

## 4.1 Law Enforcement

Contact: Ron Hager  
 (417) 682-3546  
[ron@cityoflamar.org](mailto:ron@cityoflamar.org)



Assessment Process	
<b>A.</b>	The assessment of needs, wants, and resources is achieved by surveys, town meetings, brain storming, focus group studies, and mayoral-appointed advisory committees.
<b>B.</b>	Experts and consultants are employed when needed.
<b>C.</b>	The City of Lamar has adopted a comprehensive plan and developed strategies to accomplish short and long-range goals.

Program Standards	
<b>A.</b>	<b>Organization:</b> The City of Lamar Police Department operates a 24-hour response police service. The department consists of ten commissioned officers with full police powers. All officers are certified under the Peace Officer Standards and Training Act (POST). There is also a reserve division of the department which may be staffed with a total of three additional officers. These officers are also certified by the State of Missouri.
<b>B.</b>	<b>Mission Statement:</b> It is a mission of the Lamar Police Department to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remember the past and prepare for the future while presently providing a safe and enjoyable environment for the citizens of Lamar in which to live.</li> <li>• To enforce the laws, ordinances, and statutes of Lamar and of the state</li> <li>• To serve and protect while upholding the constitutional rights of all people and to do so without favoritism or prejudice</li> <li>• To provide the highest level of professionalism and courtesy of taking a positive action towards law-enforcement, public education, heighten public awareness and help to prevent and deter crime</li> <li>• To do our job and live our lives in an exemplary manner as not to bring reproach upon ourselves or this department, and</li> <li>• To go above and beyond the call of duty if need be</li> </ul>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Personnel:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The community well exceeds the standard national average of two police officers per 1,000 population.</li> <li>2. The City of Lamar Police Department staffs ten sworn officers with a city population of 4,425</li> <li>3. As the county seat of Barton County, Lamar is also home to the County Sheriff's Department, with four full-time deputies and the Sheriff. Dispatch services and housing of prisoners is also accomplished through this facility.</li> <li>4. Staff members of the Police Department work heavily in the area of crime prevention and community education. This is apparent through the involvement of many officers in several programs to various groups throughout the community.</li> <li>5. Work in the local school system is also high priority of the department. Programs such as D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T., Halloween Safety, stranger danger, bike safety, family drug awareness, and domestic violence are presented on an ongoing basis for classes at all grade levels.</li> <li>6. The Police Department works in conjunction with the school system to provide security for all extracurricular activities, such as sporting events and dances.</li> <li>7. The City of Lamar and the Lamar School District secured a federal grant to staff a full-time School Resource Officer. The primary duty of this officer is to work within the confines of the school campuses, helping to ensure the students are able to attend and learn in a safe and secure atmosphere. When the grant ends, the school system and the city have agreed to split the operational costs of this program so it may continue.</li> </ol>

<b>D.</b>	<b>Training:</b> All full-time and reserve officers of the police department are certified in accordance with Missouri statutes. Additionally, the city provides annual budget funding to continue training officers in all facets of law enforcement. Through this effort, the city is able to staff the streets with some of the most knowledgeable and well-trained officers in the state. The entire Sheriff's Department is also trained to the standards of the POST Commission.
<b>E.</b>	<b>Communications &amp; Records:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The jail at the Barton County Sheriff's Department serves as the joint dispatch and incarceration point for not only the City of Lamar and the Sheriff, but also as a detention facility for the area cities of Liberal, Mindenmines, and Golden City.</li> <li>2. The Barton County jail is a point of access for the statewide MULES System and the nationwide NCIC record system, giving law enforcement officers of all departments in Barton County access to criminal records, wants, and warrant information, which are available almost instantaneously when the officers have need.</li> <li>3. In addition to continuous radio contact, both the Sheriff's Department and the City Police Department provide officers with cellular phones which enhance their communication capabilities.</li> <li>4. The countywide 911 system is located at the Barton County Jail and is answered by a dedicated dispatch staff in operation 24 hours a day. Included on staff are a dispatcher and jailer at all times. Members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and members of the Missouri Department of Conservation, who are stationed in this zone, utilize dispatch services and facilities as well.</li> </ol>
<b>F.</b>	<b>Equipment &amp; Facilities:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The budget approved by the Lamar City Council for operation the Police Department totals over \$400,000 per year.</li> <li>2. All equipment requests are funded as needed. Equipment utilized by the department includes, but is not limited to, bulletproof vests that are replaced every five years, three pieces of night vision, and in-car camera systems. Extreme Importance is placed on transportation. Vehicles are rotated out on a regular basis before repair costs become prohibitive or equipment degrades to the extent it becomes a danger to the officers in operation.</li> <li>3. To improve communication and accessibility, the Police Department operates out of administrative offices located in the City Hall complex. The facility also provides space for the animal control officer and for the public transportation service.</li> </ol>

### Program Evaluation

The success of Law Enforcement endeavors for Lamar are addressed through:

- Benchmarks established through the state and regional resources
- Mayoral-appointed advisory committees with regular reports to city administration and leadership
- Annual Surveys of the local community regarding city services