

Lawton, Iowa Hands Down...The Best Town

Although unofficial as of yet, it appears Lawton was the fastest growing city in Woodbury County in the past decade. The unofficial 2010 census shows Lawton with a population of 908. This is a 30.3 percent increase over the population shown in 2000. Lawton is located on the western edge of Iowa in Woodbury County. It is just 7 miles east of Sioux City, with Highway 20 running along the southern edge of greater Lawton. The city of Lawton was incorporated in 1906. The original name was Truxton. According to clippings from the Merville Mail back in November 1901, an area farmer, Joseph Law, claimed to have naming rights of the city granted to him by the railroad. At the time he deeded the property over to the town, it was renamed Lawton. Lawton has a mayor elected by the people to a two-year term. Five council persons round out the government for the city. Council members are elected to four-year terms and are elected on a staggering basis. That is, two come up for election one year, and three come up for election two years later. Currently, Jeff Nitzschke serves as mayor. He worked for the city as public works director, then he served several years on the council. In January 2004, he took the reigns as mayor and is currently in his third term. Lawton city council members are Reed Burson, Don Grigg, Perry Ludwig, Terry Masching and Rick Schorg. Mark Vault is the interim public works director, and Patricia Washburn is the city clerk. Patricia was recently named the 2010 City Clerk of the Year by the Iowa Rural Water Association.

In recent years, the city has seen tremendous growth due, in part, to its close proximity to Sioux City. This growth has caused two new developments to spring up. With new streets and water mains in place, West Creek Development, on the west edge of Lawton, is ready to expand even further. To address issues of iron and manganese in the ground water, the city has installed a water treatment facility. In addition, it has installed two new wells. Talks are currently being held to replace an aging lift station within the wastewater system. Although Lawton does not have a commercial industry, it does have properties handled by professionals. The first three businesses a person sees when he comes up Highway 20 are Lawton Motors; Lawton Pronto, fuel, quick-stop shop and car wash; and Char-Mac, a highly acclaimed assisted living facility. Inside the city you will find Western Iowa Telephone Association's home office in a new expanded facility, and First Trust and Savings Bank, which moved into a new location and building a few years ago. Other businesses in Lawton include a branch office for EGR Insurance, Lawton Chiropractic Clinic, Baker Taxidermy, Pedersen Duct Cleaning, Shane's Glass and Jim's Specialty Rugs. Just outside of town on Highway 20 they now have Lu-We's Restaurant and R Auto & Tire. The city also houses Old Grocery Store Antiques & Collectibles, Mid-Step Services, Quality Upholstery, Custom Creations and Mac's Heating & Air. Several private contractors also work from their homes.

The Lawton-Bronson Community School District has a relatively new Junior-Senior High School located in Lawton and a new elementary school located in Bronson. A fitness center operates on the high school grounds and may be used with a membership purchased through the school.

Lawton is a clean, quiet bedroom community with quick and easy access to Sioux City if necessary. The friendliness of the community is felt when a "new neighbor" becomes an "old friend."

Upcoming events

March 11: Lowell Anderson Benefit. Lowell served as the Public Works Director for over 15 years and has been taken ill with cancer.

March 19: Karl Zielich Benefit. Karl has served on the Fire and Ambulance Departments for several years and has been taken ill with Parkinson's Plus.

April 9: Donna Young Benefit. Donna has lived in Lawton for many years and has been taken ill with cancer.

Bronson, Iowa "Small Town with a Large Community"

Incorporated in 1967 - population 269.

Coming Soon - Parker-Smith Athletic Complex. This is a major project that we are taking on. It is the Parker-Smith Athletic Complex (P-SAC). This is our new youth ball fields that are being constructed as we speak.

HISTORY

As a result of the wonderful new elementary school being built on the site where our previous fields were located. Our community is developing a new athletic complex near the Shelter House. The city researched land options and 8 acres of land was purchased just east of the Shelter House. Thus the name Parker-Smith Athletic Complex (P-SAC) was voted in by the current ball park committee.

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