



2024 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 at 806 N 2nd Ave (North Entrance)**
- **Pay Your Bill Online (dodgecity.org/116)**
- **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**



www.dodgecity.org

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,

As we reflect on 2024, one phrase comes to mind: strength in progress. This year has been defined by strategic investments, community-focused projects, and a shared commitment to strengthening the foundation of Dodge City for generations to come.

One of the standout milestones was the completion of multiple phases of the Downtown Streetscape Project, a major revitalization effort that enhances infrastructure and creates a more inviting atmosphere. These improvements not only support local businesses but also enrich the visitor experience, reinforcing downtown Dodge City as a vibrant destination.

Economic development took center stage this year with the completion of the Hilmar Cheese plant, a state-of-the-art facility that represents a significant investment in Dodge City's future. This project required extensive coordination across multiple City departments to ensure smooth construction and compliance with all necessary guidelines. Now fully operational, Hilmar Cheese brings new jobs, economic opportunities, and industry growth to our community, further solidifying Dodge City's position as a leader in agricultural business.

Infrastructure improvements also advanced at the Dodge City Regional Airport where construction began in May 2024 and is moving forward rapidly toward its expected completion in May 2025. This project modernizes the airport, creating a more comfortable, efficient, and accessible facility for both residents and visitors. The upgraded terminal will enhance air travel convenience while also bolstering economic growth and providing a key gateway for business and tourism in Southwest Kansas.

Amidst this progress, the Street Sales Tax continues to play a vital role in advancing street reconstruction projects across Dodge City. This dedicated funding ensures that roadways remain safe, reliable, and well-maintained, improving connectivity, traffic flow, and overall accessibility for residents and visitors alike. Investing in these infrastructure projects reflects our commitment to a well-developed and future-ready transportation network.

As we look ahead, our commitment to responsible growth and enhancing the quality of life for all who call Dodge City home remains strong. The progress we have made is a testament to the dedication of our residents, businesses, and City staff, whose hard work and support continue to drive our community forward. Together, we will build on this momentum to ensure a thriving and prosperous future for Dodge City.

All the best,

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

City Manager
City of Dodge City



2024 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

DODGE CITY RESIDENTS



Mayor
CHUCK TAYLOR



Vice Mayor
JEFF REINERT



Commissioner
MICHAEL BURNS



Commissioner
DANIEL POGUE



Commissioner
RICK SOWERS



NICK HERNANDEZ
City Manager



**Asst. City Manager/
Public Affairs**
MELISSA MCCOY



Administration
RYAN REID



City Attorney
PAIGE BANGERTER
GILMORE



**Construction &
Facilities**
KEVIN ISRAEL



**Convention &
Visitors Bureau**
MEGAN WELSH



Development Services
JOSH ADAMS



**Economic
Development**
JOANN KNIGHT



Engineering Services
RAY SLATTERY, P.E.



Finance
NICOLE MAY



Fire Department
KEN SPENCER



Human Resources
CHERISE TIEBEN



Parks & Recreation
DANIEL CECIL



Police Department
DREW FRANCIS



Public Works
COREY KELLER





YOUR CITY OF DODGE CITY

FORM OF GOVERNMENT

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. Born out of the U.S. progressive reform movement, 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 government is used by nearly all cities with populations of 5,000 or more in Kansas, the surrounding states, and the world.

CITY COMMISSION

The City Commission is composed of five elected Dodge City community members. Three of the 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

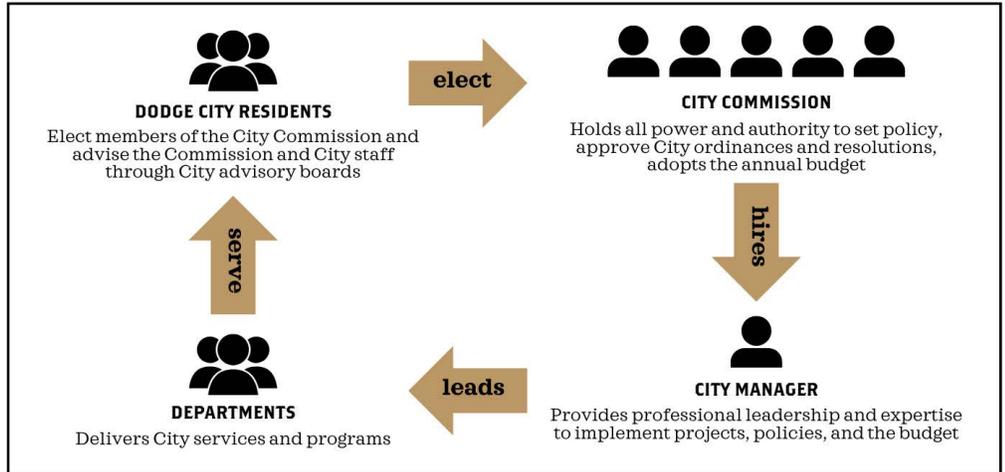


Image 2: The City of Dodge City follows a Commission-Manager form of government.

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 at 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. For those who prefer to watch from home, meetings are livestreamed 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.

THE Commission



JEFF REINERT



MICHAEL BURNS



RICK SOWERS



DANIEL POGUE



CHUCK TAYLOR





PUBLIC INFORMATION

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 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, the Engage Dodge program has evolved into a new version called Engage Dodge on Wheels specifically tailored for high school-aged students. The goal is to provide important information about our local government operations in a way that engages school-aged participants. The first session was a success, fostering a deeper understanding of the various responsibilities of the City of Dodge City’s local government. Regular Engage Dodge sessions are still available to the public, offering opportunities for everyone to learn more about our local government.

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 stay informed or to message us with any questions. Residents can also stop by City Hall and speak with staff at any time or call 620-225-8100 opt. 6 to schedule a meeting with the City Manager.



Image 3: 2024 Engage Dodge on Wheels participants and City staff at a USD443 Board of Education Meeting





FINANCE

GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES

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 2024, governmental expenditures totaled \$20,643,991. This is an increase of approximately 0.14% when compared to 2023.

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:

General Government - Includes wages and other expenses for City Commissioners; wages for Depot Train station attendants, the City Manager’s Office, Finance, IT, City Attorney, Human Resources, Municipal Court; and contracts for the municipal judge and prosecuting attorney.

Public Safety - Expenses for services required to protect the community; includes Police, Animal Control, and the Fire Department.

Public Infrastructure - Includes a portion of the costs of wages for the public works streets division and wages for airport employees and the engineering services department.

Parks and Facilities - Expenses to maintain and improve all the

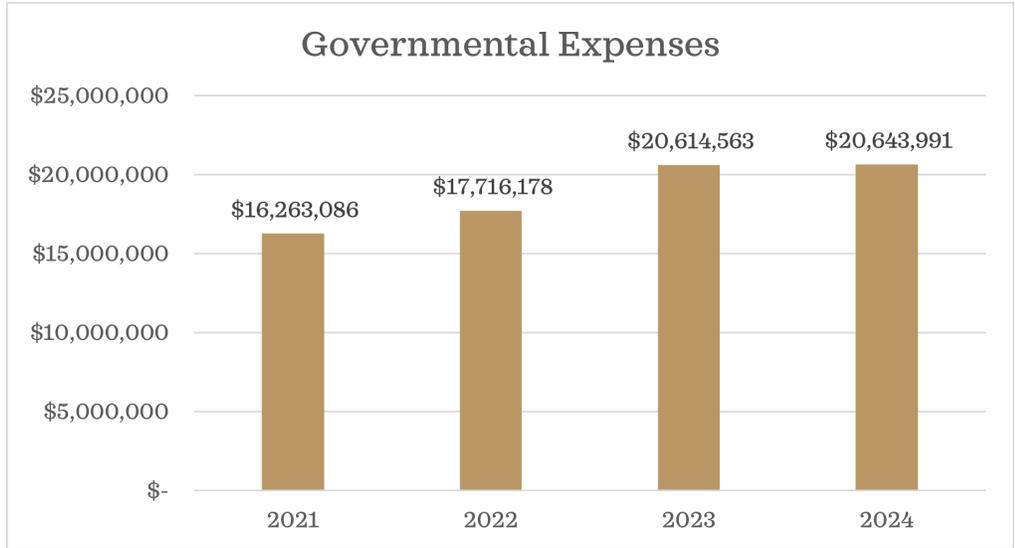


Image 4: Graph detailing the annual City of Dodge City Governmental Expenses (2021-2024)

parcs located within the City, Hoover Pavilion, the cemetery and mausoleum, Mariah Hills golf course, and Hennessey Hall; and wages for zoo personnel and maintenance of the zoo grounds.

Economic Development - The City pays the wages of the five full-time employees.

Development Services- Expenses incurred for issuing

permits for both commercial and residential building projects, and ensuring zoning and building code compliance.

Non-Departmental - Includes the City’s portion of the communications budget that is shared with Ford County, computer upgrades and other community support.

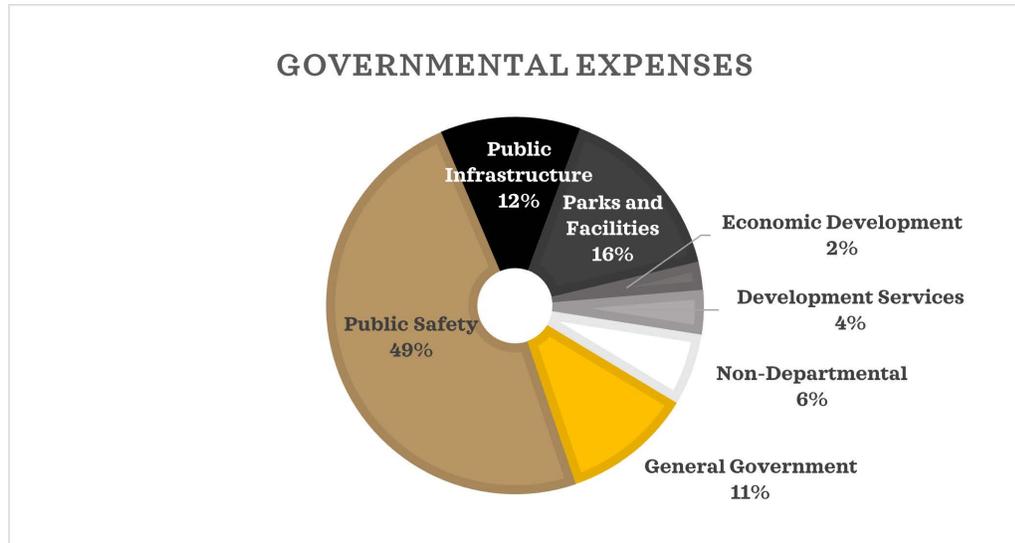


Image 5: Graph detailing the breakdown of the City of Dodge City Governmental Expenses



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 (34%) and property taxes (19%). The City also receives revenues from charges for services, franchise fees, grants, interest, fines and various other revenues.

In 2024, the governmental activities revenues totaled \$18,527,631. Revenues in 2024 decreased by \$66,239 compared to 2023 primarily due to a decrease in property 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.

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.

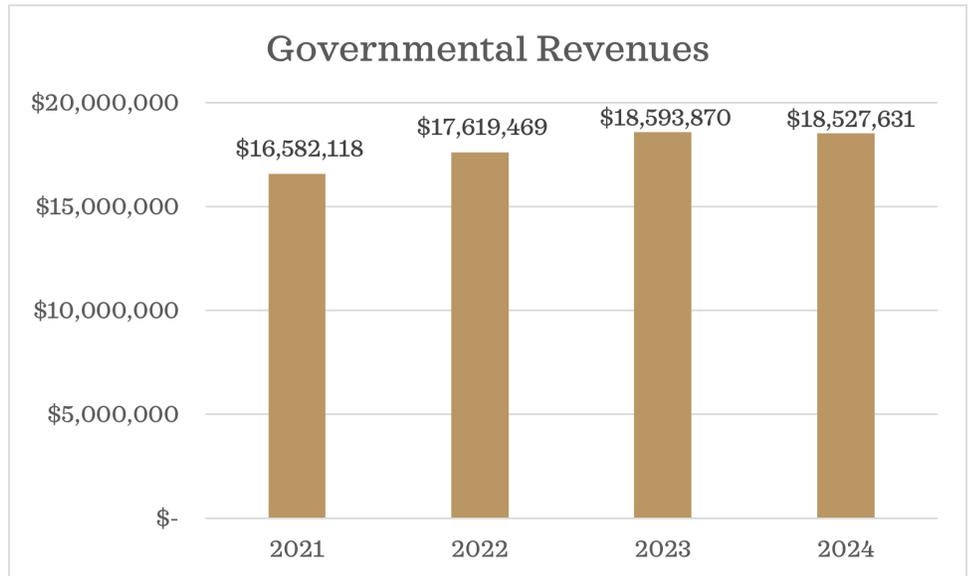


Image 6: Graph detailing the annual City of Dodge City Governmental Revenues (2021-2024)

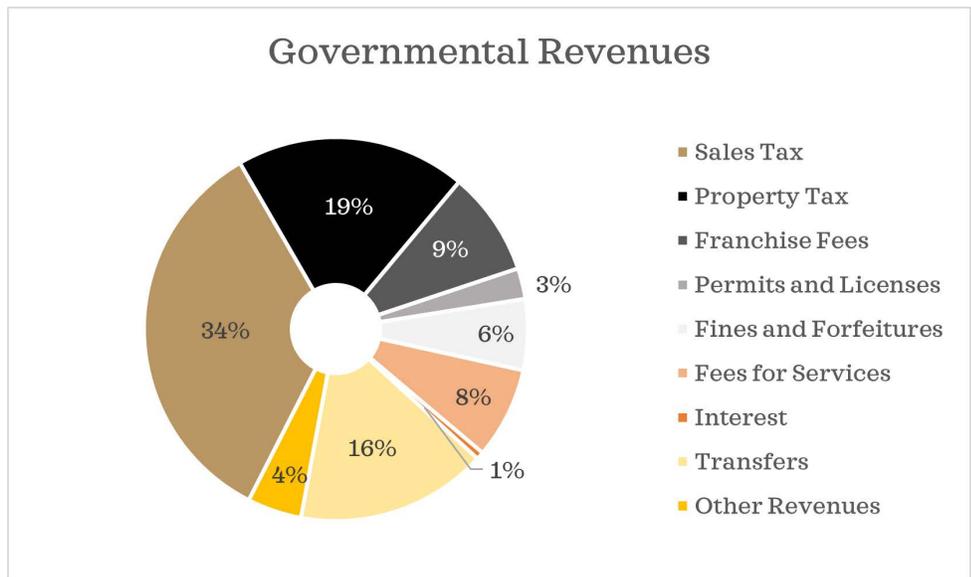


Image 7: Graph detailing the 2024 City of Dodge City Governmental Revenues

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.

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

FEES FOR SERVICES - This includes any fees and charges for services the City supplies including reimbursements for security services, school resource officers, and police report copies; the sale of dog tags and adoption fees collected by the Animal Shelter, charges for copies of engineering plans; funds received for leases at the airport, sales of gasoline and



landing fees; funds for opening and closing of graves, sales of lots and mausoleum 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.

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.

OTHER REVENUES - These revenues are grants or distributions received from other sources, which includes federal & state grants, state highway maintenance funds, sale of scrap, and any contributions and donations.

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.

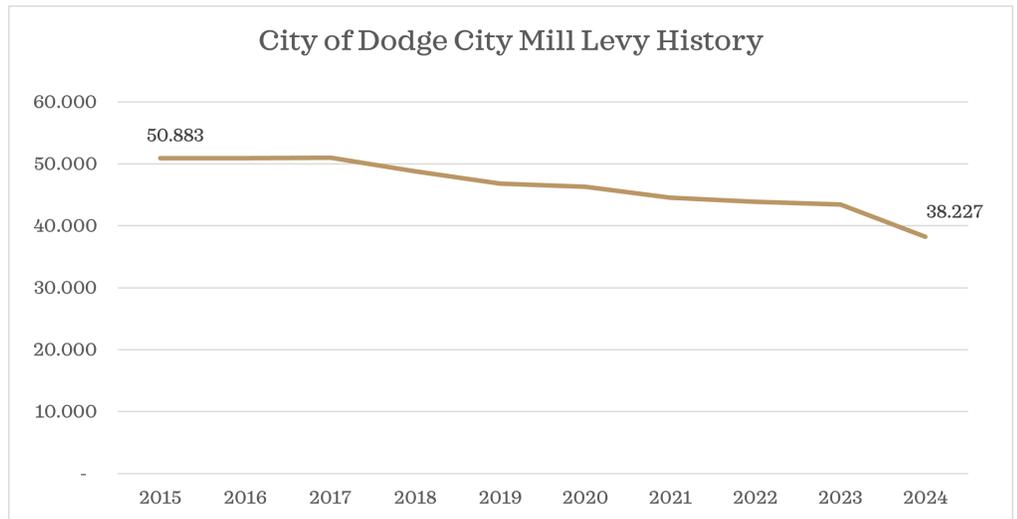


Image 8: The Dodge City Commission has been decreasing the City mill levy over the past 10 years.

For the 2025 budget, the City's assessed valuation was \$212,073,884; therefore, one mill's value was \$212,073.88.

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.

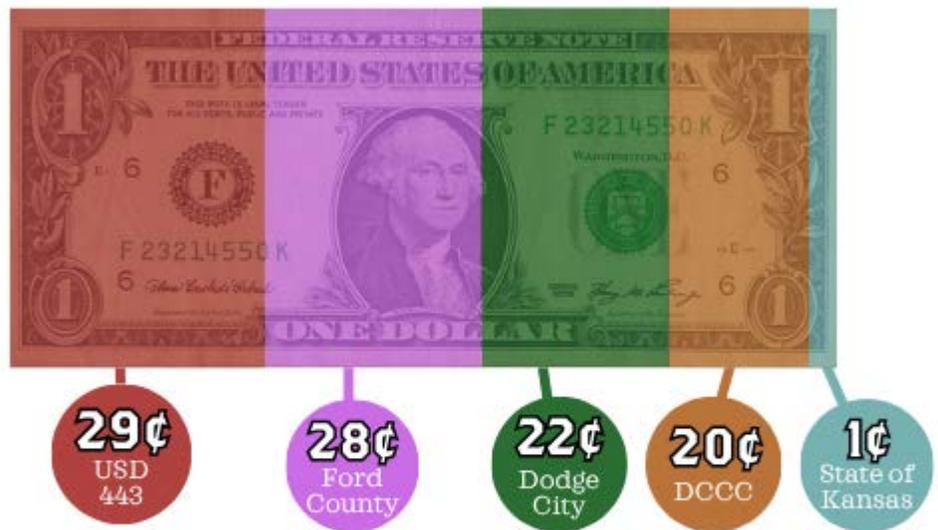


Image 9: For every dollar of property tax paid, the City of Dodge City receives 22 cents.



DEBT

The City has five different types of debt.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (GO BONDS)

- Debt backed by the full faith and credit of the City. As of December 31, 2024, 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 Long Branch Lagoon water park and are paid by sales tax.

CAPITAL LEASES

- Financing arrangements that provide funding for the acquisition or construction of facilities and equipment.

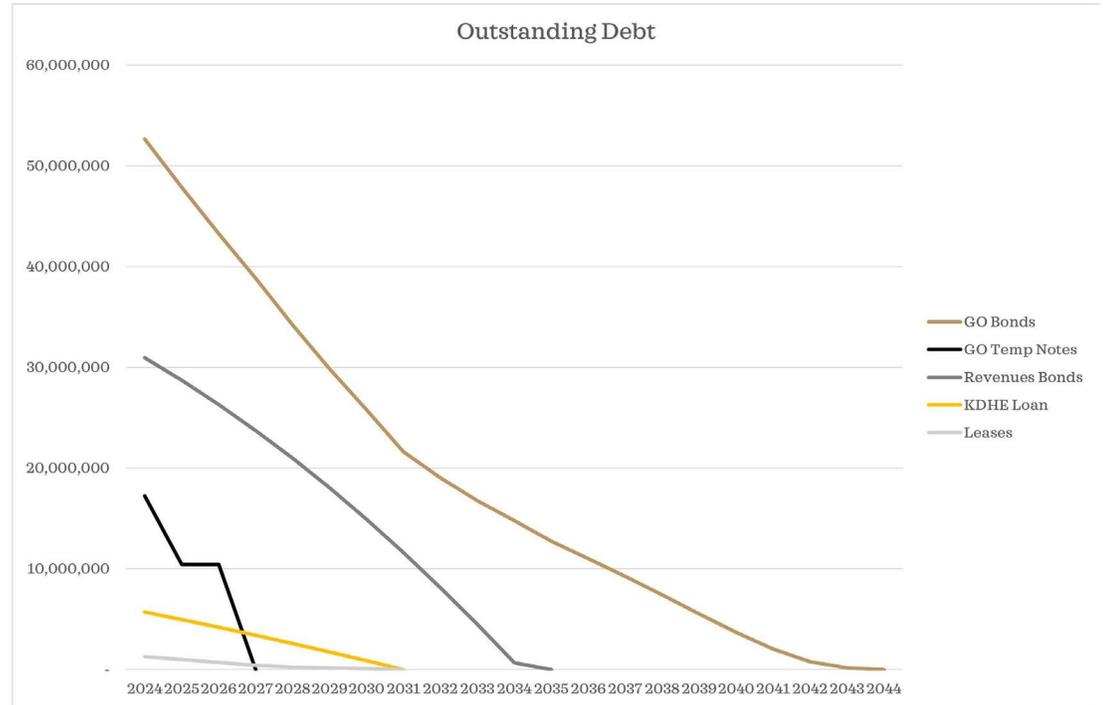


Image 10: Graph detailing the City of Dodge City's Outstanding Debt (2024-2044)

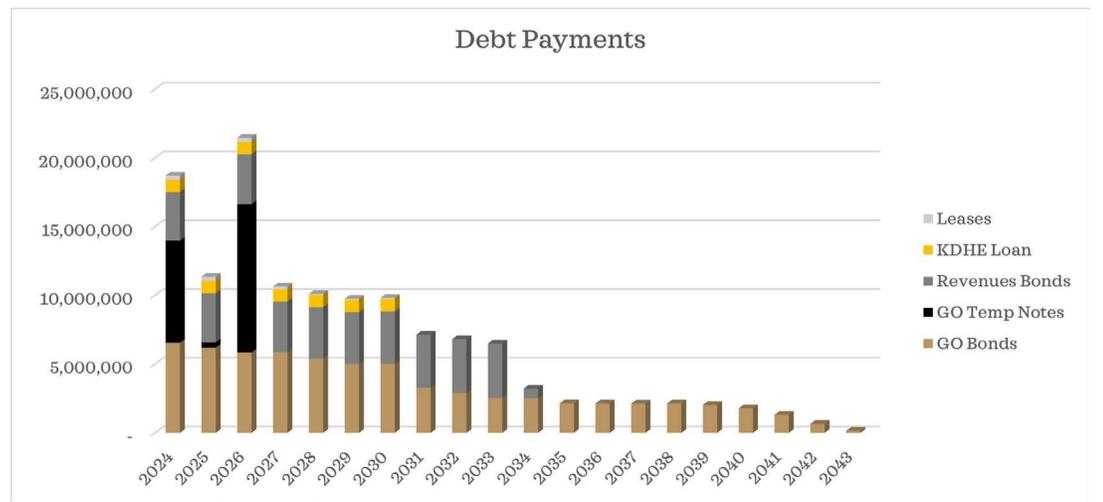


Image 11: Graph detailing the City of Dodge City's Expected Debt Payments (2024-2044)

Capital leases have been used to construct the CREW building and 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.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHO WE ARE

The Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation is a public private partnership that 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; and promotes community development and many other partnerships and services.

2024 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. Hilmar Cheese plant opened in October and will be fully operational in February of 2025.

HOUSING

Increasing housing and improving neighborhoods continued to be a major focus in 2024. The Community Housing Association of Dodge City has continued the partnership with Dodge City Community College Building Trades program to build a house to be sold to moderate-income families. The Abandoned Housing Program was used to move two homes into blighted neighborhoods to increase housing and help the neighborhoods. Housing developments under construction include Casa Del Rio, Iron Flats, Rodeo Hills, United Village, and Sundance II.



Image 12: CHAD and the DC3 Building Trades program constructed a new house at 1306 Military Ave.

These developments will add 499 more housing units when completed.

The Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD) is a nonprofit organization created to address the housing needs in and around Dodge City through programs such as Paint Dodge, the Community Housing Renovation Program, and partnering with the Dodge City Community College (DC3).

Paint Dodge provides assistance to eligible homeowners in Dodge City to enable them to repaint the exterior of their homes and alleviate deteriorating housing conditions within the City. In 2024, the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas awarded CHAD \$5,000 for the Paint Dodge program, which helped six (6) families receive funds to paint the outside of their homes to meet city code.

In 2024, a single-family home was completed at 1306 Military Ave. CHAD is currently finishing a

home on Cottonwood and a new build at 1304 Military Ave, in partnership with the DC3 Building Trades Program. To further this partnership, CHAD presented \$1,400 in scholarships to program students.

CHAD and the City of Dodge City were awarded a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant through the Kansas Department of Commerce in 2022. With this program they have been able to complete emergency repairs for 6 families in 2024, and they have \$131,000 in funding for 2025. This funding is being utilized for emergency home repairs in a designated area in Dodge City.

CHAD hosted Construction Day in which over 200 high school students from all over the region toured various construction projects in Dodge and learned about the DC3 Building Construction Technology Program. CHAD also hosted multiple Homebuyer Education classes for the community.

MAIN STREET

Main Street Dodge City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of the downtown area by uniting the private and public sector to stimulate pride and bring life to the community's vibrant heart. 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 is working closely with the City of Dodge City and Building Solutions to keep the businesses and 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.

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.

CCDC continues to focus on developing a plan for a community childcare center and also worked to assist existing and encourage new in-home childcare providers by hosting a seminar and working with individuals through the requirements of starting a daycare.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

The Rural Education and Workforce Alliance (REWA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded 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, where multiple universities offer bachelor and master-level courses in nursing, communication science, law enforcement, and more.

The Development Corporation hosts the Small Business Development Center, which helps entrepreneurs and small businesses start and grow through professional advising, training, and analytical tools and resources. In 2024, fifteen workforce training workshops were hosted including Excel, AI Training for Businesses and many more.

REWA also oversees the Makerspace, which features many 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. In 2024, the Makerspace received a 3D Printer in donation and was able to secure funding for a laser engraver that will be available to the public in 2025. REWA received a 2024 Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas grant for operating expenses.



Image 13: The Makerspace provides high-quality resources and tools to the community for use in producing professional-grade marketing materials.

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 tourism to Kansas. The bonds are paid off through the sales tax revenue generated by the development.

The Dodge City STAR Bond Project is located within two separate areas. The Heritage Area contains approximately 166 acres in historic downtown Dodge City, Kansas. The Heritage Area is anchored by Boot Hill Museum and the Downtown Streetscape along Front Street located north of Wyatt Earp Boulevard. However, it also includes the Lewis Ford automotive dealership, an area south of Wyatt Earp Boulevard and west of 2nd Avenue in and around Wright Park including the Long Branch Lagoon.

The Power Center Area is approximately 219 acres of property located 1.5 miles northwest of the Heritage Area along North 14th Avenue. This area was designed to attract major retailers to the 14th corridor. In 2024, new retail additions were all located at United Plaza located at 14th Avenue and Soule Street and include Personal Touch Aesthetics, the Meating Place (a specialty meat shop and Speckles and Stripes clothing store.

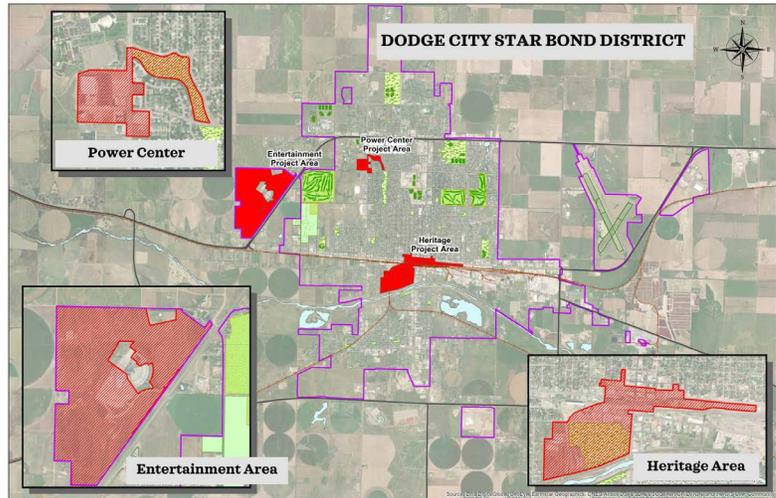


Image 14: Map of the Dodge City STAR Bonds districts.

BOOT HILL MUSEUM

As an integral part of the Dodge City's STAR Bond project, in 2024, the museum welcomed 63,257 visitors. The Museum is one of Dodge City's main destinations attracting new visitors and locals to explore the interactive exhibits that showcase the rich western heritage and history of Dodge City and Southwest Kansas.

The Boot Hill Museum Mariah Gallery space hosted three Traveling Exhibits in 2024. These included the Santa Fe Trail 200th Timeline Exhibit (February and March 2024), the Ham Bell Exhibit: An Innovative Pioneer (July-September 2024) and Notorious: Kansas People (October -November 2024).

In addition to the Traveling Exhibits, the Mariah Gallery space remains a highly sought-after venue, celebrated for its versatility in accommodating a wide range of events, presentations, and exhibits. In 2024, eight special events were held there including the Five Flags film premiere, Cowpoke Camp for Kids and Boots and Beer, the Museum's premiere fundraiser, as well as many rentals in this versatile space.



Image 15: Boot Hill Museum hosted the Notorious Kansas traveling exhibit from the Smoky Hills Museum.

DOWNTOWN STREETScape

The \$15,188,601 Downtown Streetscape project continues to progress and focuses on infrastructure and streetscape including landscaping improvements. The revitalization of Dodge City's historic downtown is an essential part of the STAR Bond project.

In 2024 the following phases of the Downtown Streetscape were completed:

- ★ **Phase 1B** - Central Ave. from Military Ave. to Wyatt Earp Blvd. and Gunsmoke Ave. from 1st Ave. to Central Ave
- ★ **Phase 2** - Front Street from 3rd Avenue to 2nd Avenue
- ★ **Phase 3A & 3B** - 3rd Avenue from Front Street to Gunsmoke Avenue

The following phases are currently under construction:

- ★ **Phase 4** - Front Street from 1st Avenue to Central Avenue
- ★ **Phase 5** - Gunsmoke from 3rd Avenue to 2nd Avenue
- ★ **Phase 7** - 2nd Avenue from Front Street to Gunsmoke Avenue

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.

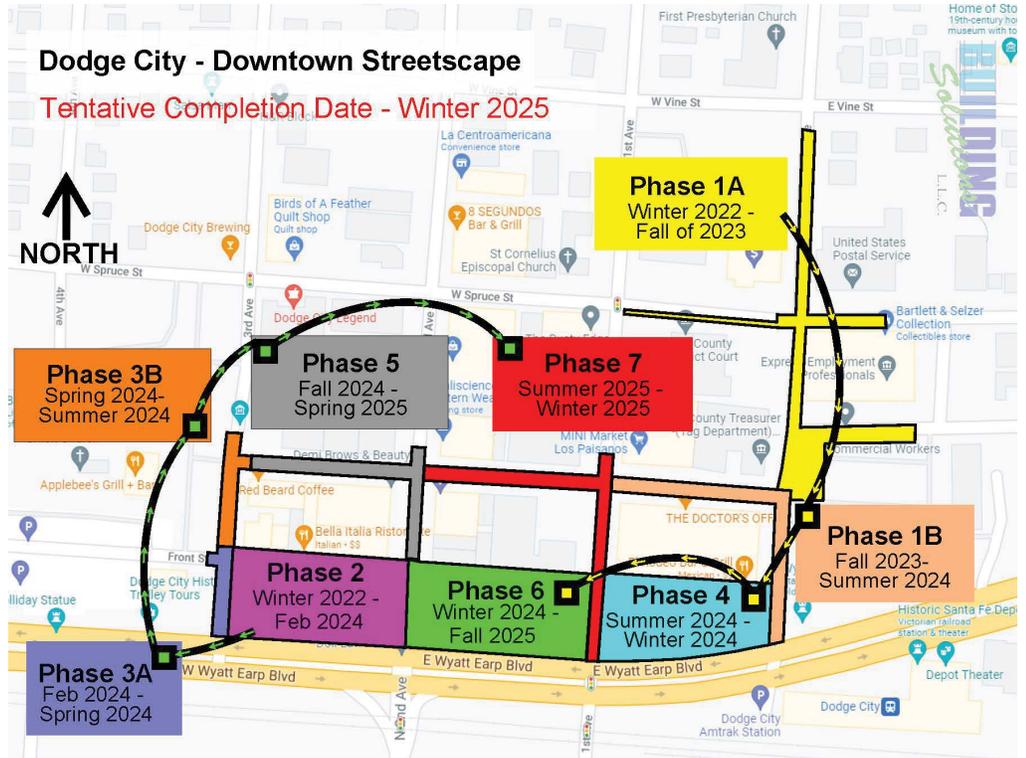


Image 16: Tentative completion date and location of the Downtown Streetscape project phases.

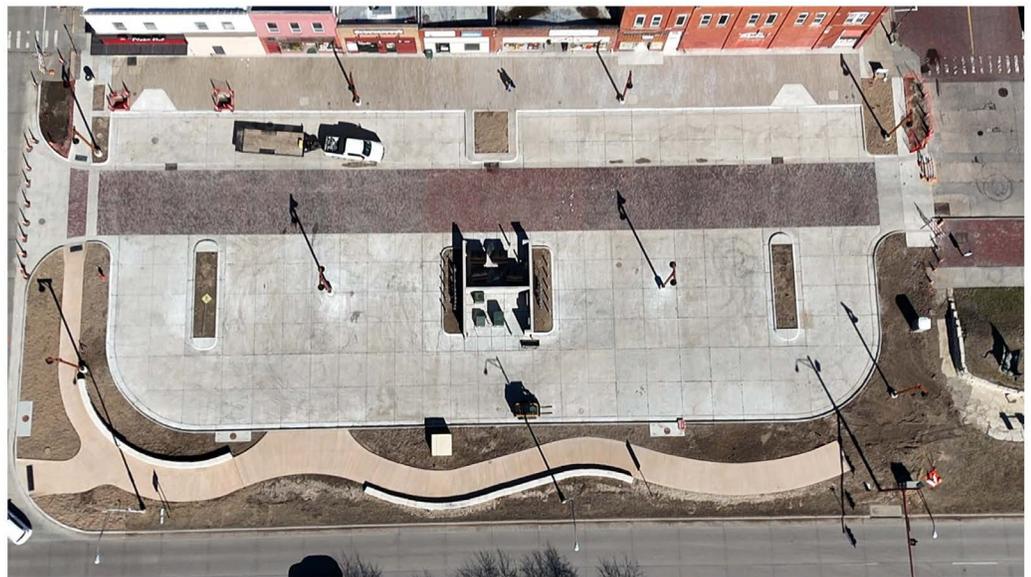


Image 17: Aerial view of Phase 2 of the Downtown Streetscape project - Front Street between 2nd and 3rd.



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. In fact, tourism is a key part of the economic success of Dodge City and Ford County. The economy in Ford County relies more on tourism than the statewide average.

According to the 2023 Economic Impact of Tourism in Ford County report, tourism supported about 1,693 jobs in Dodge City/Ford County, which is around 9% of all jobs in the area. These jobs earned \$68 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 \$172 million in spending in 2023, which was 2.2% of all visitor spending in Kansas. This visitor spending surpassed pre-pandemic levels by around 28% and supported \$16 million in state and local government revenues.

Historically, Ford County ranks among the top 10 counties in Kansas for visitor spending.

The largest categories of visitor spending were recreational activities (28% or \$49M), followed by food and beverages (23% or \$40M), local transportation (18% or \$30M), lodging (17% or \$29M) and retail (14% or \$24M).

Visitor spending growth was steady in 2023 across all categories. Lodging experienced strong growth, expanding 10% year-over-year. Food and beverage spending followed closely behind with 8% growth. Spending in retail, recreation, and transportation also experienced steady growth as the Ford County visitor economy reached a new high-water mark for visitor spending.



Image 18: 2023 Mr. Mustache Bob Batman and 2024 Mr. Mustache Loren Ashlock pose with CVB staff.

DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED IN DODGE CITY

In 2024, Historic Trolley Tours enhanced its operations with the acquisition of a new 30-passenger blue trolley, expanding capacity for summer Historic Trolley Tours, December Holiday Light Tours, and a variety of private events throughout the year. The 2024 Holiday Light Tours proved exceptionally successful with 95% occupancy across 25 scheduled tours, demonstrating strong support from both residents and visitors. The community's holiday light displays contributed significantly to the program's success.

In 2024, Dodge City maintained its rich tradition of community gatherings through several signature events. The year's calendar featured the prestigious Founders Weekend Celebration, Dodge City Days, and the city's annual birthday celebration. The distinctive Whisker Roundup Mustache Contest continued to showcase Dodge City's unique Western heritage.

The holiday season commenced with two marquee events: the Parade of Lights and the Chili Cook-Off. These festivities drew approximately 3,500 residents and visitors alike, creating a vibrant atmosphere that exemplified our community's festive spirit and shared traditions.



PARKS & RECREATION

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

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

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

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 47 years since the award's inception. In 2024, the Forestry & Landscape Division planted 43 new trees and 426 annual plants while maintaining 316 downtown landscape beds and tree rings. They also removed 257 trees that were in poor condition.

WRIGHT PARK ACTION PLAN

Wright Park is a cherished community park and no longer meets the needs of our growing and diverse population. Improving Wright Park remains a priority for the City, and staff have been pursuing funding opportunities to bring the Reimagining Wright Park project to life. The City currently plans to apply to federal funding, which would



SITE PLAN

LEGEND

- A - Hoover Pavilion & Gardens**
 - 1) Expand Hoover Patio (North Side)
 - 2) Removal of Skate Park
 - 3) New Wedding Gazebo Area
 - 4) Expanded Liberty Gardens
 - 5) New Pedestrian Bridge
 - 6) New Trash Enclosure
 - 7) New Site Lighting, Trees, Walks
 - 8) New Park Signage (East Entry)
- B - Central Wright Park**
 - 1) New Traffic Round-a-Bout
 - 2) Existing Restroom
 - 3) Add Shading at Existing Bandshell
 - 4) Lighting, Trees, Sidewalks
 - 5) New Open-Air Park Shelters
 - 6) Turf Yard Games Areas
- C - Inclusive Playground**
 - 1) Splash Pad Fountain 2,000 SF
 - 2) Tots & Inclusive Play 4,000 SF
 - 3) Climbing & Balance 4,000 SF
 - 4) Swings & Spinners 4,000 SF
 - 5) Primary Play Structure 5,000 SF
- D - Wright Park Zoo**
 - 1) Administration/Maintenance Building
 - 2) Concessions/Giftshop Building
 - 3) Animal Care Service Building
 - 4) Prairie Exhibits
 - 5) Mountain Exhibits
 - 6) Rainforest Exhibits
 - 7) Butterfly Cove
 - 8) Picnic Deck
 - 9) Naturalized Water Feature
 - 10) Off-Leash Dog Park
- Impervious Area 547,555 SF (12.57 Acres) = 37% of the Park**
 - Street 269,062 SF
 - Sidewalk 211,661 SF
 - Building 39,115 SF
 - Courts/Recreation: 27,717 SF
- Tree Canopy (7.75 Acres)**
- Parking # of Stalls Total: 401**

Image 19: The Wright Park Action Plan will reimagine Wright Park and introduce significant improvements to the area.

pay 50% of the proposed project costs up to \$15 million. A variety of upgrades are planned including a re-imagined zoo, an inclusive playground, infrastructure improvements and multi-use pathways.

MARIAH HILLS GOLF COURSE

2024 was one of the best years at Mariah Hills in the last 20+ years. Golfers enjoyed 25,150 rounds of golf compared to 22,330 in 2023 (an 11% increase). This is the most rounds played in the last 24 years. There were 45 tournaments scheduled and hosted compared to 38 tournaments scheduled in 2023. Three of the bigger tournaments hosted were the 3A KSHSAA Boys State Tournament, NJCAA Plains District Championship, and the

KCAC Match Play. Mariah Hills has been selected to host the Kansas Junior Amateur Tournament in 2025. This tournament is the largest and most prestigious junior tournament in the state of Kansas and the first time we have been selected as the host site.

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 2024, work continued on adding new roads around the newly developed division, which should be capped in spring or summer of 2025.



“WHY NOT DODGE” PROJECTS

DODGE CITY RACEWAY PARK

Dodge City Raceway Park (DCRP) is the Premiere Kansas Dirt Track. With a seating capacity near 3,500, DCPR features a multitude of motorsports entertainment events including:

- ★ 5 International Motor Contest Association (IMCA) classes
- ★ United Rebel Sprint Series
- ★ Monster Truck Nitro Tour
- ★ Steve King Memorial mid-season special featuring ASCS 360 National Tour, NOW 600 and Micros and Hobby Stocks
- ★ Dave Garmann Memorial Late Model race featuring the High Plains late models, Sport Mods and Stocks
- ★ Jerry Soderberg Memorial Classic featuring IMCA, Mods, Sport Mods, and URSS Sprints

Kyler Feters with Outlaw Productions led the DCRP to a successful year in 2024 welcoming 702 cars from nine different classes. This included hobby stocks, sport mods, cruisers, modified, 305 sprint cars, late models, ASCS sprints midgets and micros.

19,043 patrons enjoyed the races throughout the season at the DCRP, which was an increase of 4,743 patrons over those that attended in 2023.

To learn more about Dodge City Raceway Park and to check out the schedule visit www.racedcrp.com/.

LONG BRANCH LAGOON

Before the start of the season, several improvements were made to enhance the Long Branch Lagoon water park:

- ★ Coat of paint for all pools
- ★ New commercial oven and deep fryer
- ★ Repainting restrooms and guard room
- ★ Replacement of chaise lounge chairs
- ★ Pumps, filters, and chlorinators were serviced and prepared

Entering its 9th year of operation, the western-themed water park, which features over 27,000 square feet, experienced a significant increase in attendance during the 2024 season.

In 2024, the park welcomed 54,322 visitors, up from 48,815 in 2023. The average daily attendance also rose from 576 in 2023 to 647 in 2024, reflecting the park’s continued popularity.

SPORTS & EVENTS

For the 2024 season, Legends Ballpark scheduled 12 youth baseball and softball tournaments with two tournaments canceled due to weather. A total of 170 youth teams registered including 55 teams for the 48-Hour tournament.

In 2024, 7,113 attendees passed through the gates at Legends Ballpark. Additionally, 70 more teams participated in tournaments in Dodge City compared to the 2023 season, reflecting significant growth in participation and interest.



Image 20: DCRP Jerry Soderberg Memorial feature winner Troy Burkhart (Stock Car).



ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE

Athletic Field Maintenance (AFM) Division maintains 107 acres of athletic fields including:

- ★ St. Mary's Sports Complex
 - 10 baseball/softball game fields
 - 6 soccer game fields
 - 3 football game fields
- ★ 9 baseball/softball practice fields
- ★ 6 soccer practice fields

In 2024, the AFM team completed several upgrades to improve field conditions and aesthetics:

- ★ Legends Ballpark - Installed new block edging along the perimeter sidewalks of all four fields to prevent erosion and enhance appearance.
- ★ Cavalier Field - Repainted the perimeter wrought iron fence and installed new LED lighting around restrooms and walkways.
- ★ Youth Complex - Significant improvements to field playability including hauling in and distributing 700 tons of shale/sand infield mix across all four infields for better playing surfaces. Outfield fences on the two south fields were replaced.

These enhancements ensure that the City's athletic fields remain in top condition.

UNITED WIRELESS ARENA

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 including state volleyball and basketball. The average annual attendance is 80,894 with an average economic impact of \$8,089,400.

Throughout 2024, 300 events spanning 418 days were hosted with a total attendance of 81,670, and an economic impact of \$8,166,999.

The United Wireless Arena welcomed a great variety of shows in 2024. 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 2024, the Southwest Storm Arena Football team continued for their 3rd year.

DODGE CITY SPORTS COMMISSION

The Dodge City Sports Commission, an ad-hoc committee of the City, is

dedicated to identifying and attracting athletic events to Dodge City. The commission includes representatives from the City, USD 443, Dodge City Community College, United Wireless Arena, the Western State Bank Expo Center, and the Dodge City Convention & Visitors Bureau.

In 2024, the Sports Commission successfully hosted six major athletic events. These included four high school competitions and two collegiate events:

- ★ KSHSAA 2A Boys' and Girls' Basketball Championship
- ★ KSHSAA 1A-2A Volleyball State Championship
- ★ KSHSAA 2A State Golf Championship
- ★ Inaugural 6-Man Football Summer Kickoff Classic
- ★ Region IV Softball Tournament
- ★ KCAC Golf Match Play

Through these events, the Sports Commission continues to enhance the city's reputation as a premier destination for athletic competitions.



Image 21: Dodge City hosted the KSHAA 1A-2A Volleyball State Championship at the United Wireless Arena.

PUBLIC WORKS

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 an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, which initiates programs related to litter abatement, graffiti education, and beautification projects.

The Jane Longmeyer Recycling Center, located at 124 N 14th Ave,



Image 22: Sanitation staff work through the cold weather to ensure solid waste is picked up.

provides drop-off recycle services to the community. In 2024, the building produced almost 500 tons of recycled materials, which translates to \$67,870.19 in funding that is used for special projects around the community. Cardboard generated 295.12 tons and a total of \$33,521.90 in revenue.

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.

WATER DIVISION

The City provides 9061 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. In 2024 the City completed the lead and copper inventory for all end water users. Letters were sent out to roughly 1800 residents where lead lines were discovered or needed more investigation.

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) and is regulated under Part 139 Federal Standards. The airport operates on 440 acres of land and has 1,154,900 sq. ft. of runways and taxiways that staff must maintain.

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. In 2024, the Airport had 8351 enplanements, which equates to roughly 17,000 round trip passengers utilizing the Airport.

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 started May of 2024 and is expected to be completed May of 2025.

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 23: The City was awarded a \$7.3 million grant to remodel and expand the Dodge City Regional Airport.

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.

Youth Investment

Construction & Facilities has partnered with the Dodge City High School and the Dodge City Community College to hire construction interns. This allows for our experienced personnel to help youth and students to gain real-world experience in the construction field.

Police Facility Remodel

The department began 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 remodel is expected to be completed in March 2025.

Municipal Services Building Fuel Farm

The department has begun construction on the MSB Fuel Farm, which would store fuels used to power City fleet. The fuel farm will allow the City to monitor the fuel expenses for each department easier, provide substantial savings by purchasing fuel in bulk, and increase efficiency and convenience by allowing equipment to be filled before staff leaves the warehouse each morning. The fuel farm will be completed early spring 2025 weather permitting.



Image 26: Construction interns poured new concrete at the Fire Bell Park located at Station 1.



Image 24/25 Facilities staff and construction interns worked on the Detective Bureau's remodel at the Police Department facility.

First National Bank Building

With the acquisition of the old First National Bank building, the Construction & Facilities department has begun major maintenance and mold/mildew remediation to the interior of this historical building. The building has sat vacant and untouched since being declared unfit/unsafe in 2020 and will be sold to a developer for future use once the interior has been stabilized.



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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.

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 2024 was just under \$69 million.

Commercial Construction

Commercial building permits valuations totaled approximately \$21.3 million. This is a decrease from 2023.

Residential Construction

New housing permit valuations increased in 2024, totaling approximately \$18.5 million, with 86 single family houses permitted. Single family housing construction occurred in 4 new developments and infill lots. Multi-family unit permits valuations decreased in 2024 totaling approximately \$4.1 million, with 50 units permitted in 2 developments.

All other permit valuations, such as accessory structures, fences, remodels, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical totaled approximately \$25 million.



Image 28: Development Services inspects all new developments in Dodge City including properties such as the new Sundance Apartments pictured here.

APPROVED PERMITS

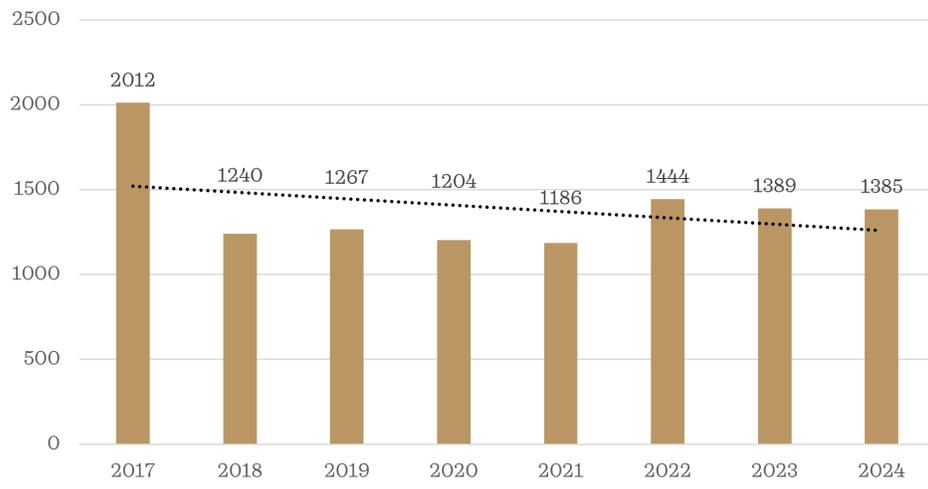


Image 27: Graph depicting the number of approved permits from 2017 to 2024.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

In 2024, 1,652 unique cases were started with 3,107 letters sent for property maintenance violations. The three most common violations were tall grass/weeds (719), inoperable vehicles (501), and junk/debris (243).

ZONING, PLANNING, HISTORIC PRESERVATION

10 applications were submitted to the Historic Landmark Commission for alterations in the historic district. There were 17 total cases that went to the Planning and Zoning Commission: seven variances, five plats, two rezones, one conditional use, one annexation, and one lot split.

ENGINEERING SERVICES

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.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ★ Continued work on the South Wastewater Plant Expansion. Three major pump stations were placed into service, and new force main was installed to the Hilmar Cheese Plant.
- ★ About 9/10ths of a mile of residential asphalt streets were reconstructed in concrete pavement. Along with the street reconstruction, 2,330 lineal feet of century old waterline was replaced with new 8" waterline. In total, \$1,864,462 was spent on the reconstruction and waterline replacement of the residential streets.

- ★ A mill & inlay performed on US 50 from roughly ¼ mile west of 14th Ave. to 6th Ave. and from Central Ave. to Barbara Ln East to improve ride and extend the life of the highway. KDOT partnered with the City on the cost of the project and contributed \$400,000 of the \$717,107.90 spent to resurface the highway and side street approaches.
- ★ 166,500 sq. yds or approximately 10 miles of residential asphalt streets were chip sealed. Chip sealing is a cost-effective way to extend the life of the street. Zone #3 was sealed in 2024, and Zone #2 is planned for 2025.
- ★ Construction continued on the Downtown Streetscape Project. This multi-year project is replacing the 100 plus-year old private and public utilities throughout the downtown area. Four of the seven phases have been completed.



Image 30: Levee armouring is required to meet FEMA accreditation requirements.

LEVEE/ RIVER ARMOURING & IMPROVEMENTS

To meet FEMA requirements, improvements had to be done to the drainage outfalls from the City through the levees and into the river. Over the past 40 plus, almost 50 years, erosion of the drainage outfalls has taken place and compromised the integrity of the levees. To prevent this from happening in the future, the outfalls are being armored with articulated concrete blocks and flex-a-mat reinforcing mats.

Once completed, an accreditation application can be sent to FEMA and USACE. If the levees are not accredited, the area of town between the BNSF Railroad Tracks and Beeson Rd. would be required to have flood insurance if a mortgage is in place. Also, any rebuilding or additions to existing structure or construction of any new structure in this area would have to be built 1' above the flood plain elevation, which would be around the same height as the river levees and prohibit any development south of the railroad tracks.



Image 29: 9.72 miles of 16" force main from the new Hilmar Cheese Plant to the South Wastewater Treatment Plant was installed.

NEW RESIDENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2024, the infrastructure for the Iron Flat's Subdivision was completed and opened up 100 new lots for homes. There was 9,777 lineal feet of waterline, 5,865 lineal feet of sewer line, and just under 20,000 S.Y. of concrete pavement placed for the streets. Over 4100 lineal feet of sidewalk and multi-use trail was also constructed.

Work continued at the United Village Subdivision. Installation of 4,961 lineal feet of waterline, 6,559 lineal feet of sewer line, and 18,230 S.Y. of concrete pavement placed for the streets took place. This infrastructure completed the west half of the subdivision and opened up 98 lots for the construction of houses.

FUTURE PROJECTS

US 50 & RED DEMON DR. INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Work on the final design of the second access to the DCHS Campus continued in 2024. The non-highway intersection portion of the project will go to bid in the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2025. The highway intersection should be in the 1st quarter of 2026.

This project will provide a second access to the DCHS Campus from Frontview St. Off this secondary access will be a student drop-off and pick-up loop. Roundabouts at the intersections of Red Demon Dr. and Frontview St. and the DCHS main drive will reduce the number of conflict points for the vehicular movements.

TRAIL ST. WIDENING

With the Trail St. widening project, a center two-way left-turn lane 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. Designed finished and Right-of-Way (R/W) is currently being acquired. Once the R/W is acquired and all utility conflicts are remedied, the project will be let.

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.



Image 31: A second entrance to DCHS is in the works with access from Frontview Street.



Image 32: A new stand-alone pedestrian bridge across the river will provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the river. The new bridge will be of truss design like shown.

MULTI-USE TRAIL EXTENSIONS

Design was all but finalized and R/W and easement acquisition all took place in 2024 on the extension of the City's Gunsmoke Multi-Use Trail from 1st Ave. to Elbow Bend along Comanche St. Along with this trail extension, the South Dodge Trail design was nearing completion by the end of 2024. This new trail will provide a connection from Wright Park to Beeson Arboretum.

As part of this project, a new stand-alone pedestrian river bridge across the river will provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the river. The new bridge will be of truss design, similar to the river bridge from Dodge City's early days.

GRANTS, OTHER DEPARTMENT PROJECTS, ETC.

The Engineering Department also kept busy with helping gather information and applying for numerous grants from Railroad Studies to provide another grade separated crossing to helping other departments with their projects like the new Columbarium layout to assisting with water issues.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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.

The Dodge City Fire Department is made up of 24 line personnel and two administrative staff. The 24 personnel are spread over three shifts of 8, each working 24 on and 48 hours off. Ideal staffing is 5 personnel at station 1 located at 201 Soule Street and 3 personnel at station 2 at 709 South 14th Ave.

The Dodge City Fire Dept. responds to all structure, vehicle and vegetation fires within the city limits with agreements in place to help surrounding community's when asked. DCFD responds to all emergency medical, and rescue calls in the city limits and responds to the airport every time a SkyWest plane arrives and departs.

DCFD 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.

EDUCATION

During October, DCFD was happy to get back into schools for the National Fire Protection Association's Fire Safety Week. The 2024 theme was "Smoke alarms: Make Them Work for You."



Image 33: DCFD poses with pups in support of the SWKS K9 Pawsibilities Fundraiser.

Fire personnel visited nine elementary schools, reaching 2,143 K-2 students. The focus during the lessons was fire safety and how smoke alarms keep the children and their families safe. DCFD asked each child to ask their families about testing the smoke alarms in their home.

ECONOMIC INCENTIVE

As a part of the Community Risk Reduction Program, DCFD provides fire and life safety inspections along with City Development 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.

The Dodge City Fire Department has five CPR/First Aid instructors. These five instructors trained 133 individuals in the community, all City employees and the Long Branch Lagoon lifeguards in 2024. Enhanced fire and life safety services is a benefit to the economic stability and growth of Dodge City.

ENFORCEMENT

In 2024, there were 79 inspections with 146 fire inspection violations discovered by fire inspectors in the City of Dodge City. Through guidance, education and working with property owners, these code violations were able to be corrected, mitigating the possibility of a catastrophic fire event.

ENGINEERING

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. The department currently has two staff certified as child seat technicians. In 2025, DCFD plans to add a few more,, so that each shift has someone available to assist the public.

The Fire Department also creates preplans on many of the community's commercial buildings. These preplans include, fire hydrant location, entry and exit points, utilities, hazards located in and around the structure and contact information for that building.

EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

When responding to emergencies, the department's goal is to meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for emergency response: 5 min. and 20 sec. from the time the station is notified to the time the apparatus arrives on scene. In 2024, the Fire Department's average response time was 5 minutes and 10 seconds, which meets the National Standard. This includes medical calls and building fires inside the city limits and any calls for assistance by other agencies.

In 2024, DCFD was called to service 2,924 times for emergent and non-emergent incidents. The majority of those calls (59%) were for medical assistance.

There were 102 fire calls in 2024. Of those fire calls, 36 were in structures, 19 were passenger vehicles, 35 were grass or brush fires, and the remaining 12 fires consisted of mixed rubbish or waste fires outside of the structures.

DCFD, with the assistance of Ford County Fire/EMS, provides Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (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 maintaining a training schedule. In 2024, DCFD personnel provided 466 standby responses at Dodge City Regional Airport.



Image 34: DCFD participates in frequent training to ensure they are prepared for any emergency response measures.



Image 35: DCFD celebrates Fire Safety Week annually in October by sharing fire safety lessons with Dodge City students.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

STRUCTURE, LEADERSHIP, STRENGTH AND GROWTH

The mission of the Dodge City Police Department is to provide quality police service to our community by promoting a safe environment through police and citizen interaction with an emphasis on integrity, fairness, and professionalism.

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, one 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.

In 2020, the department began an entry-level, non-sworn Community Service Officer program, which aims to attract and retain local youth between the ages of 18-20 interested in a career in law enforcement. The program has proven to be a successful initiative with three local graduates now serving as police officers.



Image 37: DCPD celebrated the win against Garden City in the annual hatchet game.

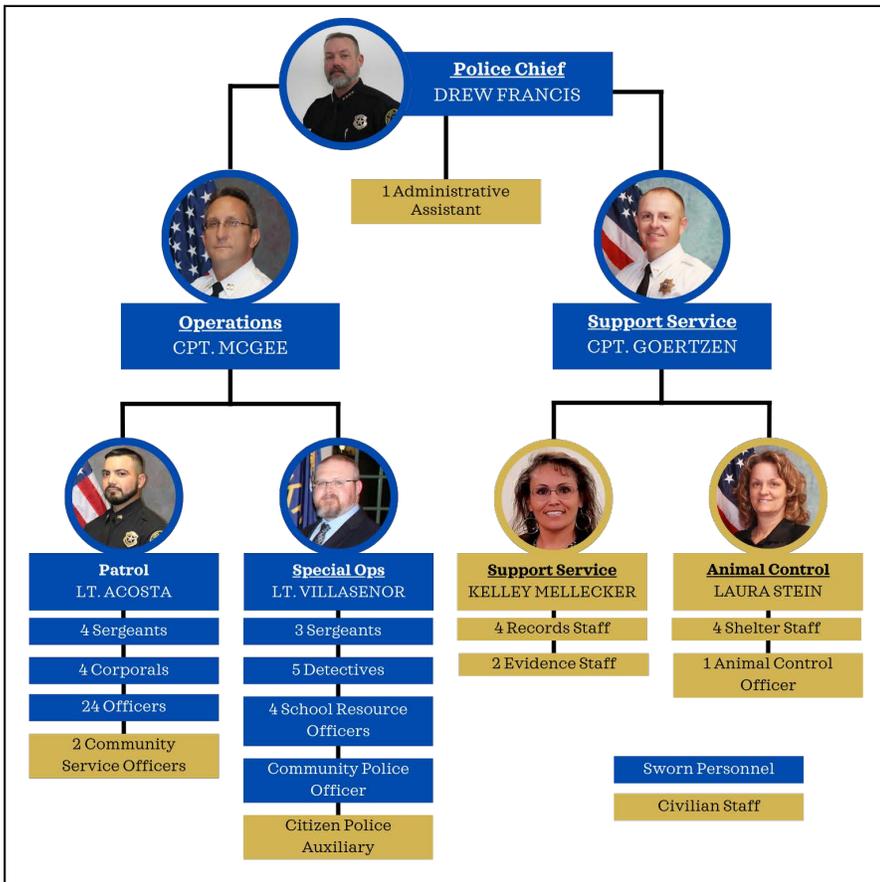


Image 36: Dodge City Police Department Organizational Chart

WORKLOAD & ENFORCEMENT

Total Calls for Service:

- ★ 2,265 calls per month or
- ★ 565 calls per week or
- ★ 126 calls per day

Reports Made:

- ★ 1,721 adult arrests
- ★ 246 juvenile arrests
- ★ 564 criminal citations covering 905 violations
- ★ 2,954 offenses/misc
- ★ 7,743 traffic stops resulting in
 - 8,280 traffic violations cited
 - 3,668 warnings
- ★ 842 vehicle crashes



NON-ENFORCEMENT

The Dodge City Police Department also provides important non-enforcement services. We have a Community/School Resource Unit providing daily support and security to our school district and kids. The department continues to support healthy relationships and decision-making through the 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. Students learn about the department's structure, workload, and capabilities. These interactive and even hands-on classes create a true and transparent understanding of police operations and decision-making. 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 CONTROL/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 and some outside of Kansas. The shelter works closely with the Ford County Humane Society and Southwest Kansas K-9 Pawsibilities to get more animals into loving homes through adoption or rescue.

In 2024, the shelter adopted, rescued, or returned to their owners 944 domestic pets. Animal control also dealt with a total of 1,335 animal complaints including 45 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 50 bites, 105 citations, and 125 warnings.

With the new addition and increased capacity, the shelter aims to better serve the needs of the community and its companion animals.

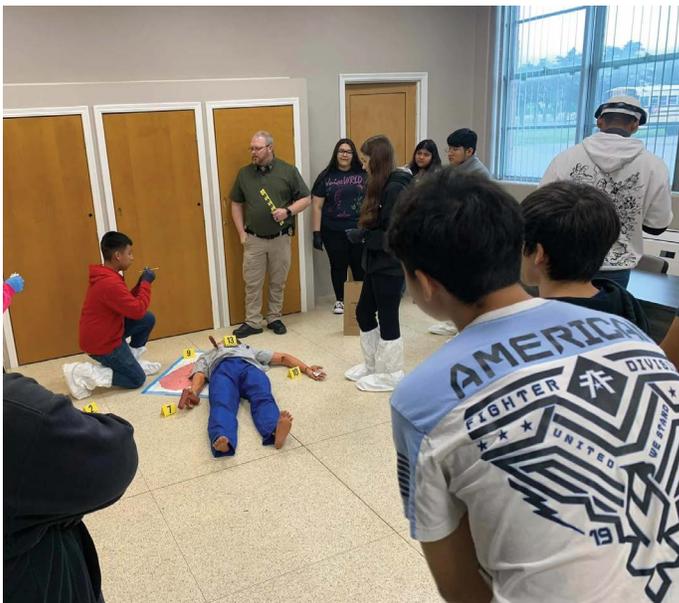


Image 38: DCPD participated in First Responder Day with over 50 High School students as part of the Pathways Career Program.



Image 39: Animal Shelter staff help dogs and cats reunite with their owners and find new homes for strays.





PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

WHO WE SERVE

In collaboration with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), the Dodge City Public Transportation system has been operational for over three decades.

This initiative includes fixed route services comprising three routes and three additional demand response buses, collectively accommodating an annual average of 30,000 rides. The department also extends ADA Paratransit/Demand Response Services within a perimeter of 3/4 miles beyond the defined Fixed Routes.

Currently, we facilitate an average of 130 rides each day, steadfast in our commitment to delivering safe and dependable transportation options to the public. In the year 2024, we administered 31,367 rides to address the community's transportation needs. This transit program is integral to our community, significantly

impacting the lives of residents who rely on this service, particularly those who are low income, senior citizens, and individuals with medical conditions.

Dodge City Public Transportation collaborates with various agencies to facilitate transportation to numerous events including the Dodge City

Days Rodeo, Holiday Lights Tours, and Leadership Dodge.

Recently, we have explored the implementation of a fixed route transportation service catering to businesses located on the periphery of the city, which encompasses the Hilmar Cheese Factory, Expo Center, FedEx Building, Municipal Services Building, and the Casino.



Image 40: Dodge City Public Transportation staff

MUNICIPAL COURT

WHAT WE DO

Municipal Court provides judicial review of complaints charging violation of City ordinances. The department ensures that proper records are kept, records the decisions and penalties relating to each complaint, and collects fines and other amounts. Municipal Court monitors and supervises the probation of persons' sentences.

In 2024, the Municipal Court reviewed 9,794 tickets - an increase of 5,052 tickets from 2023.

Court has implemented Tyler software and a new software to track probationer status in cooperation with IT. These software changes will contribute to greater efficiency and facilitate standardization of record keeping.

At the end of 2024, the Municipal Court said goodbye to Luanne Menard, who retired after many years of excellent service as the Court's probation officer. Although the Court will miss Luanne, it is pleased to welcome Yannet Alarcon to the position of Probation Officer.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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 PROJECTS

- ★ Municipal Court software upgrade to Tyler. Court staff is mastering the new system.
- ★ Possible upgrades in 2025 to Legends and the Long Branch Lagoon water park.
- ★ Successful migration of the Laserfiche system to the Cloud to improve backup and continuity and due to old software being discontinued.
- ★ Cell phone booster for the MSB warehouse
- ★ Installation and setting up Downtown Informational Kiosks
- ★ Annually plan, purchase, and install new computers for all City departments
- ★ Reduce costs with AT&T as we shift telecommunications
- ★ Work with third-party vendors to install security camera systems where needed
- ★ Legends project: fiber, phones, and access control upgrades
- ★ Implement new spam/security system to improve email security and reduce exposure to scams



Image 41: Eliel Marin (third from left) and Bob Bendickson (not pictured) were awarded the Safety Spotlight Award in 2024.

PURCHASING

Purchasing has been very busy 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 20 purchasing projects throughout the year including:

- ★ New vehicles for many departments including outfitted PD vehicles
- ★ New batch of trash carts
- ★ Fire Department Air Packs
- ★ Wastewater roof
- ★ Miscellaneous software and associated hardware
- ★ Replacement mowers for Parks
- ★ Splash Pad and Columbarium

SAFETY PROGRAM

The Dodge City Safety Program supports the City’s Core Value of Safety. The program strives to reduce injuries and accidents and promote wellness.

The program:

- ★ Includes a Safety Committee that meets monthly to review accidents and explore a safety topic
- ★ Has won a gold star award from KMIT every year for the last 9 years
- ★ Inspects City public walkways and flags unsafe areas that could cause residents or staff harm
- ★ Administers the Safety Spotlight Award, which is awarded twice a year to staff that go the extra mile and set a good example on safety



HUMAN RESOURCES

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 2024, HR published 26 jobs (some multiple times) and received over 700 applications. Of those applicants, the City hired 36 new full-time or regular part-time employees.

The City also hires a mixture of new and returning seasonal employees each year. In March of each year, HR posted seasonal positions for multiple departments. These include Parks, Public Works, Engineering, Development Services, and the Convention & Visitors' Bureau.

The City also hosts many internships and plans to continue to provide internships each year to give youth the opportunity to see what the City is all about.



Image 42: HR staff celebrate Dodge City Days by donning Western wear.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

In 2024, the City hosted a variety of different trainings for staff to partake in. These range from supervisory and management skills to technology and software updates. HR works with multiple partners to provide these trainings throughout the year. Some of the educational opportunities that were offered throughout the year include Leadership Dodge and Wichita State University's Mini MPA course.

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

EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION

Employee satisfaction is a top priority for HR. We strive to create

a supportive and engaging work environment through initiatives that help employees thrive. This year, we expanded our efforts by introducing individual department and position appreciation days, ensuring every employee feels valued with a day dedicated to celebrating their contributions.

The City continues to enhance workplace culture by offering professional development opportunities, a comprehensive benefits package, and an employee wellness program. Employee appreciation events including the annual Employee Summer Party, Employee Appreciation Breakfast, Chili Feed, and Christmas Party remain a cornerstone of our commitment and reflect our dedication to creating a workplace where staff feel recognized and empowered to make a meaningful impact on our community.



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 to become more welcoming by integrating newcomers in our growing and diverse community.

Each year, the City's Cultural Relations Advisory Board and City staff carry out events and programs that support the Welcoming Plan.

ENGAGE DODGE

- ★ The City of Dodge City earned an honorable mention in the National League of Cities 2024 Cultural Diversity Awards for its Engage Dodge program where residents can learn more about City services, programs and the employees who serve the community.
- ★ Two iterations of Engage Dodge were held in 2024 for recipients of the City's naturalization scholarships and students with the ESOL & Diversity program at the high school.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- ★ The fifth annual Dodge City International Festival was held in September and featured Crossroads Kitchen, local vendors, and a great lineup of entertainment. World Threads, a cultural fashion show, was a new event that was introduced this year.



Image 43: Ford County Elections Office staff help newly naturalized US citizens register to vote

- ★ Funded by a grant from Humanities Kansas, the premiere of the Five Flags video was held in June 2024. This project showcased Dodge City's history as a place that was once ruled over by five different countries: Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the United States.

IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE

- ★ Naturalization scholarships were awarded to 12 applicants funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of SWKS. Scholarship recipients also received free legal assistance from Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas.
- ★ The City continues to provide US Citizenship and Immigration Services with space at Hennessey Hall to allow for reduced travel expenses and lost work and school time for applicants.
- ★ The U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas hosted a naturalization ceremony in Dodge City where residents from across Kansas completed the process to become US citizens.
- ★ The City held the annual New Americans Celebration and Dinner to honor Dodge City residents who have recently become US citizens.



Image 44: Crossroads Kitchen has remained a highlight of International Festival since its inception.



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



DUANE SHEARER



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



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE





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