



FY2025 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

FY2025 Board of Directors:

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Headquartered within the Ludlow Community Center complex, and serving the broader region, including the Towns of Mount Holly, Plymouth, Reading, Cavendish, & Andover, Okemo Valley TV is a non profit organization that has been providing community-based media services nearly 25 years. The station operates two community access TV channels –on local cable (Comcast channels 1076 & 1086 and VTel 166 & 167) and also streaming 24/7 via the station's website (okemovalley.tv) as well as on a free, downloadable app. In addition, we provide community members and organizations with equipment, training, facilities, and technical support, all for the purposes of providing local programming to be broadcast, streamed, and archived.

The biggest new addition is that we now have a license to operate a low power FM (LPFM) community radio station. WLUD is expected to be on the air, transmitting from a tower on Okemo Mountain, at 93.3 FM by March 2027. Okemo Mountain Resort is supporting the effort by providing the space for the tower, antenna, and transmitter. The Town of Ludlow has supported start-up capital costs for the station through ARPA funding. Additional support has also come from Ludlow Rotary Club; we will soon be learning about a grant from the State, which would support community radio stations like WLUD in their efforts to disseminate emergency preparedness and response information (as recent examples, community radio stations such as WGDR in Plainfield, VT and Asheville FM In North Carolina have provided tremendous value during the devastating flood events in their respective communities).

During FY2025, 966 new “first run” (non-repeat) programs were televised & streamed. Of these, 714 were “local” (produced, presented, or otherwise generated from within our service area). Much of this programming was produced by community members (often with support from our staff). Another large portion of the programming was our “gavel-to-gavel” coverage of local government meetings. This is a core service that we provide to the local Towns, giving residents a portal into their local government bodies in action; the recordings are archived on okemovalley.tv and You Tube.

The volume of meetings that we cover has grown over the years; during FY2025, the total was 175 meetings across six Towns (we also televise, stream & archive school board meetings from 3 different Supervisory Unions in the region). The scope of this work has also evolved, as the migration to the hybrid meeting format led to the installation and implementation of AV systems in several of the Town Offices; Okemo Valley TV staff supports these systems and trains others on how to use them. That has become a big part of our work.

The Annual Meeting was held at the end of June 2025. It included an Open House, as well as the annual presentation of producer awards. The award recipients were Dave VanGuilder & Dave Pettit (“Producers of the Year”), Phill Gatenby (“Outstanding Achievement”), Cavendish After School Program (“Youth Programming”), and Sammy Blanchette (“Community Impact” award). More information about the awards and other news from the station can be found online at okemovalley.tv/news.

Total operating expenses for FY2025 were \$237,290; capital expenses (equipment & building improvements) totaled \$12,486. Revenue totaled \$227,306; the primary source of revenue continues to be cable funding (as per State-mandated requirements), which totaled \$178,010, accounting for 78% of all revenue. The remaining revenue was received from a combination of sources, including State funding, local fundraising, and fee-for-service. We are grateful the support of the Towns of Ludlow, Cavendish, Plymouth, Mount Holly, & Andover. Each of these Towns provided budget appropriations, which totaled \$5,650 in contributions. Support from the State of VT amounted to \$16,206, which was down from \$45,000 the previous year (resulting in a significant deficit in the operating budget). On the capital side of the budget, we received grant funding from both the Ludlow Rotary Club (for WLUD equipment) and from VT Mutual Insurance Charitable Giving Fund.

We are fortunate to also receive financial support from local business underwriters for FY2025: The Killarney, VT Properties / William Raavis Real Estate, Red Vault Productions, VT Ski House, Friends of Ludlow Auditorium, & VTel. In addition, we received other support from local individuals who have become members. Contributions from individual memberships & business underwriting totaled \$6,200 in revenue. We were awarded with a \$20,000 “Cultural Facilities” grant from the VT Arts Council, towards the planned building improvements in FY2026 (the grant funds have been committed but will not be received until the project is completed). The services of VIS Construction Consultants have been retained, to oversee the design & build-out; the project will include a space for the new community radio station as well as much-needed improvements of current production spaces & increased energy efficiency. We look forward to the new and improved accommodations for current and future users of the facility.