

# Public Safety

## Goal and Work Plan Priorities

### Goal Statement

Create a responsive environment where residents, community organizations, businesses, law enforcement and government agencies, elected officials, and other stakeholders work together to build and maintain a peaceful community that focuses on quality of life by enhancing health, safety, and welfare of all those that live, work, play, and prosper in Duncan.

### Work Plan Priorities

#### General Public Safety Priorities

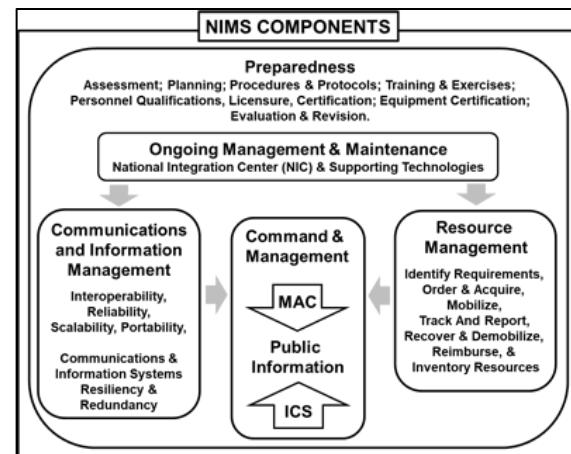
**Make educational materials available regarding “being prepared” for natural events common to our area**

Oklahoma has the potential to see many different natural events that might bring destruction to the area. Tornados, earthquakes, extreme heat, droughts, and flash flooding are relatively common to the area, so it is important that our residents and businesses have information on how to prepare for these potential events. There are many resources available online, but the City of Duncan can also serve as a clearinghouse of information that can be included in social media, available inside public buildings, and presented in other forms of media that are available to our citizens. Providing information on what to prepare for and how not only provides valuable knowledge that can help protect life, limb and property but also can help provide the confidence and skills that could be necessary should an event result in prolonged situations that would otherwise be stressful.



**Encourage businesses and citizens to complete National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training**

Like all local, state, and tribal jurisdictions, the City of Duncan has adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to be compliant with federal regulations that allows our community to be eligible for federal preparedness grants. This program helps to mitigate risk by achieving greater preparedness, facilitates training and qualification of emergency management personnel, and helps to identify a method to develop and maintain a standard operating procedure should an event arise. The program offers different tiers of certification with several being available to the public. It is encouraged that residents that are interested in assisting in future disaster relief events take a few of the online courses that are free through FEMA.



## **Public Safety and Police Priorities**

### **Ensure staffing needs and resources are met for anticipated population growth**

Knowing that the City of Duncan is seeking ways to grow both economically and its population, the needs and resources that are available for proper police protection be supplied. Currently the police department is funded through funds that are collected through local sale tax and the department has prepared an immediate need and a five-year capital plan to properly supply current police force, animal control, and dispatch positions. Currently, the City of Duncan employs 72 within these departments. Vehicles, body protection, and equipment that is used daily eventually will wear out and need replaced, and with any population growth more personnel will be required to properly protect our residents and businesses.



### **Update local ordinances to address U-Turns on Main Street**

Residents and businesses along Main Street have indicated a growing concern about the number of vehicles that conduct U-Turns in the district and have asked that the City of Duncan consider amending the current codes and ordinances to make these traffic maneuvers illegal in this area. The concern is raised for the safety of pedestrians and other vehicles in the area and with new economic development opportunities and community events occurring along Main Street as well as fitting with the Main Street's Downtown Roadmap Plan that was prepared in 2018.



### **Implement a "Youth Explorer" Program with the Police Department**

The Duncan Police Department used to offer a "Citizens Academy" which allowed adults to attend several classes and presentations to learn more about the duties of a law enforcement officer as well as things to consider while keeping an eye open for illegal activities within their neighborhoods. This program was offered when the police department was fully staffed before Covid-19 disrupted our daily lives. Now that the Duncan Police Department is much closer to being fully staffed, the citizens have requested that this program be restarted and to also include a component for community youth that have an expressed interest in law enforcement. A "Youth Explorer" program can potential help reduce future drug use rates, build trust throughout the community, allows officers to serve as mentors to the youth, helps youth understand how and why police respond to different situations, and may provide future opportunities as children grow up and select a career path that may one day having them serve the Duncan community.



## **Public Safety and Fire Priorities**

### **Ensure staffing needs and resources are met for anticipated population growth**

As the community grows, both in population and economically, the City of Duncan must maintain certain staffing levels and provide the needed resources for the fire department to properly perform their duties. Currently, Duncan has 47 employees and three fire stations that serve the community of approximately 23,500. Ideally, the fire department will have at least 4 employees per station per shift with staff working 24-hour shifts. A new fire station is currently being designed that will be located on Camelback Road near Highway 81 and will better serve the north end of town, especially the north industrial park. Going from three stations to four will require funds to be set aside to properly equip the station with a new engine and brush truck as well as the other tools and supplies necessary to serve our community.



### **Continue to update equipment and facilities to lower community ISO Rating**

The City of Duncan is constantly striving to improve its ISO (Insurance Services Office) Rating through the Public Protection Classification (PPC) program which evaluates the quality of public fire protection within the community. Insurance companies use this information to establish fair premiums and municipalities use it as a benchmark for measuring the effectiveness of their fire protection services. The ISO Rating system scores communities on emergency communications, fire department staffing and resources, water supply, community risk reduction (prevention, education, investigation, etc.), and other community efforts to reduce the risk of fires. By continuing to provide the Duncan Fire Department with the resources and staffing that will be required for growth, the more likely the community will maintain its current ISO Rating of 3 or better.



### **Continue to work with Duncan Public Schools internship program**

Duncan Public Schools has a great internship program with seniors seeking opportunities with local businesses to learn more about potential career choices. This program has resulted in a strong partnership with the City of Duncan for students seeking future employment as fire fighters, first responders, or emergency management specialists. The City of Duncan has enjoyed having students shadow, assist, and learn about several different careers in the public sector and looks forward to future opportunities and partnerships with students seeking work in public safety.



### **Develop a Fire Protection Citizen Academy**

With the historic success of the Police Department's "Citizen Academy" Program, citizens have expressed interest for a similar program through the Duncan Fire Department to learn more about the resources and equipment that the fire department relies upon during different emergency situations. The proposed "Citizen Fire Academy" can also provide a basic understanding of how fires occur and spread, how rescue operations occur, and what emergency medical operations the local department regularly responds to and assists with in the Duncan community. Attendees will also gain knowledge of the local department's capabilities as well as build relationships between staff and the citizens that are served.

### **Design and develop a fire training facility for Duncan and surrounding community use**

Opportunities for continued fire training are vital for both the firefighters and the community that is served by local fire departments. Response time, ability to evaluate conditions, determining points of access, and various external factors all play a role in how a fire is to be addressed and ultimately put out to maximize protection of life and to limit the loss of property. In most instances, training must occur outside the community because of lack of available training facilities and opportunities in the City of Duncan and in Stephens County. Knowing that training is important, adding a training facility that can be used by both Duncan's firefighters as well as volunteer programs in the area, should be considered. The facility should include opportunities with a live burn room, forcible entry door, ventilation prop, confined space prop, and rappelling station. A facility like this can not only provide the necessary training at a more affordable cost, but also serve the greater area for firefighter training needs.



### **Public Safety and Emergency management Priorities**

#### **Provide regular "What to do to Prepare" resources communitywide**

As Duncan is geographically located where several types of natural disasters could occur, having a well-informed community as to how to prepare and respond to events is critical to ensure loss of life and property is kept to a minimum. There are a lot of resources available to the public, and the Department of Emergency Management can serve as the information clearinghouse.

#### **Investigate private/public partnership to provide public storm shelters**

As Oklahoma is in the heart of "tornado alley" it is important that residents and businesses be prepared should an event occur. Over the years, the City of Duncan has installed and maintained 28 storm sirens with plans to install an additional eight sirens to provide maximum coverage to those that might be outside during a storm event. As these sirens are activated, and citizens are encouraged to seek shelter, there are those that may not have adequate shelter opportunities in their home or place of businesses and are strongly encouraged to seek shelter in an interior room away from doors and windows. In some instances, if there is

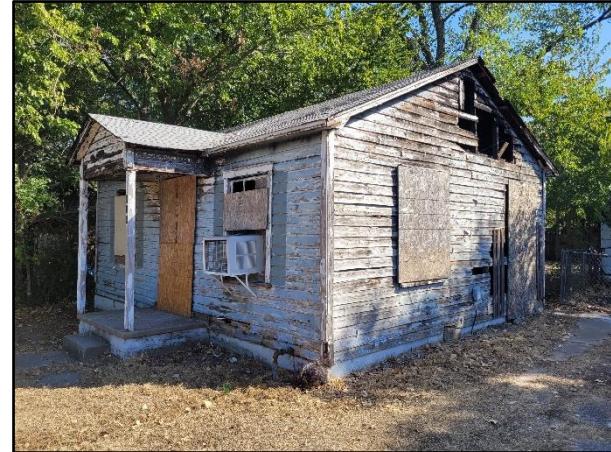


enough advanced warning of a potential storm, there may be an opportunity to seek shelter in public shelters if available and only if there is no immediate threat. Discussions should occur between private and public entities to determine the feasibility of providing such shelters throughout the community.

### **Public Safety and Code Enforcement Priorities**

#### **Continue to focus on blight removal communitywide with demolition of unsafe structures**

Code Enforcement for the City of Duncan is constantly asked to address more blight and unsafe conditions that are occurring throughout the community by both residents and local leaders. Most complaints filed with the department deal with tall grass/weeds and trash/debris that occur on privately owned properties which are processed in accordance with State Statutes. On average, it costs the City of Duncan approximately \$250 to properly clean up based on local and state regulations. Another category that staff processes, often without complaints being registered by citizens, is enforcement of unsafe or unsecured structures. These structures not only impact surrounding property values but are also an attractive nuisance in which children may explore or potentially bring other unwanted activities to the neighborhood. Between 2020 and 2024, the average cost to remove a structure is approximately \$4,750.



#### **Educate property owners and renters about healthy housing conditions**

Healthy housing conditions are those components that help support a person's physical, mental, and social well-being. Components include the physical structure, free of hazards and pests, comfort and accessibility, environment and indoor air quality, and general maintenance. Many communities across the United States, including Duncan, have adopted the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) which helps address many of these components as well as providing regulation and safe use of existing structures in the interest of the social and economic welfare of the community. Housing is an important component to one's quality of life, and through education the City of Duncan can help provide the knowledge to residents on no-cost and low-cost actions that can elevate the local housing standards.



## Work Plan Priorities Matrixes

<b>General Public Safety Priorities</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Key Stakeholders</b>
Make educational materials available regarding “Being Prepared” for natural events common to our area	2025	Short-Range	Emergency Management
Encourage businesses and citizens to complete National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training	2025	Long-Range	Emergency Management, Local Businesses

<b>Public Safety and Police Priorities</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Key Stakeholders</b>
Ensure staffing needs and resources are met for anticipated population growth	Ongoing	Ongoing	Police Department, Community Development, City Council
Update local ordinances to address U-Turns on Main Street	2025	Mid-Range	Police Department, Community Development, Duncan Legal, City Council
Implement a “Youth Explorer” Program with the Police Department	2026	Mid-Range	Police Department, Duncan Public Schools, City Council

<b>Public Safety and Fire Priorities</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Key Stakeholders</b>
Ensure staffing needs and resources are met for anticipated population growth	Ongoing	Ongoing	Fire Department, Community Development, City Council
Continue to update equipment and facilities to lower community ISO Rating	Ongoing	Ongoing	Fire Department, City Council
Continue to work with Duncan Public Schools internship program	Ongoing	Ongoing	Fire Department, Duncan Public Schools
Develop a Fire Protection Citizen Academy	2026	Mid-Range	Fire Department, City Council
Design and develop a fire training facility for Duncan and surrounding community use	2026	Long-Range	Fire Department, Community Development, Public Works, City Council

<b>Public Safety and Emergency Management Priorities</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Key Stakeholders</b>
Provide regular “What to do to Prepare” resources communitywide	Ongoing	Ongoing	Emergency Management
Investigate private/public partnership to provide public storm shelters	2025	Long-Range	Emergency management, Community Development, Local Businesses, City Council

<b>Public Safety and Code Enforcement Priorities</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Key Stakeholders</b>
Continue to focus on blight removal communitywide with demolition of unsafe structures	Ongoing	Ongoing	Community Development, City Council
Educate property owners and renters about healthy housing conditions	2025	Short-Range	Community Development

