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Lyon County desires to have adequate public facilities and services to support desirable land use and development patterns, to contribute to the quality of life and to encourage economic development. Ensuring that the provision of community facilities and services is phased with the demand or need is a major component of managing the future development and growth of communities.

Public facilities and services are those minimum facilities and services the County and other entities provide for the common good. Many entities provide community facilities and services — the County, state and federal agencies, special districts, and the private sector. Maintaining a high degree of coordination between these providers helps ensure that adequate facilities are available and improvements keep pace with development.

Generally, public facilities include land, buildings, equipment and whole systems of activity provided by the County on the behalf of the public. This Chapter addresses public facilities and services related to water and sewer systems, public safety, schools and libraries. The goals and policies are designed to ensure that we plan for adequate services and facilities, either during the land development process or through appropriate government programs.

Public Facilities/Services

Lyon County residents will have access to excellent schools and libraries, and effective response from well-equipped emergency services. The timing and location of future development will be coordinated with improvements to services and infrastructure to provide cost-effective services to existing and future residents.

County-wide Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal FS 1: Provision of Services

Municipal water and sewer systems will be expanded only in areas where they are cost effective.



Policy FS 1.1: Location of New Development

New urban development will occur in areas that are served by, or are adjacent to, areas with existing utility systems to avoid distant and costly extensions.

Strategies:

- ◆ Develop a Capital Improvements Plan and budget for Lyon County utility system expansion that is consistent with the Land Use Map in this Plan.
- ◆ Revise the County's development regulations in order to create incentives to build according to the Land Use map in this Plan.
- ◆ Require the developer to pay the full cost of utility system extension, in order to discourage inefficient utility system development, and provide for



reimbursement mechanisms where appropriate.

- ◆ Explore development impact fees, ensuring that they are structured to accurately address the cost of providing utility services based on distance from the existing utility services.
- ◆ Develop criteria defining prerequisites for utility expansion, including maximum capacity levels, delivery cost factors, etc.

Goal FS 2: Public Safety

Public safety providers will be available and equipped to respond effectively to potential threats to the safety of individuals and the public.



Policy FS 2.1: Public Safety

Ensuring the safety of the citizens is, and will continue to be, a central function and a high priority for Lyon County.

Strategies:

- ◆ Promote the adoption of minimum level of service standards for law enforcement and fire services.
- ◆ Develop evaluation criteria and cost of services thresholds for use in development evaluations.
- ◆ Require land dedication (or a fee in lieu) from new development in order to pay for the increase demand for public safety services and to maintain adopted level of service standards for average response time.
- ◆ Recognize the important role that the independent fire departments play in ensuring the safety of its citizens and seek ways to cooperate with and help support them.

Goal FS 3: Schools

Lyon County public schools will maintain high performance standards.



Policy FS 3.1: Quality Schools

Lyon County will support efforts by the Lyon County School District to provide adequate school facilities and quality education for all children.

Strategies:

- ◆ Coordinate development review with the School District and actively seek School District comments and requirements.
- ◆ Cooperate with the School District in facilities planning.

Goal FS 4: Libraries

Lyon County libraries will provide educational resources and programs that meet residents' needs.



Policy FS 4.1: Library Services

Lyon County will support efforts by the Lyon County Library System to provide library services that meet county-wide and local community needs.