

Law Enforcement

It is important for the county to maintain an image of a safe environment in which to live and work. The area's relatively low crime rate promotes business relocation and expansion and assists in attracting and retaining quality employees. But with this strong growth comes the possibility that crime will increase, thus detracting from the quality of life. Effective law enforcement is fundamental to personal comfort and safety.

Law enforcement services are currently provided at the county and municipal level. Sioux Falls, Brandon and Garretson maintain city police departments. The County Sheriff's Department serves the rural area and also patrols the remaining cities under a contract for services. Each contract establishes the number of hours per week that a deputy will be on duty in the city.

The County Sheriff is also responsible for the Emergency Management Office, providing coordination among federal, state and local governments in times of disaster and extreme emergency. The office depends to a large extent on the participation of volunteers in the areas of reserve law enforcement, rescue squad, diver search and severe weather spotters.

Future development patterns will have an impact on law enforcement services. When the population is concentrated in the cities rather than scattered across the rural area, response times can be maintained and the need to increase personnel is minimized. The Development Plan should assist in maintaining efficient law enforcement services by encouraging compact development patterns. The county has also been fortunate in avoiding blighted areas where crime problems tend to occur.