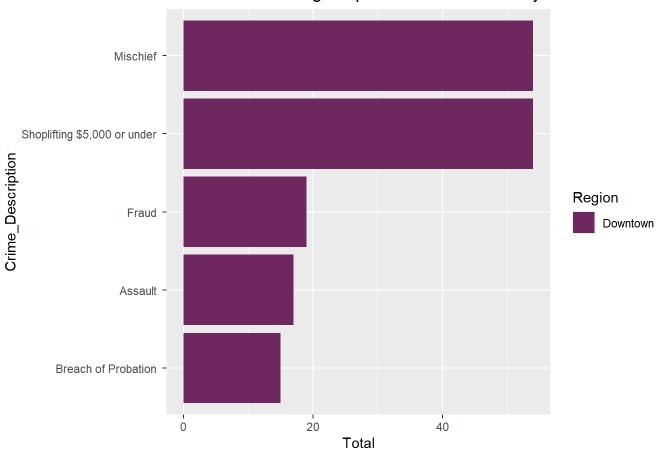
Lethbridge Regions: Crime Violations Previous Year VS Current Year



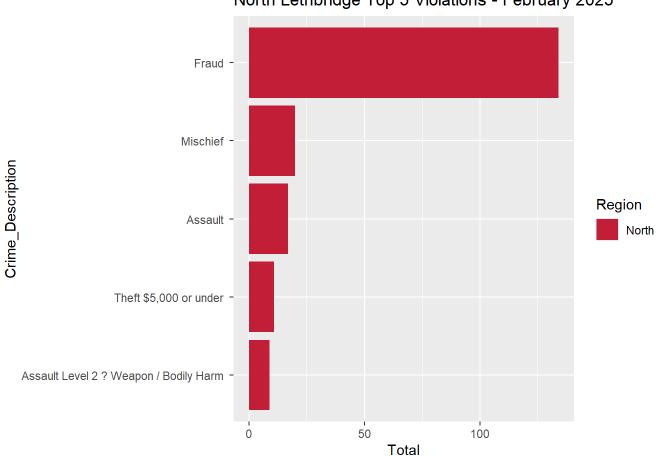
Lethbridge Regions: CSI Score Previous Year VS Current Year



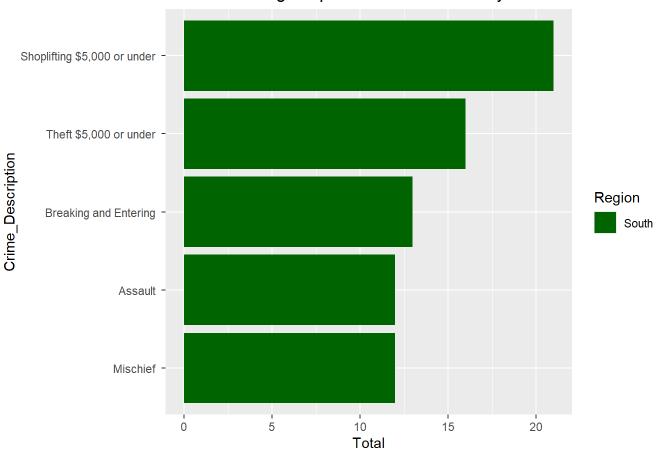
Downtown Lethbridge Top 5 Violations - February 2025



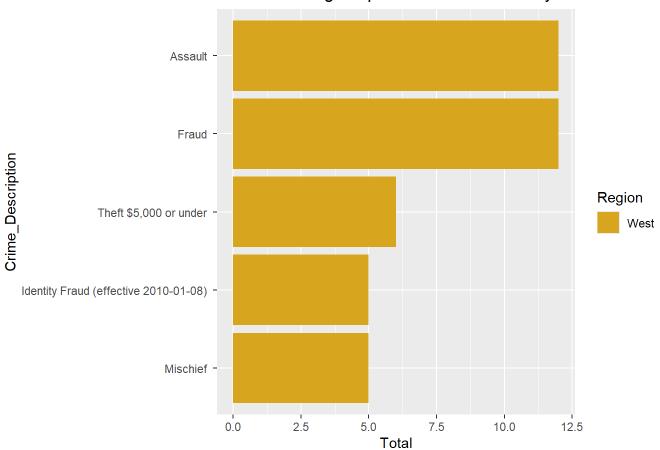
North Lethbridge Top 5 Violations - February 2025

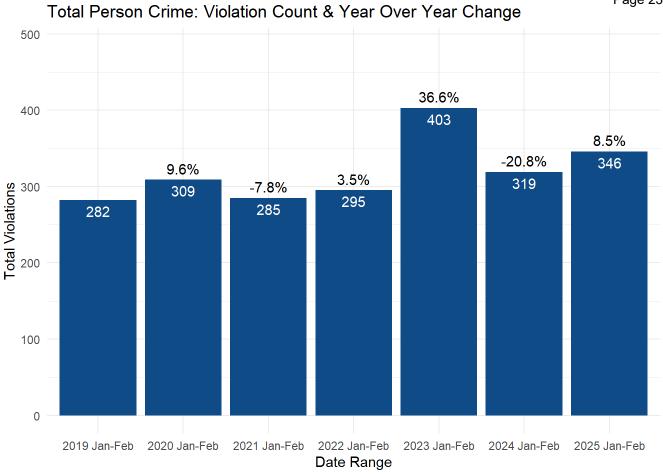


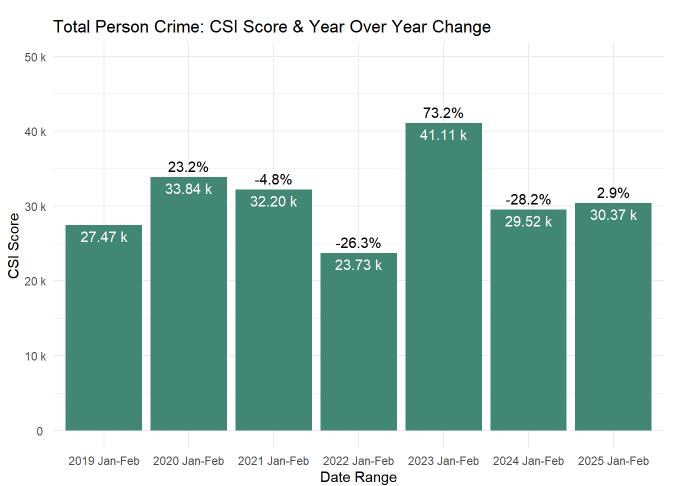
South Lethbridge Top 5 Violations - February 2025

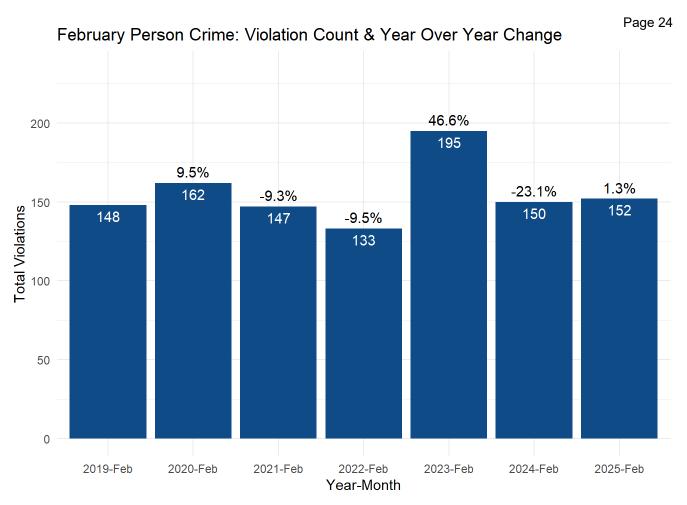


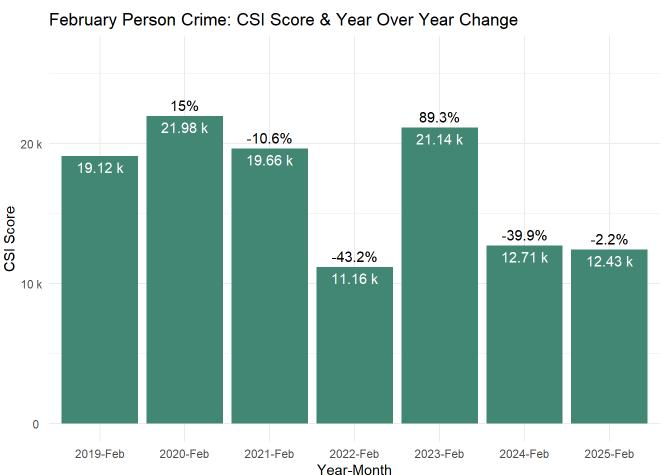
West Lethbridge Top 5 Violations - February 2025

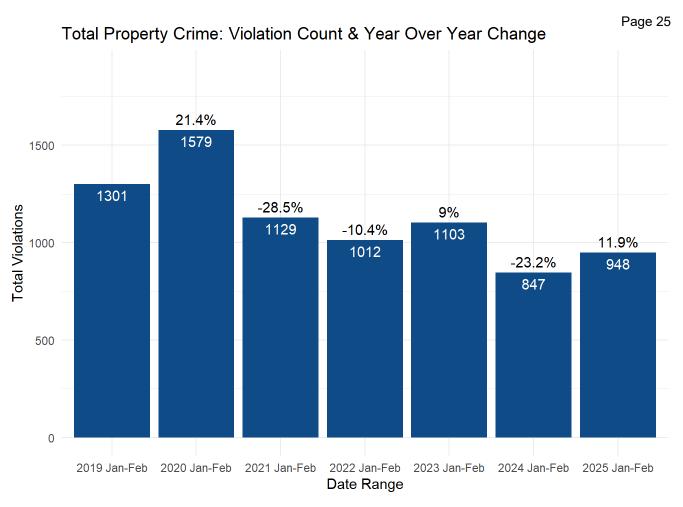


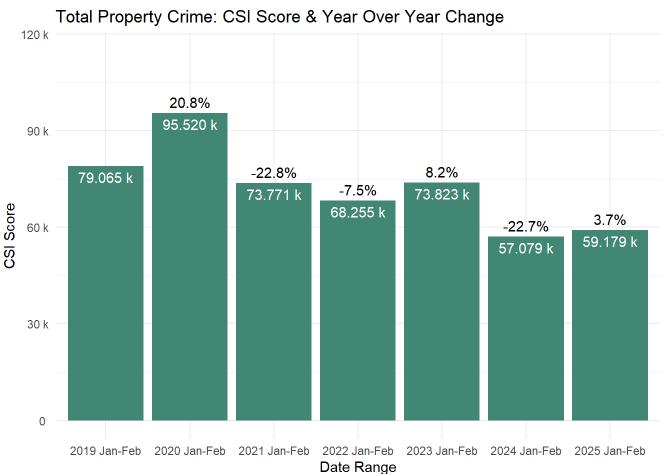


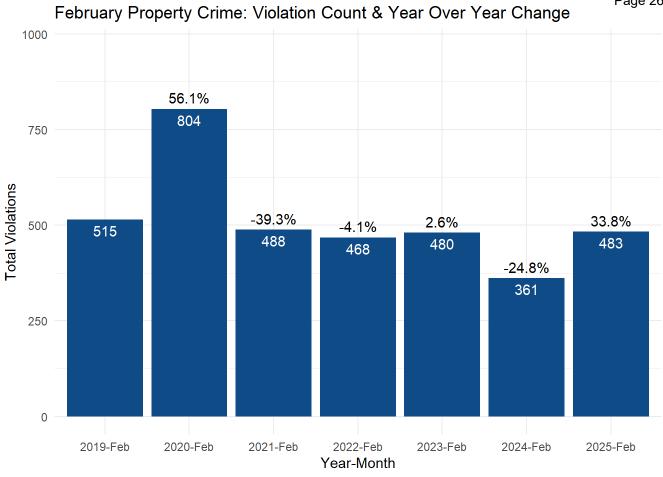




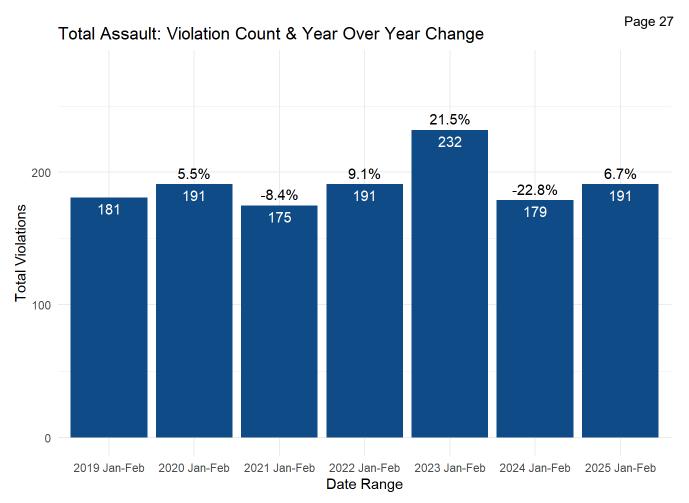


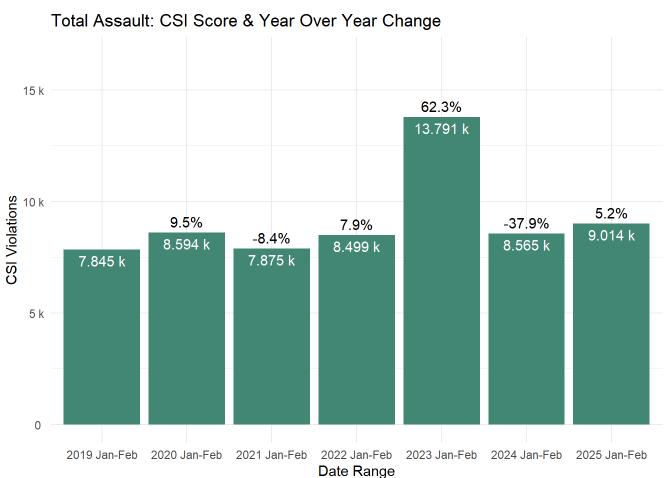


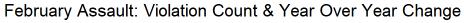


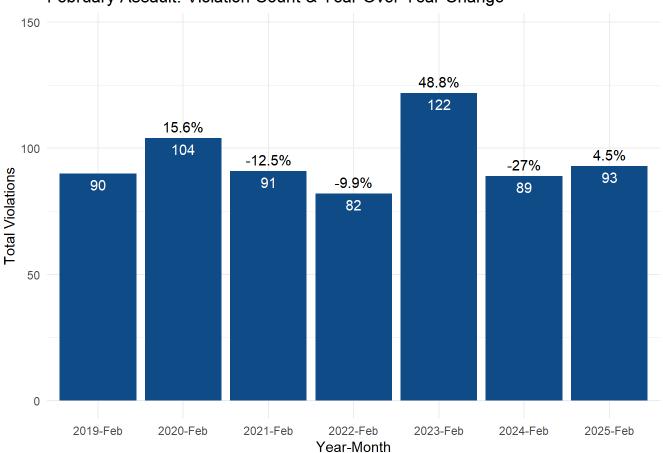


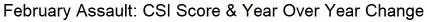


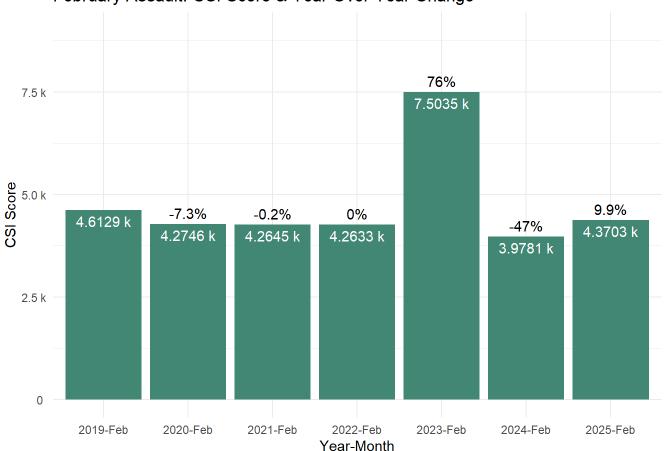


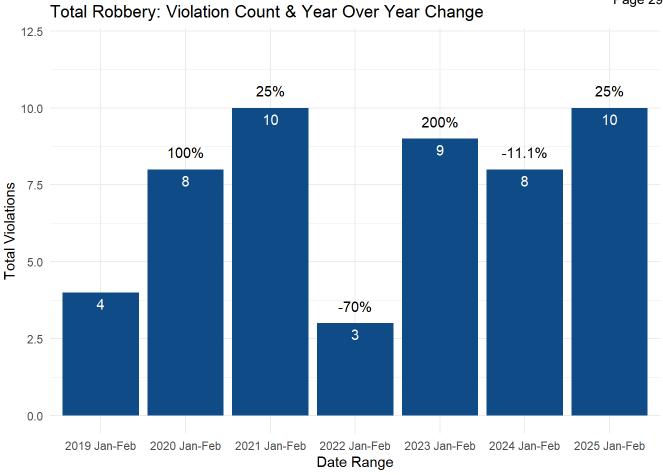




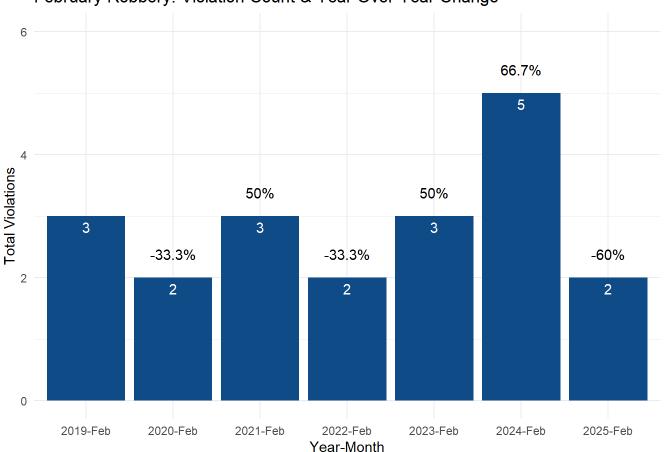


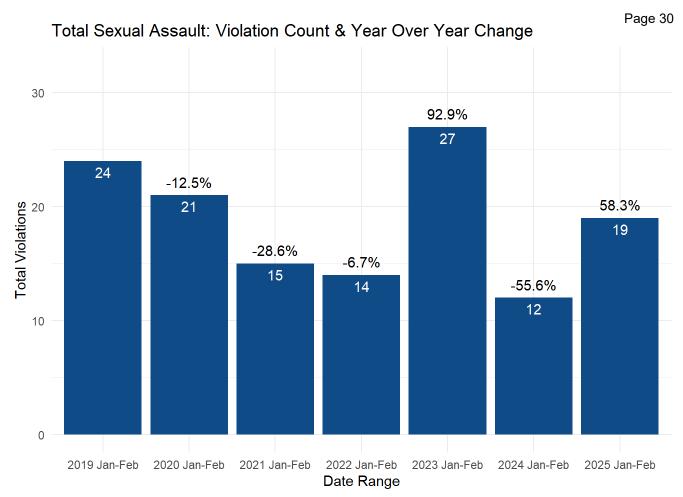


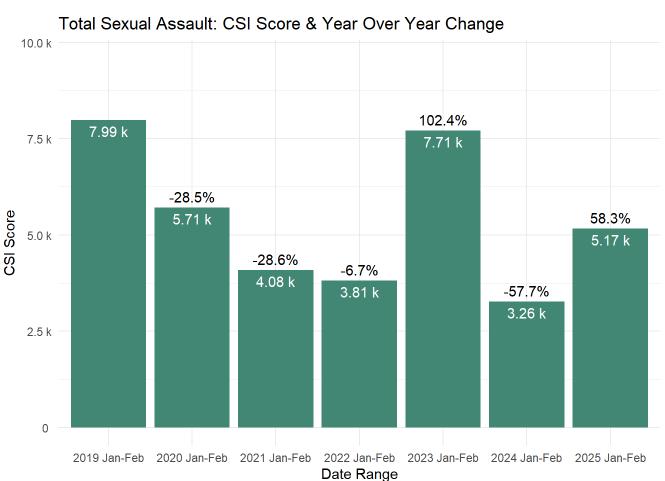


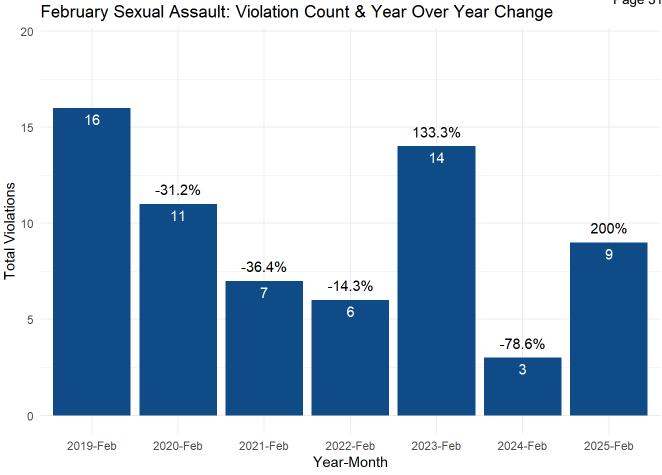


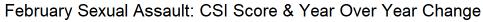


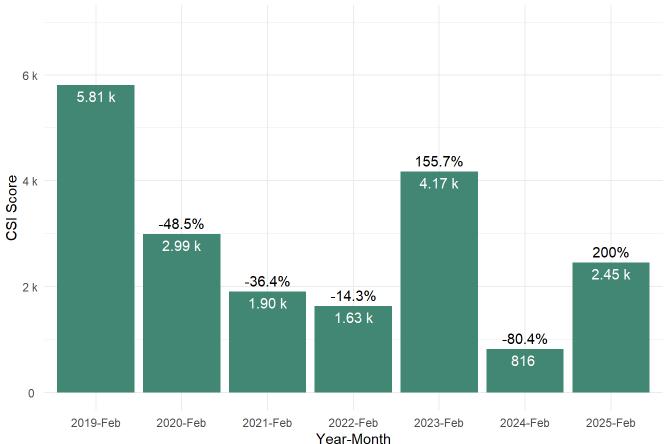


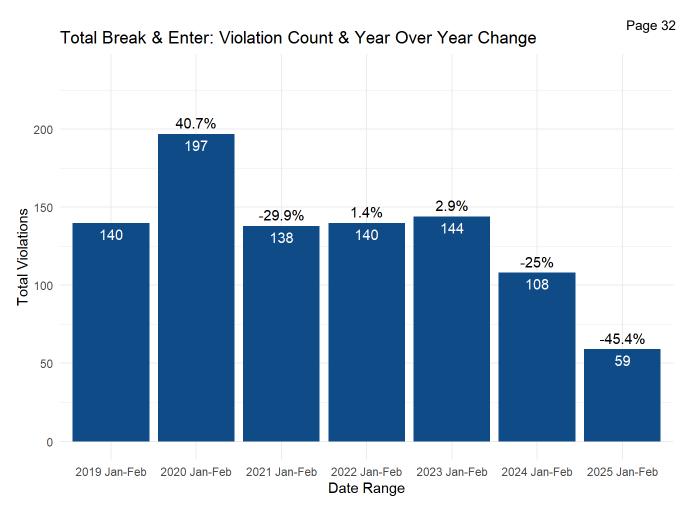


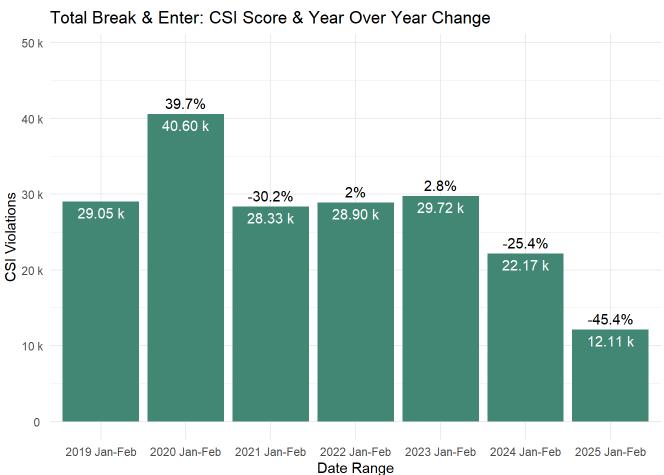


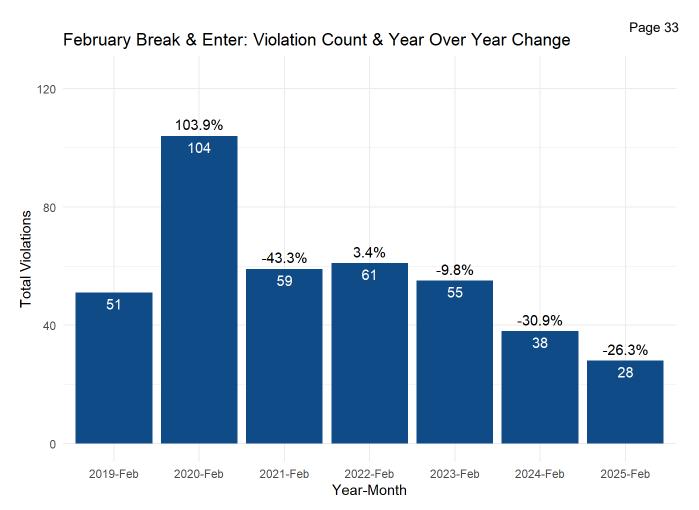


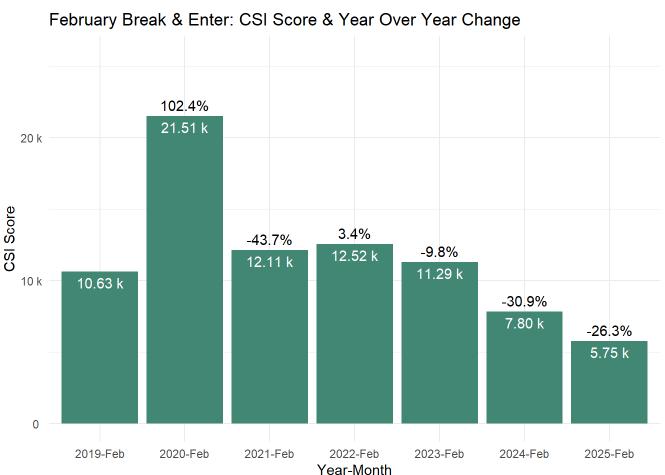


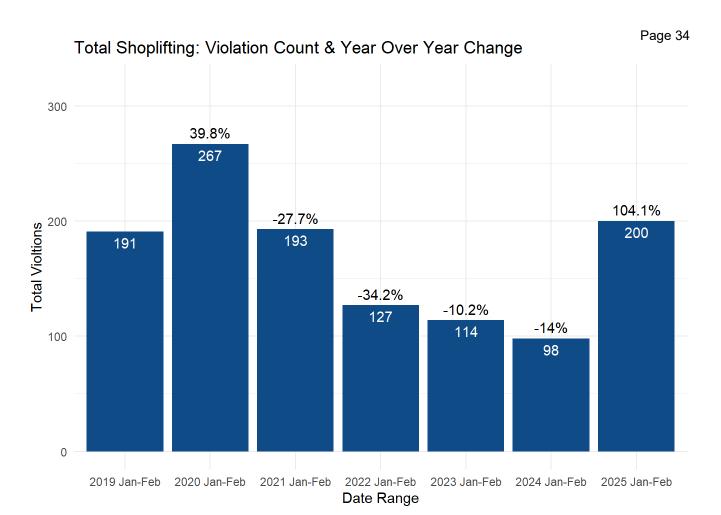


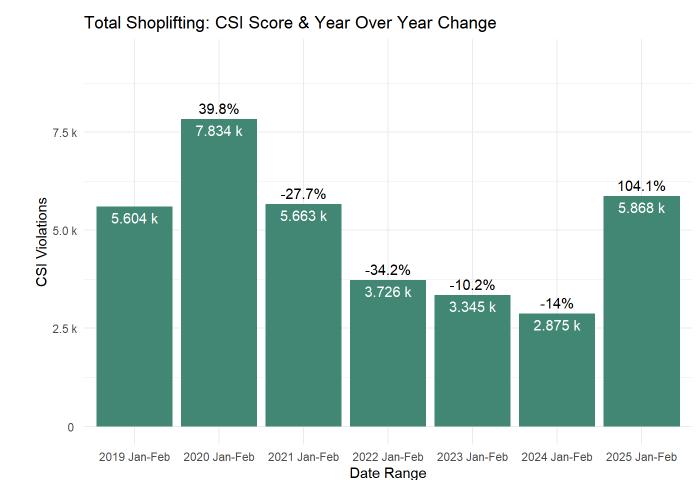




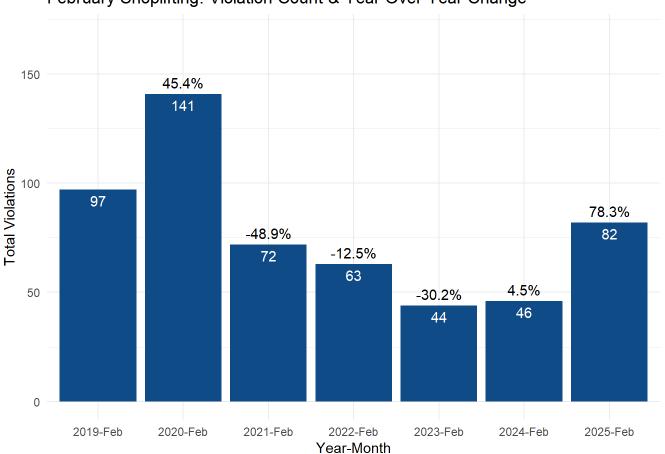




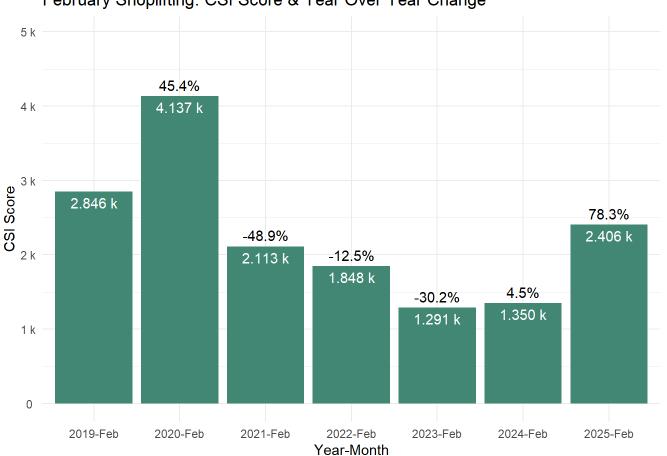


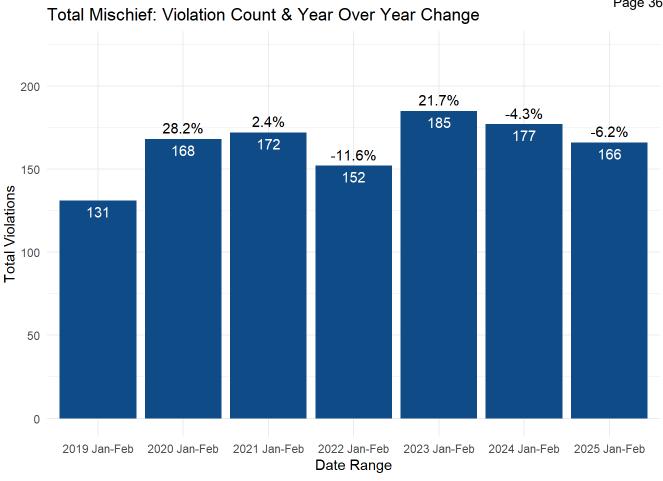


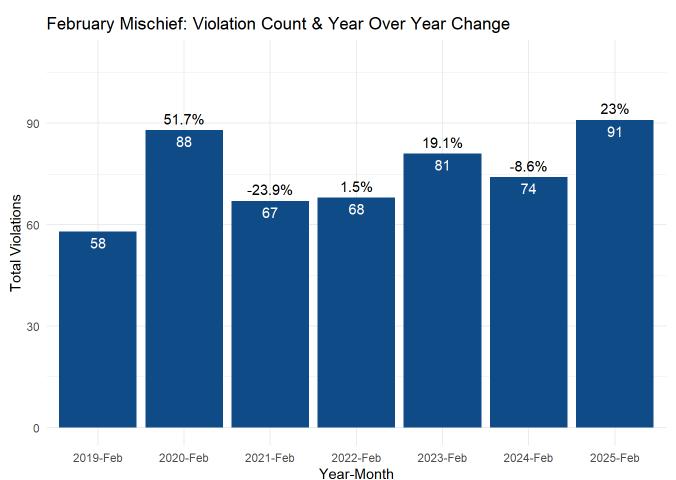


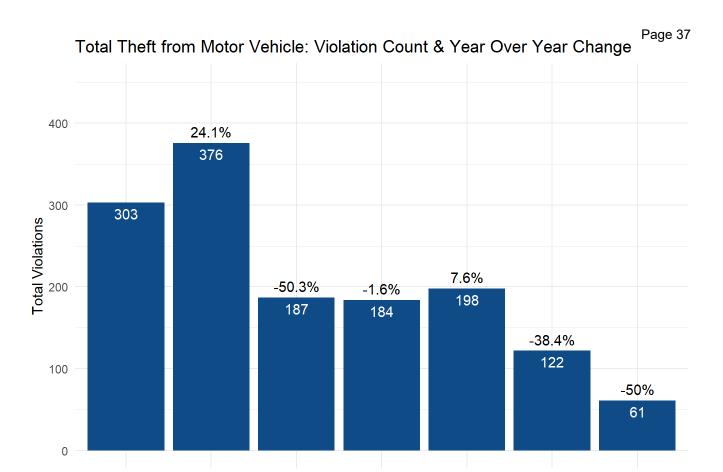


February Shoplifting: CSI Score & Year Over Year Change









2022 Jan-Feb

2023 Jan-Feb

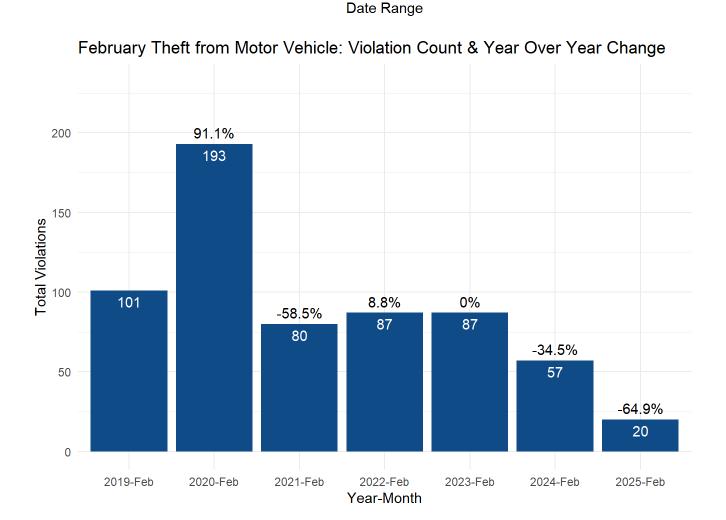
2024 Jan-Feb

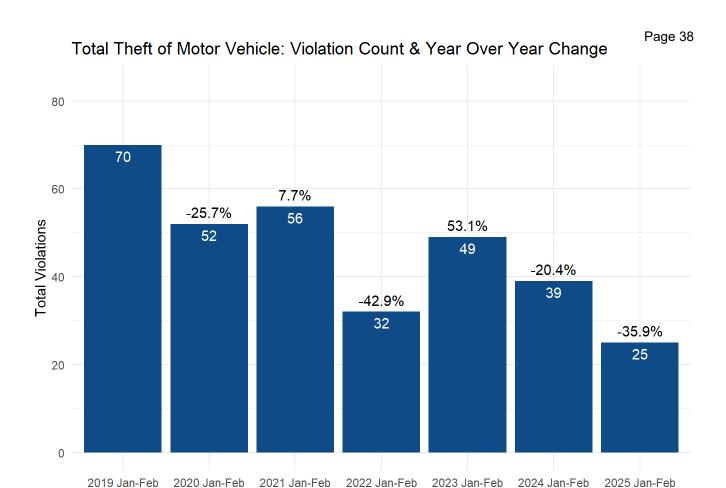
2025 Jan-Feb

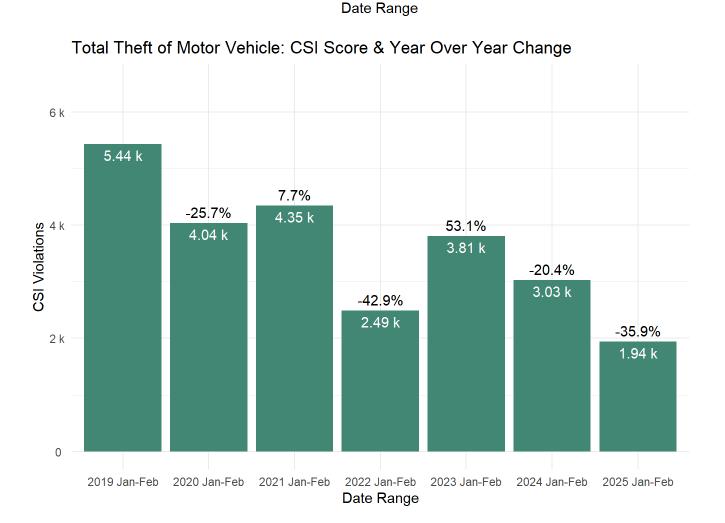
2019 Jan-Feb

2020 Jan-Feb

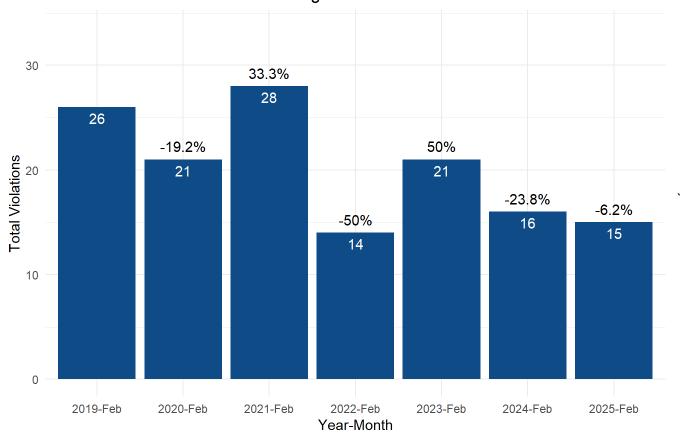
2021 Jan-Feb



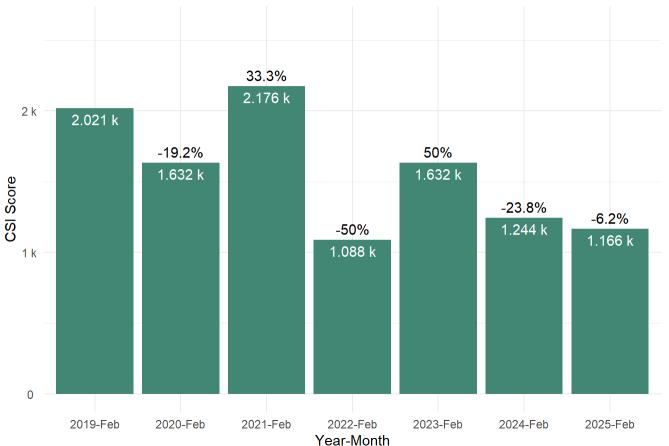




February Theft of Motor Vehicle: Count & Year Over Year Change









Lethbridge Police Commission

OPEN SESSION

Date of LPC Meeting: For April 30 2025

Subject: April 22, 2025 Finance Committee Report

Background: The Finance Committee met on April 22, 2025. The following are the highlights:

- The financial report as of March 31, 2025 was provided for the Committee. A summary is included in the public agenda.
- Information on the Unites States Remission Order (2025) was shared. It provides time-limited relief from tariffs on U.S. Goods in the following areas:
 - o imported by or on behalf of listed Canadian public or private entities in the public health, health care, public safety, and national security sectors;
 - o identified as necessary for public health or health care;
 - o for use in Canadian manufacturing;
 - o for processing in Canada; or
 - o for food and beverage packaging in Canada.

This is in effect from April 16 – October 15, 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

• That the report from the Finance Committee be accepted as information.



Lethbridge Police Service

Financial Report – period ended March 31, 2025

Purpose

In consultation with the Chief of Police, the Lethbridge Police Commission is responsible to determine the funding required to operate the Lethbridge Police Service, and allocate funding received from the City of Lethbridge. The fiduciary responsibility is supported by the Lethbridge Police Commission Finance Committee, who receives financial data from the Service and reports findings to the Commission.

Financial Report

Figures presented are book values at the period end date, without forecasting future period revenues and expenses. As a result, they represent the transaction record at a point in time and are not the complete financial position or estimate to yearend.

(in thousands)	2025 Budget		2025 Actuals	
Revenue				
Tax supported funding	\$ 47,253	\$	10,185	
Grants - provincial	3,087		562	
Other revenue	 2,614		663	
Total revenue	52,954		11,410	
Wages and benefits	\$ 41,815	\$	8,482	
Operations	11,005		3,908	
Commission	134		20	
Total expenditure	52,954		12,410	
	\$	(\$	1,000)	

