

# Highlights of Lawton, Oklahoma



## ***The Community***

The City of Lawton, Oklahoma, founded in 1901, is the fifth largest city in Oklahoma and the county seat of Comanche County, in Southwest Oklahoma.

Lawton is located approximately 90 miles southwest of Oklahoma City along Interstate 44. Fort Sill, an active U.S. Army installation, is on the City's north side and is within the city limits as the result of annexation in the 1990s.

Comanche County is home to more than 122,000 residents as of 2017, with Lawton accounting for 94,000 of the countywide population – smaller cities and towns including Cache, Chattanooga, Elgin, Faxon, Fletcher, Geronimo, Indianola, Medicine Park, and Sterling make up the remainder.

## ***Mild Winters, Warm Summers***

The mean temperature for the Lawton area is 61.5 degrees. The percentage of sunshine in Lawton ranges from an average of about 60 percent in the winter to nearly 80 percent in the summer, providing a long growing season of 215 days. The July high is around 95 degrees. Summers are generally warm with 95 days of 90 degrees or higher. The winter months are typically mild with an average low temperature in January of 27 degrees. Annual precipitation ranges from about 30 inches in western Comanche County to 33 inches in the east, slightly less than the U.S. average of 39 inches. Annual snowfall averages 3.6 inches while the average U.S. city gets 26 inches of snow per year.

## ***Cost of Living***

Lawton remains a low cost-of-living city relative to both the nation and Oklahoma. Overall living costs are about 12 percent below the U.S. city average and slightly below both Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Housing, utilities, and groceries provide a very affordable cost of living in Lawton.

## ***Recreation***

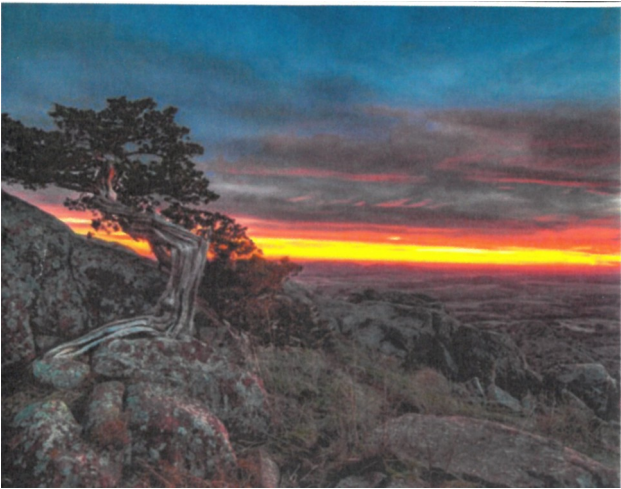
Recreation can be found at the City's many parks, lakes, museums, and festivals. Museums include the Fort Sill National Historic Museums, Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center, Museum of the Great Plains, and the U.S. Field Artillery Museum. Lawton's many other cultural oriented organizations include Lawton Community theatre, Southwest Oklahoma Dance Alliance, Lawton







Philharmonic, and the Lawton City Ballet. The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge consists of 59,000 acres of natural grasslands that provide habitat for bison, elk, deer, and longhorn. Over 22,000 acres are open to the public and provide many opportunities for water sports, hunting, hiking, sailing, fishing, and camping. The City also offers two golf courses, a municipal operated pool, the YMCA, and numerous beautiful parks. Lawton hosts many popular annual events including The Holy City of the Wichitas Easter Pageant, the Arts for All Festival in May, Juneteenth Celebration, International Festival in September, and the Armed Forces Day Parade. To the northwest of Lawton, popular recreational attractions include the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge and Mount Scott, which is the region's most prominent geological feature, rising to 2,464 feet.



### **Schools**

The Lawton Public School District is a 5A/6A school district that serves 15,600 students through two pre-K schools, twenty-four elementary schools, four middle schools, one alternative high school, and three high schools. Lawton also offers two privately operated schools, Lawton Christian School and Trinity Baptist Academy. Lawton is home to Cameron University, which is the largest university in southwest Oklahoma and offers associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees in more than 50 degree programs. Platt College, Great Plains Technology Center, and Comanche Nation College provide additional educational opportunities.



### **City Organization**

The City of Lawton is a council-manager form of local government. The City Council is comprised of one mayor, eight ward representatives, and a Fort Sill liaison. The Mayor and all eight Council members are elected officials and serve 3-year terms. The Council approves all ordinances, resolutions, and contracts, including but not limited to property sales, acquisitions, and leases, as well as major purchases of materials, equipment, and services required by the City of Lawton. With the advice and assistance of the City Manager, the Council reviews proposals for community needs, initiates action for new programs, and determines the ability of the City to provide financing for City activities. The Council is responsible for approval of the annual operating budget as well.



The City of Lawton is comprised of a dozen major departments and more than 40 divisions.

