



Latimer

Located in the mountains of southeastern Oklahoma, Latimer County was created at statehood and named for James S. Latimer, a member of the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention.

The Butterfield Overland Mail Route, extending from St. Louis to San Francisco, cut through the county at four stops which are now open to visitors. During the Civil War, outlaws roamed the area, and in 1875, Isaac Parker, a federal judge at Fort Smith, Arkansas, became known as the “hanging judge,” because of his efforts to restore order.

A coal boom in 1870 brought a great influx of people, and by 1907 many people had settled in Wilburton. A tragic explosion in 1926 forced the mines to close and since that time cattle raising and agriculture have become the principle ways of life.

Wilburton, the county seat, is the home of industry as well as Eastern Oklahoma State College, begun in 1908 as the Oklahoma School of Mines. Latimer County has five reservoirs and is rich in minerals as well as forests, ranch land, and recreational opportunities.

For more county information, call the county clerk’s office at 918/465-3543 or the chamber of commerce at 918/465-2759.

Districts

County Officials

Cong.	2	Court Clerk	Melody Littlejohn (D)	Wilburton
St. Sen.	7	Clerk	Jane Brinkley (D)	Wilburton
St. Rep.	17	Sheriff	Wayne Brinkley (D)	Wilburton
D.A.	16	Treasurer	Sue Chester (D)	Wilburton
Ct. of Appeals.....	3	Assessor	Linda Jordan (D)	Wilburton
Ct. of Crim. Appeals...	3	Elect. Brd. Sec.	Barbara Helmert (D)	Wilburton
Supreme Ct. Jud.....	2	Dist. 1 Comm.	Dennis Deela (D)	Wilburton
S.E. Jud. Adm.....	16	Dist. 2 Comm.	Gearl Johnson (D)	Gowen
		Dist. 3 Comm.	Roy Alford (D)	Red Oak

Property Valuations

	2003-2004 Assessment	2004-2005 Assessment	Increase or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$15,370,488	\$15,838,321	\$467,873
Personal Subject to Tax	\$10,248,239	\$14,878,322	\$4,630,083
Total Locally Assessed	\$25,618,687	\$30,716,643	\$5,097,956
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$2,663,437	\$2,642,262	(\$21,175)
Net Assessed Locally	\$22,955,250	\$28,074,381	\$5,119,131
Public Service Assessment	\$15,348,266	\$15,543,705	\$195,439
Net Assessed Valuation	\$38,303,516	\$43,618,086	\$5,314,570

County Seat—Wilburton (Pop. 2,932) 2003 Estimate

Area (Land & Water)—729.12 square miles

Per Capita Income (2003)—\$21,849 (Ranks 43rd of 77 counties)

Population Stats (2000)—Fem.—5,415, Male—5,277 • **Ethnicity**—Wh.—7,747; Bl.—99; Am. Ind.—2,050; As.—18; Other—6; Pacific Is.—1; Two or more races—607; Hisp.—164

Births (2003)—109 • **Deaths (2003)**—136

Unemployment Rate (2003)—6.1%

Labor Force (2003)—4,090

Number of Establishments (2002)—165

Number of Manufacturers (2002)—4

Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)—\$281,602
TANF—\$90,876 • Supplements—Aged—\$57,400; Blind—\$1,737; Disabled—\$131,589

Vehicle Registration (2004)—Automobiles—6,256; Farm Trucks—965; Comm. Trucks, Tractors, Trailers—540; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—361; Motorcycles—181; Manufactured Homes—10; Tax Exempt Licenses—32; Boats—959

Institutions of Higher Learning—Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton

Crime Incidents (2003)—Murder—1; Rape—0; Robbery—1; Fel. Assault—24; Breaking and Entering—45; Larceny—81; Motor Vehicle Theft—30; Arson—3 • Total Crime Index—182; Crime Rate per 1,000—17.18

Farms (2002)—738 • **Land in Farms (2002)**—205,652

County Population

1907 (Okla. Terr.)	9,340
1910	11,321
1920	13,866
1930	11,184
1940	12,380
1950	9,690
1960	7,738
1970	8,601
1980	9,840
1990	10,333
2000	10,692
2004 Estimate	10,647

Recreation Area—Robber's Cave State Park

Major Stream Systems—Poteau River and tributaries to the Canadian and the main stem of the Arkansas River

Museums and Historic Sites—Lutie Coal Miner's Museum and Robbers Cave Nature Center, Wilburton

Minerals—oil and gas, coal

