

BA, Tulsa Fire conduct joint training

In late 2018, members of the Broken Arrow and Tulsa fire departments trained together to further develop their working relationships, learn new techniques to possibly save their fellow firefighters, and compare and contrast the equipment used by each department. The training was held at the Tulsa Fire/Tulsa Community College Regional Fire Training Center. Earlier in 2018, Tulsa crews attended an introductory training session in Broken Arrow.

Classroom training was followed by hands-on drills and exercises to test firefighters' abilities to work together with differing equipment and techniques. Crews will be more prepared to make critical rescues of downed firefighters from each other's department, if ever

faced with a life-threatening situation.

For many years, the two fire departments have worked together in eastern parts of Tulsa and northern parts of Broken Arrow, to ensure that residents of both communities receive prompt and comprehensive fire and emergency medical service (EMS) response.

BAFD has a station located close to east Tulsa so BAFD responds to areas in east Tulsa for fire and medical calls until Tulsa Fire is able to relieve them. Similarly, TFD provides fast fire and EMS response to the areas near Albany (61st) Street and Garnett Road that fall within the City of Broken Arrow.

"Developing a strong working relationship with



all of our fire department neighbors and conducting regular training will provide even greater levels of safety and service for our citizens and firefighters," said Broken Arrow Fire Chief Jeremy Moore. "Being proactive and working together on a daily basis will help all of us act in harmony, should an unthinkable disaster affect

any of our communities."

In 2018, the cities renewed their commitment to the automatic and mutual aid relationship of the departments. The agreement added a component that TFD would provide fire trucks, if available, to the City of Broken Arrow during significant incidents that deplete BAFD's fire trucks.

BA Police first agency in state to join 'Neighbors' app

The Broken Arrow Police Department became the first law enforcement agency in Oklahoma to join the free Neighbors app to provide the Broken Arrow community with real-time, local crime and safety information. Dozens of agencies have launched similar partnerships with the Neighbors network which already has millions of users and has been instrumental in catching package thieves, stopping burglaries, and keeping neighborhoods safe.

Residents can download the free Neighbors app, join their neighborhood, and use the app to: monitor neighborhood

activity; share crime and safety-related videos, photos and text-based posts; and receive real-time safety alerts from neighbors, local law enforcement and the Ring team.

"The Broken Arrow Police Department is excited to enter into this partnership with the Neighbors app by Ring," said Patrick DuFriend, captain of BAPD's Criminal Investigations Division. "We are certain it will enhance our ability to provide quality service to our citizens."

Download the Neighbors app for iOS and Android devices at download.ring.com/brokenarrow

Broken Arrow ranks among 'Safest Cities in America'

A new report from 24/7 Wall St. has ranked Broken Arrow as the 19th Safest City in America.

In recent years, the incidence of violent crime in Broken Arrow has declined more than in nearly any other city, according to the report. There were just 124 violent crimes reported per 100,000 city residents in 2017, down 19.2 percent from 2016.

"Public safety has always been a priority in the City of Broken Arrow," said Mayor Craig Thurmond. "Our public safety personnel do a phenomenal job keeping our city safe. Broken Arrow residents also need to be commended for promoting a culture of safety in our community and looking out for neighbors."

"The Broken Arrow Police Department is proud to be listed among the safest cities

in America," said Broken Arrow Police Chief Brandon Berryhill. "This wouldn't have been possible without the support from our citizens and City Council. We will continue to strive for the best for our community. Sustained positive community engagement is the hallmark of our success."

To identify the safest cities in America, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed violent crime and population statistics for cities with populations of 100,000 or more from the FBI's 2017 Uniform Crime Report, table 8: "Offenses Known to Law Enforcement by State by City, 2017." The website calculated the rate of violent crime per 100,000 people.

View the full report at 247wallst.com/special-report/2018/11/26/safest-cities-in-america.

FORE!



Did you know Battle Creek is owned by the City of Broken Arrow? Managed and maintained by Greenway Golf, Battle Creek features an 18-hole, par 72 course; practice facility and banquet hall with catering kitchen available for weddings and other celebrations. Visit BattleCreekGolf.net for more information.

BAPD motorcycle safety courses resume in March

Motorcycles are inexpensive to operate, fun to ride and easy to park. Unfortunately, many riders never learn the critical skills needed to ride safely. Motorcycling requires skill, concentration and reasonable precautions.

The Share the Road course is designed to teach experienced riders how to survive riding on our roadways. It's taught by seasoned police motorcycle officers who know how to stay safe on a motorcycle. Riders will learn effective turning, obstacle avoidance, braking and more.

Dates for 2019 "Share the Road" courses are: March 24, April 7, April 28 and advanced classes on June 9 and Sept. 8. Riders **must** have taken the beginners course to register for an advanced course.

All classes will be from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St. in Broken Arrow. Visit BrokenArrowOK.gov/ShareTheRoad, or call 918-259-2400 ext. 8692 for details.

Storm siren testing resumes in March

The City of Broken Arrow's outdoor warning sirens are tested at noon on the first Wednesday of the month during storm season — March through September.

The sirens will only be tested if there are no overcast skies or storms in the area.

Should the weather not permit testing on the first Wednesday of the month, testing will be done the following Wednesday.

Thinking about a summer job?

Applications will soon be available for seasonal summer positions. Lead lifeguards, lifeguards, concession workers, cashiers, grounds and horticulture crew members will be needed.

Lifeguards **must** obtain certification prior to employment, so those interested should begin looking for certification classes now. The Parks Department will offer some classes in May. Details coming soon!

2019 City of Broken Arrow holiday schedule

Here are the City observed holidays for the remainder of 2019.

Trash service is not provided on these days. If a holiday falls on a Monday, Monday pickups will be Tuesday, and Tuesday pickups will be Wednesday. If a holiday falls on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, your trash will be picked up on your next regular pickup day.

Police and Fire departments remain open on City holidays.

For Public Works related issues, such as water outages or line breaks, call 918-259-8400 on these days.

Remaining 2019 Holidays

- Good Friday**, April 19
- Memorial Day**, May 27
- Independence Day**, July 4
- Labor Day**, Sept. 2
- Veterans Day**, Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving**, Nov. 28-29
- Christmas**, Dec. 24-25

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- March 4 — NWS Storm Spotter Training** 7 p.m., Central Park Community Center, 1500 S. Main St.
- March 5 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.
- March 8 — Registration deadline for April 2 election.**
- March 14 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.
- March 16 — ShamROCK the Rose** 5 p.m., Rose District. <http://www.facebook.com/shamrocktherose>
- March 19 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.
- March 24 — Share the Road Motorcycle Safety Class** Visit BrokenArrowOK.gov/ShareTheRoad for details.
- March 28 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.
- April 2 — City Council Election** Wards 3, 4 and At Large seat, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Visit services.okelections.us/voterSearch.aspx to find your polling station. If you need to register, the deadline is March 8.
- April 2 — Broken Arrow City Council** 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.
- April 7 — Share the Road Motorcycle Safety Class** Visit BrokenArrowOK.gov/ShareTheRoad for details.
- April 11 — Planning Commission** 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.
- April 13 — Mixed Doubles Pickleball tournament** 9 a.m., Central Park Community Center, 1500 S. Main St. Pre-registration required. 918-259-8437.

About the council-manager government

The City of Broken Arrow operates under a council-manager form of government. Voters made the change from a strong mayor form in 1956.

The council-manager form of local government is the most popular structure among U.S. municipalities with populations of 2,500 or more. It is one of several ways municipalities and counties can organize.

Under this form, residents elect a governing body — the City Council — to adopt legislation and set policy. The Council then hires a manager who acts as an administrator with broad executive authority to carry out those policies and oversee the local government’s day-to-day operations.

The council-manager form of government recognizes the critical role of elected officials as policy makers, who focus on mapping out a collective vision for the community and establishing the policies that govern it. The form also recognizes the need for a highly-qualified individual who is devoted exclusively to the delivery of services to residents.

Think about the structure used by many corporations, in which the board of directors hires an experienced CEO who is granted broad, executive authority to run the organization.



At City Council meetings, the Mayor sits in the middle of the dais, with the Vice Mayor and other councilors to his left and the City Manager on his right.

While these boards establish the company’s overall policy direction, the CEO oversees implementation of that policy.

Another similar structure is that of many school districts’ board of education and superintendent.

Today more than 105 million people in the U.S. live in communities that operate under a council-manager government. Forty-eight percent of the more than 7,300 U.S. municipalities with populations of 2,500 or more use the form, as do nearly 62 percent of municipalities with populations greater than 100,000. More than 800 counties also employ a similar system.

There are three primary benefits to this form of government.

- Flexibility — The council-manager form can adapt to local needs and demands.
- Clearly Defined Roles — While the Council serves both executive and legislative functions, there is clear distinction between the administrative role of a city manager and the policy leadership role of the elected council members.
- A Road Map for Success — Under this system, city managers can focus on service delivery, policy implementation, and performance management and can align city services with the values, mission, and policy goals set by the community and elected officials.

Information for this article came from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

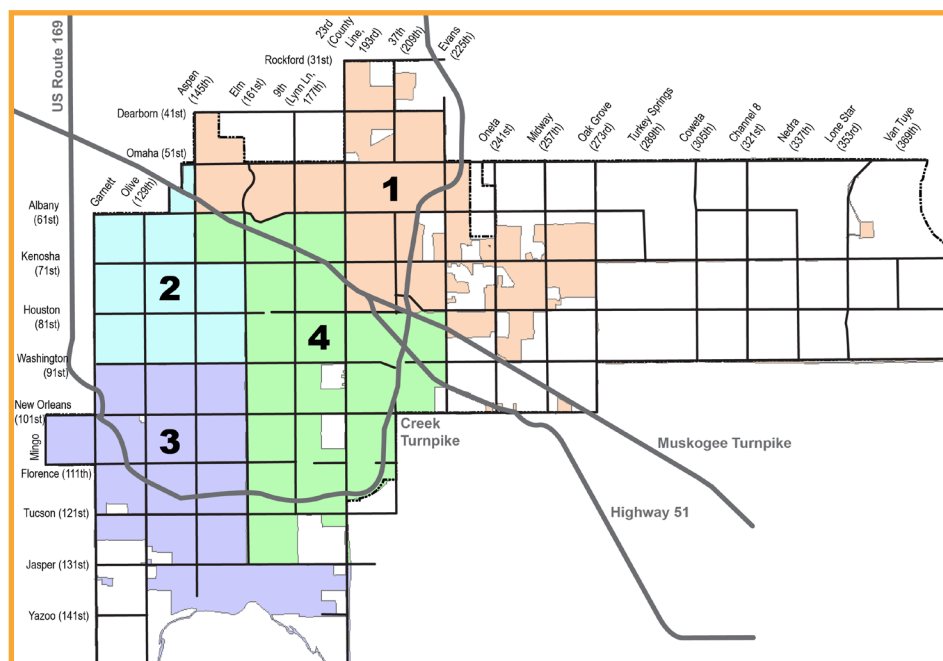
What is the makeup and role of the council?

Comprised of five members, the City Council is the elected governing body for the City of Broken Arrow. Four of the members serve one of the City’s wards and the last member is elected at-large.

Council members are elected on a staggered schedule and serve four-year terms. Three seats are up for election on April 2 this year (Wards 3, 4 and At Large), and the other two will next be elected in 2021. One unique aspect of Broken Arrow is that while the four ward representatives must live in their ward, all registered voters in the City are able to vote for each seat.

The Council elects a mayor and vice mayor from among its own members. One of their primary functions is to serve as the chairperson and vice chairperson to the Council.

The primary role of the Council is to serve as the policy makers for the City. Its responsibilities include adopting local codes and ordinances, approving the budget and approving contracts for the City.



Members of the City Council tend to focus on the big picture goals of the City, such as community growth, sustainability and economic development, leaving routine day-to-day issues to the City Manager.

Most importantly, the City Council

is responsible for hiring the City Manager, who oversees operations in the City, as well as the Presiding Judge for the Municipal Court.

Information for this article came from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

What does the City Manager do?

The purpose of the City Manager is to serve as the chief executive officer for the City of Broken Arrow. He or she manages all the “day-to-day” operations within the City.

The City Manager provides for the oversight and administration of all City Departments, directs the implementation of policies and programs adopted by City Council, resolves citizen concerns, represents the City within the community, region and state and elsewhere as required and serves as the chief advisor to the City Council, making recommendations regarding the annual budget and policy.

Other responsibilities of



The current City Manager is Michael Spurgeon, who was hired by the City Council in September 2015.

the City Manager include:

- Administering city government in accordance with city ordinances
- Advising the Council of the condition and needs of

the city

- Appointing or removing all city employees
- Performing other activities as directed by the City Council

- Preparing an annual budget
- Reviewing and recommending items for City Council action
- Supervising and controlling all administrative departments

The City Manager directly supervises two Assistant City Managers as well as the Police, Fire and Legal departments. The City Manager’s office also contains the Communications, Community Relations and Economic Development/ Tourism divisions.

The City Manager is hired and can be dismissed by a majority of the City Council.

City of Broken Arrow Organizational Chart



Residents’ role in local government

Under council-manager government, local governments often actively engage and involve residents in community decision making. Residents can guide their community by serving on boards and commissions, as well as participate in visioning and strategic planning sessions, and designing community-oriented local government services.

Residents play the most important role in governing the City by voting. Voters decide on who will represent the City every two years (two seats

in one cycle, three in the next).

The next election is coming soon. Voters will choose representatives for Wards 3, 4 and the At Large seat on the City Council on April 2.

Residents also have a say in how ad valorem (property) taxes are spent by the City by voting on bond issues as they are presented.

Information for this article came from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

Why do we have a mayor?

Typically, as is the case in Broken Arrow, the Mayor in a council-manager government is a voting member of the City Council.

In Broken Arrow, the Mayor (and Vice Mayor) is selected by the City Council from among its own members. He or she acts as the chairperson of the Council and conducts all official meetings.

The mayor is also the public face of the community who assigns agenda items to committees, facilitates communication and understanding between elected and appointed officials, and assists the Council in setting goals and advocating policy decisions.

Information for this article came from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).



Ward 2 Councilor Craig Thurmond currently serves as the Mayor of Broken Arrow. Thurmond was first elected to the Council in 2001 and has served as Mayor since 2012.