



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

To: City of Fort Smith Board of Directors
CC: Carl Geffken, City Administrator
John Cooley, Future Fort Smith Committee Chairman
From: Danny Baker, Chief of Police *DJB*
Subject: 2022 FFS Comprehensive Plan Annual Report
Date: August 29th, 2022

As requested, you will find attached the Fort Smith Police Department's Annual Report on our portion of the Comprehensive Plan. As indicated with our 2021 report, we included our annual report on the CP as an addendum to our departmental annual report, which was presented earlier this year.

Further, see below for what we believe to be the top ten most important and beneficial projects to Fort Smith, from the perspective of the Police Department.

1. Continuation of efforts to reduce the negative economic impact of the Federal Consent Decree.
2. Utilization of new funding sources to provide substantial salary increases for police officers. (Vital to Recruiting and Retention)
3. Continuation of efforts to improve the condition of the homeless population in Fort Smith while reducing the negative impact on the rest of the community. (This should be a collaborative effort with a number of departments and organizations.)
4. Purchase or lease of a second Police Precinct in the East/Southeast portion of the city.
5. Improvement of all major streets/roads/highways in Fort Smith with a particular focus on those in the most disrepair. Of equal importance in our opinion is an increased focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety in all areas of the community. Mitigating the increased amount of vehicular traffic in Fort Smith will become even more important in the next 3-5 years.



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

6. Construction of a state-of-the-art Public Safety Training Facility. (Police, Fire and 911)
7. Increased use of technology (hardware and software) in preventing and addressing threats to public safety. (Cameras, Drones, License Plate Readers, Warning Devices, etc.)
8. Increasing the number of Bicycle Patrols in and around the downtown and Chaffee Crossing sectors and expanding trail systems.
9. Continued efforts to improve Responsible Pet Ownership within and around the city.
10. Consolidation of the two Primary and one Secondary Public Service Answering Points (PSAP) in Sebastian County. (Fort Smith PD and Sebastian County 911 and Fort Smith EMS)



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

To: Chief of Police, Danny Baker *DLB 8/30/2022*

CC: Deputy Chief Waymon Parker *WP*
Deputy Chief Jason Thompson *JT*

From: Captain Daniel Grubbs *DG*

Subject: City of Fort Smith Comprehensive Plan – Annual Update

Date: August 22, 2022

This report will serve as the required annual update to the City of Fort Smith Comprehensive Plan on behalf of the Fort Smith Police Department. The City of Fort Smith prides itself on the ability to provide quality public services to the citizens of the City and our department is part of that process. Collaboration among city departments is key to the success of the Comprehensive Plan. The FSPD must also evaluate its processes against the goals of the Comprehensive Plan to ensure our department operates efficiently and with priorities to customer service.

The following report will address each aspect of the comprehensive plan that pertains to, or directly involves, the Fort Smith Police Department. Some of the sections do not directly relate to daily operations of the FSPD, but are still part of ongoing collaboration between the PD and other city departments. For instance, transparency is of utmost priority at the Fort Smith PD and we continually strive to provide information to the public. This is expected of all city departments and is outlined in the Public Facilities and Services sections for all departments.

Future Land Use

FLU 1.2: Ensure that sufficient, well designed and convenient on street and off street parking is provided to serve land uses

- 1.2.1: Conduct an assessment of existing parking supply and demand and forecast future needs.*



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022 Update: As reported in previous years' reports, the data for parking in the downtown area is as follows:

- The City of Fort Smith currently has 384 metered parking spaces in the downtown area.
- The parking garage has a total of 328 parking spaces with 237 of those being designated for use by the general public.
- There is a metered parking lot in the 800 block of Rogers Avenue that has 53 parking spaces. The solar meter is currently inoperable and is expected to be replaced during the parking meter replacement project.
- There are two parking lots owned by the City of Fort Smith on N. 2nd Street - one at N. 2nd and Garrison and the other at N. 2nd and N. B Street. These lots have unmetered parking for approximately 100 and 40 vehicles respectively.
- The various parks in the downtown area provide approximately 50 parking spaces.
- Beyond these assets, there are numerous private parking lots in the area.

The Fort Smith Police Department is involved only with the enforcement of parking regulations within the downtown area. Parking in the downtown area remains a small issue, however as the increasing popularity of events held in the downtown area (4th of July, Steel Horse Rally, etc.) contribute to increased need for parking; enforcement changes may also be required. Due to a backlog in court cases caused by the pandemic, we frequently work with the court system and allow discretion to be used with regards to meter enforcement near the court buildings. Along with additional parking locations, a review of enforcement hardware (meters) has been warranted. As previously discussed in prior reports, the city was in the process of moving forward with replacing downtown parking meters with newer technology, but the pandemic entered our area in March of 2020, and the plans were put on hold. Plans were still on hold in 2021, but the project should hopefully move forward in late 2022 or early 2023.

With the continuous growth in the area of Chaffee Crossing and the opening of the HUB, parking became a concern. Patrons began utilizing R.A. Young Jr. Drive for temporary parking while conducting business at the HUB. A request has been presented to the city to allow permanent parking on R.A. Young Jr. Drive. After a trial period with no issues, permanent parking is now allowed on this street.



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

FLU 1.3: Coordinate and plan future development with neighboring jurisdictions and the City of Fort Smith

- *1.3.2: Ensure that the subdivision of land within the allowable Planning Area will comply with City subdivision and infrastructure requirements, as amended, to address rural and estate development.*
- *1.4.1: Conduct an assessment of service boundaries and ensure regulations to guide the expansion of services.*

2022 Update: An analysis was conducted in early 2018 and 2020 as to the manpower issues related to annexation of additional land on the southwest side of the city. No further discussions have been brought forth regarding the annexation of additional land. Despite this, the police department continues to search for a viable location to either construct or renovate an existing building to house a precinct on the east or south side of the City. The process is being conducted to address future development and eventual increase in population in this area of town leading to the need for additional police coverage. Funds have been set aside in the department's Long Range Strategic Spending Plan to address this need. Once a viable location is identified for the precinct, determination on how to proceed with construction or renovation costs will be conducted. For further details regarding the Long Range Strategic Spending Plan, see **Appendix 1**.

The Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the police department with efforts of procuring additional office space and secure storage for the department at Harry E. Kelley Riverfront Park. The Downtown Ambassador has office space at the park and we are in the process of assuming control of an additional on-site structure to store our Kubota RTV's. In the foreseeable future, the aforementioned office space will be dedicated to our newly deployed Bicycle Unit. This will enhance police presence in the downtown area as well as the riverfront trail system.

The police department is involved in discussions with the Central Business Improvement District with efforts of procuring two (2) additional Downtown Ambassadors as part of the 2023 budget, and a dedicated office space for them on Garrison Avenue. It is a goal to hire the Ambassadors by early 2023 and earmark the dedicated office space during the final quarter of 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JH", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

FLU 3.2: Improve the accessibility of downtown

- *3.2.2: Implement an efficient parking plan that accommodates visitors while not detracting from the character of downtown.*
- *3.2.3: Create a safe and attractive pedestrian and bicycle connections within downtown and riverfront, and between adjacent neighborhoods (bike lanes, trails, and complete sidewalks).*

2022 Update: There are very few issues with pedestrian traffic in the downtown area. Sidewalks and intersections are clearly marked and facilitate the smooth flow of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The Entertainment District was adopted in late 2020, and so far, no major issues have been noted. Further, the parking situation has improved as stated above. In early March 2021, the Downtown Ambassador / Meter Technician became a reality and has proven to be very successful. Our Crisis Intervention Unit continues to assist those individuals with mental illness or substance abuse issues to help find solutions rather than incarceration. On March 1, 2021, the department accepted funding awarded from a COAP-4 Grant with an emphasis on the opioid crisis. The funding is being utilized to partner with the Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center. This partnership provides the services of a civilian peer-to-peer counselor / recovery coach who is partnered with our Crisis Intervention Unit. The COAP-4 grant was extended in late 2021 and is now set to expire in mid-September 2022. The Uniform Bureau maintains an enhanced presence downtown with a focus on disorderly conduct, public intoxication, trespassing, aggressive panhandling, and red light violations. The City of Fort Smith continues to offer 'No Trespassing' signs free of charge with efforts to curb loitering and trespassing issues downtown. The signs allow officers in the area to clearly enforce loitering and trespassing issues, and many businesses have taken advantage of this initiative.

On July 15, 2022, the Fort Smith Police Department deployed a newly formed Bicycle Unit that had been dormant for over a decade. The unit will provide an enhanced presence in all entertainment districts, trail systems and residential neighborhoods. As staffing continues to improve, the department hopes to have the Bicycle Unit fully staffed at four (4) officers by the end of 2022.



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Transportation and Infrastructure

TI 1.3: Protect residential neighborhoods from excessive through traffic

- *1.3.1: Consider traffic calming techniques (roadway narrowing, chicanes, bump-out curbs, raised intersections, etc.) in residential neighborhood impacted by through-traffic*
- *1.4.2: Identify problematic roadways that create a hazardous environment for pedestrians and infill sidewalks where gaps exist in the network.*

2022 Update: The Uniformed Bureau continues to monitor traffic issues / complaints, and will/has utilized new LED electronic billboards as well as targeted campaigns to educate and warn motorists. The Uniformed Bureau has conducted many Directed Patrols to address the citizen complaints surrounding traffic problems; speeding, racing, sidewalk violations, school zones, etc. In cooperation with the Community Relations Unit, the department launched a “Rules of the Road” campaign through social media. This campaign is designed to provide traffic safety tips and remind motorists of various traffic laws. The police department has purchased portable, solar powered radar sign(s) to display motorists’ speeds, and provide the department with analytics. The signs have been deployed throughout the city in response to speeding complaints. The street department currently deploys such signs within neighborhoods at the request of citizens and in partnership with the police department. The deployments of these signs have been very well received by the public. The police department purchased an additional radar sign through grant funding.

In 2021, the city witnessed an alarming number of fatal collisions. In 2022, an emphasis was placed on heightened enforcement efforts with regards to impaired driving. The police department partnered with the Arkansas State Police and assisting with DWI checkpoints within the city. In continued partnership with the Alcohol Beverage Commission (ABC), the police department and ABC agents focused on local bars and restaurants ensuring patrons were not being overserved and holding those accountable if overserving occurred. During the course of enhanced enforcement efforts, sixty-one (61) arrests were made for Driving While Intoxication, and three (3) local establishments were cited by ABC Agents for violating ABC rules / regulations. The violations included over-serving, hours of operation and disorderly conduct. Aside from the above enforcement efforts, our

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials "JL" or similar, located at the bottom right of the page.



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Relations Unit provided weekly public service announcements warning of the dangers of impaired driving and the number of those arrested for impaired driving. So far in 2022, there have been nine (9) fatal collision investigations. Seven (7) involved or it was suspected that impairment was involved. Our enhanced enforcement efforts will continue until a notable decline occurs.

The remainder of the goals outlined in this section is unable to be facilitated by FSPD as they involve physical construction and manipulation of the roadway, therefore left to the applicable departments. Any issues with roadways, specifically that may be hazardous, are immediately reported to the Street Department or the Arkansas Highway Department.

TI 2.2 Provide convenient, reliable connections between industrial zones and regional highways to facilitate truck traffic that also minimize noise and traffic conflicts with other uses.

- *2.2.2: Reroute truck traffic from key streets targeted for streetscape and pedestrian improvements (Garrison Avenue, A Street, B Street, and Riverfront Drive) to I-540 and other highways to reduce truck traffic downtown and on the riverfront.*

2022 Update: As previously reported, our department was made aware of federal laws regarding truck traffic on State and US Highways that affected our enforcement efforts, specifically on Garrison Avenue. The truck route has been determined to be unenforceable in regard to State and US Highways. The City cannot prohibit carriers (who pay taxes on diesel fuel to be able to operate on State and US highways) from operating on these highways. This has directly impacted our ability to reduce truck traffic in the downtown area. This section will remain ongoing until suitable alternative routes can be found to reduce truck traffic in the downtown area. Several alternative routes were discussed at the conclusion of a truck study and presented during a study session to the board of directors in December 2020. As short-term solutions, improving the timing of the stoplight at 5th and Garrison was proposed and extending 5th Street to Kelley Highway. The long-term solution discussed was the feasibility of a bridge across the Arkansas River west of Fort Smith that would completely direct commercial traffic away from Garrison Avenue. In 2021, citizens complained of truck traffic in the 700 block of North 6th Street, 3900 block of North 6th Street and the 3600 block of North 50th Street. The Patrol Special Operations Division contacted applicable merchants in the area to reiterate the truck route. The Uniformed Bureau of the Fort Smith



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Department initiated Directed Patrols of these locations to address those trucks off the truck route. Since the operation, off the truck route complaints have diminished.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D.H.", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.



FORT SMITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Appendix 1: Long Range Strategic Spending Plan

Fort Smith Police Department Long Range Strategic Spending Plan						
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Sworn Personnel	163	163	163	163	163	163
23.87% Raise			\$ 2,286,533.00	\$ 2,286,533.00	\$ 2,286,533.00	\$ 2,286,533.00
Technology & Training						
Accountability			\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 1,600,000.00	
Crime Prev/Det/Inv			\$ 350,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 350,000.00
Training & Officer Safety			\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Hiring & Recruiting			\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Mobility						
Mobile Command Post	\$ 380,000.00					
Primary Patrol Vehicles	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 700,000.00				\$ 400,000.00
CID Vehicles	\$ 150,000.00					\$ 250,000.00
Other (Motors/Bikes/etc)						\$ 100,000.00
Facilities						
East Precinct			\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
Traning Facility and/or 911	\$ 50,000.00			\$ 5,000,000.00		
Firing Range Improvements	\$ 70,000.00					
Downtown Renovations		\$ 300,000.00	\$ 200,000.00			
Total	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 3,326,533.00	\$ 7,816,533.00	\$ 4,286,533.00	\$ 3,786,533.00
				\$ 2,816,533.00		
			Cooling Tower	Axon Performance	Axon Perform	Axon Contract
				Shotspotter	911 Consol.	Shotspotter
				Facility Boiler		

Fort Smith Police Department 8-Year Proposal for 1/8 cent Sales Tax Revenue			
	2028	2029	2030
Sworn Personnel	168	173	178
23.87% + Positions	\$ 2,588,075.00	\$ 2,889,617.00	\$ 3,191,159.00
Technology & Training			
Accountability			
Crime Prev/Det/Inv	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Training & Officer Safety	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Hiring & Recruiting	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Mobility			
Mobile Command Post			
Primary Patrol Vehicles	\$ 300,000.00		\$ 350,000.00
CID Vehicles	\$ 150,000.00		\$ 185,000.00
Other (Motors/Bikes/etc)		\$ 100,000.00	
Facilities			
East Precinct	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
Traning Facility/911			
Firing Range Improvements			
Downtown Renovations			
Total	\$ 3,498,075.00	\$ 3,689,617.00	\$ 4,176,159.00