



Jefferson

Named for President Thomas Jefferson, this county was created from a portion of Comanche County in Oklahoma Territory and the southwestern corner of the Chickasaw Nation. A marker on S.H. 70 in Waurika, the county seat, designates the 98th Meridian, the dividing line between Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory.

Waurika, meaning “camp of clear water,” was built at the junction of Beaver and Cow creeks, and is the site of Waurika Lake. Ringling was named for John Ringling, who built a railroad on this site to bring his circus to the area for its winter headquarters. Ryan is the site of the Jefferson County Courthouse, built in 1894 by the Chickasaw Nation. Landmarks include the Rock Island Railroad Depot built in 1912, and Monument Hill Marker, honoring the Chisholm Trail and its trail drivers.

Although an industrial base has been established, cattle, oil, and agriculture are still the leading sources of income. Annual events include the Waurika Volunteer Firemen Rattlesnake Hunt, the Waurika Art Show, and the Terral Melon Jubilee.

The Chisholm Trail Historical Association is located in Waurika, and two publications, *A History of Jefferson County* and *Post Offices in Jefferson County*, offer written historical accounts. For more information, call the county clerk’s office at 580/228-2029.

Districts

County Officials

Cong. 4	Court Clerk	Linda Graham (D)	Addington
St. Sen. 31	Clerk	Doris Pilgreen (D)	Waurika
St. Rep. 51	Sheriff	Michael Bryant (D)	Waurika
D.A. 6	Treasurer	Vickie Behrens (D)	Waurika
Ct. of Appeals 4	Assessor	Teresa Tallon (D)	Waurika
Ct. of Crim. Appeals... 3	Election Brd. Sec.	Mary R. Brown (D)	Waurika
Supreme Ct. Jud. 5	Dist. 1 Comm.	Kenny Wall (D)	Waurika
S.W. Jud. Adm. 5	Dist. 2 Comm.	Jack Tipton (D)	Ringling
(Div. II)	Dist. 3 Comm.	John Dale (D)	Ryan

Property Valuations

	2003-2004 Assessment	2004-2005 Assessment	Increase or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$18,221,428	\$18,423,876	\$202,448
Personal Subject to Tax	\$3,613,773	\$3,638,085	\$24,312
Total Locally Assessed	\$21,835,201	\$22,061,961	\$226,760
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$1,553,033	\$1,525,869	(\$27,164)
Net Assessed Locally	\$20,282,168	\$20,536,092	\$253,924
Public Service Assessment	\$7,621,667	\$8,176,063	\$554,396
Net Assessed Valuation	\$27,903,835	\$27,712,155	\$808,320

County Seat—Waurika (Pop. 1,891) 2003 Estimate

Area (Land & Water)—773.83 square miles

Per Capita Income (2003)—\$19,464 (Ranks 67th of 77 counties)

Population Stats (2000)—Fem.—3,502, Male—3,316 • **Ethnicity**—Wh.—5,709; Bl.—38; Am. Ind.—342; As.—77; Other—0; Pacific Is.—1; Two or more races—173; Hisp.—478

Births (2003)—81 • **Deaths** (2003)—109

Unemployment Rate (2003)—5.9%

Labor Force (2003)—2,410

Number of Establishments (2002)—129

Number of Manufacturers (2002)—7

Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)—\$206,930
TANF—\$101,170 • Supplements—Aged—\$38,979; Blind—\$607; Disabled—\$66,174

Vehicle Registration (2004)—Automobiles—4,485; Farm Trucks—1,069; Comm. Trucks, Tractors, Trailers—295; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—177; Motorcycles—143; Manufactured Homes—6; Tax Exempt Licenses—32; Boats—462

Crime Incidents (2003)—Murder—0; Rape—1; Robbery—0; Fel. Assault—36; Breaking and Entering—33; Larceny—61; Motor Vehicle Theft—14; Arson—2 • Total Crime Index—145; Crime Rate per 1,000—21.93

Farms (2002)—483 • **Land in Farms** (2002)—407,194

County Population

1907 (Okla. Terr.)	13,439
1910	17,430
1920	17,664
1930	17,392
1940	15,107
1950	11,122
1960	8,192
1970	7,125
1980	8,294
1990	7,011
2000	6,818
2004 Estimate	6,460

Major Lake—Waurika

Major Stream Systems—Mud and Beaver creeks and tributaries to Red River

Museums and Historic Sites—Chisholm Trail Museum at Waurika; Rock Island Depot, Waurika

Minerals—oil and gas

