

COMMUNITY PLAN
Comanche County
FY2025-FY2028

COMANCHE COUNTY COMMUNITY PLAN

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I. INTRODUCTION:

REGION COVERED IN THIS PLAN:

The Comanche County Community Planning Meeting was held on November 19, 2024, at 10:00am. Persons present represented Comanche County, City of Comanche, City of DeLeon, and five school districts within Comanche County.

Also, some agencies that originate in other regions or counties, but who also serve Comanche County, were represented at the Community Planning meetings.

| | | Comanche County | | 2020 Texas |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| | | 2010 Census | 2020 Census | Census |
| Total Population | | 13,974 | 13,592 | 29,145,505 |
| Percent: | Male | 49.1% | 50.4% | 49.9% |
| | Female | 50.9% | 49.6% | 50.1% |
| | White | 88.9% | 94.5% | 65.4% |
| | African American | 0.4% | 1.6% | 19.5% |
| | American Indian | 0.7% | 1.5% | 0.5% |
| | Asian | 0.3% | 0.9% | 8.8% |
| | Pacific Islanders | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.2% |
| | Hispanic | 25.8% | 29.8% | 39.3% |

Comanche County encompasses the cities of Comanche (Population 4,217) DeLeon (Population 2,108) and Gustine (Population 397). Comanche County has 947.7 square miles and is centrally located 86 miles southeast of Abilene, 102 miles southwest of Ft Worth, 130 miles southwest of Dallas, 138 miles north of Austin, 98 miles northwest of Temple, 100 miles northwest of Killeen/Fort Hood, 101 miles west of Waco and 120 miles northeast of San Angelo. Comanche County has several major highways traveling through the county. These highways are US 67, US 377, TX 6, TX 16, and TX 36.

Proctor Lake, located in Comanche County, is a United States Army Corps of Engineers Lake. Proctor Lake provides 14,010 acres of land and water and 38 miles of shoreline seasonal recreation. Seasonally the park's estimated maximum camping capacity is 1,855 people. Around the shores of the lake are three residential areas that provide a large number of seasonal residences.

The northeast area of the county is wet for the sale of liquor and provides for the purchase of alcoholic beverages and liquor for persons in Comanche County, Erath County and the northern parts of Hamilton County. Both the City of Comanche and the City of DeLeon are wet for the sale of beer, wine, and liquor.

Comanche County has five School Districts: Comanche ISD, DeLeon ISD, Gustine ISD, Sidney ISD and Premier High School of Comanche. The average total student population for Comanche County is 2,426 students. This is with 52.3% of the students being white, and 47.7% being non-white.

Economically Disadvantaged Students:

As of 2022, all five of the school districts in the Comanche County area reported a high number of economically disadvantaged students.

- Comanche ISD: 33% economically disadvantaged.
- DeLeon ISD: 54.2% economically disadvantaged.
- Gustine ISD: 45% economically disadvantaged.
- Sidney ISD: 63.3% economically disadvantaged.
- Premier High School: 81.1% economically disadvantaged.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A. PROBLEMS: Problems and resources were divided into three (3) categories: Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice, and Victims Issues. As of 2022, Comanche County’s population has risen to 13,651. Comanche County is primarily a farming community. The largest industries in Comanche County are Health Care and Social Assistance (1,044 people), Manufacturing (791 people), and Construction (692 people).

As of 2022, Comanche County’s total property taxable market value is \$3,975,145,559 and has a total appraised value available for taxation of \$1,286,391,878, meaning that roughly 68% of the total market value is exempt from being taxed.

As of 2022, the poverty rate for Comanche County was 13.5%, under 18 in poverty 25%, and the average household income in Comanche County was \$57,383. The state of Texas poverty rate was 13.9% and average household income was \$73,035. The U. S. poverty level was 12.4% and average household income was \$74,580.

The unemployment rate in Comanche County was 3.5%, the state of Texas unemployment rate was 3.9% and the U. S. unemployment rate was 3.6%.

The issues discussed at the community plan derived from the issue that the community has a great number of people living at poverty level and mental health concerns, which creates problems with substance abuse, family violence, and juvenile crimes.

B. CONCERNS

People present at Comanche County Community Planning discussed numerous areas of concern for improvements and the need for funding. Discussed were the concern for Mental Health resources and plans, Law Enforcement agencies being able to staff and

retain their employees, and training, as well as Juvenile Justice issues, and Victim issues. The shortage of funding was discussed regarding the need to replace outdated equipment and the need to purchase non-existing equipment.

The following reports derived from the Texas Department of Public Safety:

| Crimes Reported by Agencies | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Department | Year | Murder | Rape | Robbery | Agg Assault | Burglary | Larceny | Auto Theft |
| Comanche Sheriff's Office | 2023 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 49 | 6 |
| | 2022 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 49 | 4 |
| | 2021 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 48 | 5 |
| Comanche Police Department | 2023 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 51 | 5 |
| | 2022 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 13 | 59 | 8 |
| | 2021 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 16 | 55 | 7 |
| DeLeon Police Department | 2023 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 3 |
| | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 12 | 13 | 5 |
| | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 |

The following statistics are created from criminal cases filed in the 220th District Court, Comanche County Court, one Justice of the Peace Court, Comanche Municipal Court and DeLeon Municipal Court. The concerns for the decrease in criminal cases that were filed were because of staffing shortages. Each law enforcement agency had vacant experienced positions and no applications or applicants with very little experience on file. Comanche County has been able to improve employment availability and will begin to see an increase in cases filed within the courts.

| Statistics are from October 1st - ending September 30th | | |
|--|---------------|---------------------|
| Year | Felony | Misdemeanors |
| 2023-2024 | 62 | 296 |
| 2022-2023 | 93 | 407 |
| 2021-2022 | 57 | 305 |
| 2020-2021 | 78 | 332 |
| 2019-2020 | 65 | 383 |
| 2018-2019 | 110 | 397 |

| Year | Felony | | A-B Misdemeanor | |
|-----------|---------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| | Against | | Against | |
| | Person | Property | Person | Property |
| 2023-2024 | 52 | 70 | 35 | 32 |
| 2022-2023 | 38 | 27 | 54 | 31 |
| 2021-2022 | 35 | 30 | 32 | 32 |
| 2020-2021 | 37 | 37 | 38 | 22 |
| 2019-2020 | 41 | 13 | 45 | 37 |
| 2018-2019 | 53 | 27 | 54 | 40 |

| Other crimes not listed in other parts of this plan | | |
|---|--------|-----------------|
| Year | Felony | A-B Misdemeanor |
| 2023-2024 | 36 | 77 |
| 2022-2023 | 55 | 101 |
| 2021-2022 | 57 | 66 |
| 2020-2021 | 45 | 72 |
| 2019-2020 | 57 | 85 |
| 2018-2019 | 78 | 74 |

The Comanche County Court has a need for Video and Audio Courtroom Equipment. The County Court does not have a Court Reporter on staff. Court Reporters normally must come out of Abilene, Texas. Due to the busy schedule of the Court Reporters, Court hearings and trials usually must be scheduled around the Court Reporter's schedule rather than the Court Schedule. This equipment can be activated in the event that a Court Reporter is not available. The equipment and software are expensive, at least as much as \$10,000. It is required that trained personnel be in the Courtroom to operate the equipment while in use. It would also be necessary to have a maintenance contract on the system. The County Court has jurisdiction for Class A and Class B Misdemeanors. These include drug and alcohol related cases and Assault/Family Violence cases.

III. CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

The State of Texas statistics from 2018 indicated that the average number of full-time sworn officers in Texas is 243 officers per 100,000 inhabitants.

Comanche County Law Enforcement includes the Comanche County Sheriff's Office, which includes law enforcement coverage for the City of De Leon, one Comanche County Constable's Office, the City of Comanche Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife.

The Comanche County Sheriff’s Office is currently approved of for the following positions. Sheriff, Chief Deputy, one (1) Investigator, one (1) Patrol Sergeant, One (1) Assistant Administrator, ten (10) Patrol Deputies, and one (1) Mental Health Deputy.

The Comanche County Jail has authorized 16 employees, including Maintenance and Nurse, to operate a 145-bed facility. The average daily population in FY 24 was approximately 27 inmates per day. Current Jail staffing is at 16 and on a continuous hiring cycle.

Comanche County Constable's Office budgeted for one Constable and one deputy.

The City of Comanche Police Department budgeted for one Chief, one Assistant Chief, two sergeants, two detectives, and six patrol officers, (one assigned to K9 narcotics duties).

DeLeon Police Department was recently absorbed into the Comanche County Sheriff's Office.

Texas Department of Public Safety consisted of three Officers and a part time secretary.

The Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife consisted of one Game Warden.

Comanche County Central Dispatch is a combined dispatch for law enforcement, fire and EMS. Dispatch consists of eight full-time dispatchers with a total dispatch log of 20,018 calls for the year January 01, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Of the 20,018 calls dispatch log recorded 13,531 total calls for three law enforcement entities, or an estimated 37 calls per day, to Comanche County Law Enforcement (13,531 totals – Comanche County Sheriff’s Office 5,738 calls – Comanche Police Department 5,354 calls – Deleon Police Department 2,439 calls).

A. Substance Abuse

1. Supporting Statistics:

- a. Statistics are created from criminal cases filed in the 220th District Court and the Comanche County Court.

| Statistics are from October 1st - ending September 30th | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Year | Drug | | DWI | |
| | Felony | Misdemeanor | Felony | Misdemeanor |
| 2023-2024 | 22 | 46 | 12 | 44 |
| 2022-2023 | 53 | 77 | 12 | 54 |
| 2021-2022 | 48 | 74 | 12 | 50 |
| 2020-2021 | 47 | 91 | 8 | 68 |
| 2019-2020 | 79 | 98 | 7 | 62 |
| 2018-2019 | 106 | 94 | 5 | 49 |

- b. The Rural Area Narcotics Task Force, that was serving the area that included Comanche County, was abolished several years ago. Comanche County Sheriff's Office and Comanche Police Department have endured the burden of narcotics enforcement efforts. For the past 14 months, the Comanche Police Department has actively initiated numerous drug trafficking investigations that has resulted in the arrest multiple drug trafficking offenders impacting the city of Comanche; these illegal drugs include, but not limited to methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana as well, as other prescription medications.
- c. Comanche County is centrally located between several major cities and plays an active role in the distribution of narcotics to these major cities from this rural remote area as well as the city of Comanche itself.
- d. With the lake's seasonal activities and the sale of alcoholic beverages in the county, alcoholic related crimes are of significant concern for law enforcement.

2. Action Plan:

- a. Comanche County Sheriff's Office continues to have one patrol deputy directly involved in narcotics investigations.
- b. Comanche Police Department has purchased a narcotic detection dog and has assigned one patrol officer to narcotics enforcement. This officer and the narcotic detection dog serve the entire Comanche county. They assist other surrounding counties upon request.
- c. Comanche Police Department has added a specialized drug trafficking investigation section to their department. Again, this has proven to be beneficial due to the arrest of multiple individuals involved with impacting the city (and surrounding areas with illegal drugs/narcotics).
- d. The Comanche Police Department has added a cyber forensic IT unit, that they are in the process of hiring a detective who is trained to analyze electronic devices to detect and deter criminal activity impacting City of Comanche and surrounding areas.

3. Funding Priorities:

- a. To continue seeking funding for substance abuse enforcement.
- b. To increase the manpower within the law enforcement agencies in the county to fight the illegal distributions of narcotics.
- c. To replace and update vehicles, radio systems, in car cameras, and other items related to the day-to-day operations of law enforcement.
- d. To obtain continued funding for a county crime victim advocates to help victims of violent crime.
- e. To obtain funding for cameras to be used in city owned buildings such as city hall, police station, city yard, etc.
- f. To obtain funding for the software for license plate readers and facial recognition programs.

- g. Mental health awareness programs designed to combat mental illness in first responders.
4. Goals:
- a. The goal is to reduce the availability of narcotics, by aggressively investigating narcotic related activity and crimes.
 - b. The goal is to reduce the availability of alcoholic related crimes, by aggressively investigating and enforcing alcoholic related crimes.
 - c. The goal is to increase the number of current law enforcement sworn officers to help in the fight against drug trafficking throughout the county.
 - d. It would be beneficial for the Comanche Police Department to add two forensic electronic investigators, a narcotic investigator, and three patrol officers. This will give the city the ability to target specific individuals and criminal organizations in illegal drug distribution.
 - e. Implement programs for first responder mental health.

B. Family Violence, spousal 'abuse, Domestic Violence, Sexual abuse, Physical Abuse/neglect

This will be covered in Victims Issues

C. Trained Law Enforcement Officers

1. Supporting Statistics:
- a. Local Law Enforcement agencies have very limited training budgets
 - b. State mandated training continues to increase
 - c. West Central Texas Council of Government Law Enforcement Academy (WCTCOGLEA) is the main provider of law enforcement training for Comanche County.
 - d. Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) and FBI National Academy Leadership Development.
2. Action Plan:
- a. Continue planning training with the WCTCOGLEA and other resources
 - b. Request additional training funds
 - c. Continue LEMIT and FBI National Academy Leadership Development.
3. Funding Priorities:
- a. Get training free or reduced rate
 - b. Research funding assistance
4. Goals:
- a. Secure mandated/specialized training for officers
 - b. Increase training budget
 - c. Develop law enforcement leaders from staff.

D. Mental Health and Law Enforcement Collaboration

1. Supporting Statistics:

- a. Center for Life Resources, the Local Mental Health Authority has responded to 208 calls for service through the hotline, with 104 that were responded directly to, in the county, within Comanche County during Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024. Many of these calls are from law enforcement officers on scene with an individual with mental health needs.
- b. Cross Timbers Family Services, out of Stephenville, Texas, covers any violent crime against people. They have a 24-hour hotline that puts the caller in touch with a trained volunteer advocate and/or staff member. They cover family violence, sexual assault and other crimes such as victims of aggravated assault, DWI, and other violent crime. They do not have a domestic violence shelter, but they offer counseling, legal advocacy, safety planning, information and referrals. They also assist with CVC and other resources throughout the state. They coordinate the area SART team and DVHRT team. Their agency works with the Erath County Attorney for Protective Orders as well. They respond to the Stephenville Hospital ER for all sexual assaults and other violent crimes as well as area law enforcement agencies.
- c. Cross Timbers Family Services had 11 cases from Comanche County for fiscal year 2024.
- d. Officers are often only provided mental health training during the academy and receive no additional follow-up training or updated materials.
- e. Requests have been made by local law enforcement for training in resources and areas of referral.
- f. Depression affects approximately 280 million people across the globe, most rural communities in the state of Texas lack sufficient mental health care.

2. Action Plan:

- a. Training opportunities and collaboration between Comanche County law enforcement and Center for Life Resources will increase.
- b. Ensuring pathway for kids and juveniles to receive MH services in the county
- c. Continue working to establish and grow the MH Deputy service program
- d. Working to ensure that those with trauma have access points to services, both law enforcement and victims of crime.
- e. Both agencies will make a concerted effort to be in more frequent communication and consultation regarding cases that impact both agencies.
- f. Comanche County Sheriff's Office is working in cooperation with LMHA to continue to seek funding to support either another Mental Health Deputy or Mental Health professional in the jail or both.
- g. Comanche County Medical Center is proposing a multidisciplinary team of researchers, clinicians, and community members to plan for:

1. The development of an objective depression detection technology.
2. The implementation of telehealth services in Comanche County to increase access to mental health care and prepare the community with resources needed in response to increased detection of depression.
3. The compilation of extensive network data to test the diffusion, adoption and effectiveness of technologies (telehealth, detention technology) in reducing depression rates and increasing access to care in underserved communities.

3. Funding Priorities:

- a. The Center for Life Resources and Comanche County law enforcement will research opportunities to get additional training provided.
- b. Center for Life Resources will work with Comanche County law enforcement in seeking grant funding to address mental health intervention needs.
- c. Grant funding projected mid-year of FY 2025.
- d. The Comanche County Medical Center is actively working toward obtaining grant funding for key health care programs aimed at serving rural Communities

4. Goals:

- a. Secure mental health and referral training for first responders, including officers.
- b. Apply for mental health deputy funding opportunities.
- c. Through strategic planning, focus groups, and interviews and social network analysis, suitable community partners and care locations in Comanche County would be identified to ensure the implementation of effective accessible mental health resources.

IV. JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES:

A. Juvenile Criminal Activity

1. Supporting Statistics:

- a. Juvenile crime is a concern to Comanche County. Comanche County is seeing an increase in drugs in school and sexual offenses throughout the county. Juvenile crime appears to be increasing throughout the county.
- b. The Juvenile department has a Community Programs Officer working Comanche, Hamilton, and Bosque Counties supervising Community Service and providing Life Skills training.
- c. Referrals to Juvenile Probation

* The following are Comanche County referrals for 2018 through November 14, 2024:

| Juvenile Referrals | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Year | Referrals |
| 2024 | 13 |
| 2023 | 10 |
| 2022 | 11 |
| 2021 | 18 |
| 2020 | 16 |
| 2019 | 22 |
| 2018 | 15 |

- d. The following statistics are records from cases filed in the County Juvenile Court, the Justice of the Peace Court, Comanche Municipal Court, and DeLeon Municipal Court.

*Statistics are from October 1st, ending September 30th.

| Juvenile Court | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Year | Total Cases | Felonies | Misdemeanors |
| 2023-2024 | 37 | 33 | 32 |
| 2022-2023 | 41 | 39 | 31 |
| 2021-2022 | 45 | 40 | 31 |
| 2020-2021 | 53 | 48 | 32 |
| 2019-2020 | 49 | 38 | 38 |
| 2018-2019 | 48 | 33 | 46 |

2. Action Plans

- a. A dedicated Juvenile Peace Officer would be beneficial for Law Enforcement Agencies.
- b. A Juvenile Peace Officer could be a liaison for the Juvenile Courts and Law Enforcement.

3. Funding Priorities

- a. Research resources.

5. Goals

- a. Show a decrease in juvenile criminal activity, and to reduce incidents of crime and negative behaviors in juveniles.

B. Resource Officer for all Schools in Comanche County

1. Supporting Statistics
 - a. The City of Comanche Police Department is working with Comanche ISD to create a plan for a Student Resource Officer or equivalent.
2. Action Plans
 - a. Comanche County Sheriff's Office no longer has an employee with cost sharing MOU for DeLeon ISD and Gustine ISD to provide School Resource Deputy to their campuses.
3. Funding Priorities
 - a. Research resources
4. Goals
 - a. Show a decrease in juvenile criminal activity on school property and to a safer learning environment for our youth.

C. Substance Abuse/Mental Health

1. Supporting Statistics
 - a. Some statistics were covered in the Criminal Justice Issues section.
 - b. Substance abuse has been on the rise for the past several years.
 - c. Mental Health issues are also on the rise throughout the county.
2. Action Plans
 - a. Continue to investigate and enforce substance abuse crimes and continue to research sources available for the education of and enforcement.
3. Funding Priorities
 - a. Research resources.
4. Goals
 - a. Show a decrease in juvenile substance abuse and sexual assault.

V. VICTIM ISSUES

Abuse and neglect continue to be an issue for children living in Comanche County, Texas. The number of investigations completed by Child Protective Services (CPS) has increased, as has the number of confirmed victims of abuse and/or neglect. Consequently, there is an increase in the number of children from Comanche County placed in the foster care system due to abuse and/or neglect. The children come into

that system with an increasing number of issues related to exposure to substance use/abuse, mental health concerns, domestic violence, and poverty.

A. Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Physical Abuse and Neglect

1. Supporting Statistics

- a. Comanche County has a growing number of concerns for Family Violences, Sexual Assault, Physical Abuse and Neglect.
- b. **Multidisciplinary Team:** Multidisciplinary response teams that provide direct intervention to sexual assault and domestic violence victims as they interact with multiple agencies', to reach more victims in need of all services.
- c. **SANE:** The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) will provide timely, non-judgmental, compassionate care to the sexual assault victim. The SANE exam may include a medical-forensic exam, prophylaxis for pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, photographic documentation, and referrals for appropriate medical and psychological follow-up, support, and participation in legal proceedings.

2. Action Plans

- a. The ARK Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc., located in Brownwood, Texas, provides emergency services and transportation to victim shelters. The ARK provides services for survivors, including counseling, support groups, assistance with protective orders, crime victims' compensation applications and filing, safety planning and much more.
- b. CASA in the Heart of Texas, Inc., located in Brownwood, Texas, is appointed the Guardian Ad Litem for children from Comanche County in conservatorship of CPS. The CASA program will appoint community volunteers to serve as advocates for the children.
- c. Establish a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in or near Comanche County.
 - a. The CAC serves as the first stop for children entering the justice system as possible victims of abuse or witnesses to violent crimes. Each year more than 40,000 children receive services at one of the 69 CAC's operating across the state of Texas.
 - b. Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) helps bring children both justice and healing by providing vital services including:
 - Specialized Forensic Interviewing
 - Medical Referrals
 - Mental Health Referrals and Coordination
 - Court Accompaniment
 - Community Prevention Education

- Referrals to Social Services/Supporting Agencies
- Multi-disciplinary Team Case Reviews
- Comprehensive Advocacy Services
- Non-Offending Caregiver Support Group
- Information about Crime Victim Rights and Services
- Mentoring Program

3. Funding Priorities

- a. Continue funding for current programs.

B. Substance Abuse

- a. This was covered in Criminal Justice Issues.

C. Need for Parenting and Marriage Classes

1. Supporting Statistics

There are limited services in Comanche County for parenting and marriage classes.

2. Action Plans

Research funding and current services provided.

3. Funding Priorities

Research Grants.
Faith Based.

4. Goals

Educate youth and parents to reduce the number of abuses, neglect and divorces.

D. Child Abuse and Neglect

1. Supporting Statistics

- a. The number of confirmed victims of abuse and neglect has steadily increased in the past years. An increasing number of children from Comanche County are coming into Child Protective Services (CPS) foster care system as a result of abuse and/or neglect.
- b. Mental health for juveniles was a big discussion in the meeting as well.

2. Action Plans

- a. CASA in the Heart of Texas, Inc., located in Brownwood, Texas, is appointed the Guardian Ad Litem for children from Comanche County in conservatorship of CPS. The CASA program will appoint community volunteers to serve as advocates for the children.
- b. CASA in the Heart of Texas, Inc., located in Brownwood, Texas, will help to make the community more aware of child abuse and neglect.

3. Goals

- a. To increase the number of trained volunteer advocates from Comanche County. To increase community awareness of child abuse and neglect and the impact that it has on children and families.

VI. LONG-TERM EVALUATION GOALS

Law Enforcement in Comanche County consists of the Sheriff's Office, the Comanche Police Departments, one Constable's Office, one Texas Parks & Wildlife Game Warden and three Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers and a DOT. Local Law Enforcement address crime-related issues but have limited funding and personnel. Each Law Enforcement agency works well with regional and state agencies, as well as the communities.

For the past several years each law enforcement agency has experienced vacancies and no applications or applicants with very little experience have been on file. For the past few years the City of Comanche Police Department, City of DeLeon Police Department and the Comanche County Sheriff's Office have entered into agreements with people to provide the funding for these individuals to attend a West Central Texas Council of Government Police Academy and to employ these people while attending the academy. This program has been successful, and the agencies are currently better staffed and able to maintain employment. This program will be repeated in the future as the needs arise. The intent for this program is to fill vacancies within the agencies with local people. This would in return strengthen our local economy, by employing people with stronger family ties to the community, in a skilled, middle-class employment. This program would also help secure and make our community safer by having fully staffed law enforcement agencies.

The Rural Area Narcotics Task Force is no longer in operation. The Task Force had a strong impact on the distribution and trafficking of narcotics in the region. Comanche County has shifted street officers to investigate and enforce narcotics distribution and trafficking within the county. Comanche County Law Enforcement addressed the needs for additional funding for officers and equipment for narcotics enforcement. Also discussed was the need for funding to provide educational presentations in the schools and community.

A few years ago, the Texas Department of Public Safety removed one DPS Trooper position from Comanche County, causing Comanche County to be short law enforcement officers. Comanche County Law Enforcement discussed the concern of DWI, motor vehicle

accidents and related highway crimes. With Texas being a vibrant state blessed with abundant resources and a growing population, and with Comanche County being centrally located between several major cities and with several major highways traveling through the county, this is a concern for public safety. A safe and secure state is a productive, successful state therefore more available resources for traffic related criminal enforcement would be beneficial for the safeguard of not only the citizens of Comanche County, but also to all of the people traveling through the county on these major highways.

Due to a growing concern about the loss of revenues from fines and of a person's habitual disregard for justice, the Comanche County Constable's Office has received local funding to employ one deputy. This position was created with the intent of aggressively locating and executing misdemeanor warrants. This position will continue to serve the needs of law enforcement throughout the county, by not only locating wanted people of misdemeanors but of other crimes as well and will continue to provide other law enforcement duties within the county.

Comanche County has received some state funding through grants for needed equipment, however all agencies in Comanche County have indicated that the need for more funding is needed to purchase or replace outdated or non-existing equipment for effective law enforcement.

Comanche County discussed an increase in juvenile crimes and indicated a need for additional funding for juvenile crimes enforcement. Transporting the juvenile offender to an available detention center is costly and time consuming. This can take necessary officers away from other duties of securing the communities that they serve. Residential placement for juveniles that must be removed from their home is costly and there are only minimal state funds available. More state funding for enforcement of juvenile crimes and more available placement for these juveniles would strengthen our economy, by providing a reasonable legal climate, a sensible regulatory environment and inducements for job growth and business development thus making this a more prosperous state.

The following services in and around Comanche County were discussed and it was agreed that there is continuing to be needed for these services to be funded and provided to the citizens of Comanche County. This would continue to provide a stronger and healthier citizenry that can enjoy a fit, healthy, and safer lifestyle. Although the state can never assume responsibility for an individual's lifestyle choices, these services are devoted to encouraging stronger families and healthier citizens and to protect marriages, strengthen parental rights and to provide children with the best opportunity to succeed in life.

The Ark Domestic Violence Shelter is a non-profit organization providing shelter and comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence. The shelter is located in Brownwood with emergency transportation being provided by Ark staff or volunteers. The Ark is providing Legal Services and Counseling Programs and will provide a Sexual Assault Advocate when called. Programs are available to all community organizations, church groups, schools and civic clubs.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in the Heart of Texas, Inc., located at 901 Ave. B Brownwood, Texas, serves as Guardian Ad Litem for victims of child abuse and neglect in Comanche County who have been removed from their homes by CPS (Child Protective Services). The children range in age from birth to age eighteen, and come from all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, and are placed in temporary living arrangements, such as foster care, emergency shelters, or group homes. CASA in the Heart of Texas, recruits, trains, and supports community volunteers to advocate for the children in the court system.

The City of Comanche Police Department and the Comanche Independent School District, continue to work towards a school resource officer. This officer would serve the needs of all campuses and property owned and operated by the Comanche ISD. This school resource officer would provide security and enforcement efforts to the school and would educate and work with the students to reduce drugs and other crimes associated with today's youth. This program is devoted to raising the overall quality of education by providing a safer environment for our schools.

Currently the City of Comanche is fast reaching its limit to support growth based on its current critical infrastructure operational capacities, i.e. Water and Wastewater Production. Water Production Capacity (The Cities ability to supply water connections to its customers) has reached the 96th percentile with Wastewater Production Capacity (The Cities ability to process and treat wastewater/sewer for its customers) currently at the 65th percentile. These limits affect a city's ability to grow which in turn directly effects the City of Comanche Police Departments ability to grow as well. A City that has infrastructure limits cannot bring in large industry or support an influx in residency, which has a huge impact on a police departments operation goal, i.e. more officers, equipment, vehicles and compensation.

The West Central Texas Council of Governments has a Law Enforcement Training Center that provides basic and specialized training. All certified peace officers are mandated to receive a minimum of 40 hours of TCOLE certified training every two years. West Central Texas Council of Government will continue to provide training in and around Comanche County to help reduce the expenses in the county.

VII. CONCLUSION

Comanche County supports the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office's (CJD) mission to create and support programs that protect people from crime, reduce the number of crimes committed, and promote accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness within the criminal justice system. CJD focuses on the enhancement of Texas' capacity to prevent crime, provide service and treatment options, enforce laws, train staff and volunteers, and the restoration of crime victims to full physical, emotional and mental health.

During the Community meeting on November 19, 2024, numerous problems were discussed that affected the entire county. Many of the problems discussed in the previous meeting are still present.

The Rural Area Narcotics Task Force had an impact on substance abuse. Without their existence, Comanche County is forced to use local resources and officers. Additional funding for narcotics enforcement would greatly reduce substance abuse within the county.

Funds for juvenile officers, this would provide protection for the child, the family and the community. Funds for residential placement would allow Comanche County to place more offenders who need to be removed from their home on a long-term basis due to various needs of the child, the family and/or the community.

Additional training and updated equipment for law enforcement would improve criminal investigations and would greatly reduce the repeated crime from offenders within Comanche County.

A School Resource Officer is being worked on for the Comanche ISD, to be utilized on a full-time basis, for all campuses and property owned and operated by the Comanche ISD. This would make an impact on the school and will help make a difference addressed in all three categories in the community plan. A resource officer is still needed for the DeLeon ISD, Gustine ISD and Sidney ISD, as well. This would make an impact on the entire county and the schools within the county and would help make a difference addressed in all three categories in the community plan.

Comanche County expressed a need for funding in several different areas. There is a great need for Comanche County, with a large number of people living in poverty and limited funding is available to fund programs. Comanche County would like to see more available funding through the Criminal Justice Division to assist the Comanche County Communities in needed areas of personnel and equipment in law enforcement, juvenile justice and victim's issues.

VIII. STATISTICS ATTACHED

Statistics obtained from court records:

Municipal Records of the City of Comanche
Municipal Records of the City of DeLeon
Comanche County Justice of the Peace Court
Comanche County Courts
220th District Court
Juvenile Probation Records

Statistics obtained from school records:

Comanche ISD
DeLeon ISD
Gustine ISD
Sidney ISD
Premier High School

Statistics obtained by Law Enforcement Agencies'
Uniformed Criminal Reporting
Other records that are on file at agencies.

Comanche County Sheriff's Office
City of Comanche Police Department
Comanche Central Dispatch and 911 Center

Statistics obtained from web sites:

CRIME RECORDS SERVICES
www.txdps.state.tx.us

COURTS MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTING
www.card.txcourts.gov

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
gov.texas.gov