



2023 ANNUAL REPORT





City of Dodge City Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday

7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Friday

7:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Utility Billing/Water Office

- Located 806 N 2nd Ave (North Entrance)
- Pay Your Bill Online (Dodgecity.org)
- Pay Your Bill in person (Cash, Check, Or Card)
- Pay Your Bill Via Drop Box (North of City Hall)
- Set-Up Automatic Withdraw
- Phone Number 620-225-8111
- After hours 620-255-9669



Dodgecity.org

Phone Number: 620-225-8100





Image 1: This black silhouette of cowboys hangs at the City's Municipal Services Building.

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MESSAGE *from the* CITY MANAGER



Another memorable year in the books,

There is no better way to summarize 2023 than with the simple saying, “Full steam ahead.” This year, Dodge City has made significant strides in infrastructure, economic development, and community services. One of the major projects moving full steam ahead is the Street Sales Tax Initiative. This initiative, which began in 2023, will continue to provide the community of Dodge City with safe and reliable roads for generations to come.

The year 2023 was also significant for air travel, as evidenced by the \$7.3 million federal grant awarded to the Dodge City Regional Airport (DDC) for expansion and remodeling. These improvements not only serve those traveling to our beloved community but also provide enhanced facilities for our residents, making air travel more accessible and comfortable.

While we are on the subject of awards, we also received \$7 million to be utilized on the northbound 14th Avenue Bridge across the Arkansas River. This project will provide the community with an entirely new bridge that, like our new roadways, will serve generations to come. The new bridge will improve traffic flow, increase safety, and enhance connectivity within our city. This investment will not only make daily commutes smoother but also support emergency services and foster economic development by improving access to key areas of our city.

The City of Dodge City, as a local government, has also experienced growth just like the community we serve. We added an entirely new department, Construction and Facilities, to our toolbox of extraordinary departments. This department will not only provide our City-owned facilities with dedicated care but also offer significant cost savings through internal construction work. By leveraging this new department, we can better maintain our infrastructure and provide improved services to the community, ensuring that our city continues to thrive.

The majority of our departments have also found a new home in the Municipal Services Building, also known as the MSB. This newly renovated building, previously known as the Chaffin Building, sat vacant for 20 years until the City of Dodge City capitalized on the opportunity to bring the majority of our staff together under the same the facility. The MSB comes at no cost to the community thanks to extraordinary fund management and the hard work and dedication of our own staff who helped make this dream come true. This consolidation allows for improved communication, efficiency, and collaboration among departments, which will ultimately provide better services to our residents.

City Hall has also seen some improvements to better provide quick and easy access for all within our community. It continues to house essential services such as Utility Billing, Municipal Court, and the Commission Chambers. These upgrades, which include new bathrooms and an entirely new Utility Billing area, ensure that the majority of services our residents may need are available in one convenient location, staffed by people at City Hall who are always ready to assist.

With all that being said, we hope you enjoy the 2023 Annual Report, and remember, if you have additional questions, do not hesitate to give us a call or send us an email. Our door is always open, and we are here to serve you.

All the best,

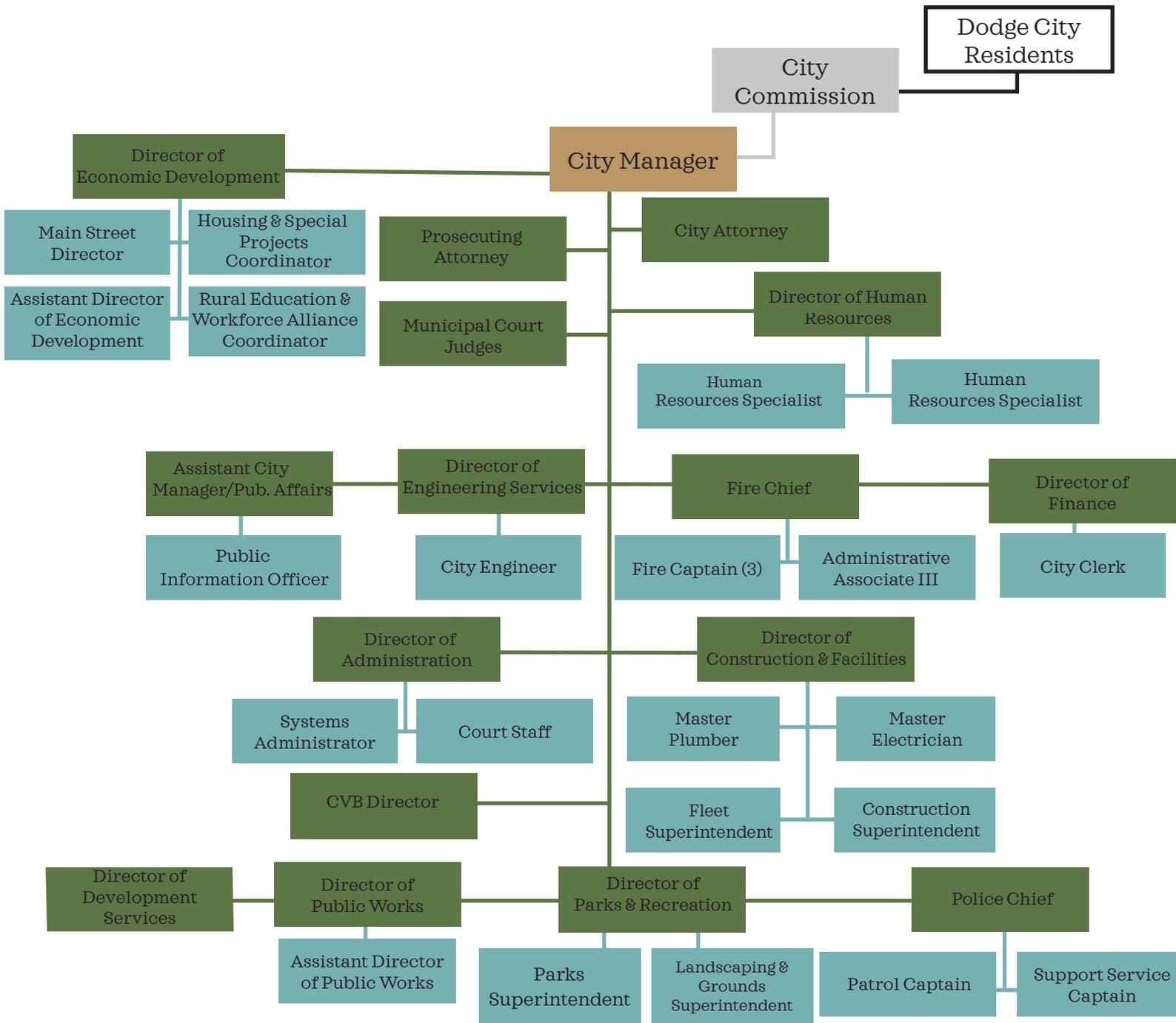
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nickolas J. Hernandez".

City Manager
City of Dodge City





ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





YOUR CITY OF DODGE CITY

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Dodge City is a city of the First Class, which is a city with a population of 10,000 or greater. Since 1970 the City government has operated under the Commission-Manager form of government, where residents elect the local governing body, which then appoints the City Manager. All power and authority to set policy rests with the elected governing body, including the Mayor and the Commission members. The City Manager serves as the administrative head and provides professional leadership to implement projects, policies and oversee the budget approved by the City Commission. In addition, Dodge City appoints community members to serve on various boards and commissions to make recommendations to City staff and the Commission. This allows for community input regarding local government operations.

Born out of the U.S. progressive reform movement at the turn of the 20th century, the commission-manager system was designed to combat corruption and unethical activity in local government by

promoting effective management within a transparent, responsive, and accountable structure.

The commission-manager form of local city government and similar city administrator form is used by nearly all cities with 5,000 or larger populations in Kansas, the surrounding states, and the world.

Three of Dodge City's five City Commissioners are elected on the first Tuesday in November of every odd-numbered year. After each election, the two candidates who receive the highest number of votes receive four-year terms, and the candidate with the third-highest number of votes receives a two-year term. City Commissioners are elected at large, which means that every citizen in the community has the opportunity to vote on every member of the City Commission. The Mayor is chosen each year at the Commission's first meeting in January by a vote of the City Commission members after the City Clerk swears in any new commissioners. The Mayor presides over all City Commission meetings and represents the City as its official head on formal occasions.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The City Commission meets twice a month on the first and third Monday at 7 pm in the Commission Chambers at 806 N. 2nd Ave. Agendas for meetings are prepared in advance and published on the City's website. The meetings are open to the public, or for those that wish to watch meetings in the comfort of their home or at a later time, the meetings are streamed live on the official City of Dodge City Facebook page or our Vimeo page. To have a matter considered by the City Commission, please contact the City Manager's office at 620-225-8100 ext. 6.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Once governed by Spain, France, Mexico and the former Republic of Texas, Dodge City's diverse demographics are vital to the City's past, present, and future. Today's population is 64.6% Hispanic, with 27.7% of Dodge City's population being foreign-born and 57.2% speak Spanish at home. In other demographics, the median age is just under 29 years of age, with 52% of the population being male. The largest age group is 0 - 19.

THE *Commission*



JEFF REINERT



MICHAEL BURNS



RICK SOWERS



DANIEL POGUE



CHUCK TAYLOR



FINANCE

3 Full Time Staff Members

GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES WHERE THE MONEY GOES

The City provides many services, including police and fire protection, administration, economic development, municipal court, public works, engineering, airport, cemetery, public transportation, parks and facilities, zoo, golf course, and development services.

In 2023, governmental expenditures totaled \$20,614,563. This is an increase of approximately \$2,898,385 or 20.9% when compared to 2022, primarily due to increases in personnel services due to increases in wages required to be competitive with other entities within the City and legal fees associated with the ACLU lawsuit.

Annually, a budget is prepared by City staff for Commission approval. The goal of the City Commission over the last few years has been to reduce the mill levy which translates into reducing expenditures.

The following are brief descriptions of general fund expenses:

Commission - Includes wages of the City Commissioners and other expenses associated with travel and community events required as they fulfill their role as a City Commissioner.

Depot Train Station - This department includes wages for the train station attendants and other small items made available to Amtrak passengers.

Administration - This includes the City Manager’s Office, Human Resources, Finance, IT, and City Attorney.

Economic Development - The City supports Economic Development by paying the wages of the five full-time employees.

Police - Expenses for the wages and other items and services required to protect the residents of the community.

Animal Control - This department is responsible for enforcing the City’s animal control ordinances.

Fire - This department is tasked with providing fire, rescue, medical first response, and hazardous material response services for the City.

Municipal Court - Included in Municipal Court are the contracts for the municipal judge and prosecuting attorney. Also included is the costs for court appointed attorneys and staff to assist the judge and prosecuting attorney.

Public Works - A portion of the costs of the wages of employees who are responsible for taking care of the streets is paid from Public Works.

Engineering - This department is responsible for planning, designing, administering, inspecting and overseeing the construction of bridges, streets, traffic signals, sewers, water mains and drainage projects.

Airport - The employees of the airport are responsible for the maintenance of all buildings and working with the EAS provider.

Parks & Facilities - Included in this department are expenses to maintain and improve all the parks located within the City as well as other buildings located within the City parks such as Hoover Pavilion.

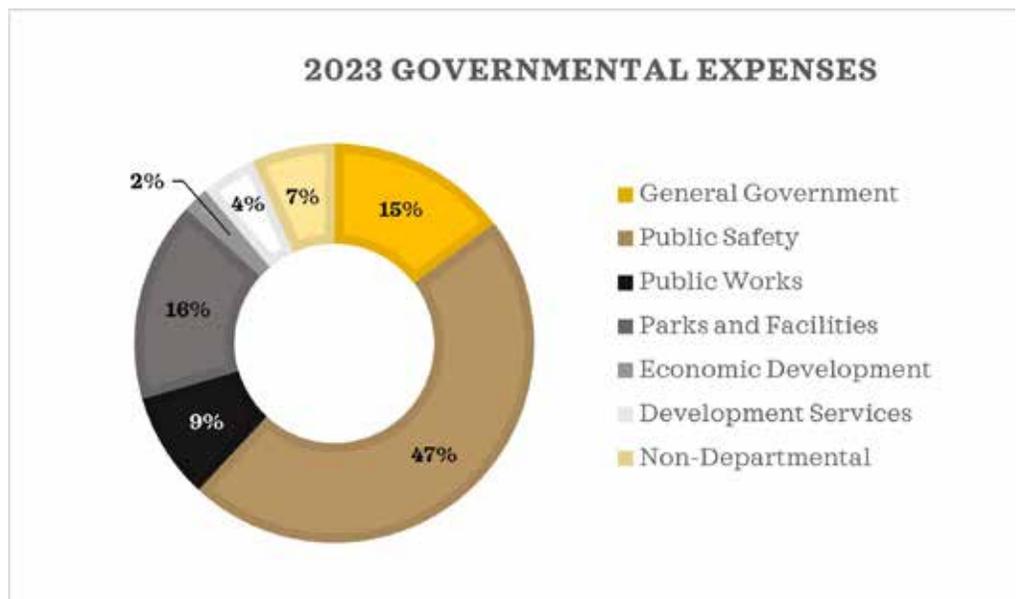


Image 2: Graph detailing the breakdown of the City of Dodge City Governmental Expenses



Cemetery - This department includes expenses for the maintenance of the cemetery and mausoleum.

Zoo - The employees of the zoo are responsible for the care of all animals housed within the Zoo as well as the maintenance of the zoo grounds.

Golf Course - The costs for the maintenance of Mariah Hills golf course are the primary cost of this department.

Hennessey Hall - This building is located on the former St. Mary of the Plains campus, and the City took over operations upon the closing of the college.

Development Services - Expenses incurred for issuing permits for building projects, both commercial and residential, ensuring zoning and building code compliance are all responsibilities of this department.

Other items budgeted from the General Fund include the City's portion of the communications budget that is shared with Ford County, computer upgrades and other community support.

REVENUE SOURCES

WHERE THE MONEY COMES

Funding for the City government and the services provided to residents come from many sources. Most of the total governmental activities revenue comes from sales and use tax (33%) and property taxes (26%). The City also receives revenues from charges for services, franchise fees, grants, interest, fines and various other revenues.

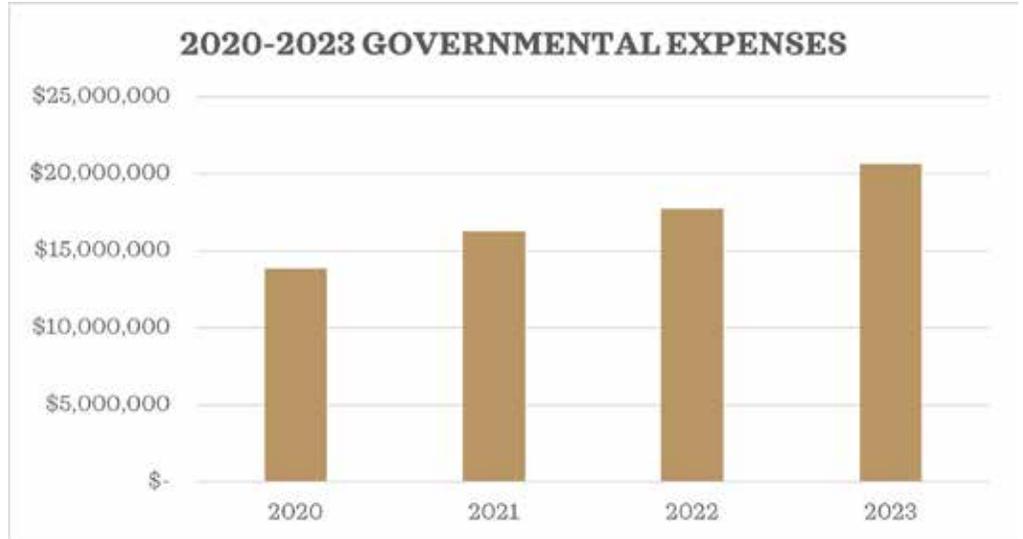


Image 3: Graph detailing the annual City of Dodge City Governmental Expenses (2020-2023)

In 2023, the governmental activities revenues totaled \$18,593,870. Revenues in 2023 increased by \$974,401 compared to 2022 due to an increase in sales tax collections.

The following are brief descriptions of revenue sources:

SALES AND USE TAX - The City collects a 1.5% sales tax on all retail sales in Dodge City, ½% is allocated to the general fund, ½% is allocated to the Sales Tax Projects fund used to track the “Why Not Dodge Projects” activities and ½% is allocated for maintenance and reconstruction of city streets and reducing the mill levy.

PROPERTY TAX - Ad Valorem property tax is collected from all residential, commercial and other property in Dodge City. The City, through the budgeting process, determines the amount needed to fund operations.

VEHICLE TAX - Vehicle owners in Dodge City pay a property tax based on a formula set by the State of Kansas and the vehicle's valuation.

LOCAL ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR TAX - This tax is generated from the sale of alcoholic liquor in Dodge City. One-third of this tax is deposited into the General fund, ½ in the Special Parks and Recreation fund and ¼ into the Special Alcohol and Drug fund.

FRANCHISE FEES - These fees are collected from utilities that are granted a non-exclusive franchise to operate within the city limits. Currently, the City has franchise agreements with AT&T, Cox Communications, Victory Electric and Black Hills Energy.

PERMITS AND LICENSES - Included in permits and licenses are building and inspection fees, licenses for private clubs, drinking establishments, liquor stores, cereal malt beverage establishments, peddler's permits, etc.



STATE HIGHWAY

MAINTENANCE - Funds received from the State of Kansas to maintain State highways inside city limits.

ANIMAL CONTROL - Includes the sale of dog tags and adoption fees collected by the Animal Shelter.

FINES AND FORFEITURES - Fines collected by Municipal Court for violations of City Ordinances.

POLICE - Reimbursements for security services and school resources officers and sale of copies of reports.

ENGINEERING FEES - Charges for copies of plans.

AIRPORT FEES - Funds received for leases at the airport, sales of gasoline and landing fees.

CEMETERY FEES - Funds received for opening and closing of graves, sales of lots and mausoleum fees.

GOLF COURSE FEES - Funds received for green fees, rental of Golf Course Clubhouse meeting room, sales of merchandise in the pro shop, and rental of golf carts.

PUBLIC BUILDING & GROUNDS RENTALS - Rental of various properties owned by the City including Hennessey Hall and Hoover Pavilion.

INTEREST - Interest collected on idle funds of the City

TRANSFERS - Funds from the Water, Wasterwater, Sanitation, Drainage, CVB, Sales Tax, Development and Growth, Special Parks and Recreation and Biogas funds to supplement general fund operations and help pay for their costs included in the General Fund.

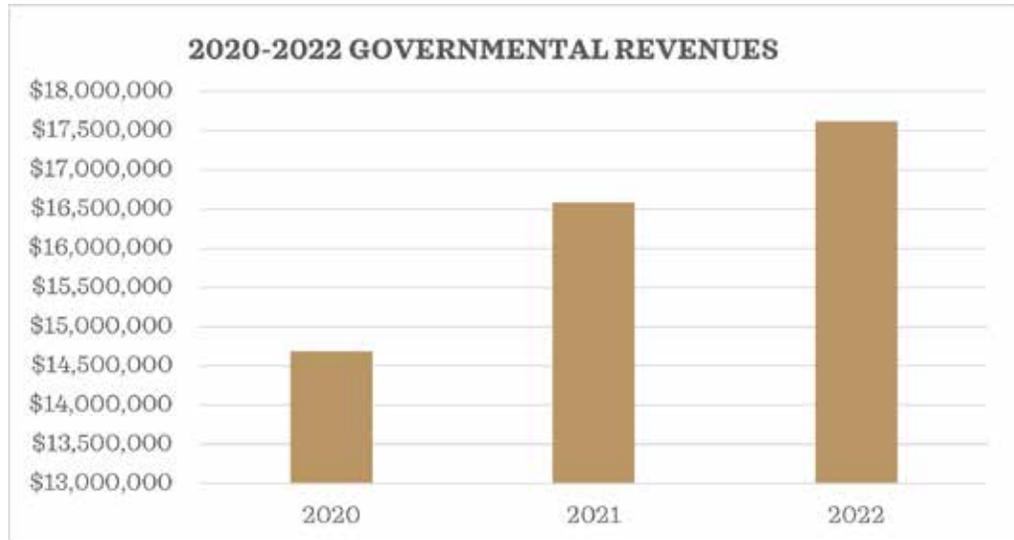


Image 4: Graph detailing the annual City of Dodge City Governmental Revenues (2020-2022)

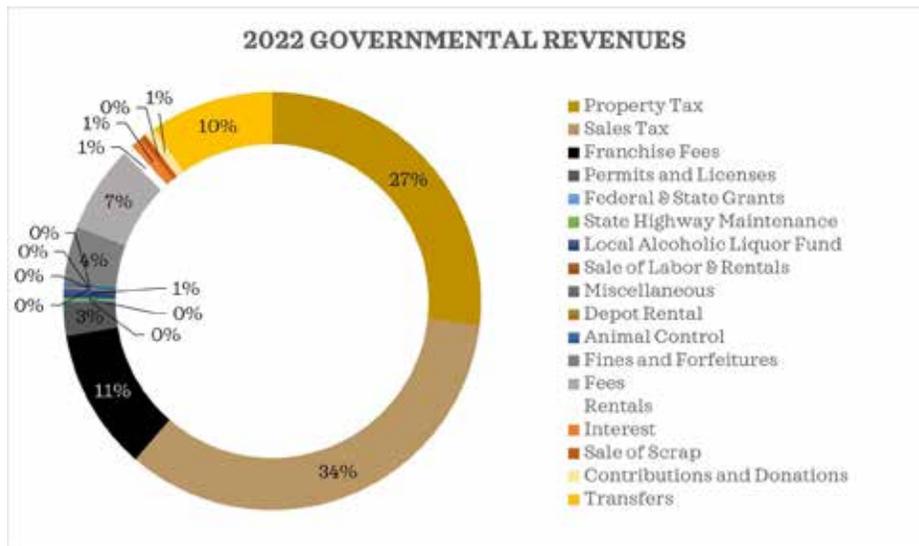


Image 5: Graph detailing the 2022 City of Dodge City Governmental Revenues

PROPERTY TAXES HOW YOUR TAXES ARE CALCULATED

The City's property taxes are approved when the City Commission adopts the budget.

Each year, the County Clerk sends the assessed valuation of all property located within the city limits to the City. Each taxing entity has a different assessed

valuation based on its boundaries.

The assessed valuation is then used to determine what one mill is worth to that taxing entity. The value of a mill is figured by dividing the assessed valuation by 1000.

For the 2024 budget, the City's assessed valuation was \$200,402,574; therefore, one mill's value was \$200,402.57.





During the budget process, the amount of revenues and expenses needed to operate each department are determined. The total expenditures are then divided by the mill's value to determine how many mills will be required to fund the budget.

A resident of the City pays property taxes based on the mill levy of the City and property taxes for Ford County, USD 443 Dodge City Public Schools, Dodge City Community College, and the State of Kansas.

DEBT

The City has five different types of debt.

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS BONDS (GO BONDS) - Debt

backed by the full faith and credit of the City. As of December 31, 2023, the City's General Obligation bonds are rated an A+ by Standard & Poor's rating agency. This rating shows that the City's financial condition is strong. A majority of the City's debt is GO Bonds. The bonds are used for street construction and maintenance, infrastructure for new housing developments, construction of the biogas plant and other infrastructure improvements that are needed throughout the City.

GENERAL OBLIGATION TEMPORARY NOTES - Debt

backed by the City's full faith and credit that will be financed with GO Bonds at a later date.

REVENUE BONDS - Debt secured by a future revenue source. These bonds were issued for the Special Events Center and the

Longbranch Lagoon Waterpark and are paid by sales tax.

CAPITAL LEASES - Financing arrangements that provide funding for the acquisition or construction of facilities and equipment. Capital leases have been used to construct the CREW building, a hangar at the airport, and purchase the ladder truck for the

fire department, radios for all emergency service personnel, and 2 trash trucks

KDHE LOAN - The State Revolving Fund provided funds for the construction of the North Wastewater Treatment Plant. These funds are loaned at rates that are typically lower than bond rates.

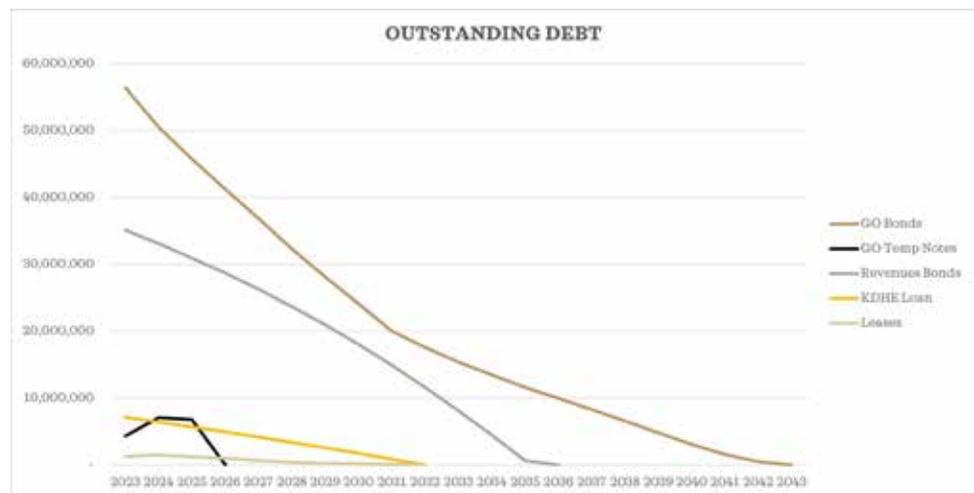


Image 6: Graph detailing the City of Dodge City's Outstanding Debt (2023-2043)

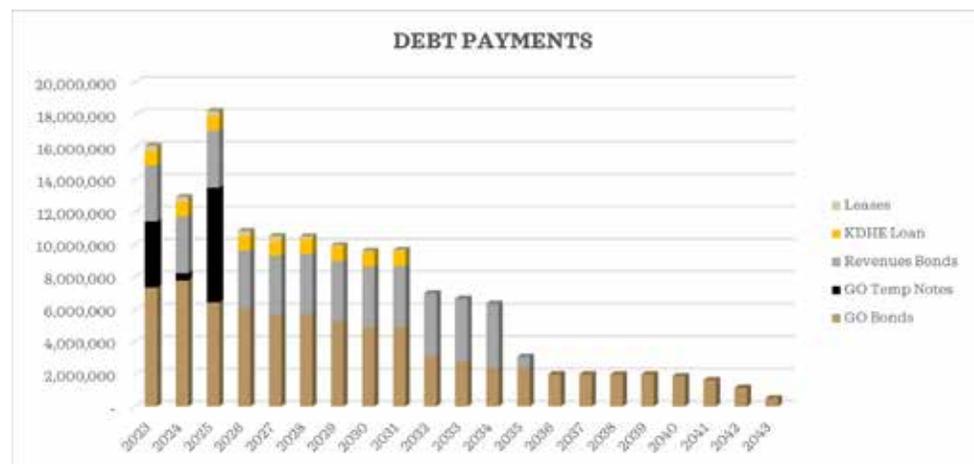


Image 7: Graph detailing the City of Dodge City's Expected Debt Payments (2023-2043)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5 Full Time & 1 Part Time Staff Members

WHO WE ARE

The City of Dodge City partners with the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation to help recruit and grow businesses and community development. The Development Corporation offers seamless, one-stop service for businesses seeking to locate or expand in the Dodge City/Ford County area; supports existing businesses; recruits new business and industry; provides workforce development services; promotes community development and many other partnerships and services.

2023 was a successful year for economic development in Dodge City. A few of the new or expanding businesses are Cargill Meat Solutions expansion, Boot Hill Solar Farm, High Plains Feed expansion, and Stanion Wholesale Electric. The construction of the new Hilmar Cheese plant is on time to be operational by October 2024.

In 2023, the Development Corporation assisted municipalities and developers to secure a \$167,400 in MIH grant funds for the City of Bucklin as well as \$450,000 in MIH grant funds and \$1.2M in tax credits for Sundance II in Dodge City. Dodge City was featured as an exemplary community on the Kansas Housing Resource Corporations 20th anniversary promotional video.



Image 8: CHAD presented four scholarships to students in the Building Construction Technology Program

Increasing housing and improving neighborhoods was successful in 2023. The Development Corporation facilitated an inter-local agreement that increased our Neighborhood Revitalization Program incentive to promote investment in our blighted neighborhoods. Housing developments under construction include Casa Del Rio, Iron Flats, Rodeo Hills, Beeson Court Apartments, United Village and Sundance II.

The Development Corporation has created many organizations, including the Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD), Dodge City Festivals, Main Street Dodge City and the Rural Education and Workforce Alliance (REWA), to facilitate community development needs. The City of Dodge City is strongly active and supportive of these initiatives. In 2023, the Development Corporation created a new 501c3 organization called the Childcare Coalition of Dodge City (CCDC) to address the childcare shortage in Dodge City.

CHAD

CHAD is a nonprofit organization created to address the housing needs in and around Dodge City. CHAD continues to build and revitalize homes. In 2023, single-family homes were completed at 600 Avenue N and 1403 E Vine Street. CHAD is currently finishing a home on Cottonwood and a new build on Military Avenue in partnership with the Dodge City Community College (DCCC) Building Trades Program.

CHAD has many different programs that help families complete projects to revitalize their homes including Paint Dodge and the Community Housing Renovation Program. CHAD and the City of Dodge City were awarded a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant through the Kansas Department of Commerce in 2022. This funding is being utilized for emergency home repairs in a designated area in Dodge City.

The Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas awarded CHAD



\$5,000 for the Paint Dodge program. CHAD presented \$4,500 in scholarships for the DCCC Building Trades Program students. CHAD hosted Construction Day in which over 100 high school students from over the region toured various construction projects in Dodge and learned about the Dodge City Community College Building Construction Technology Program. CHAD also hosted multiple Homebuyer Education Classes for our community.

MAIN STREET

Main Street Dodge City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of the downtown area to maintain the community's vibrant heart. The organization strives to unite both the private and public sector by coordinating different activities and events that stimulate pride and bring life to the downtown area.

Main Street Dodge City is an Accredited Program through the National Main Street America program and is one of 21 Designated Communities through the State's Kansas Main Street Program. Main Street Dodge City has established programs like the Downtown Revitalization Improvement Program (DRIP) that consists of a façade improvement grant and a 0% interest loan program for internal upgrades. Main Street Dodge City is working closely with the City of Dodge City and Building Solutions to keep businesses and the community informed about the Downtown Streetscape Project. Promoting all the businesses in the downtown area throughout the duration of

the project is the organization's main priority.

REWA

The Rural Education and Workforce Alliance (REWA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 2019 to raise awareness of the lack of higher education and training opportunities in the Southwest Kansas region and build coalitions to support workforce-based education.

REWA oversees the University/ Training Center (UTC) where multiple universities offer bachelor and master-level courses in Dodge City. Fort Hays State University's (FHSU) Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Communication Science and Bachelor of Social Work programs have continued to be based out of the UTC. FHSU is completing all its Master of Social Work clinicals at this location each semester. The Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) delivers continued education for law enforcement in the Southwest Kansas region. Newman University continues to offer higher education opportunities for teachers and paras. Newman launched Agri-Business and Business Management degree programs in the fall of 2023. Additionally, the Small Business Development Center training courses are being held monthly at this location. REWA hosts a How-To Series Business Edition free to the public that teaches the resources to start a business or grow an existing business.

In 2022, REWA opened a Makerspace that is open to the public. The Makerspace includes vinyl machines, heat press,

multimedia machine and many other pieces of equipment for entrepreneurs to have a place to grow their ideas and for small businesses to test equipment that may be useful for their businesses. REWA was awarded a Patterson Family Foundation grant for the continued growth of training and leadership opportunities in Southwest Kansas. REWA was also awarded the 2023 Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas grant for operating expenses.

The City of Dodge City was awarded a USDA Distant Learning/Telemedicine grant in 2020 that provided the technology needed for the classroom and office space at Hennessy Hall and satellite classrooms in St. John, Tribune, Elkhart, Scott City, and Jetmore. Students can attend any training or higher education opportunity at these locations and zoom in to the classes in Dodge City.

CHILDCARE COALITION The Development Corporation formed the Childcare Coalition of Dodge City (CCDC) in 2023 to increase childcare capacity in Ford County. The organization was awarded a grant from the Office of Rural Prosperity to hire a part time staff. CCDC was also awarded a \$45,000 grant from Child Care Aware of Kansas to host seminars and workshops to increase capacity for licensed in-home daycares.

The Development Corporation hosts the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The SBDC increases economic prosperity in Kansas by helping entrepreneurs and small businesses start and grow through professional advising, training, and analytical tools and resources.



STAR BONDS

WHAT IT IS & HOW IT WORKS

Sales Tax and Revenue (STAR) Bonds are a financing tool that allows Kansas municipalities like the City of Dodge City to issue bonds to finance the development of major commercial, entertainment and tourism projects. The intent is to increase regional and national visitation to Kansas. The bonds are paid off through the sales tax revenue generated by the development.

The focus of the Dodge City STAR Bond Plan is to continue the

development of the STAR Bond Project Area along 14th Avenue. This effort supports the continued redevelopment of the Downtown Historic Area and Boot Hill Museum.

NORTH RETAIL PROJECT

The retail project was designed to attract major retailers to the 14th corridor. This retail project is an important catalyst to bring significant development to Dodge City. The retail project plan also includes the development of the outer parcels along 14th Avenue, which will provide critical space for the addition of restaurants and high-volume retail stores.

The most recent addition to the North Retail project is Midas Total Car Care which opened in 2023.

BOOT HILL MUSEUM EXPANSION

The Dodge City STAR Bond Project's centerpiece is the renovation and expansion of the Boot Hill Museum. The reinvestment in this iconic museum added a new interactive fixed exhibit hall, gift shop, and the Mariah Gallery, featuring traveling exhibits and special events. In 2023, the museum welcomed 71,878 visitors.



Image 9: Boot Hill Museum was renovated and expanded in 2021 thanks to STAR Bonds.

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE

The Dodge City’s 2030 Comprehensive Plan revealed that 92% of citizens cited that strengthening the downtown was important, and 91 % thought that the City should be involved in revitalizing the downtown.

The \$15,188,601 Downtown Streetscape project focuses on streetscape and infrastructure improvements along Front Street from 3rd Avenue to Central Avenue as well as Gunsmoke Avenue. The revitalization of Dodge City’s historic downtown is an essential part of the STAR Bond project.

In 2023, Phase 1A of the project, encompassing Central Avenue from Vine Street to Gunsmoke Avenue was completed.

As more people are attracted downtown, it will also help spur economic development and growth. In addition, the much-needed improvements to the local streets will provide more accessible parking, traffic calming measures and better walkability. Funding for the Streetscape project includes \$3.5 million from STAR Bonds, \$2 million awarded through the KDOT Cost Share, American Recovery Act funds of \$1.5 million and \$150,000 from the Information Network of Kansas, and \$8,038,601 from the City of Dodge City.

The Downtown Streetscape will strengthen the travel and tourism industry in Southwest Kansas through the focal point of this renovation project by creating a western-inspired plaza area serving as a gathering place for locals and visitors alike.

These improved services will help existing businesses expand and prosper while also enhancing the area’s economic development .

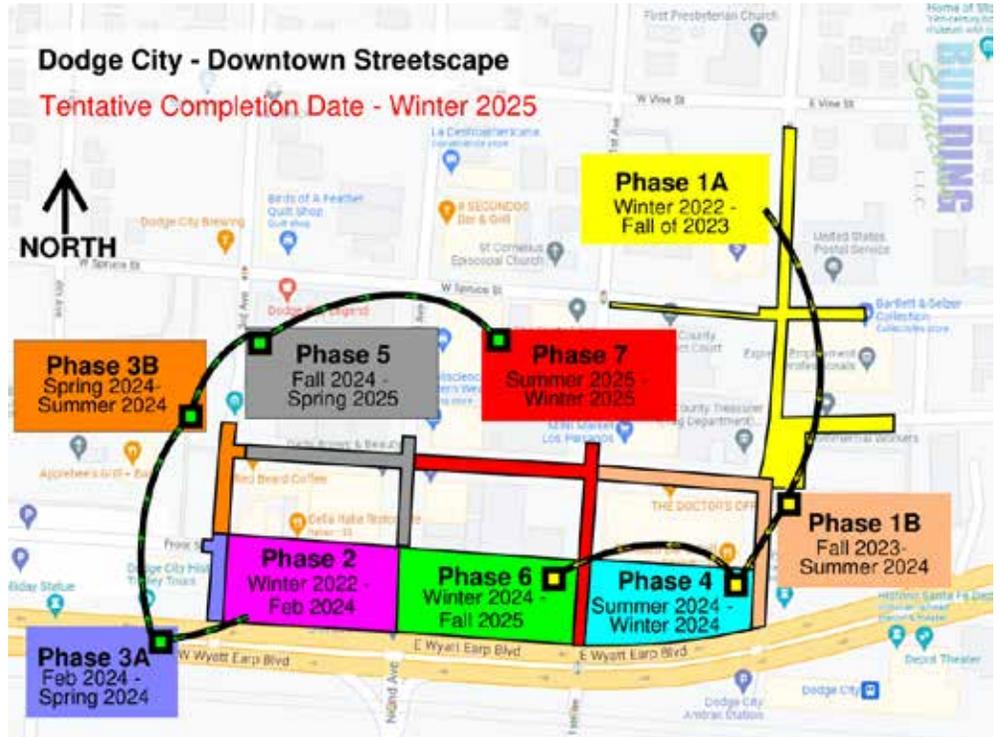


Image 10: Tentative completion date and location of the Downtown Streetscape project phases

In 2023, the City made downtown more welcoming through the addition of three major murals thanks to funding provided by the AARP Livable Communities, AARP Kansas and the City of Dodge City.



Image 11: "Fiesta in Motion" is one of the downtown murals funded through the AARP Community Challenge grant. It depicts a celebration of Latin American culture.

PARKS & RECREATION

29 Full Time Staff Members

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Parks & Facilities department consists of eight divisions, including Parks, Forestry & Landscape, Construction & Building Maintenance, Wright Park Zoo, Athletic Field Maintenance, Mariah Hills Golf Course, Maple Grove Cemetery, and Sports & Events.

Parks & Recreation maintains 18 parks, over 122 acres. They are responsible for maintaining the downtown district's landscaping, the Hwy 50 Bypass, medians, roadsides, the river levee system, and several other non-park areas that span 684 acres across the community.

TREE CITY USA

Dodge City has a long history of care and concern for trees and is one of four cities in the country to receive the "Tree City USA" recognition for 46 years since the award's inception. In 2023, the Forestry & Landscape Division planted 83 new trees and 460 annual plants while maintaining 316 downtown landscape beds and tree rings. They also removed 66 trees that were in poor condition.

WRIGHT PARK ACTION PLAN

Wright Park, the main community park of Dodge City, was given the go ahead to explore renovation opportunities for the area. Surveys were created to poll the park users to help determine what they wanted to see and what would help encourage them to visit and to recreate in the park. In person surveys were also done at events such as Kidfest during Dodge City Day and ESOL Night

before the start of the 2023 school year. The results showed an overwhelming desire for family orientated activities instead of sports and recreation. This helps staff create concepts that will lead Wright Park into the future and make it a destination for the region.

An exciting opportunity has emerged for Wright Park Zoo to be included in the Wright Park Action Plan to help it become much more integrated into the park and flow better with its surroundings. The desire is to utilize as much as possible from the masterplan that was created in 2019 but make it fit with the overall Action Plan. Wright Park Zoo was included in the Action Plan survey and continued to receive high marks from the public as a destination they think is important for the community and somewhere they would like to see improved through the project.



Image 12: DCHS Wrestling and Parks staff plant trees in Dodge City.

MARIAH HILLS GOLF COURSE

2023 was one of the best years at Mariah Hills in the last 20+ years. Golfers enjoyed 22,330 rounds of golf compared to 22,058 in 2022. This is the most rounds played in the last 23 years. There were 38 tournaments scheduled and hosted compared to 34 tournaments scheduled. Mariah was able to host three of the bigger tournaments: 2A KSHSAA Boys State Tournament, Central Links High Plains Amateur, and KCAC Match Play. The golf course also

gained national attention, being ranked by Golfpass 8th and Golfday 10th best public golf course in Kansas.

MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY

The Cemetery consists of 73 acres divided into 28 divisions with two mausoleums. There are currently 24,272 plots in the Cemetery, and an additional 1,208 will be added with the new division's addition. In 2023 work began on adding new roads around the newly developed division, which should be capped in fall of 2024 or spring of 2025.



“WHY NOT DODGE” PROJECTS

ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE

Athletic Field Maintenance (AFM) Division maintains 107 acres of athletic fields, including ten baseball/softball game fields, six soccer game fields and three football game fields at St. Mary's Sports Complex. There are also nine baseball/softball practice fields and six soccer practice fields throughout the community. In 2023, AFM made multiple upgrades to Cavalier Field. They replaced and painted the outfield fence, replaced the worn-out portions of the batter circle at home plate, painted the dugouts and backstop to match the outfield fence and overseeded the grass in the outfield. Staff also overseeded all the soccer fields to keep them in optimal playing condition.

DODGE CITY RACEWAY PARK

Dodge City Raceway Park (DCRP) is the Premiere Kansas Dirt Track. With a seating capacity near 3,500, Dodge City Raceway Park features a multitude of motorsports entertainment events. This includes five International Motor Contest Association (IMCA) classes, the United Rebel Sprint Series, the Classic Flat Track Series motorcycles, and the newly added Dave Garmann Memorial Late Model race featuring the High Plains late models. DCRP has a mid-season special with the 'Steve King Memorial' a 2-day special event featuring sprint car and midget classes as well as the NOW 600 Micros.

In 2023, Kyler Fetters of Outlaw Productions took over the management, operation and promotion of the DCRP. Previously, Fetters represented the United Rebel Sprint Services and worked with the DCRP. He also oversaw the Wakeeney Speedway and was instrumental in helping to revive this facility.

2023 was a successful year at the DCRP welcoming 702 cars from nine different classes. This included hobby stocks, sport mods, cruisers, modified, 305 sprint car, late models, ASCS sprints and midgets. In addition, 14,330 patrons enjoyed the races at the throughout the season at the DCRP. To learn more about Dodge City Raceway Park and to check out the schedule visit <https://www.racedcrp.com/>.

LONG BRANCH LAGOON

The western-themed water park featuring over 27,000 feet of water surface entered its 8th year of operation. In 2023, they welcomed 48,815 visitors compared to 50,676 in 2022. There were 606 visitors daily as opposed to 576 in 2022.

DODGE CITY SPORTS COMMISSION

The Sports Commission is a City ad-hoc committee whose objective is to identify and recruit potential athletic events to Dodge City. Representatives include the City, USD 443, Dodge City Community College, United Wireless Arena, the Western State Bank Expo Center, and the Dodge City CVB.

The Dodge City Sports Commission hosted six events throughout the year. Four high school events, including multiple KSHSAA State events such as the KSHSAA 2A men's and women's basketball championship, the KSHSAA 1A-2A volleyball state championship, the KSHSAA 2A state golf championship and the KSHSAA 6-man football championship and two college events, including the Region IV Softball and KCAC Golf Match Play.



Image 13: DCRP Jerry Soderberg Memorial feature winner Ty Williams (URSS 305s).



SPORTS & EVENTS

For the 2023 season, 12 youth baseball and softball tournaments were initially scheduled, with five tournaments canceled due to weather at Legends Ballpark. A total of 70 youth teams registered for the tournaments, 35 teams for the 48-Hour tournament. Legends successfully recruited 42 teams to come play in our youth tournaments, coming from Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado. The out-of-state teams that played in our tournaments was an increase of 16 teams from the 2022 season.

UNITED WIRELESS ARENA & BOOT HILL CASINO & RESORT CONFERENCE CENTER

Managed by VenuWorks and located adjacent to the Boot Hill Casino and Resort, this special events center is the entertainment hub for Southwest Kansas. Since 2015, the facility has experienced a 150% increase in competitions and tournaments. These have included events such as state volleyball and basketball. The average annual attendance is 83,487, with an average economic

impact of \$8,265,138.

Throughout the year 2023, 310 events were hosted with a total attendance of 86,499, with an economic impact of \$8,563,350.

The United Wireless Arena welcomed a great variety of shows in 2023. These included Comedy, Christian Music, Hispanic Music, Country and Classic Rock, and family shows to name a few. Roller skating, ice skating and ice hockey returned as entertainment for the entire family. In 2023, the Southwest Storm Arena Football team continued for their 2nd year.



Image 14: Los Tigres del Norte performed at the United Wireless Arena in 2023.



Image 15: The United Wireless Arena hosts many sports events including the Southwest Kansas Storm football team games.

PUBLIC WORKS

32 Full Time Staff Members

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Public Works Department consists of six divisions: Streets, Sanitation, Recycling, Water, Wastewater, and the Dodge City Regional Airport. Together they maintain the City's most critical infrastructure with approximately 43 employees.

STREETS

Dodge City has 153 miles of paved streets within the city limits that must be maintained. Services provided are pavement maintenance, stormwater facilities maintenance, traffic control services and signal maintenance, river levee maintenance, alley maintenance, and snow and ice control.

SANITATION

Weekly residential solid waste collection is provided for approximately 6,582 accounts. Services include weekly curbside collections of household solid waste, grass clippings and tree limbs. In addition, bulk waste collection days for metal and furniture occur weekly. Customers can rent a 20-yard roll-off container for residential cleanup projects or construction debris removal.

RECYCLING

Community Recycling Environmental Waste (CREW) is responsible for the reduction of solid waste within Ford County. CREW is a drop-off service located at the newly constructed building at 124 N 14th Ave.



Image 16: Public Works staff present to residents at Engage Dodge about the services they provide.

There are seven neighborhoods where a recycling trailer rotates each week for residential convenience.

- ★ **Mondays** @ Long Branch Park
- ★ **Tuesdays** @ Colleen Park
- ★ **Wednesdays** @ Spiers Parks
- ★ **Thursdays** @ Well 17 located at Ave P and Elbow Bend
- ★ **1st weekend** of the month @ YMCA parking lot
- ★ **2nd weekend** of the month @ Center and Plains Ave.
- ★ **3rd weekend** of the month @ 12th Ave and Brier St.

Staff also provides weekly pickup of recycling to each of the Dodge City Schools.

CREW is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, which initiates programs related to litter abatement, graffiti education, and beautification projects. To date, the building has produced 1008.67 tons of recycled materials.

WATER DIVISION

The City provides 8,911 accounts with over 2.6 billion gallons of safe drinking water to residents per year. The water is obtained from groundwater in the Ogallala Aquifer. There are currently 21 active wells, three water towers and one underground storage tank. More than 200 miles of water main lines make up the distribution system. The water is routinely sampled to ensure compliance with the Safe Water Drinking Act standards and meet strict KDHE compliance guidelines.

WASTEWATER DIVISION

Approximately 180.88 miles of underground sewer mains make up the sanitary sewer system maintained by the Wastewater employees, and more than 2422 sewer manholes provide access to the sewer system. In addition, the division assists plumbers and residents when problems occur with sewer services.

DODGE CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT

Air travel is an integral part of the transportation infrastructure for Southwest Kansas. Dodge City Regional Airport (DDC) serves as a vital link for the quality of life, economic growth, and community stability. The main objective at DDC is to maintain safe and stable air service for visitors arriving by air, including commercial service, charter service, military, cargo operations and general aviation. DDC is a fully certified airport with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), regulated under the Part 139 Federal Standards, with two active runways; 14-32, which is 6,899 ft. by 100ft., newly reconstructed concrete runway; 02-20, our crosswind runway, is 4,649' by 100' asphalt runway.

The Essential Air Service (EAS) Act helps keep commercial air

service in Dodge City. On May 3, 2024 Dodge City Regional Airport was selected to continue EAS with United Airlines, operated by SkyWest for an additional 3 year term expiring April 30, 2027. Currently, United Airlines provides a 50-passenger jet offering two daily round-trip flights to Denver with the exception of Tuesday and Saturday, which offers 1 flight.

The airport operates on 440 acres of land and has 1,154,900 sq. ft. of runways and taxiways that staff must maintain and keep with FAA Part 139 safety standards.

AIRPORT TERMINAL REMODEL

The airport is expanding and updating the terminal buildings through a two-phase approach. The City of Dodge City applied for the Airport Terminal Program (ATP) grant and on February 27, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) awarded nearly \$1 billion to 99 airports across the country to improve terminals of all sizes which

included our airport. Dodge City received 7.3M as part of this grant. This funding comes directly from the U.S. Treasury's General Fund and will be used to update the previous airport design, remove and expand the south portion and remodel the rest of the terminal building. Construction is expected to start in May 2024.

Runway 02/20 Design and Reconstruction

Runway 02/20 will be reconstructed to 4,4649' X 75' (currently 100' wide) this will also include the connector taxiways to safety area and the relocation of airfield lighting with new LED fixtures (runway and taxiway edge lights), new PAPI's with the city taking ownership of the REILs. This project was bid May of 2024. The City expects to receive a federal 95/5 grant later this year with construction starting in the spring of 2025.



Image 17: The City was awarded a \$7.3 million grant to remodel and expand the Dodge City Regional Airport. The project is expected to start in May 2024.



CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

7 Full Time Staff Members

WHO ARE WE & WHAT WE DO

The Construction & Facilities Department is responsible for the construction, maintenance, and repair of City facilities. This recently established department is composed of 6 employees and provides cost savings to the City by bringing some construction and maintenance projects in-house as opposed to contracting them out.

The department also includes the Fleet Division. This division services the vehicles and heavy equipment of the City of Dodge City including police and utility vehicles. Fleet provides essential maintenance and service for City vehicles and equipment and evaluates specifications for new equipment.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ★ The Construction and Facilities department was created. Kevin Israel was chosen to lead this brand-new department as the Department Director.
- ★ The department hired a Master Electrician, General Contractor, Construction Assistants, and a Construction Coordinator to join the department. This is part of the City's capacity building plans to ensure that more projects can be completed in-house and save the City money.
- ★ Construction on the Municipal Services Building was completed in Summer 2023 allowing for a centralized location for most of the City's services and operations.



Image 18: Kevin Israel was selected to serve as the Director of Facilities.

- ★ The department has started on general maintenance on all City facilities and plans to continue frequent maintenance to prevent the need for any future major repairs.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- ★ Construction & Facilities continues to look for qualified candidates to help grow the department's capacity to take on more projects. In addition to full-time employees, the department plans to hire interns in 2024 to allow for educational and hands-on

work experiences for construction students.

- ★ The department plans to begin the Detective Bureau's remodel at the Dodge City Police Department facility. This project will repair the water damage in the building and ensure DCPD is able to effectively carry out its duties and responsibilities.
- ★ The department will begin construction on the MSB Fuel Farm, which would store fuels used to power City fleet. The fuel farm will provide substantial savings by purchasing fuel in bulk, allow department fuel expenses to be monitored, and allow equipment to be filled before staff leaves the warehouse each morning.
- ★ Construction & Facilities is working on prioritizing the numerous construction projects planned for the future. Some of these projects include work at the Cemetery, Visitor's Center, Hoover Pavilion, multiple park and playground structures, and the Dodge City Raceway Park.



Image 19/20: Facilities staff worked on renovations to the old Chaffin Building, now known as the MSB.



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

6 Full Time Staff Members

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Development Services Department is responsible for planning, zoning, and community development to make Dodge City a better community. The department includes permitting, code enforcement, contractor licensing, zoning regulations, building inspections, and historic preservation.

With the creation of the City's Construction & Facilities Department, Development Services was in need of a new director. Josh Adams was promoted to the Director position.

PERMITS & VALUATION

Building Permits are an essential indicator of where the construction market is headed and can indicate growth in the community.

The total permit valuation for 2023 was over \$255 Million.



Image 21: Josh Adams was selected to serve as the Development Services Director.

BUILDING SAFETY

In honor of Building Safety Month, Development Services staff partnered with multiple sponsors to host the Contractor Classic Golf Tournament. The tournament aimed to help promote building safety and to show appreciation for all contractors who have helped build our amazing community.

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

Commercial building permits valuations totaled approximately \$217.5 million. This is an increase from 2022 due to the main Hilmar Cheese Facility permit which was \$196 million.

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

New housing permit valuations increased in 2023, totaling approximately \$14.4 Million, with 85 single family houses permitted. Single family housing construction occurred in 4 new developments and infill lots. Multi-Family unit permits valuations also increased in 2023 totaling approximately \$11.2 Million, with 78 units permitted in 4 developments.

All other permit valuations, such as accessory structures, fences, remodels, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical totaled approximately \$12.1 million.

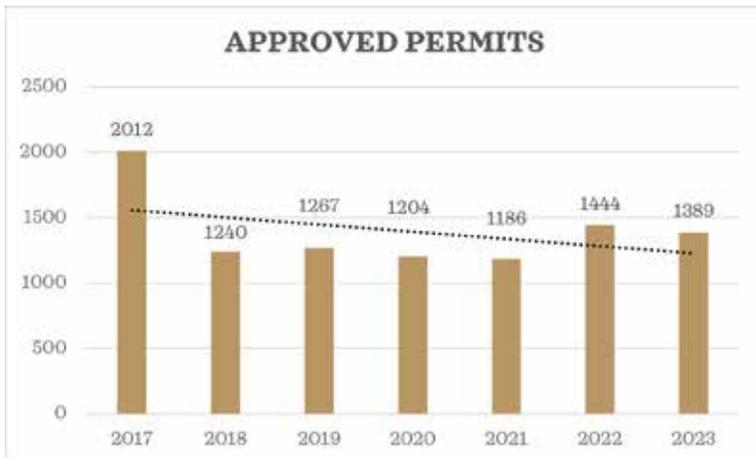


Image 22: Graph depicting the number of approved permits from 2017 to 2023.



Image 23: City staff organized a Contractor Classic Golf Tournament.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

5 Full Time Staff Members

WHAT WE DO

The Engineering Services Department is responsible for the planning, designing, and oversight of public infrastructure projects, new construction and reconstruction of City streets, sidewalks/trails, wastewater treatment facilities, water and sewer mains, storm sewer structures, and the Warrior biogas upgrading facility.

The department is involved in these projects from start to finish, from preplanning to construction inspection and as-built drawings.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ★ Construction started on the South Wastewater Plant (WWTP) Expansion. This expansion included major modifications and improvements to the treatment



Image 25: City of Dodge City Engineering Services staff.



Image 24: Engineering staff show students from across Kansas the Biogas Warrior Project.

plant itself along with the construction of 3 pump stations, and approximately 10 miles of 16" force main.

- ★ Iron Rd. between 6th Ave. and 14th Ave. was completed and open to traffic. This new roadway at the northern limits of the city provides access to residents and emergency services in this part of town that continues to see growth. This project also completed a vital connection between Ave. A and 14th Ave.
- ★ With the passage of the Street Sales Tax, a major street reconstruction project

started in 2023. Over \$2.5 million dollars will be spent on the reconstruction of residential asphalt streets to concrete pavement. In 2023, 7/10ths of a mile of residential streets were reconstructed. Along with the street work, 1,330 lineal feet of waterline was replaced.

- ★ The US 50 and Central Ave. intersection had a mill & inlay performed to improve ride and extend the life of the intersection.
- ★ In cooperation with KDOT, plans are being prepared to complete a mill & inlay on US 50 through town. This project is being done as part of

KDOT’s City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP). The project is scheduled to be done in KDOT’s fiscal year 2024 which runs from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

- ★ Performed Chip Sealing on 151,500 square yards or approximately 160 blocks of residential asphalt streets. The Chip Seal helps seal small cracks, adds a new driving surface, and is a cost-effective way to extend the life of the street.
- ★ KDOT awarded a \$7 Million dollar grant to the City for the reconstruction of the north bound bridge over the Arkansas River in August. Design on the project started late in 2023. The project is to be bid in 2025 and construction will start later in 2025 or early 2026.
- ★ Building Solutions continued construction on the Downtown Streetscape Project. This is an approximately two-year project. This project will see the replacement of 100 plus-year old private and public utilities through the downtown area. Work has been completed on Central Ave. from Vine St. to Military Ave., Front St./Parking lot from 3rd Ave. to 2nd Ave. and on 3rd St. from Wyatt Earp Blvd. to Front St. is being done on Central Ave. from Vine St. to Military St, Spruce St. from Central Ave. to 1st Ave., and Front St. and adjoining parking lot from 2nd Ave. to 3rd Ave.

NEW RESIDENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2023, infrastructure was started for over 475 residential lots. By the end of 2023, 9,333 lineal feet of new water line, 10,462 lineal feet of new sewer line, and just over half mile of new concrete street were constructed. This infrastructure is being constructed at 3 developments, Iron Flat’s, Rodeo Hills, and United Village. The developments consist of 100 lots, 175 lots, and 200 lots respectively.

FUTURE PROJECTS

TRAIL ST. WIDENING

With the Trail St. widening project, a center two-way left-turn lane (TWLT) will be constructed from the US 56/283/400 intersection to just west of McCaustland Rd. #1. This will provide a lane for left-turning traffic to help with congestion on this roadway portion. Right-of-Way is currently being acquired and plans are to let later this year.



Image 26: Building Solutions is expected to complete Phase 2 in early 2024.

MULTI-USE TRAIL EXTENSIONS

Design started on the extension of the City’s Gunsmoke Multi-Use Trail from 1st Ave. to Elbow Bend along Comanche St. This project is being funded through the Transportation Alternative Program from KDOT. This project should let in the second half of 2024. A new trail extension from Wright Park to Beeson Arboretum is also under design. This project will have a stand-alone pedestrian river bridge, so that pedestrians can safely cross the river connecting South and North. This project will probably be let in late 2024.

NORTHBOUND 14TH AVE. BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

In August of 2023, the Governor announced that Dodge City was the recipient of \$7 Million dollars to completely reconstruct the north bound bridge on 14th Ave. over the Arkansas River. This project is currently under design. It is anticipated that the project will be let in mid-2025.

US 50 & LORETTA AVE. INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

In a partnership between the City, KDOT, USD 443, and Dodge City Community College (DC3), the discovery phase of this project has been completed on this intersection and adjoining roadways to determine what improvements are needed to provide an access from US 50 to Dodge City High School and to improve the existing access to DC3. The final design will be completed in 2024. Construction could begin as early as 2025 depending upon funding.





FIRE DEPARTMENT

23 Full Time Staff Members

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Dodge City Fire Department's (DCFD) primary goal is to meet the community's public safety needs by reducing risk and preventing as many fire and medical emergencies as possible. To be effective in this mission, the department works to establish relationships with community groups, schools, building managers, health care workers and area businesses. These relationships help the public understand the various risks within the community and help the department design educational programs and mitigation strategies to address these risks.

One thing that has been overlooked far too often is the impact doing this job has on first responders. While heart disease and cancer are the two leading causes of death for firefighters across the nation, suicide follows closely behind. In recognition of this, the DCFD along with Ford County Fire and EMS, the Ford County Sheriff's Office and the Dodge City Police Department have built a response team for first responders. This team is affiliated with the nationally recognized 10-33 foundation which is a peer support and mental health crisis intervention team. Dodge City Fire Engineer Summer Rhodes leads the SW Kansas Team and they have been called upon several times since their inception this past year and have been a great tool in helping with the mental health of all first responders.



Image 27: DCFD shows Soule Elementary kindergarten students one of the ladder vehicles.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

During October, the Dodge City Fire Department was happy to get back into schools for the National Fire Protection Association's Fire Safety Week. Dodge City Fire Personnel visited nine elementary schools, and 2243 K-2 students were reached with our fire safety message. The 2023 theme was "Cooking Safety Starts with You." The focus during the lessons was making a plan to escape their homes and then practicing their escape plans as well as helping parents pay attention while cooking. We asked each child to take their plans home and share them with their families.

As a part of our Community Risk Reduction Program, Dodge City Fire Department provides fire and life safety inspections along with City Developmental Services, community education, and fire investigations. These functions help prevent fires, enhance public safety in all buildings and improve emergency responders' ability to manage incidents. We help achieve a safe, vibrant, and economically sustainable city by doing this.



Image 28: 2023 Dodge City Fire Department photo.



In 2023, there were 199 fire inspection violations discovered by fire inspectors in the City of Dodge City. Through guidance and education and working with property owners, these code violations were able to be corrected, mitigating the possibility of a catastrophic fire event.

Other vital programs to assist in the Community Risk Reduction Program are installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in any homes within Dodge City, CPR training, and car seat inspections and installation. In 2023 we were able to add several more certified child seat technicians so that each shift has someone available to assist our public.

There are many opportunities for the Dodge City Fire Department to interact with the public in a typical year. Schools request tours and educational presentations, neighborhoods and community groups invite the department to gatherings, and DCFD attends various festivals. This allows fire personnel time to connect with residents more personally. Additionally, the Fire Department participates in various community/fundraiser events. Social media is another venue to connect with residents and provide important safety and educational information. The Dodge City Fire Department takes pride in being an integral part of the community it serves.

AIR RESCUE FIREFIGHTING

The Dodge City Fire Department, with the assistance of Ford County Fire/EMS, provides Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting, aka ARFF, services in compliance with the regulatory mandates

of 14 CFR, part 139 for the aviation operations conducted at Dodge City Regional Airport. Based on various FAA and NFPA standards, ARFF is charged with maintaining a stringent response capability, extinguishing agent inventory levels, and training schedule. Under the leadership of Captain Bradley Hines, the ARFF team is comprised of 11 Dodge City and 3 Ford County ARFF Certified Fire Personnel. In 2023, DCFD personnel responded to the Dodge City Regional Airport for standby 466 times.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Dodge City Fire Department works diligently to lower the risks of fire and other emergencies within our community by using the five E's to protect life and property. Those E's are comprised of education, enforcement, engineering, economic incentive, and effective emergency response when all previous prevention measures fail.

In 2023, the DCFD was called to service 2651 times for emergent and non-emergent incidents.

The majority, 61%, of those calls were for medical assistance. When responding to emergencies, our goal is to meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for emergency response, where the first unit should arrive within 4 minutes, with an effective firefighting force (EFF) arriving within 8 minutes 90% of the time.

In 2023, the DCFD met the 4-minute response time 72% of the time. The DCFD assembled an EFF within 8 minutes 90% of the time. The response times for the Dodge City Fire Department averaged 3 minutes 59 seconds to all emergency calls.

There were 178 fire calls in 2023, of which 81 were actual fires when fire crews arrived. Of those fires, 33 were in structures, 12 were passenger vehicles, 19 were grass or brush fires, and the remaining 17 fires consisted of mixed rubbish or waste fires outside of structures. There was approximately \$743,100 of property loss and 1 fatality in Dodge City due to fire in 2023.



Image 29: DCFD B-Shift trains on concrete spoils piles at the Hilmar Cheese plant.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

65 Full Time & 1 Part Time Staff Members

DODGE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

STRUCTURE, LEADERSHIP, STRENGTH AND GROWTH

The Dodge City Police Department consists of two bureaus: Operations and Support Services. Under the Operations Bureau there are two Divisions; Patrol and Special Operations which includes two units; Detectives and Community Policing/School Resource. The Support Services Bureau has three Divisions; Professional Standards/Training, Records/Property, and the Animal Control/Shelter.

The department has been under the command and oversight of Police Chief Drew Francis since 2016. Chief Francis has been with the department since 2001, growing through the ranks into command. The department is staffed by 66 employees, 1 of

which is part-time. The authorized (budgeted) police force strength, from the chief to the entry-level officers, consists of 50 sworn police officers. The remaining 16 are civilian staff working in the Records, Property/Evidence, and Animal Shelter sections.

The department began a new entry-level, non-sworn community service officer position and program in 2020. This new program serves our effort to attract and retain local youth between the ages of 18 through 20 and build our officers from those already invested in our community. The program bridges a gap where we see youth interested in a career in law enforcement either enter other job fields or move out of the community while waiting to turn the minimum age of 21. Often these youth do not end up joining the police field, or if they do, it is often the city they moved to that benefits from their application. The program has proven to be a

valuable success already with three home-grown graduates now serving as your police officers! With the addition of this program, we look forward to working with the school district's Pathways Program to help identify and direct those local youth with the right stuff into this noble profession of law enforcement.



Image 31: DCPD celebrated the holidays with their Christmas with Cops event.



Image 30: DCPD shows Citizen Police Academy participants the inside of their SWAT van and patrol car.

WORKLOAD & ENFORCEMENT

Total Calls for Service: 21,682 =

- ★ 1,807 calls per month or
- ★ 417 calls per week or
- ★ 59 calls per day

Reports Made:

- ★ 1,444 adult arrests
- ★ 453 juvenile arrests
- ★ Issued 599 criminal citations covering 985 misdemeanor offenses.
- ★ 3,104 offenses/misc
- ★ 4,048 traffic stops resulting in
 - 3,524 traffic violations cited
 - 2,755 warnings
- ★ 890 vehicle crashes



NON-ENFORCEMENT

The DCPD does much more than respond to calls and enforce laws. We have a Community/School Resource Unit providing daily support and security to our school district and kids. We continue to support healthy relationships and decision-making through our GREAT (Gang Resistance Education And Training) Program curriculum in the 5th and 7th-grade levels, taught by our School Resource Officers. We also provide community support and site safety courses to help safeguard our workplaces and houses of worship from a multitude of potential acts of violence.

The DCPD offers the Citizens Police Academy once a year each fall. This 10-week course includes informative classes offering our citizens an inside look at the operations and inner workings of

their police department. Citizen students learn about the department's structure, workload, and capabilities. These interactive and even hands-on classes create a true and transparent understanding of what we do and why. Graduates share their 'behind-the-scenes' knowledge with their family and friends, and some even go on to become volunteers with the department's Police Auxiliary unit.

ANIMAL SHELTER

The animal shelter has made every effort under the supervision of shelter Director, Laura Stein, to rescue and adopt out animals coming into their care vs. euthanizing these loving companions. This effort involves not only working to locate owners of lost pets but also weekly arrangements for transport of animals to rescue operations

outside of Dodge City, some outside of Kansas. The shelter works closely with the Ford County Humane Society to get more animals into loving homes through adoption or rescue.

In 2023, the shelter adopted, rescued, or returned to their owners 1,150 domestic pets. Animal control also dealt with a total of 1,700 animal complaints, including 33 wild animals within the city. Animal control officers make every effort to humanely capture and return these critters to the wild outside the city limits. According to reports, they handled 41 bites, 139 citations, and 193 warnings.

With the new addition and increased capacity, we hope to be able to better serve the needs of our community and our furry friends.



Image 32: The Animal Shelter takes helps dogs and cats reunite with their owners and find new homes for strays.



Image 33: Animal Shelter Director Laura Stein presents to a class of Citizen Police Academy participants.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

2 Full Time & 12 Part Time Staff Members

WHO WE SERVE

With extensive support from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and accessing multiple Federal Highway dollars, Dodge City’s Public Transit program has evolved substantially in recent years. The City’s Transportation program started with a Demand Response program with two buses. In 2015, this program was expanded to include a fixed-route service with three routes and three demand response buses serving over 30,000 rides annually. The department also provides ADA Paratransit/Demand Response Service in an area ¾ miles beyond the Fixed Routes. Since the Fixed Route service implementation, our monthly ridership increased

except for the last two years due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We currently average 130 rides daily and continue to provide safe and reliable transportation to the public.

The transit program is essential in the community. It plays a critical factor in the lives of residents who use this service, especially those with low income, seniors, and medical conditions.

LOOKING AHEAD

The City of Dodge City purchased the building located at 100 Chaffin Industrial Rd. and utilizes this location for the housing of City departments of public works, utilities, parks department, sanitation and public transportation. City staff continues to work with Brenda

Martinez, Transportation Manager, in providing shelter and maintenance for 10 vehicles and providing office space combining Public Works/Transportation mechanic shop, improving and strengthening the Public Transportation Program in Dodge City.

The Hilmar Cheese Factory is in the works of being constructed south of Dodge City and is to be up and running in the fall. The Transportation Department may be looking into how we can assist factory employees commuting to and from work. This would not be possible with the help of partners at KDOT and the Federal Transit Administration.



Image 34: Green, Red, and Blue Route Public Transportation buses lined up outside the Santa Fe Depot.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, PURCHASING, & MUNICIPAL COURT

8 Full Time Staff Members

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Information Technology’s mission is to help City Employees meet and maintain their productivity potential through technology. The three full-time staff work with all departments in the City. They plan, install, maintain, repair, and upgrade City computer hardware and software/ networking systems. IT has been very busy in 2023 and has set plans in motion for several new implementations to replace old systems and to create new ones.

IT PROJECTS

- ★ Replacing legacy enterprise software with other solutions such as Tyler. IT has been preparing for the system’s implementation, getting data for conversion, attending training, etc. We are on the third phase of the software roll out: Municipal Court.
- ★ Wireless and ticketing upgrades at Legends
- ★ Migration of the Laserfiche system to the Cloud in 2024
- ★ Upgrading cameras at City Hall
- ★ Working with United to improve communications at the Long Branch Lagoon
- ★ Assisting with the Airport remodel project
- ★ Upgraded the Internet services of several locations to improve speeds and reduce costs
- ★ Working with third-party vendors, including security vendors, to install security camera systems where needed

- ★ Working on a plan to expand the United Cloud phone system to other locations
- ★ Working on the Downtown Streetscape project including the interactive kiosks

PURCHASING

Purchasing has been very busy through 2023—working with Departments to save the City money, comply with policies, and provide resources. Some of the global supply issues seem to have relented and we are now receiving “stock” vehicles within six months of order.

Staff worked on approximately 22 purchasing projects throughout the year including:

- ★ New vehicles for many departments
- ★ Started work on new Fire Department Air Packs

- ★ United Wireless Event Center lights and ribbon boards
- ★ Pool painting the Long Branch Lagoon waterpark
- ★ Wastewater Roof
- ★ Miscellaneous software and associated hardware
- ★ Replacement of mowers for Parks & Facilities
- ★ Replacement of golf cars
- ★ Repairing of the ice floor/ brine leak at the Event Center

MUNICIPAL COURT

Municipal Court provides judicial review of complaints filed with the Municipal Court charging violation of city ordinances. In 2023, the Municipal Court reviewed 4742 tickets - a decrease of 354 tickets from 2022.

Court staff is currently working with Tyler and IT to get their new software implemented this year.



Image 35: Monthly breakdown of tickets issued in 2022 and 2023





HUMAN RESOURCES

2 Full Time Staff Members

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Human Resources (HR) department for the City of Dodge City exists to navigate employee conflicts, provide training and development, recruit and retain staff, and improve employee satisfaction while maintaining benefits and information.

Human Resources assists directors and supervisors in several employment-related issues including hiring, terminating, disciplining, and other personnel-related matters.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

As with the rest of the world, filling vacancies as they occur throughout the City can be quite a challenge. In 2023, HR published 35 jobs (some multiple times) and received over 700 applications. Of those applicants, we hired 60 new full-time or regular part-time employees.

We hire a mixture of new and returning seasonal employees each year. In March of each year, we post seasonal positions for multiple departments. These include Parks, Public Works, Engineering, Development Services, and the Convention & Visitors' Bureau.

We also host many internships throughout the City. In 2023, we contracted with Ogallala Commons to host several interns. These interns worked in different departments. We plan to continue to provide internships each year to give youth the youth in our community the opportunity to see what the City is all about.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

In 2023, we hosted a variety of different trainings for staff to partake in. These range from supervisory and management skills to trenching and excavating. We work with multiple partners to provide these trainings throughout the year.

HR frequently assists employees and retirees (as applicable) with questions on policies, processes, insurance, and benefits, including changes to deferred compensation contributions, beneficiary designation, primary care physician, address, etc.

EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION

HR prioritizes employee satisfaction by fostering a supportive and engaging work environment. Our initiatives not only include professional

development opportunities, a comprehensive benefits package, and an employee wellness program but also employee appreciation events such as an annual Employee Summer Party, Employee Appreciation Breakfast, Chili Feed, and Christmas Party. These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to creating a workplace where every employee can thrive and contribute meaningfully to our community.

OTHER DUTIES

HR is also responsible for compensation administration and upkeep. We regularly participate in compensation and benefits surveys from other cities and agencies and facilitate compensation studies to ensure we are keeping up with wage trends across the state.



Image 36: HR staff recruit at a job fair.





PUBLIC INFORMATION

1 Full Time Staff Member

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The mission of the Public Information Office is the same as the City of Dodge City Mission Statement: “Together we promote open communications with our community members to improve quality of life and preserve our heritage to foster a better future.”

Public information oversees the City’s social media, website, Channel 8 local access TV, event planning, advisory boards, and media relations.

EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS

The City of Dodge City Public Information Office participated in multiple projects designed to help promote information to the public. Public events included the Winter Expo, the Southwest Kansas Spring Fling, the

International Festival, ESOL Back to School Night, Dodge City Days Kids Fest, and many more. At all of these wonderful events, various topics were discussed, and numerous questions were answered, providing valuable information to the Dodge City community.

In conjunction with the Human Resources Department, we saw the continuation of the Engage Dodge Program. This year, the program ran for six weeks and was entirely translated into Spanish, as the participants were primarily Spanish speakers. Participants learned about the various City Departments directly from department heads. Following the completion of the Engage Dodge Program, participants celebrated with a custom street sign and experienced a City Commission meeting.



Image 37: 2023 Engage Dodge participants and City staff at a City Commission meeting

SCAN AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



STAY INFORMED

There are multiple ways to keep up to date with the City of Dodge City. The Community Newsletter is published the last Friday of each month and highlights work done within the departments, special projects, and other City news. Citizens can sign up to receive the newsletter along with news releases by going to <https://www.dodgecity.org/list.aspx>.

Follow the City of Dodge City - Government Facebook page to keep up as well or message with questions. Or individuals can stop by City Hall and speak with staff at anytime or call 620-225-8100 ext. 6 to schedule a meeting with the City Manager.





CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Dodge City Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) was established in 1981 and is funded by the Transient Guest Tax, a tax collected from visitors who stay overnight in Dodge City hotels and other accommodations. The CVB's mission is to attract conventions, tours, and tourists to Dodge City by promoting the city's resources and attractions to meeting planners, tour operators, travel writers, and potential visitors.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Tourism is an important part of the economy in Ford County. Visitors generate significant economic benefits for households, businesses, and the government, and are a critical driver of the county's economy. In fact, tourism is a key part of the economic success of Dodge City and Ford County.

According to the 2022 Economic Impact of Tourism in Ford County report, tourism supported about 1,600 jobs in Dodge City/Ford County, which is around 9% of all jobs in the area.

These jobs earned \$57 million in wages and benefits, supporting local households. Tourism is the fourth largest industry in Ford County, and the county's reliance on tourism jobs is higher than the state average.

Visitor activity in Dodge City/Ford County generated \$163 million in spending in 2022, which was 2.12% of all visitor spending in Kansas. This visitor spending surpassed pre-pandemic levels by around 21% and supported \$15.7 million in state and local government revenues. Historically, Ford County is among the top 10 counties in Kansas for visitor spending.

The largest categories of visitor spending were recreational activities (29% or \$47M), followed by food and beverages (23% or \$37M), local transportation (18% or \$30M), lodging (16% or \$27M) and retail (14% or \$23M).

Overall, visitor activity in Dodge City/Ford County showed a strong rebound in 2022,

exceeding pre-pandemic levels. This boost in local economic activity led to increased employment and income for county residents, as well as the highest levels of state and local government revenue in the past five years.

STACKING THE DECK WITH GOOD TIMES IN DODGE CITY

2023 brought new and continued excitement and energy to Dodge City! Travelers from across all fifty states, as well as international countries, continue to visit Dodge City to celebrate our rich and vibrant Western heritage. In 2023, we continued to celebrate events created during the 150th Anniversary Celebration, such as the Founder's Weekend Celebration with concerts in Wright Park, events at Boot Hill Museum, and Old Fashion Ice Cream Sundaes on Sunday at the Mueller-Schmidt House Museum. We also continued to celebrate Dodge City's Birthday, as well as recently created celebrations like the Whisker Roundup - Mustache Contest held during National Day of the Cowboy.

Total Visitor Spending

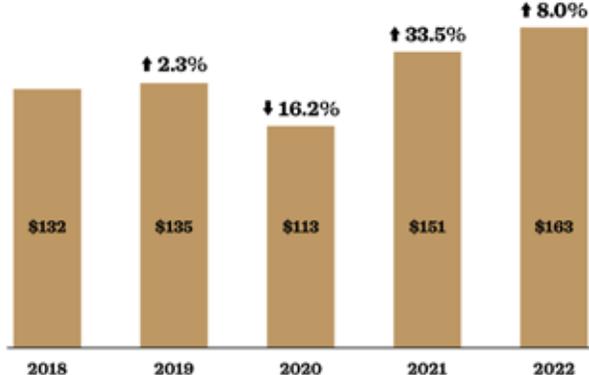


Image 38: Total visitor spending in Ford County totaled \$163 million in 2022.



Image 39: Bob Batman was crowned the 2023/2024 Mr. Mustache.



CULTURAL RELATIONS

WELCOMING PLAN

In partnership with Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas, the City of Dodge City completed a strategic plan for welcoming and integration in Dodge City. It is designed to help position the City of Dodge City to become more welcoming by integrating newcomers in our growing and diverse community.

REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

Legal assistance and integration program partnerships are accessible and available with the goal to fully integrate newcomers in Dodge City.

- ★ The Guatemalan Consulate provided documentation services to community members from across Kansas and the surrounding states.
- ★ The City partnered with community organizations to host a variety of events regarding naturalization and becoming a US Citizen.
- ★ Naturalization scholarships were awarded to 18 applicants funded by grants from Gateways for Growth and the Community Foundation of SWKS.

EQUITABLE ACCESS

Local governments lead the effort to promote a welcoming and inclusive environment.

- ★ Recipients of the naturalization scholarship participated in Engage Dodge, a course created to provide information on the City's services and programs.



Image 40: Cultural Relations Advisory Board members volunteer at the 2023 International Festival.

- ★ The fourth annual Dodge City International Festival was held in September and featured Crossroads Kitchen, local vendors, and a great lineup of entertainment. The Cultural Relations Advisory Board organized the event along with community partners to make it a fun event for the community.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Newcomers and underserved populations learn about and participate in governmental, nonprofit, and volunteer opportunities.

- ★ In partnership with Ford County, the City created a series of voter engagement videos to increase voter participation.
- ★ The City expanded the Cultural Relations Advisory Board to include two additional positions.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- ★ The City will host a New Americans Celebration and Dinner to honor Dodge City residents who have recently become US citizens.
- ★ The U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas will host a naturalization ceremony in Dodge City where residents from across Kansas will complete the naturalization process to become US citizens.
- ★ The City plans to continue its partnership with ESOL & Diversity and host another Engage Dodge session in Spanish for their students.
- ★ City staff are preparing to engage the community about the importance of being counted in the 2030 Census.



CONTACT US

City Manager	620-225-8100 ext. 6
City Clerk & Finance	620-225-8100 ext. 6
Utility Billing	620-225-8111
Human Resources	620-225-8100 ext. 6
City & Prosecuting Attorney	620-225-8100 ext. 6/800-220-2567
Public Information	620-225-8100 ext. 6
Director of Administration	620-225-8100 ext. 6
Dodge City Regional Airport	620-225-8170
Convention & Visitors Bureau	620-225-8186
Development Services	620-225-8105
Economic Development	620-227-9501
Engineering	620-225-8106
Fire Department (Non-Emergency)	620-225-8187
Municipal Court	620-225-8107
Parks & Facilities	620-225-8160
Maple Grove Cemetery	620-225-8140
Mariah Hills Golf Course	620-225-8182
Police Department (Non-Emergency)	620-225-8126
Animal Control	620-225-8180
Public Transportation	620-225-8119
Public Works	620-225-8170

CONNECT WITH US

WEBSITE	www.dodgecity.org
FACEBOOK	www.facebook.com/cityofdodgecity
VIMEO	www.vimeo.com/cityofdodgecity



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WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?



PLEASE RECYCLE

1. CARDBOARD
2. NEWSPAPER
3. MAGAZINE/CATALOG
4. FOOD BOXES
5. MAIL
6. BEVERAGE CANS
7. FOOD CANS
8. PLASTIC COLORED #2
9. PLASTIC #2 JUGS
10. PLASTIC BOTTLES #1
11. SOFT AND HARDBACK BOOKS
12. E-WASTE

Please recycle clean items only. All food items must be free of waste and rinsed out

Plastic shopping bags can be recycled at Dillons and Walmart

Hours of Operation
Monday - Saturday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

The Jane Longmeyer Recycling Center
124 N. 14th Avenue

For More Information Call
(620)225-8170





CORE PURPOSE

Together we serve
to make Dodge City the best place to be.

CORE VALUES

Safety

Together we endeavor to provide a safe and secure workplace and community.

Honesty, Integrity and Respect

Together we work honestly and with integrity, while respecting the rights of others.

Ongoing Improvement

Together we value progress, growth and new possibilities by providing and preparing for the community's future.

Working Towards Excellence

Together we strive to achieve high performance and service standards set by us and expected by the community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Together we promote open communications with our community members to improve quality of life and preserve our heritage to foster a better future.

WE ARE DODGE CITY