

Fort Scott, Kansas

The Next Rodeo Capital of the Midwest



Visit
FORT SCOTT

— ★ —
Kansas
RODEO CAPITAL OF THE MIDWEST

Statement of Current Situation

- The City of Fort Scott and Bourbon County have a strong western and agricultural heritage that continues to attract residents, visitors, and participants to rodeo, livestock, and agricultural events. While the Bourbon County Fairgrounds currently serves as the community's primary venue for these activities, the existing facilities no longer meet the growing demand or expectations of today's events.
- The Fort Scott Community College Rodeo has demonstrated the tremendous interest in rodeo within the region. During its annual three-day rodeo, more than 3,200 spectators attend an event held in Arnold Arena, a facility with seating for just over 500 people. This results in overcrowding, standing-room-only conditions, limited spectator comfort, and reduced opportunities to generate additional revenue through ticket sales, concessions, and sponsorships.
- In addition to limited seating, the current arena lacks the size, amenities, and year-round capabilities necessary to attract larger regional and national rodeo events. Weather-related cancellations and uncomfortable conditions can significantly impact attendance and event quality, making it difficult for Fort Scott to compete with neighboring communities that have invested in modern, enclosed event facilities.
- The absence of a modern rodeo and event arena also limits opportunities for economic development. Visitors attending rodeos and agricultural events spend money at local hotels, restaurants, gas stations, retail stores, and other businesses. Because Fort Scott does not currently have a venue capable of hosting larger, more frequent events, the community is missing significant opportunities to increase tourism, generate local sales tax revenue, and support existing businesses.
- Beyond rodeo, the community lacks a flexible indoor venue capable of hosting concerts, agricultural exhibitions, youth livestock shows, college activities, trade shows, community celebrations, and other regional events throughout the year. A modern arena would provide a multi-purpose facility that could serve residents while attracting visitors from across Kansas and neighboring states.
- The proposed arena, to be located on the existing Bourbon County Fairgrounds property and owned by the City of Fort Scott, would help address these challenges by providing an approximately 2,000-seat enclosed facility with modern rodeo amenities designed for year-round use. The project would strengthen the Fort Scott Community College Rodeo program, support the continued growth of the Bourbon County Fair, expand tourism opportunities, encourage additional private investment, and position Fort Scott as a regional destination for western heritage, agriculture, entertainment, economic growth, and community events.
- Without investment in improved facilities, Fort Scott risks losing existing events to communities with newer venues while continuing to forgo the economic and community benefits that a modern multi-purpose rodeo arena can provide.

BOURBON COUNTY ★ RODEO ARENA ★

— IN FORT SCOTT, KANSAS —

ARENA OVERVIEW

- 2,000 Grandstand Seats
- 6 Bull Chutes with Middle Return
- Roping Chutes on North End
- Party Deck on South End
- VIP Deck on South End
- Announcer Stand Above Bull Chutes

CAPACITY

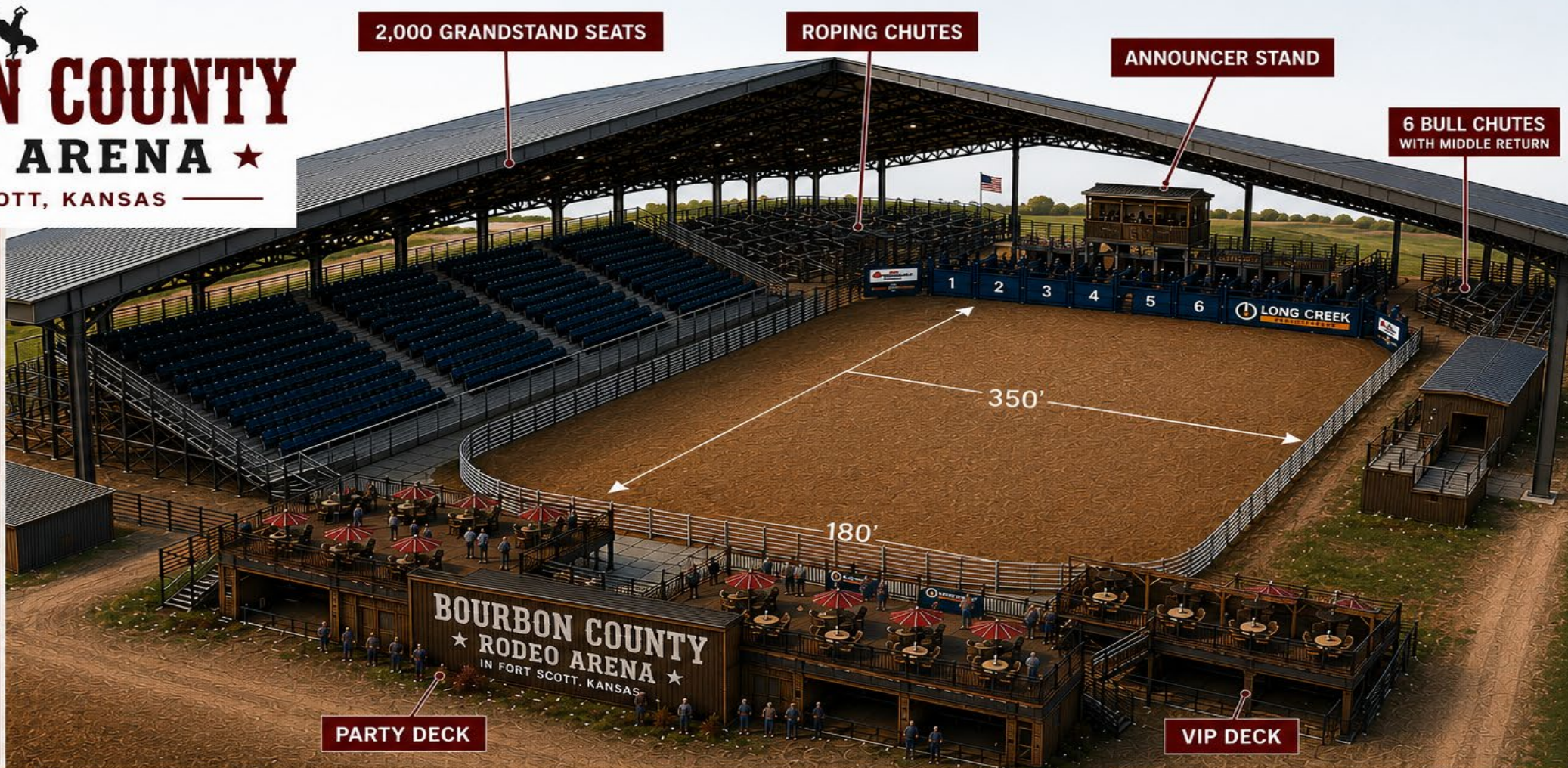
- 2,000 Spectators

ARENA SIZE

- 180' x 350'

FEATURES

- Modern Rodeo Facilities
- Premium Viewing
- VIP Deck & Hospitality
- Roper & Stock Contractor Friendly
- Top Tier Rodeo Experience



NORTH END VIEW



SOUTH END VIEW



LEFT SIDE VIEW

★ A PREMIER REGIONAL DESTINATION

★ SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

★ STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

★ BUILDING OUR FUTURE

★

Site of Current Arena



- FSCC – 2 blocks away
- Bourbon County Fairgrounds – Across the street from Arena
- Hwy69 North and South – 3 blocks away
- Access to fuel, food, and mercantile
- Fort Scott Historic Downtown – less than 5 minutes away
- Campsites on grounds
- Hotels minutes away

Utilization of Existing Bourbon County Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena Property

Benefits of Utilizing the Existing Fairgrounds Property

- Reduces land acquisition costs
- Builds upon existing infrastructure and utilities
- Preserves historical and community significance of the fairgrounds
- Strengthens partnerships between the City, County, Fair Board, and community organizations
- Enhances an already recognized event location
- Reduces development timelines
- Provides opportunities for phased expansion and modernization
- Increases efficiency through shared facilities and event coordination

Existing Infrastructure Advantages

- The Bourbon County Fairgrounds already offers foundational infrastructure that may include:
 - Existing rodeo arena footprint
 - Parking areas
 - Utility access
 - Livestock facilities
 - Event access roads
 - Established community recognition
 - Existing fair and agricultural event traffic patterns
 - Access to Fort Scott Community College facilities for practice area

Proposed Facility Components

The proposed facility may include:

- Covered rodeo arena
- 2000 seating capacity
- 6 professional bull chutes
- Livestock holding facilities
- Concession areas
- Party Deck
- VIP Deck
- 250 Outdoor stalls for rent
- Vendor and trade show space (Flooring placed over arena dirt)
- Multi-purpose event center (Flooring placed over arena dirt)
- Parking and RV hookups
- Concert and entertainment capabilities
- Community event accommodations

Why is this *Arena* so
important to Fort Scott?

Sales Tax

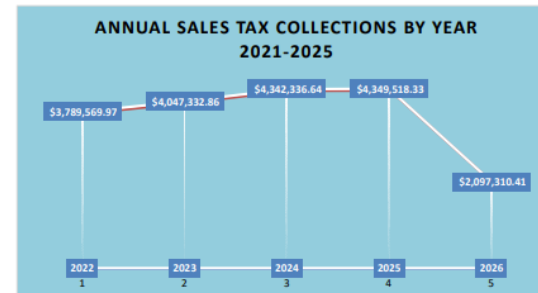
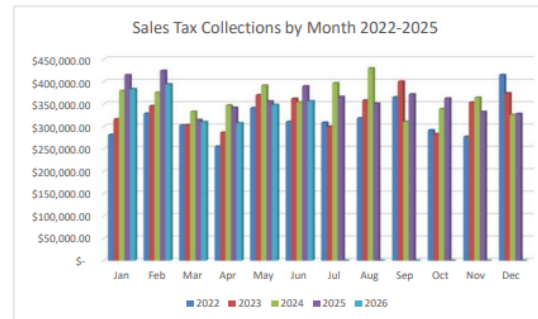
Sales Tax is one of the most important revenue sources for municipalities. Primary Reasons Sales Tax is so important to a Municipality.

- Helps keep property taxes lower
- Funds Essential City Services
- Visitors help pay for local services
- Encourages Economic Development
- Supports Community Growth
- More stable than some revenue sources
- Creates a cycle of investment

Property taxes help support city government, but sales tax helps build the community. Every time someone shops locally, they're investing in better streets, safer neighborhoods, improved parks, quality recreation, and a stronger future for everyone.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Jan	\$ 280,739.13	\$ 315,670.39	\$ 379,031.12	\$ 414,365.11	\$ 382,998.75
Feb	\$ 328,313.63	\$ 345,174.44	\$ 374,952.17	\$ 423,928.13	\$ 393,860.06
Mar	\$ 302,047.44	\$ 302,709.86	\$ 332,617.41	\$ 314,188.44	\$ 309,634.17
Apr	\$ 254,790.39	\$ 285,772.74	\$ 346,586.63	\$ 341,419.89	\$ 306,860.27
May	\$ 340,742.41	\$ 369,670.32	\$ 391,046.16	\$ 355,637.52	\$ 347,895.01
Jun	\$ 309,768.62	\$ 361,689.12	\$ 353,809.85	\$ 389,459.06	\$ 356,062.15
Jul	\$ 308,184.74	\$ 299,315.72	\$ 396,482.13	\$ 365,931.56	\$ -
Aug	\$ 317,915.86	\$ 357,899.92	\$ 429,514.43	\$ 350,618.56	\$ -
Sep	\$ 364,930.51	\$ 399,806.28	\$ 310,217.68	\$ 371,505.33	\$ -
Oct	\$ 291,146.85	\$ 282,692.04	\$ 338,484.18	\$ 362,353.37	\$ -
Nov	\$ 276,590.46	\$ 353,090.96	\$ 363,833.66	\$ 332,216.97	\$ -
Dec	\$ 414,399.93	\$ 373,841.07	\$ 325,761.22	\$ 327,894.39	\$ -
Total	\$ 3,789,569.97	\$ 4,047,332.86	\$ 4,342,336.64	\$ 4,349,518.33	\$ 2,097,310.41

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2023	2024
Jan	\$ 280,739.13	\$ 315,670.39	\$ 379,031.12	\$ 414,365.11	\$ 382,998.75	12%	20%
Feb	\$ 609,052.76	\$ 660,844.83	\$ 753,983.29	\$ 838,293.24	\$ 776,858.81	9%	14%
Mar	\$ 911,100.20	\$ 963,554.69	\$ 1,086,600.70	\$ 1,152,481.68	\$ 1,086,492.98	6%	13%
Apr	\$ 1,165,890.59	\$ 1,249,327.43	\$ 1,433,187.33	\$ 1,493,901.57	\$ 1,393,353.25	7%	15%
May	\$ 1,506,633.00	\$ 1,618,997.75	\$ 1,824,233.49	\$ 1,849,539.09	\$ 1,741,248.26	7%	13%
Jun	\$ 1,816,401.62	\$ 1,980,686.87	\$ 2,178,043.34	\$ 2,238,998.15	\$ 2,097,310.41	9%	10%
Jul	\$ 2,124,586.36	\$ 2,280,002.59	\$ 2,574,525.47	\$ 2,604,929.71	\$ 2,097,310.41	7%	13%
Aug	\$ 2,442,502.22	\$ 2,637,902.51	\$ 3,004,039.90	\$ 2,955,548.27	\$ 2,097,310.41	8%	14%
Sep	\$ 2,807,432.73	\$ 3,037,708.79	\$ 3,314,257.58	\$ 3,327,053.60	\$ 2,097,310.41	8%	9%
Oct	\$ 3,098,579.58	\$ 3,320,400.83	\$ 3,652,741.76	\$ 3,689,406.97	\$ 2,097,310.41	7%	10%
Nov	\$ 3,375,170.04	\$ 3,673,491.79	\$ 4,016,575.42	\$ 4,021,623.94	\$ 2,097,310.41	9%	9%
Dec	\$ 3,789,569.97	\$ 4,047,332.86	\$ 4,342,336.64	\$ 4,349,518.33	\$ 2,097,310.41	7%	7%



Rodeo Weekend - Keeping Dollars Local (Instead of Losing Them)

- Without local events, residents often travel to places like:
 - Joplin, MO
 - Pittsburg, KS
 - Kansas City
- A rodeo arena helps **keep entertainment spending in Fort Scott.**
 - Even if 300 locals spend \$30–\$50 each:
 - That's **\$9,000–\$15,000 staying local per event**

Rodeo Weekend: Multi-Use Facility (Year-Round Revenue) – Desired Outcome

- A rodeo arena isn't just for rodeos.
- In Fort Scott, it could host:
 - Barrel races & jackpots
 - 4-H and FFA livestock shows
 - County fair events
 - Ranch rodeos
 - Concerts or festivals
- If you host **10–20 events per year**, you're turning one asset into **consistent economic activity**, not a one-time boost.

Desired Outcome

The desired outcome of the Fort Scott Rodeo Arena project is to:

- Create a premier regional rodeo and event facility
- Expand tourism and visitor spending in Fort Scott
- Support economic growth and business development
- Provide opportunities for Fort Scott Community College expansion and programming
- Increase community pride and quality of life
- Generate year-round event activity
- Create opportunities for agricultural education and workforce development
- Strengthen Fort Scott's identity as a regional hub for western heritage and entertainment

Opportunities for Growth

- Fort Scott Community College – Spring Rodeo (3-day rodeo)
 - 3900 visitors (Arnold Arena holds 500 people)
- Sales Tax impact:
 - Sleep Inn - 297 people
 - Super 8 – 257 people
 - Travelodge – 218 people
 - Sharky's Pub and Grub – 772 people
 - McDonalds – 770 people
 - Casey's – 673 people
 - Pete's – 650 people
 - FS Retail Center – 623 people
- Compare to:
 - Stomping Grounds (Lamar, Missouri)
 - PBR Event – 3700 people: 2-day event
 - Ks. Largest Rodeo Night (Pretty Prairie)
 - Population – 650 people
 - Attendance 26,500: 4-day event
 - Fort Scott Fair Rodeo (Fort Scott, KS.)
 - 1200 people: 2-day event

Rodeo Weekend -Visitor Spending (Biggest Impact)

- **Visitor Spending (Biggest Impact)**
- Fort Scott isn't a large metro, so even a few hundred to a few thousand visitors makes a noticeable difference.
- **Example scenario:**
 - 1 rodeo weekend = 800–2,000 visitors
- **Average visitor spending:**
 - Hotel: \$90–\$130/night
 - Food & drinks: \$40–\$80/day
 - Gas & misc: \$20–\$50
- That's roughly **\$150–\$250 per person per day**
- **Estimated impact:**
 - 1,000 visitors $\times$ \$200 = **\$200,000 in one weekend**
- That money goes directly to:
 - Local hotels & Airbnb's
 - Restaurants (Sharky's, Crooners, etc.)
 - Gas stations & convenience stores
 - Retail shops downtown

Arena Cost

- Land = Lease from BBCO Fair Board
- Roof = \$1,800,000
- Lights/Electric = \$981,000
- Big A** Fans = \$68,000
- Press Box = \$50,000
- Seating (2000 seats to start) = \$800,000
- VIP Deck = \$30,000
- Party Deck = \$35,000
- Food Court = \$25,000
- Bull Chutes = \$60,000
- Bathrooms = \$85,000
- Ticket Booth = \$15,000
- Misc. = \$50,000
- **Total Cost = \$3,999,000**

How do we fund this?

Options

- State supported funding (Star Bond) –Option but not the best when you are wanting to increase sales tax revenues.
- Bond with payment from budget
- Sell city owned property
- Grants (won't pay for all but will help)
- Sponsorships (already have \$20k committed for Party Deck) – Ongoing funding
- Annual Rodeo Gala – Ongoing funding