

CHAPTER EIGHT: PUBLIC SAFETY

8.0 Background

Protecting and promoting public safety and health are priorities of the City of Auburn and are important issues in the planning process. The City of Auburn provides fire, police and codes enforcement services to its citizens and Auburn University under the auspices of the Public Safety Department; several volunteer fire departments provide automatic and mutual aid assistance at the City's edges. Emergency medical services are provided by the Auburn Fire Division in a first-response capacity as well as East Alabama Medical Center Emergency Medical Services. The Lee County Health Department, Auburn University Medical Clinic, and East Alabama Medical Center work together to provide quality health care to Auburn residents.



Bicycle officers on patrol

8.1 Existing Conditions

8.1.1 Mission Statement

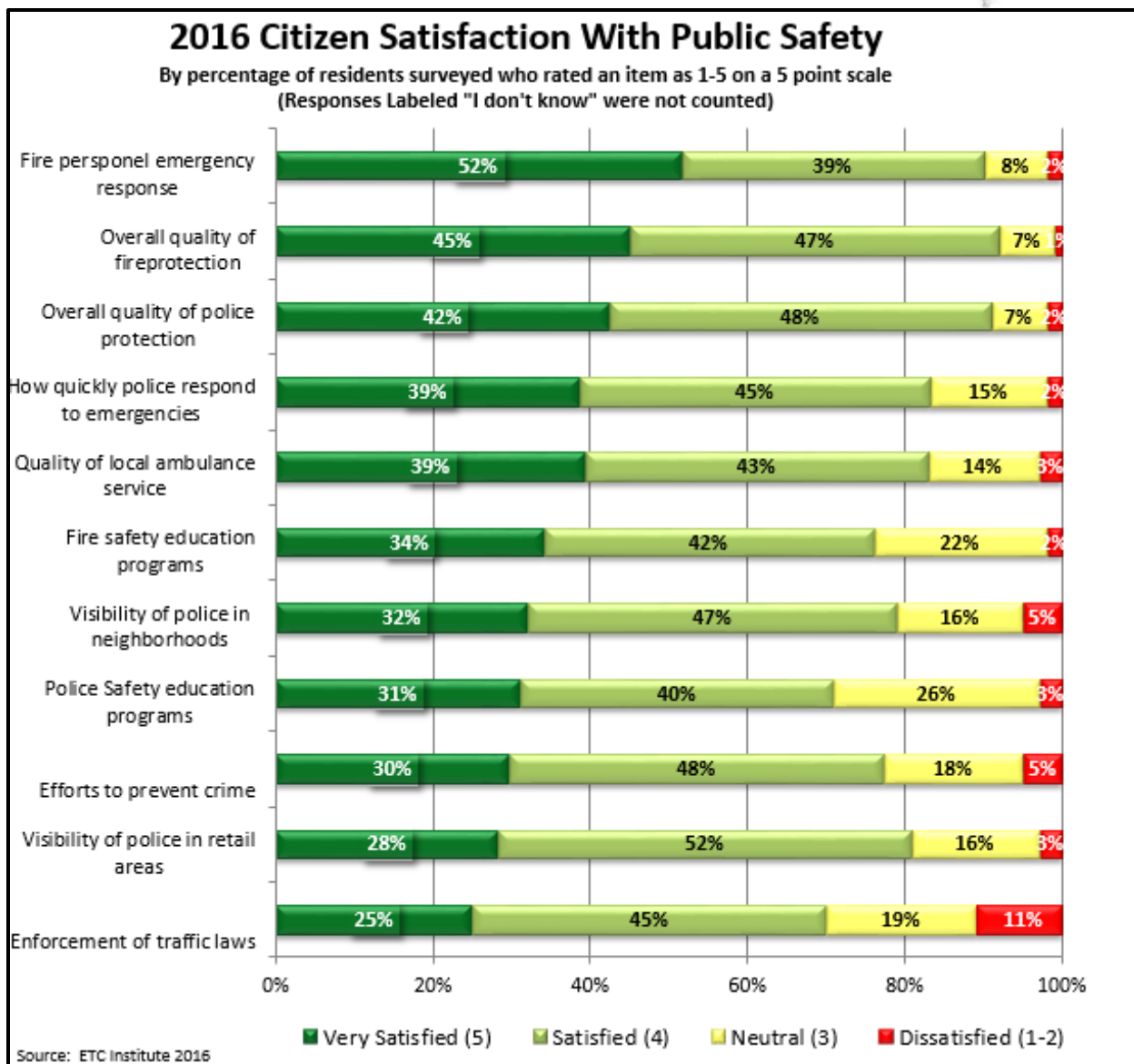
The mission of the Auburn Public Safety Department is to promote and maintain a safe environment in all areas of the City. Through employee commitment to provide quality public safety services, the department strives to assure the residents of Auburn feel safe in their neighborhoods and workplaces by:

- Maintaining strong codes enforcement and fire prevention for safe, durable structures for homes and businesses;
- Providing well-trained and equipped police officers and firefighters;
- Maintaining a quality emergency communication system to provide immediate response to citizen calls for service; and
- Conducting effective crime prevention and apprehension programs to maintain safety and a sense of security in the community.

Anticipating and preparing for the needs and safety of the citizens of Auburn is essential to insuring a high quality of life within the City.

8.1.2 Citizen Survey Results

The following results are from the 2016 Citizen Survey. Ninety-three percent (93%) of the residents who had an opinion were satisfied (rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) with the overall quality of fire protection, and ninety-one percent (91%) were satisfied with the overall quality of police protection. Residents were the most satisfied with the quality of local fire protection, the response time of fire personnel, and the quality of local police protection. Residents were the most dissatisfied with enforcement of traffic laws, visibility of police in neighborhoods, and visibility of police in retail areas. Residents recommended efforts to prevent crime, the visibility of police in neighborhoods, and the overall quality of police protection as public safety that should be emphasized most over the next two years.



8.1.3 City of Auburn Fire Division

The City of Auburn Fire Division (AFD) protects the City of Auburn and Auburn University and has mutual aid agreements¹ with three volunteer fire departments: Beauregard, Southwest and Farmville. The automatic and mutual aid area covers approximately 30 square miles outside of the city limits. The Division provides services such as public fire education, fire prevention, fire suppression, search and rescue (in conjunction with the Police Division) and hazardous materials mitigation. The Fire Division currently has five stations, with the oldest (constructed in 1965) being Station #1 located at the corner of East Magnolia Avenue and Ross Street. Station #1 is also the busiest station based on

¹ The agreements are Resolutions 95-40, 01-10 and 06-337 passed by the City Council

the number of calls. Station #1 is slated for replacement as part of the City of Auburn's new Public Safety Complex which is scheduled to begin construction in 2018. The building will also house a new Council Chambers, Municipal Court, and Police Division. The newest station is Station #5 built in 2007 near Briggs and Stratton in Auburn Technology Park South. There are plans for another fire station to be built within the next five years to be located in the northern part of the City. There is a training facility with a burn building located on Shug Jordan Parkway.



Fire engine at Fire Station 1

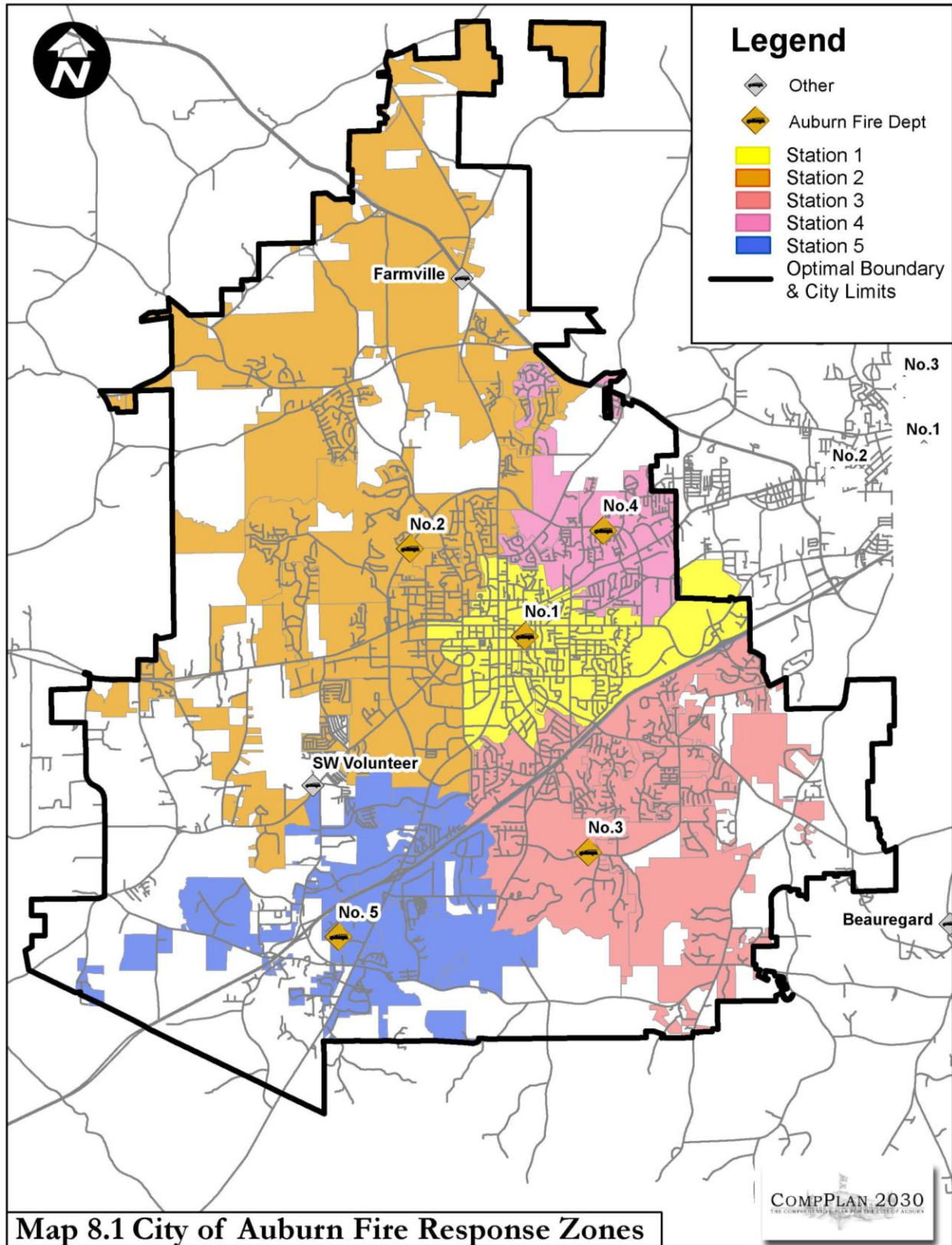
Future plans include expansion of the training facility to include another pad for a classroom building and paving the driveways. The City of Auburn Fire Division maintains major equipment including two aerial platform pumpers – one being 95 feet tall and the other 75 feet, heavy duty pumper trucks and a HAZMAT trailer. Each front line fire apparatus is equipped with thermal image cameras. The shift size for each fire station is 21 personnel. The personnel is made up of a battalion chief, personnel for the pumper truck, personnel for the ladder truck and personnel for the engines. From January 2010 to May 2017, the Fire Division responded to 34,586 total calls for service. These calls were mostly for rescue and emergency medical services. The Fire Division does not provide advanced life support (ALS). ALS is provided through a contract with East Alabama Medical Center (EAMC) and as long as the contract remains, the Auburn Fire Division will not provide advanced life support. The lowest numbers of calls were Hazardous Material calls (HAZMAT III).² The majority of the calls occurred during the time that Auburn University was in session for the period of the normal September to May school year. The average response time for an emergency call is between four to five minutes. Response time is influenced directly by traffic conditions and the location of fire stations.

The City currently has a 2/2X ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating.³ The first part of the rating (Class 2) applies to structures within 5 miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a water source, such as a fire hydrant. The second part of the rating (2X) applies to structures within 5 miles of a fire station, but farther than 1,000 feet from a water source.

The Fire Division has a core group of administrative staff with many years of experience. The staff currently consists of a fire chief, deputy fire chief, four battalion chiefs, one training officer, nine sergeants, nine career firefighters and fifty-nine student firefighters. The turnover rate for firefighters is approximately three years. The Fire Division is aggressively trying to prevent fires before they occur through an assertive public safety education program. AFD's public education program also includes the use of the Lee County Firefighter's Association trailer.

² HAZMAT I calls are vehicle fluid spills or small quantities of known products. HAZMAT II and III are usually on Auburn University campus where chemicals are spilled and the types are unknown.

³ ISO scores are rated Class 1 (exemplary public protection) to Class 10 (the fire suppression program does not meet the ISO minimum criteria). ISO was developed to assist in setting insurance premiums. The ISO rates fire suppression capability only.



City fire and EMS calls are dispatched from the City's E-911 center located in the Public Safety Building at 161 North Ross Street. The facility is staffed by dispatchers employed by the City of Auburn. The remainder of the county is covered by Lee County 911 employees, while the City of Opelika also maintains a dispatch center. Both the City and the County have "e"-enhanced capability.⁴

8.1.4 City of Auburn Police Division

The City of Auburn Police Division protects the life, liberty and property of all people of the City of Auburn and within the police jurisdiction, an area of nearly 250 square miles outside the City limits. The Division serves Auburn University through a contractual agreement, and interacts with agencies countywide providing law enforcement services. The police division provides 24-hour protection. The officers work with a diverse population, which includes thousands of university students, visitors and year-round residents. There are twelve police beats. There are currently 107 sworn officers and staff. There are twelve student Public Safety officers.



City of Auburn K-9 Officers

Public Safety officers perform duties not requiring a sworn law enforcement officer. The Public Safety officers are charged with writing parking tickets, directing traffic, handling school zones, taking some incident reports, working private property accidents, working the front records desk after normal business hours, entering reports, serving civil papers, etc. The Division is headquartered in the Public Safety Building located at 161 North Ross Street, with a satellite office on the Auburn University campus located in the Auburn University Student Center, and an additional office located in Fire Station #5. There are plans for police satellite offices to be included as part of future fire stations. There is also a firing range and testing facility. There are certified firearm instructors on staff. The facility is also used by the Lee County Sheriff's office for training purposes.

The City of Auburn Police Division is charged with a wide range of law enforcement functions, including crime prevention, protection of life and property, location of missing persons, recovery of stolen property, traffic and parking enforcement and the apprehension of law offenders. The Division also provides the community with several public education programs. The City of Auburn Police Division works closely with the Auburn School System to administer the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program.⁵ The Police Division also provides public education on gang resistance, a Citizens' Public Safety Academy, Camp War Eagle, and other general security and safety programs.

The police and city administration have also become involved in local and regional emergency planning related to homeland security. Regular communications occur between the police, city manager, other jurisdiction officials, and Homeland Security Officials through the Lee County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). Through the matching grants program offered by the Homeland Security Initiative, the Division has recently been able to purchase laptop computers, software and digital video cameras. Over the years, the Division has been able to purchase a vehicle

⁴ "e" enhancement gives the dispatcher that receives the call a screen display of the phone number making the call and the address of the listed phone number.

⁵ DARE is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

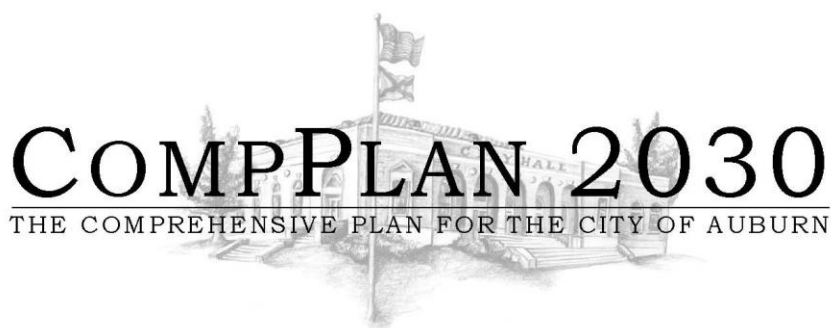
for the Tactical Team, portable road barricades (both steel and water filled), first responder HAZMAT suits, a hostage negotiations system, and other items with funds that have been filtered through the Alabama Department of Homeland Security from the United States Department of Homeland Security.

From 2010-2016, the population of the City of Auburn grew from 53,380 to an estimated 63,118⁶. During this same seven-year period, the Police Division has seen the number of incidents requiring police assistance increase from 145,787 calls for service in 2010 to calls 179,080 for service in 2016. In addition to calls for service, between 2010 and 2016 the Police Division received a total of 185,380 auxiliary calls for an average of 26,482 auxiliary calls per year. The auxiliary calls include requests for paperwork, training, court related issues, vehicle maintenance and on and off duty logs.

Table 8-1: Crime Statistics

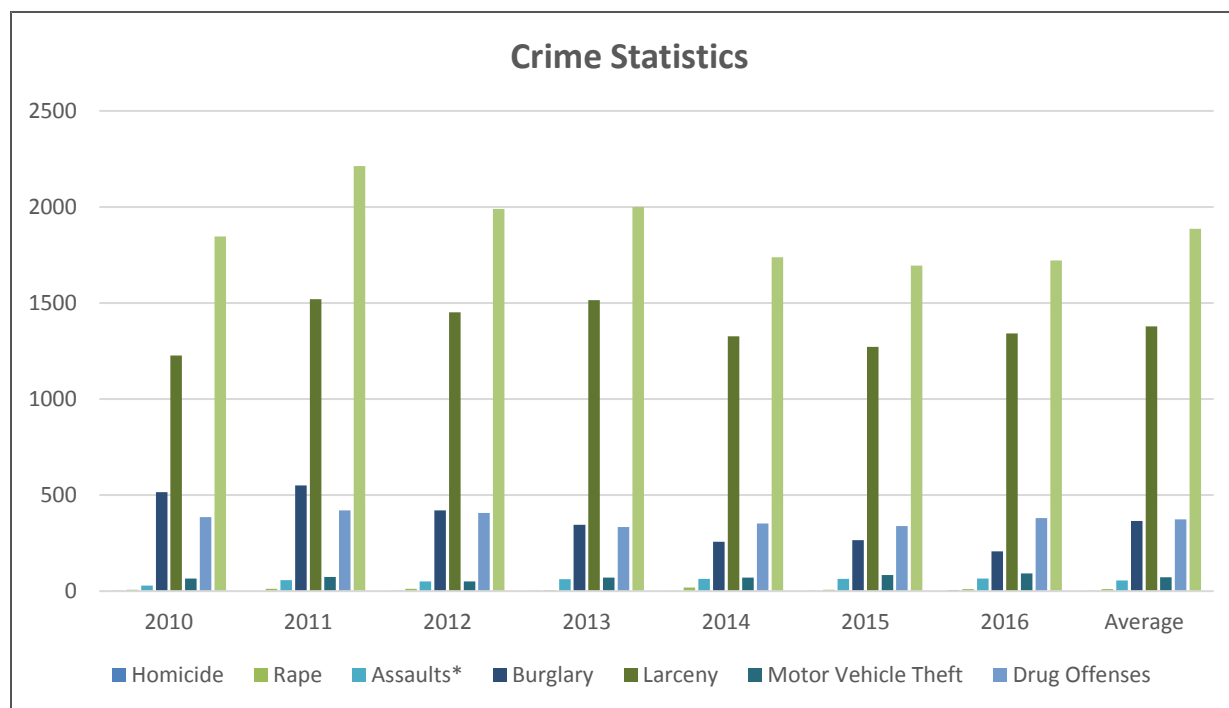
Crime	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total	Average
Homicide	3	0	3	2	1	2	5	16	2
Rape	7	13	13	6	19	8	11	77	11
Assaults	28	57	51	62	64	64	66	392	56
Burglary	516	550	420	346	257	265	207	2561	366
Larceny	1,227	1,520	1,452	1,514	1,326	1,271	1,341	9,651	1,379
Motor Vehicle Theft	66	73	51	70	71	84	92	507	72
Drug Offenses	385	420	407	333	352	339	380	2616	374
Total	2,232	2,633	2,397	2,333	2,090	2,033	2,012	15,820	2,260

The number of reported crimes has been trending downward from a high of 2,633 incidents reported in 2011 to a low of 2,012 in 2016, a decrease of twenty-five percent (23%). See Figure 8.1 below for trends.



⁶ American FactFinder https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

Figure 8.1: Crime Statistic Trends



Traffic citations have steadily increased over the same period of time. In 2016, there were 26,224 traffic stops with a total of 17,472 citations issued (some stops were ended in multiple citations issued) and 12,149 warnings and of these numbers, 49.4% of traffic stops were issued citations.

The level of service for the Police Division is based on the needs and desires of the citizens, the professional opinions of those that the Division serves, and the feasibility of providing services above the basic needs level.

The Police Division has a fleet of ninety-five patrol cars, six pickup trucks (Public Safety Officers), four motorcycles, three Segways, eight bicycles, two vans. In addition, in October 2017, additional vehicles will be added to support the Auburn University Precinct expansion.

Emergency phones are located on the Auburn University campus along with cameras placed in several areas. The calls generated from the campus emergency phones are dispatched to the City's E-911 Communications Center. Auburn University is responsible for purchasing, installing, and maintaining of the camera system on campus. The University has a security staff that monitors the cameras.

Beginning in October 2017, the Police Division will add twenty-two sworn position over the FY 2017-2018 in response to growth and the additional staffing for the Auburn University campus precinct. All positions, as well as the administrative overhead, operating and capital costs, will be reimbursed by the University as part of the new agreement. In addition, over the previous two years, the Police Division has implemented a "Part Time Office" program with twelve sworn part-time officers to assist in working extra duty events and provide more presence on the Campus of Auburn University.

There is no jail located within the City of Auburn. The inmates are housed in the Lee County Detention Facility located in Opelika.

8.1.5 City of Auburn Codes Enforcement Division *

The Codes Division anticipates and identifies threats to public health and safety by developing and implementing strategies to mitigate these hazards. The Codes Division protects life and property by enforcing codes and standards for land use, building construction, swimming pools, nuisances and other hazards. The Codes Division is comprised of the Building Official, Plan Reviewer/Code Enforcement Officer, Fire Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, four Code Enforcement Officers (also act as the Electrical, Plumbing and Building Inspectors), an Administrative Assistant and Permit Technician. The 2015 International Building Code, 2015 International Plumbing Code and the 2014 National Electrical Code are the current code editions used by the Division. The Division also houses the City's Fire Inspector. The fire inspector also has jurisdiction on the Auburn University campus on a contractual basis to inspect fraternity and sorority housing. The statistics for the number and type of building permits can be found in the Land Use Section 3.0.

*The statistics for the number and type of building permits can be found in Chapter Three: Land Use

8.2 Volunteer Fire Departments and other Emergency Services

8.2.1 Farmville Volunteer Fire Department

The Farmville Volunteer Department has the following equipment: 2007 American LaFrance Pumper truck, a 1981 Peterbilt Pumper truck, a 1976 Ward LaFrance pumper truck; one set of extrication equipment and other loose equipment. The coverage area for Farmville is 90 square miles. The station is located at 7649 Highway 280 West near the turnoff to North College Street. The station averages 12 calls for service per month.⁷

8.2.2 Southwest Volunteer Fire Department

Southwest Volunteer Fire Department has a 2001 E-One Freightliner Class A Pumper, one 1987 E-One Class A pumper, one 1997 Brush/Utility Truck, a 2006 Mobile light and air trailer/compressor, and several loose equipment items, such as thermal imaging equipment. The coverage area for Southwest is 52 square miles. The station is located at 2176 Lee Road 137 (Wire Road). The station averages 33 calls for service per month.⁷

8.2.3 Beauregard Volunteer Fire Department

Beauregard Volunteer Fire Department purchased a 2006 International Pumper Truck in 2007. The coverage area for Beauregard is over 123 square miles. The station is located at 7450 Highway 51, Opelika. The station averages 70 calls for service per month.⁷

8.2.4 East Alabama Medical Center EMS

East Alabama Medical Center operates the pre-hospital emergency medical services that serve the citizens of Lee County. Emergency Medical Services (EAMC-EMS) responds from four locations (in Auburn at Shug Jordan Parkway/Pumphrey Avenue,), using a fleet of thirteen ambulances, seven advanced life support (ALS) ambulances, an ALS rescue truck and a non-emergency transport vehicle.⁸

⁷ Lee County, Alabama EMA website <http://leecoema.com/citizen-engagement/vfds/>

⁸ East Alabama Medical Center website <https://www.eamc.org/programsServices/EMS.aspx>

EAMC-EMS also operates the E-911 emergency medical dispatching center. The paramedic staff of EAMC-EMS not only meets the emergency, non-emergent, rescue and transport needs of Lee County residents, but also supports the EMS services in six surrounding counties. In addition, EAMC-EMS provides medical services for all Auburn University athletic/sporting events, along with other special pre-hospital medical needs.

8.3 Medical Facilities

8.3.1 Lee County Health Department

Lee County Health Department is located in Opelika. The department provides the following services: vital records, clinical services (such as, family planning, women's health, STDs testing, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), Medicaid enrollment, immunization), home health services, and environmental services. Currently, 29 full-time registered nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, and nutritionists are employed by the Department. Ambulance services are provided by the East Alabama Medical Center.

8.3.2 East Alabama Medical Center

The East Alabama Medical Center (EAMC) is located in Opelika, Alabama. It is a 314-bed medical center, acute care regional referral center which includes a 26-bed skilled nursing facility, a 28-bed, Level III Trauma Center and more than 160 physicians in 31 different specialties. EAMC serves a six-county area in east Alabama and also parts of west Georgia. Over 100,000 patients are seen each year for their healthcare needs.



EAMC - Photo provided by East Alabama Medical Center

From 2000-2010, East Alabama Medical Center experienced a significant period of growth. EAMC expanded the south tower, which changed the building from four floors to eight. The two-story west pavilion was added in 2006. The first floor houses two cardiovascular surgical suites, ten cardiovascular beds and a cardiology department. The HealthPlus Fitness Center and the Oak Park Nursing Home and Independent Living facilities are operated by EAMC. In 2013, EAMC began management Lanier Memorial Hospital in Valley, Alabama.

The Medical Center, with over 2,750 employees, is Lee County's second largest employer. The facility opened as an 81-bed general hospital in 1952, but has since grown to accommodate the needs of Lee County residents, as well as the citizens of surrounding counties. Of the 145 doctors on staff, more than 95 percent are board certified or board eligible.

EAMC is a respected regional cardiac center with nine outreach campus in five counties in addition to the main center on the EAMC Campus. The growth of the heart program began in 1985, when EAMC opened its first heart catheterization lab. Presently, there are three regular heart catheterization labs, one swing lab (a room that has two labs, but uses one camera that swings from one side to the other allowing one patient to be prepped for the procedure, while another patient is having the procedure performed), and an electrophysiology lab. EAMC also offers cardiac and thoracic surgery, more commonly known as "open heart" surgery. A state-of-the-art cardiac surgery suite and cardiovascular intensive care unit were both built in 2006 in the new West Pavilion. There are presently

40 six active staff cardiologists and two heart surgeons on the EAMC medical staff. The hospital also supports outreach clinics to make cardiac care available to residents of rural communities.

The Cancer Center of East Alabama opened on the campus of EAMC in December of 1992. The EAMC cancer team is made up of many surgeons, physicians and other medical specialists. In 2007, the Cancer Center was expanded from 7,500 square feet to 17,000 square feet. During the expansion, the chemotherapy suite was renovated and enlarged, and a new vault was built to house a new Varian Clinac iX linear accelerator. This linear accelerator, used to combat cancer via radiation, is unique in that it has on-board imaging in the form of CT and Fluoroscopic scanners. This allows the accelerator to perform two cutting-edge radiation therapy techniques: Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy and Image Guided Radiation Therapy, which minimizes radiation to surrounding tissue and targets the malignancy.

A 50,000 square-foot Outpatient Services Center opened in December of 1993. This facility houses cardiac rehabilitation and all diagnostic cardiac services, in addition to respiratory, endoscopy, neurosurgery, radiology and nuclear medicine services. It also features holding and recovery areas for outpatient surgery.

8.3.3 Auburn University Medical Clinic

East Alabama Medical Center (EAMC), located only 15 minutes away from the Auburn University campus, is partnered with Auburn University Medical Center (AUMC) to provide professional medical services and management. The Clinic sees more than 35,000 students, staff and faculty members each year.

Auburn University Medical Clinic (AUMC) is one of the best college health centers in the country. Its mission is to provide high-quality, efficient and convenient health care with compassion, dedication and professionalism. It strives to provide consistent service to its patients by being flexible, remaining competitive, and focusing on the holistic needs of every patient.



AUMC - Photo from www.auburn.edu

AUMC provides medical services on a fee-for-service basis, meaning the patients pay for medical services only when they use them. More than 75 percent of the University's students are covered under their parents' medical plans or have other medical insurance. The Medical Clinic has contracts with most of the major insurance companies and will file insurance claims as a courtesy to their patients. For those who have high deductible plans or restrictive HMO coverage, the Student Government Association has a sponsored accident and sickness health insurance policy to meet their basic medical needs. It includes coverage for office visits to AUMC with the payment of a co-pay. The center also works with those patients who are uninsured to provide medical services available at AUMC by setting up appropriate payment plans and options.

In 2005, the Medical Clinic moved into a new state of the art facility with 40 exam rooms, digitized x-rays and cutting edge lab equipment. They are accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), making it the only primary and urgent care center in the area

with this distinction. Housed in the facility is a pharmacy operated by the AU School of Pharmacy, Student Counseling Services and Safe Harbor.

In addition to serving the AU student population, AUMC also provides health care services for members of the administration, faculty, staff, citizens from the surrounding community, and visitors to the area. Its philosophy is to serve as a patient advocate, which obligates them to empower patients to better manage their health needs through education and skill development. AUMC prevention-oriented, and seeks to work with patients so that they can better understand their health care needs.

8.4 Analysis of Existing Conditions

There are many issues and needs that should be considered as the City moves towards the year 2030. Annexation and growth, along with the aging population, will create challenges for the Public Safety Department.

8.4.1 Growth

The Auburn Interactive Growth Model (AIGM) projects that the population of the city will increase to nearly 80,000 by the year 2030. The expected expansion of the city limits over time will create needs for additional fire stations, equipment and personnel. It will also create a need for satellite police stations and personnel, including a location on Auburn University's campus. The anticipated growth may increase the police and fire response times if not properly addressed with the additional needs for stations and personnel. The funding for these programs will be based on the service demands, the population growth and the expectations of the citizens.

The Fire Division response time should be based on the proximity to the situation instead of the city limits. At the current time, the Fire Division sends out units based on the least amount of time and/or distance to the situation. The fire zones are established by the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) study of time and distance. The Battalion Chief can dispatch a unit that is closer if the first due unit out is not available.

For the Fire Division, mutual aid agreements are reviewed annually. With the projected growth, the Fire Division anticipates that mutual aid areas will also expand. After an annual review, the staff determines the boundaries for that particular year.

The amount of personnel needed by the Fire Division is determined by the national standard for an engine company or ladder company. Currently, the National Institute of Standard Technology recommends four personnel as the optimal number for an engine company. The Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating is affected (higher) if the number of personnel for each engine company does not meet the national standard.

The information gathered for the current ISO rating indicated the need for an additional fire station. The City is considering a sixth station in the West Farmville or Richland Road area. The AIGM does not indicate the need for an additional station at the current time. As the City increases in size, the distances to outlying areas becomes a factor. The Fire Division can respond to these areas, but the quality and timeliness of the service may be affected. Fire Division satellite offices could be placed in the denoted node areas, but there is currently no funding to expand or man these offices.

The Police Division will also be affected by the projected growth. Currently, the International City / County Management Association study from 2010 has shown that the Police Division has adequate manning based on the call volume. The current beats for the Police Division are determined by the call volume.

As the population grows, there will be a need to maintain the diversity of the Police Division. Auburn's Hispanic population is increasing, resulting in a need for multi-lingual officers. The 2015 estimate for Auburn's Hispanic/Latino population is approximately 3.9% of the total population, or 2,292. The Hispanic/Latino proportion of the population has increased by approximately 1% or 744 people from the Census 2010 figures.⁹ The Police Division now has a Spanish language speaking official, female, and minority on every shift and in the Investigative section.

8.4.2 Communication and Education

Auburn's growth creates opportunities in the Public Safety realm. The Fire Division currently teaches First Aid and CPR classes. These classes will be expanded when warranted by the population growth and the ability to staff the classes with additional personnel. The ability to educate the public about Public Safety should continue. The two divisions are continuing the Public Safety Academy, but need to expand the program for future needs. Safety tips and information on domestic and child abuse prevention, gun safety, home safety and automobile safety should be provided to the public via the city's website. The Public Safety department should continue and enhance neighborhood-oriented activities such as the neighborhood watch program.

Programs targeting specific groups such as senior/retired persons, university students, service clubs, youth, young parents and other interest groups should be considered. This can include police and fire programs targeting seniors' issues such as the AARP Driving Course, CPR and crime prevention. Electronic notification to citizens, schools and other critical institutions should be established as an emergency alert system including alarms as well as electronic telephone calling systems to notify the public of emergencies.

The Police Division currently has three officers certified in the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design program.¹⁰ These persons will be able to offer assistance to developers and civil engineers on approaches to the design of new development and subdivisions to help deter crime.

The Police Division has implemented a complimentary program to the DARE Program and Dare Camp called "Bridges" to help teach high school aged youth how to interact with the Police.

The Communications Division of Public Safety will see an increase in personnel and equipment as growth occurs. In 2012, one workstation was added to the Division bringing the total to five. The Biennial Budget for FY 2017 & FY 2018 provides funding to replace the 911 Center's call-taking and

⁹ https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_DP05&src=pt

¹⁰ Crime Prevention through Environmental Design theories contend that law enforcement officers, architects, city planners, landscape and interior designers, and resident volunteers can create a climate of safety in a community right from the start. CPTED's goal is to prevent crime by designing a physical environment that positively influences human behavior. The theory is based on four principles: natural access control, natural surveillance, territoriality, and maintenance. NCPC's course helps participants put the theories behind CPTED into action in their communities by designing a hands-on, interactive, two- or three-day basic or advanced training specifically tailored to their community's needs. [National Crime Prevention Council website]

recording equipment, as well as the replacement of the consoles used by operators. The 911 system has the capability of using “Reverse 911,” however, this cannot be used for cell phones, and with 80% of the 911 calls coming from cell phones, communications and the other two Public Safety divisions are looking at alternatives to improve their coverage. The Reverse 911 works by prerecording a message and instructing the computer to dial all of the phone numbers in the chosen geographic databank. Auburn University has implemented a system known as “AU Alert” which is transmitted through not only telephones (land lines and cell phones) but also through sirens on campus. With the establishment of the University Police Precinct, the City of Auburn has more direct access to information generated through the “AU Alert” system.

8.4.3 Codes

Potential community problems which are comprised of dilapidated infrastructure, run-down buildings, neglected vacant structures and lots can increase the opportunities for crime, fire and other issues. Education of the public as noted above would be beneficial to help deter problems. The potential areas for problems should be identified and the Codes Division should use options, such as additional education of the public in conjunction with the Public Safety Academy, to enforce safety and building codes to allow for the renovation or removal of the potential problems. They are also projected to continue to remove abandoned/dilapidated structures. Unsightly vegetation and “junk” could also be included in the enforcement of these nuisances.

Property maintenance is also an issue. The Codes Division finds that the complaints are usually of unkempt properties, landscaping and lawns. The complaints are split evenly between owner-occupied homes and rental properties. With the change in the economy, bank foreclosures are also an additional problem. There are subdivisions that were cleared and now the empty lots are overgrown. There are also vacant houses that are generally unattended.

The increasing age of the housing inventory in Auburn could be an issue in the coming years. Housing ages run from the mid 1800’s to new housing. Housing quality can be tied to the age of the housing inventory. Auburn should strive toward conserving and protecting the older homes, and not allowing them to become dilapidated. The historic areas of the City should continue to be preserved.

8.4.4 Budget

The budget needs to reflect the possibility of additional buildings, personnel, equipment and continued funding to additional programs for education of the public and personnel and expansion of supporting these additional programs. Personnel should be encouraged to seek additional training and certifications to enhance their jobs.

The Biennial Budget for FY 2017 & FY 2018 provides funding for a number of additional Police positions, as well as \$1.4 million for vehicles and capital equipment replacements and expansions. For Fire, the budget includes upgrading three Firefighter positions to Sergeants and funding to replace and expand vehicles and make improvements to the City’s fire stations.

8.5 Goals, Objectives, and Policies

PS 1: Provide efficient and effective public safety services that grow in capabilities and manpower as the City grows.

PS 1.1: Provide efficient and effective fire services that grow in capabilities and manpower as the City grows.

PS 1.1.1: Continue to use the projections of the fire stations submodel of the Auburn Interactive Growth Model and the City-developed fire station location model to provide guidance to the Fire Division regarding desirable locations for future fire stations.

PS 1.1.2: Adapt fire services to the needs of Auburn's changing demographics, including adding additional Spanish-speaking firefighters, developing programs for specific groups, such as senior citizens, students and youth, and specialized resources for the wide variety of call types answered by the fire division.

PS 1.1.3 As the City expands geographically, work with local volunteer fire departments to expand the use and scope of mutual and automatic aid agreements to enhance fire protection in and around the City.

PS 1.1.4 Work to ensure investment is made in fire protection infrastructure to ensure adequate fire flows for high-density/intensity development and newly-annexed areas.

PS 1.1.5 Encourage the use of underground power utilities to reduce conflicts with fire-fighting apparatus.

PS 1.1.6 Work to co-locate fire stations with other city facilities in nodes.

PS 1.2: Continue to provide efficient and effective police services that grow in capabilities and manpower as the City grows.

PS 1.2.1: Develop a methodology for estimating future Police Division staffing needs by examining a combination of factors, including trends in population, crime, and emergency calls.

PS 1.2.2: Secure funding and approval for use of the Development Services Building site as additional Police Division space once the Development and Environmental Services Complex is completed.

PS 1.2.3: Provide satellite Police Division offices in appropriate locations and co-location with fire stations or other city offices in nodes.

- PS 1.2.4:** Continue to adapt police services to the needs of Auburn’s changing demographics, including adding additional Spanish-speaking officers and developing programs for specific groups, such as senior citizens, students and youth.
 - PS 1.2.5:** Review the current practice of providing police services outside the City limits but within the Police Jurisdiction, determining the cost of providing such services and their impact on possible future annexations.
 - PS 1.2.6:** Work to integrate Police Division review into the planning process, including assessing the impacts of annexations on police services and incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles into development review and development regulations.
 - PS 1.2.7:** Work closely with the “to-be-formed” Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Services Department on neighborhood-level crime prevention and intervention.
- PS 2:** Provide immediate emergency notifications and long-term educational opportunities to citizens of and visitors to the City of Auburn.
- PS 2.1:** Provide emergency notifications to City residents and visitors through a variety of channels.
 - PS 2.1.1:** Partner with Auburn University or use existing in-house capabilities to implement a citywide emergency mass notification system that uses phone, email, internet and text channels to inform the public of emergencies.
 - PS 2.2:** Provide educational opportunities to City residents and visitors.
 - PS 2.2.1** Continue existing successful programs such as the Public Safety Academy and in-school fire prevention and drug abuse prevention education.
 - PS 2.2.2:** Provide community safety information utilizing an “all hazards” approach, including such issues such as domestic and child abuse prevention, gun safety, home safety, and automobile safety through a variety of channels.
 - PS 2.2.3:** Promote safe driving by older individuals by improving the travel environment and driver education.
- PS 3:** Build strong neighborhoods through expanded neighborhood code enforcement and neighborhood relations efforts.

PS 3.1: Provide expanded neighborhood code enforcement and build expanded neighborhood relations capabilities.

PS 3.1.1: Recognize that crime, fires, and many other community problems tend to be directly related to dilapidated infrastructure, run-down buildings, neglected vacant structures and lots, and similar conditions. Initiate a strong program to identify these areas and quickly target them for renovation or removal. Explore all legal options to enforce safety and building codes.

PS 3.1.2: Continue a focus on nuisance enforcement in areas such as unsightly vegetation, junk and dilapidated structures.

PS 3.1.3: Establish a neighborhood services division with neighborhood relations responsibilities as part of future departmental reorganization.