



Letter from Mayor Robert Armstrong

Building Trust Through Action

Dear Neighbors,

As your Mayor, I am pleased to update you on the important work happening across our city. Everything we do, from economic development to city finances, is driven by one core goal: earning your trust by delivering results. With your feedback and support, we are making meaningful progress. Here is how:

Economic Development: Community Driven, Future Focused

We are rethinking how economic development is approached in our city. Our strategy is now more inclusive, efficient, and directly shaped by what you, the citizens, have shared with us.

From Feedback to Action

Your input in the Community Development Quality of Life Public Forums led to real outcomes:

- A new Dollar General Family Market is open on the east side of town, directly addressing the food desert challenge
- Permitting and approval processes are simplified, enabling quicker, clearer development pathways
- Ordinances amended to allow for more flexible and higher density housing options
- 7 Brew Coffee is now here, contributing to commercial growth and job creation

- In partnership with Main Street Duncan, we are offering facade grants to encourage the continued revitalization of our historic downtown, a direct response to citizens who voiced that a vibrant downtown is key to a thriving community

Lighting and Public Safety

Public safety is a shared priority. With your votes to renew the dedicated half cent sales tax, Council approved the purchase of new neighborhood and street lighting. As parts become available, installation will begin across the city. Every ward will receive lighting upgrades to improve safety and quality of life.

Improving Our Streets: Street Striping

Maintaining safe and clearly marked streets is essential for both drivers and pedestrians. That is why I am pleased to share that your City Council approved funding for street striping citywide as it aligns with our ongoing efforts to maintain and improve core infrastructure across all parts of our city. This is a much-needed investment that directly supports public safety, traffic flow, and overall quality of life. The contractor will begin work to repaint and restore lane markings, crosswalks, and other important traffic indicators in high-need areas.

These updates may seem small, but they make a big difference in keeping our streets safe and easy to navigate and are examples of how your city is listening, responding, and acting to meet the day-to-day needs of the community.

City Finances: Transparency You Can Trust

We are committed to responsible financial management and open communication. The Finance Department now provides quarterly financial reports during City Council meetings. These give a clear overview of the city's financial status. In addition, the reports are published on the city website so you can view how your tax dollars are being used.

New Fire Station Project

The bids for the new fire station were submitted. Thanks to detailed planning and careful financial stewardship, we are currently under budget by approximately nine hundred thousand dollars. While construction costs can fluctuate, these potential savings may give us the ability to invest in additional public safety improvements, whether through enhancements to existing facilities or the creation of new ones.

We are focused on results, not just promises. From Economic Development to Safety to Financial transparency, every effort we make is grounded in our shared commitment to a stronger, more inclusive community.

Thank you for your continued trust, involvement, and support. Together, we are building a city where everyone can thrive.

Sincerely,



Robert Armstrong Mayor, City of Duncan



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Duncan City Newsletter is published by the City of Duncan to keep our citizens up-to-date on all of the exciting things happening in our community.

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Chris Deal

Dear Citizens of Duncan,

As the hues and temperatures of autumn settle across our city, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made and share a few exciting things on the horizon.

This year brought continued growth and resilience as our team members have been working hard improving infrastructure, enhancing city services, and investing in Duncan's future. By updating water systems to revitalizing community spaces, we're making sure our community continues to be a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

We're working on several capital improvement initiatives, including roadway enhancements, drainage, and beautification. These efforts are designed with long-term impact in mind: safer streets, stronger infrastructure, and a more welcoming Duncan.

I'm often asked, "What is a City Manager?" Great question because understanding this role helps you know how your city runs. I'm not an elected official; I'm appointed by the council to serve as the "Chief Executive." Duncan operates under a council-manager form of government. The elected city council sets the vision and policies, and your city manager carries out those policies effectively, efficiently, and transparently. My role is to oversee day-to-day operations, manage staff, prepare budgets, and coordinate long-term planning. We are streamlining operations, improving infrastructure, and crafting new standards that make our city services more responsive. These efforts may not always be visible, but they're the foundation of a Duncan that works better for everyone. I believe in transparent, proactive communication. Whether it's through council meetings, updates online, or a simple conversation around town, my door, and inbox, are always open.

Here is the part I love most: it's not just about operations. It's about people. It's about listening to residents, collaborating with stakeholders, and making decisions that reflect the values and needs of our community. Whether you're a business owner, a parent, or a retiree, I want to bring you into the process because when you understand how your city works, you're empowered to help shape it. Let's talk about what we're working on right now and where we're headed.

Our strategic priorities are built around three pillars: economic resilience, infrastructure modernization, and public safety. These aren't just buzzwords, they're the foundation of a thriving, future-ready community.

To strengthen economic resilience, we're actively developing new retail districts, engaging developers to turn underutilized corridors into commercial hubs, and encouraging the revitalization of downtown and existing retail districts. This is to stimulate retail growth and attract investment since your municipal government does not receive property tax revenue. Instead, it relies principally on sales tax dollars and enterprise revenue from our utilities.

Next, infrastructure. One of our largest current projects is downtown waterline replacement. It's not flashy, but it's essential. Aging waterlines may lead to service disruptions, safety concerns, and lost economic potential. By upgrading these systems, we're laying the groundwork for downtown revitalization and long-term reliability.



Then, public safety. A new fire station at Camelback Road and U.S. Highway 81 is about more than bricks and mortar—it's about response times, community coverage, and resilience. We are excited to be moving forward in updating our street lighting for our residential and commercial districts. This is a large-scale project that will touch many areas within city limits. Funds are secured, supplies ordered, and we await delivery. Next will come the installations and repairs.

Each of these priorities is interconnected and assist in economic growth, which supports infrastructure investment, which enables public safety, which builds trust and stability, all making Duncan a place where families, businesses, and visitors can thrive.

As we move toward 2026, our team remains committed to building a Duncan that reflects the best of who we are: welcoming, resilient, and full of opportunity. From all of us, we wish you a happy fall and a warm, memorable holiday season.

Chris Deal

City Council

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Regular meetings of the City Council are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. at the City Council Chambers. Citizens are invited and encouraged to attend.

New Fire Station #4 Update

Fire Station #4 is moving forward. Bid opening was in early September and bids are expected to be awarded soon, with the groundbreaking to occur near the end of October. We are excited for this project and to be able to continue to improve our services to our friends and neighbors.



New 100ft. Aerial Platform Truck

The new Sutphen 100ft. Aerial Platform truck is in final production stages and expected to be delivered the first week of November. This replaces our current 1998 E-1 Platform. The new truck will be a great addition to our fleet and help serve our multi-story residential and commercial structures.

October is Fire Prevention month. Duncan Fire Department will partner again with Duncan Public Schools to promote fire prevention and safety to all 3rd grade students/classes. Firefighters will be presenting other fire prevention programs to day cares, youth organizations, senior citizens centers, and other organizations throughout our community. If your organization would like to schedule a fire prevention presentation or tour of the fire station, please contact 580-252-0250.

2025 Fire Prevention Month theme: "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home"

- Buy only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.
- Charge devices safely. Always use cords that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.
- Recycle batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire. Recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.



As fall arrives, driving conditions and traffic patterns change in ways that require extra attention and caution. Shorter days mean more time spent driving in the dark, where visibility is reduced and glare from headlights can make hazards harder to see.



For motorcyclists, falling leaves can also create slick roadways, especially when mixed with rain, making it important to reduce speed and allow for longer stopping distances. Around lakes and other bodies of water, drivers should be especially mindful of foggy morning and deer crossings, both of which increase significantly in the fall. Maintaining slower speeds and using headlights in low visibility conditions helps ensure everyone's safety.

School zones also require heightened awareness during this time of year. Children may be walking or biking to school in dim light or unpredictable weather, and buses make frequent stops to load and unload students. Always obey reduced speed limits in school zones, watch closely for crossing guards, and never attempt to pass a stopped school bus. The safety of the students depends on drivers being alert and patient.

In addition, fall brings a busy calendar of school and community sporting events. Stadiums and fields often create heavy pedestrian traffic both before and after games, and parking lots become congested. Drivers should slow down in these areas, yield to pedestrians, and remain alert for people crossing outside designated crosswalks. Avoid distractions such as cell phones and always plan for extra time when driving near large events.

By staying attentive, slowing down, and adjusting for fall specific conditions, drivers can protect themselves, their passengers and their community. Safe driving is not only about following the law but also about anticipating risks and making choices that ensure everyone gets home safely.



Public Works Airport | Streets | Water

Streets

Spring flood damages city wide required repairs on drainage, roadways and water lines. With damages exceeding \$8 million dollars, and no FEMA dollars awarded, the Public Works budget adjusted to be able make the most critical of these repairs. The adjustment meant that fewer of the scheduled 2025 projects were able to be done, including asphaltting.

For example West Elk Avenue, from Country Club Road to Hwy 81, was one of the many roads requiring major repair.



A 24" water line crossing Cow Creek also required replacement due to spring flood damages.

Street Projects

A striping project to stripe various locations was awarded to Action Safety Supply Co. LLC at the September 23, 2025, council meeting in the total amount of \$200,000.00.

Street Work Locations:

Osage @ Hwy 81 - 300' East & West of Bypass
Camelback @ Bypass - 500' East & West of Bypass
Camelback @ Hwy 81 - 1,000' East & West of Hwy 81
Plato @ Bypass - 300' East & West of Bypass
Plato @ Hwy 81 - East to 400' of Country Club
Plato @ Country Club - 600' North & South to 600' of Elk
Plato 600' West from Hwy 81
Elk @ Country Club - North, South, & West 600' (West only)
Elk from Country Club to 5th Street
Elk @ 5th - 600' East
Elder @ Hwy 81 - 600' East & West
Elder @ railroad tracks - 300' East & West
Elder @ 5th Street - 200' North, South, East, & West
Beech @ Hwy 81 - 500' East, West to 22nd Street
Beech @ 10th - 100' North, South, East, & West
Main @ Hwy 81 - 500' West
Main @ 2nd - 400' North & South
Main @ 5th - 200' North & South
Bois D'Arc @ 2nd Street - 1,000' North & South
Bois D'Arc @ Hwy 81 - 1,100' East
Bois D'Arc - from Hwy 81 to 42nd Street
Elk - from Hwy 81 to 1,000' West of Chisholm Trail Parkway
Chisholm Trail Parkway - Beech to 500' North of Elk

Asphaltting done:

11th Street between Stephens Avenue and Duncan Avenue
Grand Avenue between Elk Avenue and Stewart Avenue
Stewart Avenue between Grand Avenue & Crescent Avenue

Water Projects

The Oklahoma Water Resource Board Water Line Project #2 - downtown replacement of water lines is over 90% complete and is anticipated to be done by end of October, weather permitting. Project #3 is at 100% Design and beginning the permitting phase. Project #4 is at 60% Design.

El Rancho Water Tower was elevated in July, and finishing work continues to have it in use by second quarter of 2026.



City tank repairs are underway, with repainting of the 27th Street and Country Club Road towers scheduled to be done in early 2026 once weather warms up.

The 3.3-million-dollar Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project continues with Phase 1D.

Chlorination/dichlorination improvements project is complete.

Airport Projects

Airport maintenance hangar received a new roof.

Duncan Power & Emergency Management



we don't receive a single quote for new or used transformers from manufacturers of new equipment or the used marketplace.

Specialized training of new employees continues in-house and in out-of-town schools. Our linemen are certified and can be relied on to perform highly skilled linework. Which means better service to our customers!

The circuit switcher repair and upgrade was completed at Plato Substation. Upgrading the circuit switcher should happen in early 2026. We started the breaker upgrades at Plato Substation and plan to complete this work in the fall.

We are still working through equipment delays and integration delays in our automated electric meter reading re-fresh and upgrades. Our electric meters are being upgraded along with the wireless system that moves the meter readings from the meter to City Hall. With the meter reading collection and backhaul issues behind us, we are moving on to service order systems automation, meter replacements and outage notification for customers.

Our electric rates haven't changed since 2017, while our costs have risen considerably in the same period along with lineman wages. We need to invest heavily in our transmission system soon. Our last significant investment in our Transmission System was in the mid-1990s. These needs require more money, which mean a rate increase. But, if we start soon, we can avoid spending massive sums in a short period. Starting while our system is in good condition, we can spread the improvements over 20 years or so.

Annual system-wide tree trimming and removal began in August. Streetlight fixture replacements have been ordered and will start to arrive in 90 days. Installation will be bid out once we have fixtures in hand. We are still due a new service truck from Altec in December.



2025 has been a year of frequent severe weather and flooding. Did you know that Duncan Emergency Management monitors all severe weather and works closely with the National Weather Service(NWS) to provide our community with early warning of all-weather hazards?

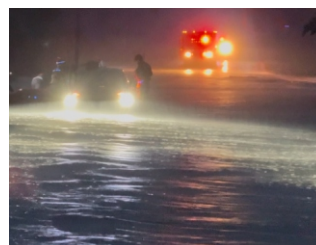
In April, a flooding event occurred taking some motorists by surprise, trapping them in high water. As EM received word from the NWS that a major flooding event was forecast to occur, a Swift Water Rescue Team from Davis, OK was secured prior to the flooding to assist our Fire Department firefighters. This increased manpower and equipment allowed for 12 successful swift water rescues during the flooding.

A structure fire broke out in historic downtown Duncan in June, in the 800 block of Main Street. EM responded immediately and provided on-scene assistance with traffic control, aerial drone footage, and materials and supplies to support the Fire Department's efforts in extinguishing the blaze.

Heavy rains also caused a plane crash at the Duncan Municipal Airport. It was a small craft, and there was no fire or danger to the community. EM responded along with both the Police and Fire Departments to provide support to what could have been a prolonged emergency event.

July saw EM obtain an enclosed trailer specially outfitted to provide cooled air or heated air in an emergency or during a special event. This trailer will also act as a command trailer on an extended emergency scene. The trailer, graciously approved by the Mayor, Council, and City Manager, ensures EM the ability to provide much needed rehabilitation to firemen during any large fire event.

October will see the "Great American Shake Out" earthquake drill happen on October 16th at 10:16 a.m., and we encourage citizens to participate in this simple shelter-in-place exercise while at home or at work. Join millions of others across the country by taking the appropriate protective action of: Drop, Cover and Hold On. For more information contact us at 580-252-0250.



Lakes As of September 23, 2025 (for updated data visit our website)

Lake Name	Current Capacity (acre ft)	Current Capacity (million gallons)	Normal Capacity (acre ft)	Percent Full (Current)
Fuqua	21,980	6,154.97	21,100	104.2%
Humphreys	13,540	3,791.55	14,041	96.4%
Waurika	201,841	56,520.72	188,760	106.7%

PARKS

Summer swim season sponsors, Duncan Power, Freedom Biker Church, Impact 580 Church, New Hope Baptist Church, and The Tilley Group- thank YOU for the memories!

Red, White & Boom saw over 3,500 citizens gather to listen to Old Hwy 81 Band, enjoy food truck fare and celebrate with a fireworks extravaganza, in partnership with The Chickasaw Nation's Chisholm Trail Casino.



October 23rd in Fuqua Park is Family Fright Night with Truck or Treat from 6-7 p.m., followed by a Movie in the Park at 7:15 p.m. Bring your little ghosts and goblins for this family friendly event.



Save the date for our inaugural Christmas Movie in the Park, during the first weekend of Kiddieland Holiday Express.



City of Duncan provides the popcorn, and The Palace Theatre sponsors the movie, so bring a blanket or lawn chairs to enjoy! (events may be cancelled or rescheduled due to inclement weather).

Abe Raizen & Jess Welch Sports Complex received new fencing around the soccer fields and a new parking area. The complex is active with fall baseball, soccer and flag football.



Lakes

Spring flooding caused the dock at Lake Humphreys to overturn due to a large crane and Duncan Police Department's dive team, the dock was righted and repairs made.



Grants submitted to replace docks at the lakes were not awarded and the matching monies in the city budget were redirected to critical flood damage repairs needed for roads, drainage, and water infrastructure. New grants will be requested in 2026, with matching city funding included in proposed budget.

Cemetery

Resthaven Memorial Gardens received new fencing and entrance gates. Grounds improvements continue.



Cemetery clean ups are held quarterly on the second Tuesday of November, February, May and August.

Community Development and Library



Community Development and Code Enforcement

Our team at Community Development knows citizens have been inquiring about different construction activities occurring throughout Duncan and would like to take this opportunity to share information about them.

We are currently working with a commercial development group looking at Highway 81 to bring new commercial and retail opportunities to our community. As many of the companies in this developer's portfolio are publicly traded, no additional details are available now as to whom might be calling Duncan home, but we can share that their portfolio includes a wide variety of retailers and restaurants. We will continue working with this developer, as well as others, looking for opportunities in our community.

O.D.O.T.'s project on the West Elk Avenue and Highway 7 Bypass overpass has begun, with a goal to have work completed by June 30, 2026. Contractors working for O.D.O.T. will be working in the northeast corner of the intersection to construct a pond on the property for use of the dirt to build the overpass. Community Development is assisting the owner of this property in marketing the commercially zoned portion to bring new businesses to Duncan.

Directly west of Sanford Children's Clinic on West Elk Avenue, Duncan Regional Hospital is building an Ear, Nose and Throat clinic as well as beginning work on their new Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Clinic north of the existing Duncan Medical Associates office on West Elk Avenue. There are several other projects that approval has been granted, and Duncan can expect more service opportunities for its citizens.

We have also been working with Specialty Clinic of Southern Oklahoma as they look to develop the southeast corner of the Highway 7 Bypass and West Elk Avenue. We are proud to say that, in speaking with their design team, their architect shared that she was impressed with how easy it is to obtain construction permits here and noted that in many communities a project of this size would take months to obtain all the necessary approvals. In Duncan, if all the required information is provided for review, a commercial permit can be issued in as little as one week. We want new opportunities here and Duncan is open for business!

These opportunities are happening in part due to City of Duncan working closely with our citizens through the 2024 Destination Duncan: A Quality-of-Life Plan process. The plan is being used to attract commercial and residential developers to the community, apply for grants to make larger capital improvements, and help focus on projects that matter most to our citizens.

Duncan Public Library's

Summer of 2025 was spectacular!

This year's summer theme was

"Color Our World," and our

community really showed us their

colors. We started with cupcake

decorating and a cake-off, then

brought in a little petting zoo, held crafts almost daily, taught

lots of new skills like macrame and stained glass, had a

concert with Sugar Free Allstars, celebrated Shark Week and

Moth Week and had a foam party. The community allowed us

to show off the art created this summer in an Art Share. We

finished off by celebrating at Kiddieland.



During this year's summer reading program, 782 people of all ages signed up for the reading challenges. We made 255 new library cards, and our teen volunteers gave 747 hours of their time. The community checked out 24,418 physical and digital items. We served 1,382 free Impa'Chi meals for kids and attendance for all our programs was nearly 3,200. Thank you all so much for remembering to find fun, free experiences and opportunities at your library!

This year, we also started our Seed Library where you can donate and pick up seeds, clippings, and planting materials. We received several grants and gifts that provided the opportunity to start a video gaming room, create a small podcast area, add lots of great new toys to our children's department, and provide services for our Miss Millie book-delivery program. The biggest change of all was due in thanks to our Friends of the Library and a McCasland Foundation grant. This allowed us to significantly upgrade our kitchen and boardroom. Both are used almost daily since the renovations.

Our Stephens County Genealogy Library branch will be continuing their monthly brown bag learning sessions on the first Wednesdays at noon, except for October 7th. On that day we will have a special guest speak on AI and genealogy at 5:30 p.m. In addition to fantastic genealogy research resources, the library also has a Memory Lab where you can preserve your memories.

Make plans to join us this Fall for our "It Was the 90s" book club, our NEA Big Read programming (based around "Fuzz" by Mary Roach), Cart o' Treat where kids can trick or treat at the library, the annual "Season's Readings" holiday sign lighting, continuing trivia nights, and watch for a new program series about true crime and cold cases. As always, these programs are all free!

Stayed up to date by following our Facebook and Instagram, and visit our website, www.duncanlibrary.com, for all the details.



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Light Up Duncan!



At the beginning of this year, your city leadership compiled street light outages, reports from the DunCAN Connect app, and citizen tips to create a reference list of streetlights that require replacement and/or repair. With an approximate total project cost estimate of \$650,000, materials are ordered and should begin to arrive in December. Local, licensed electricians will be contracted to do the work in each Ward of the city and our historic Main Street's decorative lights, utilizing the same fixtures, will be restored with new wiring and LED lights ensuring years of future reliability.

This is a project eagerly awaited by you, our residents, and your votes to approve the ½ cent dedicated sales tax made this happen to light up our community. Thank YOU for investing in YOUR community!