



Comanche

Created at statehood from a portion of Comanche County, Oklahoma Territory. The word Comanche is believed to be derived from the Spanish Camino Ancho, meaning “broad trail.” Originally a part of the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache reservation, Comanche County was opened for homesteading by lottery on August 6, 1901.

Fort Sill, established by General Philip H. Sheridan as a cavalry fort in 1869, is now headquarters for the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center and School. The military reservation, which covers 95,000 acres, contains some fifty historic sites, including the Geronimo Guardhouse and the grave of Quanah Parker.

Lawton, the county seat, is home to Cameron University and the Great Plains Area Vocational-Technical School. The Lawton Community Theater and the Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra are leading cultural activities of the area, as is the annual Arts for All Festival in April. The Museum of the Great Plains is both educational and entertaining with its outdoor prairie dog village, depot, and trading post.

The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge attracts more than a million visitors annually. It is also the site of the Holy City of the Wichitas where the annual Wichita Mountains Easter Sunrise Service is presented.

Call the county clerk’s office at 580/355-5214 for more information.

Districts

County Officials

Cong. 4	Court Clerk	Joan Williams (D)	Lawton
St. Sen. 31,32	Clerk	Earlene Shriver (D)	Lawton
St. Rep. 62,63,64,65	Sheriff	Kenny Stradley (D)	Lawton
D.A. 5	Treasurer	Cindy Jackson (D)	Cache
Ct. of Appeals 4	Assessor	Robert McAdoo (D)	Cache
Ct. of Crim. Appeals... 5	Election Brd. Sec.	Monica Baughman (D)	Lawton
Supreme Ct. Jud. 9	Dist. 1 Comm.	Gail Turner (D)	Elgin
S.W. Jud. Adm. 5 (Div. I.)	Dist. 2 Comm.	Ron Kirby (D)	Lawton
	Dist. 3 Comm.	Susan Ulrich (D)	Cache

Property Valuations

	2003-2004 Assessment	2004-2005 Assessment	Increase or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$343,160,762	\$358,921,348	\$15,760,586
Personal Subject to Tax	\$53,235,303	\$64,573,181	\$11,337,878
Total Locally Assessed	\$396,396,065	\$423,494,529	\$27,098,464
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$16,021,433	\$15,942,096	(\$79,337)
Net Assessed Locally	\$380,374,632	\$407,552,433	\$27,177,801
Public Service Assessment	\$51,495,024	\$50,937,862	(\$557,162)
Net Assessed Valuation	\$431,869,656	\$458,490,295	\$26,620,639

County Seat—Lawton (Pop. 91,730) 2003 Estimate
Area (Land & Water)—1,083.82 square miles
Per Capita Income (2003)—\$25,545 (Ranks 11th of 77 counties)
Population Stats (2002)—Fem.-55,371, Male-59,625 • **Ethnicity**—
 Wh.-71,304; Bl.-21,381; Am. Ind.-5,464; As.-2,322; Other-180;
 Pacific Is.-434; Two or more races-4,236; Hisp.-9,675
Births (2003)—1,886 • **Deaths (2003)**—900
Unemployment Rate (2003)—3.6%
Labor Force (2003)—42,880
Number of Establishments (2002)—2,144
Number of Manufacturers (2002)—52
Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)—\$2, 394,245
 TANF—\$1,156,929 • Supplements—Aged-\$197,660;
 Blind-\$8,318; Disabled-\$1,031,338
Vehicle Registration (2004)—Automobiles-77,332;
 Farm Trucks-2,945; Comm., Trucks, Tractors,
 Trailers-3,795; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers-1,724;
 Motorcycles-2,615; Manufactured Homes-155; Tax
 Exempt Licenses-307; Boats-5,073
Institutions of Higher Learning—Cameron
 University, Lawton
Crime Incidents (2003)—Murder-5; Rape-41; Robbery
 115; Fel. Assault-612; Breaking and Entering-1,393;
 Larceny-3,725; Motor Vehicle Theft-291; Arson-48 •
 Total Crime Index-6,182; Crime Rate per 1,000-54.23
Farms (2002)—1,188 • **Land in Farms (2002)**—
 425,146

County Population	
1907 (Okla. Terr.)	31,738
1910	41,489
1920	26,629
1930	34,317
1940	38,988
1950	55,165
1960	90,803
1970	108,144
1980	112,456
1990	111,486
2000	114,996
2004 Estimate	110,514

Recreation Area—Great Plains Major
 Lakes—Ellsworth, Elmer Thomas,
 Lawtonka
Major Stream Systems—Cache
 and Beaver creeks, Washita River and
 North Fork of the Red River
Museums and Historic Sites—
 Eagle Park Old West Ghost Town,
 Cache; U.S. Army Field Artillery and
 Fort Sill Museum, Museum of the
 Great Plains, Lewis Museum, and
 Mattie Beal Home, Lawton
Minerals—oil & gas, crushed stone,
 and gypsum

