

County	Population	Area in Square Miles	Total Tax Revenue	Median Personal Income	Sheriff Salary	Lowest Paid Deputy	Highest Paid Deputy	Number of Deputies	Number Police Departments	Population Living in Cities	Population Living Out in County
Coke	3,238	928	\$1,824,931	\$42,467	\$35,921	\$31,942	\$33,327	4	0	2,028	1,210
Runnels	10,551	1,057	\$6,210,553	\$41,526	\$45,795	\$41,000*	\$41,000*	5	3	7,369**	3,182
Sterling	1,352	923	\$3,070,734	\$53,456	\$47,300	\$40,100	\$42,700	4	0	1,026	326
Nolan	15,107	914	\$11,253,821	\$37,102	\$60,691	\$43,308	\$52,188	9	2	12,188**	2,919
Menard	2,242	902	\$2,785,979	\$34,464	\$55,427	\$35,000*	\$35,000*	6	0	1,628	614
Glasscock	1,315	901	\$11,907,790	\$67,303	\$59,900	\$55,700	\$55,700	3	0	292	1,023
Irion	1,554	1,052	\$5,035,902	\$58,500	\$52,286	\$46,686	\$48,746	3	0	811	743

* Deputies Salaries are undivided in published county budget.

** Number noted only contains population from cities with a police department.

Population and Median Income information obtained from US Census Bureau.

Tax and Salary information obtained from published 2017 county budgets.

... Crime in Coke County

(Continued from page 1) custody disputes, fear of CPS, wanting to be their child's "friend", or just too busy making a living. Many of today's parents were not taught right from wrong by their parents. It's extremely clear across our country that today's citizens do not have the same level of respect for authority or the rule of law as previous generations.

So far, we've focused on the problem. Now, let's look at some possible solutions. Many counties similar to Coke County with multiple cities have police departments within those cities. These departments focus only on crime within the city limits, freeing that county's sheriff's office to work on the crime occurring in the unincorporated areas.

Nearly all law enforcement departments across the state and nation – both sheriff's offices and police departments, work their officers on a "shift" schedule. This enables multiple officers to work at all hours of the day and night. To be able to implement shifts, Coke County would need additional deputies. This would add close to \$100,000 a year in salaries alone to an already strained county budget. Also, there have been many times when Coke County was down a deputy on the roster and no law enforcement officer

applied for the position due to the pay disparities between Coke County and other departments (see table).

The previous possible solutions hinge on tax money and hard decisions made by our elected officials. Anything government related is slow and in poor counties with poor cities, it may just not can happen. With that said, what can we do to help curb these spikes in crime? We need to be proactive citizens and not reactive citizens. We need to lock our homes, storage buildings, vehicles, trailers, etc. We need to keep a record of all serial numbers on our property. We do not need to leave valuables in our vehicles or where they can be easily taken. We need to keep an eye on our property and our neighbor's property. We need to live by the saying "If you see something, say something." That doesn't mean wait until business hours

to say something. That doesn't mean wait until you run into one of our local deputies at the grocery store, restaurant or post office. That means if you see something suspicious that looks out of place, pick up the phone and call (325) 453-2717. That number is answered 24/7 by a Coke County Sheriff's Office dispatcher.

Above all, pray for our citizens, first responders, communities, counties, state and nation.

Red Hat Society to meet July 6

The Red Hat Society will meet at 11 am Thursday, July 6, 2017, at Misty's Sandwich Shop at 701 Hutchins in Ballinger. Join the ladies for food, fun and fellowship.

Donations needed for fire departments

The Robert Lee and Bronte

Volunteer Fire Departments are requesting donations of water and Gatorade in preparation of the upcoming fire season.

Donations may be dropped off at the City Hall in each city or with any fireman. Your support of the area's Volunteer Fire Departments is greatly appreciated.

RL Cemetery needs assistance

There are several curbed lots at the Robert Lee Cemetery whose owners are unknown. These lots are in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 10. The lot in Section 2 includes the name "Spencer" in the curbing.

Anyone who has information on the ownership of these plots is urged to call George Grim at (325) 453-9902. The ownership of the plots will revert to the cemetery association if not identified by September 1, 2017.

All State Honors recipients needed

Robert Lee ISD is in search of names of Robert Lee Lady Steers who received "All State Honors" in Basketball at any time in the past.

If you can be of assistance, please contact Coach Esquell at justin.esquell@rlisd.net or Maranda Hood at maranda.hood@rlisd.net.



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