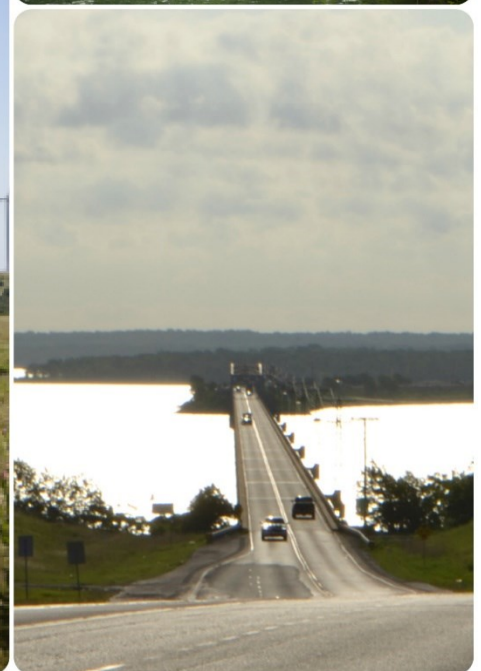


SODA

**SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 709, DURANT, OK 74702-0709
PHONE: 580-920-1388 | FAX: 580-920-1391
WWW.SODA-OK.ORG

FY 2022 IMPACT REPORT



About SODA

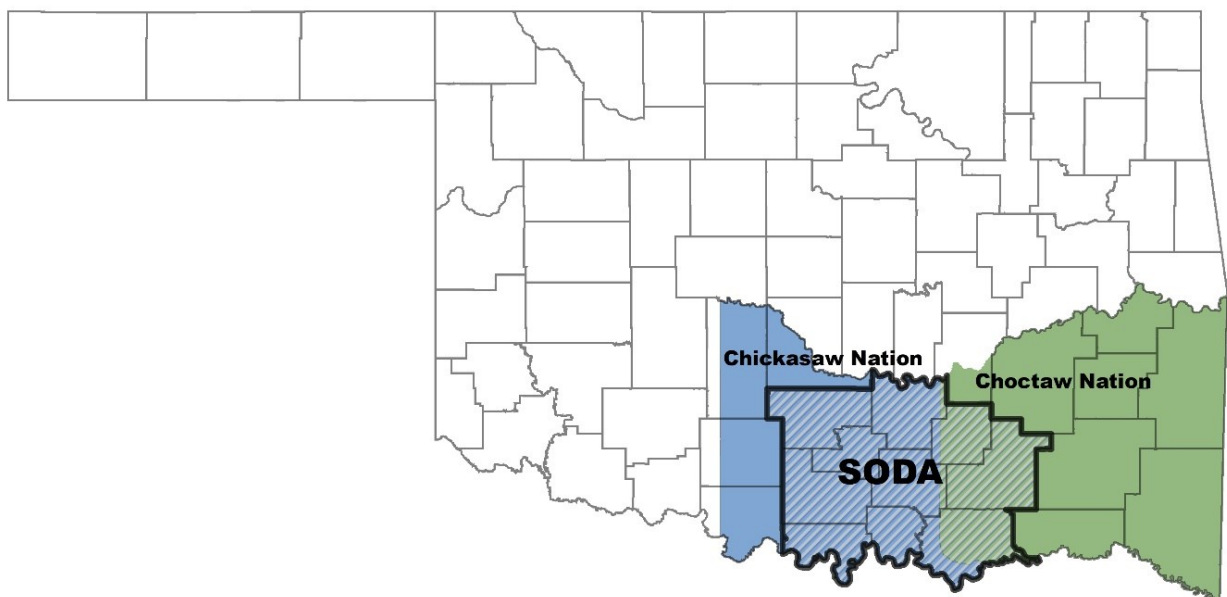
Southern Oklahoma Development Association (SODA) is a voluntary, association of town, city and county governments and conservation districts within the 10-county region of Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray and Pontotoc counties in southern Oklahoma. The SODA service area resides within the tribal boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation on the west and the Choctaw Nation on the east.

SODA is headquartered in Durant, Oklahoma. SODA provides planning and coordination services in community and economic development, rural fire defense, transportation, and health and nutrition services for older adults.

SODA was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1957. In 1967, SODA received designation from the State of Oklahoma as an Economic Development District pursuant to the Inter-local Cooperation Act of 1965 (74 O.S. (1965) 1001) and the United States Department of Commerce pursuant to Title IV of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 569).

In 1971, SODA was appointed by Executive Order from the Governor of the State of Oklahoma as a Sub-State Planning District to enable governmental entities in south-central Oklahoma to better provide services, assistance, and information to their citizens. SODA is one of eleven statewide Councils of Government (COG) or Sub-State Planning Districts in the State of Oklahoma.

SODA is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of the cities and towns, counties, conservation districts, and tribal governments in the SODA ten county service area.



Executive Summary

Thank you for reading SODA's FY 2022 annual report!

FY 2022 was a productive year for SODA as we bounced back from the COVID-19 pandemic. In retrospect, three highlights underscore FY 2022: plans and funding for an expansion of the SODA offices, implementation of a new program in Regional Transportation Planning, and having all our programs fully-staffed.

SODA continuously strives to engage with the individuals and the communities of southern Oklahoma that we serve. Our long-established programs—Area Agency on Aging, Community and Economic Development, Rural Fire Defense and REAP—have proven to be effective during FY 2022 with notable increases in activities and funding. These programs continue to demonstrate their relevance and value to the SODA service area.

In this annual report you will find a record of activities and accomplishments for each of these programs and services. At SODA we believe that everything we do is economic development. In this report the activities and accomplishments of our programs have been quantified with monetary values to illustrate the value of the socio-economic impacts and benefits SODA provides to southern Oklahoma at a very low cost!

FY 2022 will allow us to move forward into FY 2023 from a position of organizational well-being with the financial confidence to explore new strategies and possibilities to improve the quality of life for the rural communities of southern Oklahoma and help them thrive.

We would like to thank the SODA Board of Directors and the SODA staff for their steadfast loyalty and support for our Association and the cause of rural equity to which all of us associated with SODA are earnestly devoted.

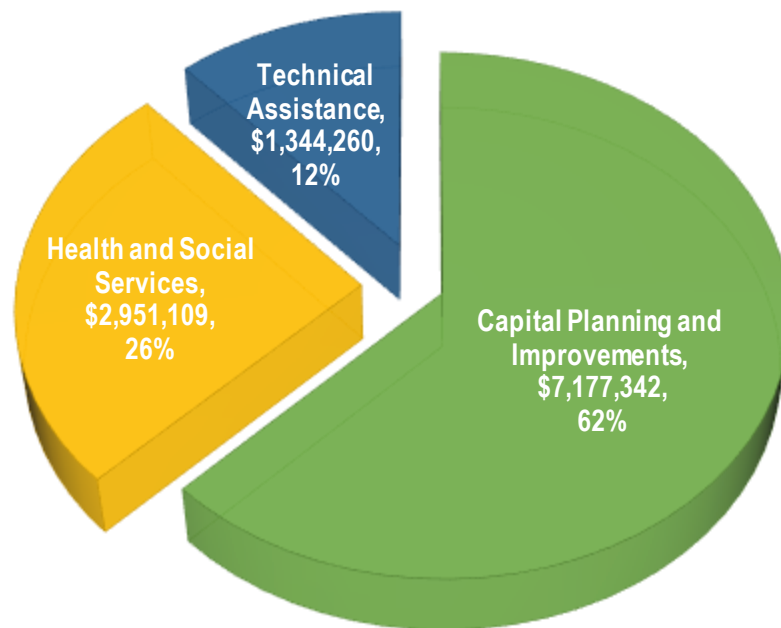
Joe David McReynolds, *President*
SODA Board of Directors
Carter County Commissioner District I

Steven C. Mills, *Executive Director*
Southern Oklahoma
Development Association



In FY 22 SODA generated over \$11 million in economic benefits for southern Oklahoma.

PROJECT/SERVICE CATEGORY	\$ VALUE BENEFITS	% BENEFITS VALUE
Capital Planning and Improvements <i>EDA Grants (Federal), CDBG Grants (State), REAP Grants (State)</i>	\$7,177,342	62%
Health and Social Services <i>Area Agency on Aging (Title III), NHPF (Ombudsman), OID (Medicare Asst.), CENA (Senior Centers), Masonic Grant</i>	\$2,951,109	26%
Technical Assistance <i>Rural Fire Defense, Regional Transportation Planning</i>	\$1,364,260	12%
TOTALS	\$11,492,711	100%



SODA generated \$9.53 in economic benefits for the region for each \$1.00 spent on administrative costs.

Economic benefits are delivered through a variety of SODA programs at minimal costs.

PROJECT/SERVICE GRANT OR CONTRACT	VALUE EXPECTED BENEFITS	VALUE EXPECTED COSTS
<u>Oklahoma Dept. of Human Services - Aging Services</u>		
Title III - All Services	\$1,905,409	\$238,724
Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)	\$97,401	-
Consolidated Approp. Act (CAA) - Nutrition	\$139,072	\$21,773
American Rescue Plan (ARPA) - All Services	\$360,347	\$60,715
Nursing Home Provider Fee - Ombudsman	\$159,328	\$159,328
<u>Oklahoma Insurance Dept.</u>		
Medicare Improve. Patients/Providers (MIPPA)	\$15,000	\$15,000
State Health Insurance Assistance (SHIP)	\$25,000	\$25,000
Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)	\$7,000	\$7,000
<u>Masonic Charity Foundation Grant</u>	\$65,846	\$3,292
<u>Oklahoma Dept. of Commerce</u>		
CDBG-CR	\$182,501	\$10,330
CDBG-Water	\$399,978	\$29,628
CDBG-CIP	\$66,000	\$66,000
CDBG-REAP	\$136,363	\$10,100
Sub-State Planning Grant	\$8,182	\$8,182
Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP)	\$1,547,500	\$77,375
Comm. Expansion Nutrition Assistance (CENA)	\$223,706	\$11,774
<u>USDOC Economic Development Administration</u>		
EDA Planning Grant	\$70,000	\$70,000
EDA Cares	\$200,000	\$200,000
SODA Conference Center Project	\$645,000	-
Southern Tech Aviation Center Project	\$4,000,000	\$56,250
<u>Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation</u>		
Regional Trans. Planning Organization - SCORTPO	\$75,000	\$75,000
<u>Oklahoma Dept. of Agric/Food/Forestry</u>		
Rural Fire Defense Coordinator	\$61,000	\$61,000
Operational, Matching, Revolving Fund Grants	\$602,548	-
Federal Excess Inventory Acquisitions	\$480,530	-
Red River REA RFD Grants	\$20,000	-
TOTALS	\$11,492,711	\$1,206,471
<i>Benefit-Cost Ratio →</i>	<i>\$9.53</i>	

Creating thriving communities with community and economic development planning and projects

The Community and Economic Development (CED) Division of SODA provides technical assistance to local governments for grant writing and project administration to improve infrastructure, create jobs and improve local economies in the SODA region. CED provides advice, consultation, planning assistance and grant preparation to member communities primarily through three granting programs: CDBG, EDA and REAP.

CED **SNAPSHOT**

42 REAP grants awarded for Rural Community Projects

14 CDBG grants awarded for Water, Wastewater, Roads and Public Facilities, Fire Trucks

3 Capital Improvement Plan grants awarded for rural communities

2 EDA grants awarded for Water Treatment Plan and Job Training Facility



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

(CDBG) provide public infrastructure financing to help communities grow jobs and enable new business startups and expansions for existing businesses. During FY 22 CED generated \$2,211,035 in CDBG grants to improve infrastructure and public facilities in SODA communities.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING (CIP) helps communities inventory assets and prioritize needs for planning future capital improvements. CED staff uses GIS technology to capture, digitize and map existing assets. During FY 22 three communities were awarded \$120,000 in CIP grants.

EDA grants generate jobs, help retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically distressed areas. EDA assistance is available to rural and urban areas of the United States experiencing high unemployment, low income, or other severe economic distress. During FY 22 two EDA grants totaling \$6 million were awarded in the SODA region for community infrastructure expansion and a job training facility.

REAP During FY 22 SODA CED awarded \$1,550,679 in REAP grants to communities under 7,000 in population (see following page).

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING is used

to identify local transportation needs and conduct planning in non-metropolitan regions of Oklahoma that supports the statewide transportation planning process. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has designated SODA's South Central Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SCORTPO) to engage officials and key stakeholders in the SODA region in transportation planning. During FY 22 SCORTPO was organized, employed a Regional Transportation Planner and appointed a Policy Board and Technical Committee to develop a long-range transportation plan for the SODA region.

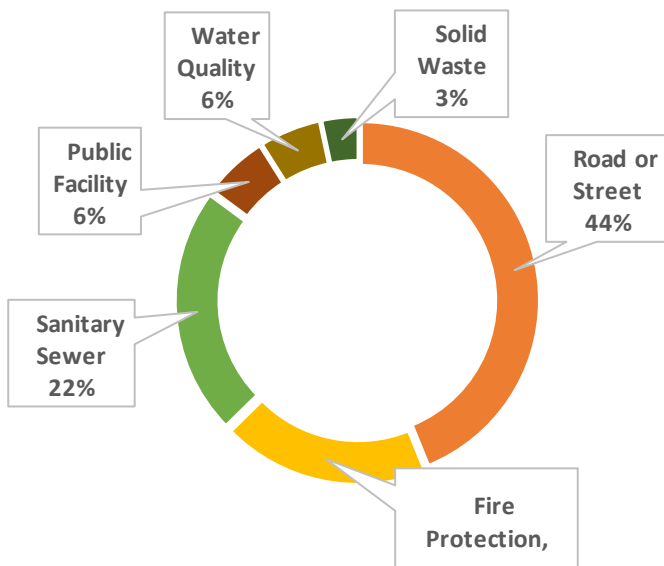
Improving quality of life in rural communities with the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTCOMES/IMPACTS OF REAP

- ✓ \$680,000 to increase accessibility, safety and travel to/from residence, work, school and other services
- ✓ \$400,436 to reduce the incidence of violations in water disposal/sewer systems
- ✓ 146,000 to increase capacity, reliability and/or responsiveness in handling emergencies or disasters
- ✓ \$125,248 to increase capacity, reliability, responsiveness in fighting fires
- ✓ \$91,632 to increase accessibility, availability and/or capacity of services provided in public facilities
- ✓ \$87,000 to increase water system pressure/capacity for new/existing customers
- ✓ \$20,363 to increase safety of volunteers in fighting fires

REAP PROJECT CATEGORIES AND AMOUNTS

PROJECT TYPE	APPLICATIONS APPROVED		
	Count	Amount	Proportion
Road or Street	22	\$680,000	44%
Fire Protection, Public Safety	10	\$291,611	19%
Sanitary Sewer	5	\$348,436	22%
Public Facility	4	\$91,632	6%
Water Quality	2	\$87,000	6%
Solid Waste	1	\$52,000	3%
TOTALS →	44	\$1,550,679	100%



REAP Grant Awards BY THE NUMBERS

86% of applications funded
 96% of REAP funds requested was awarded
 \$7,530–Smallest REAP grant awarded
 \$56,000–Largest REAP grant awarded
 \$34,188–Average REAP grant awarded
 \$20,000–Most frequent REAP award amount
 73,996–Persons served by REAP grants

SODA's Agency on Aging is southern Oklahoma's advocate for older adults.

SODA's Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is the regional provider of a comprehensive and coordinated continuum of services and opportunities to assist persons aged 60 and over in living dignified, productive, and independent lives. The SODA AAA is funded by Title III of the Older Americans Act.

AAA **SNAPSHOT**

- 162,863** Home and Congregate Meals Provided
- 3,995** Persons Received AAA Services
- 1,016** Information Assistance Contacts
- 345** Outreach Contacts
- 306** Nutrition Counseling and Education Contacts
- 177** In-Home Caregiver Services Vouchers
- 140** Persons Provided Medical Transportation
- 39** Persons Participated in Wellness Activities
- 8** Persons Received Legal Assistance



**Senior Information Line:
800-211-2116**

TITLE III SERVICES During FY 22 AAA programs served almost 4,000 persons 60 years of age or older. The Title III Services provided to older adults included nutrition programs, caregiver support, information and assistance, medical transportation, health and wellness programs, legal assistance and long-term care ombudsman support (see AAA Snapshot sidebar).

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN program serves residents in Long-Term residential health care facilities and assisted living. The Ombudsman advocates on behalf of the individual residents and assists in protecting residents' rights by providing information, exploring problems, and recommending corrective action. **The SODA AAA Long-Term Care Ombudsman Supervisors serve 50 long-term care facilities with 3,180 beds in the SODA region.**

CENA is a state grant program (Community Expansion of Nutrition Assistance) program that is designed to increase the number of meals served by independent senior/community centers. **27 of the 76 independent centers in the SODA region received CENA grant awards totaling \$223,706. Over 76,000 meals were served to individuals at the CENA centers during FY 22.**

MASONIC GRANTS funded by the Masonic Charities Foundation of Oklahoma are awarded to older adults who are low income and need help with eyeglasses, dental work, hearing aids, wheelchair ramps, minor home repairs, and other disability-related services. **The SODA AAA provided \$44,182 in individual financial assistance to 61 persons for FY 22.**

MEDICARE ASSISTANCE provides accurate and objective counseling, assistance, and advocacy relating to Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, long-term care, and other related health coverage plans for Medicare beneficiaries, their representatives, or persons soon to be eligible for Medicare. **The SODA AAA provided Medicare counseling and presentations to over 500 individuals for FY 22.**

Building strong rural fire departments through SODA's Rural Fire Defense Program

SODA's Rural Fire Defense provides leadership for rural fire departments to improve fire protection services, acquire needed equipment and maintain skilled volunteers to respond to fires and other emergencies in a timely manner.

RFD SNAPSHOT

230 Technical Consultations

117 Operational grants to fire departments administered

99 Federal Excess Property inventoried

45 Pump tests conducted

12 ISO rating gradings prepared

5 Federal Excess Property placements

2 Matching grants awarded



The SODA RFD program provides technical assistance and equipment acquisitions to 121 rural fire departments in Oklahoma Fire Region 4 in the SODA service area (see RFD Snapshot sidebar).

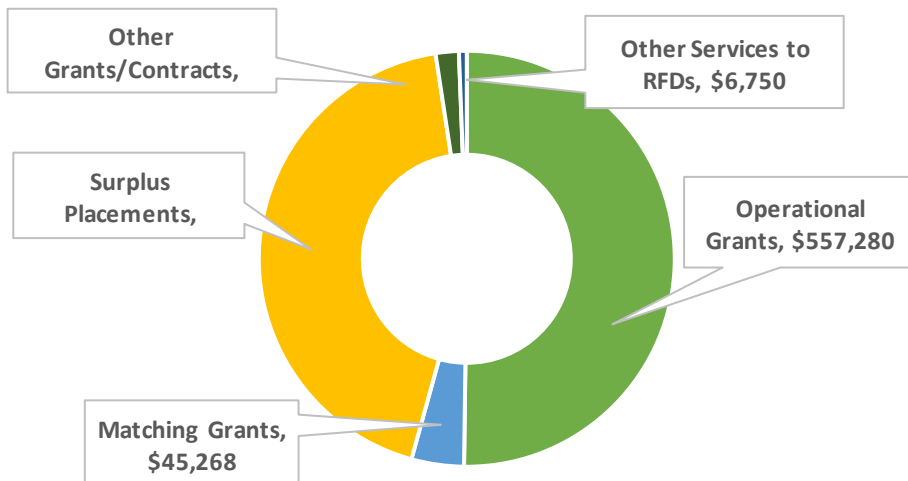
Additionally, the RFD program consults with rural fire departments for ISO gradings, places federal excess equipment with rural fire departments,



Walker Volunteer Fire Department Tanker/Pumper

certifies operational grants awarded rural fire departments and awards 80/20 grants to fire departments. For FY 22 the SODA RFD program generated \$1,109,828 in financial benefits from grants, equipment acquisitions and services for SODA's rural fire departments (see following chart).

RFD Grants, Acquisitions & Services, FY22



SODA FY 2022 Board of Directors

<u>DIRECTOR NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>
Sammie Adams	Bryan County Conservation District
Gary Ayers	Garvin County
Scott Chaney	City of Marietta
Cacy Cribbs	Johnston County
Johnnie Crutchfield	Arbuckle Conservation District
Marvin Dale	Atoka County
John Dean (Secretary/Treasurer)	City of Durant
Danny Delay	City of Atoka
James Eldridge	City of Ada
Rick Ellis	Coal County Conservation District
James Fullingim	City of Madill
Andy Holland	City of Davis
Darrell Hudson	Murray County
Linda Hyman (Past President)	Love County
Sally Jantz	City of Healdton
Johnny Jump	City of Coalgate
Nick Lee	Coal County
Lee Litterell	City of Pauls Valley
Kristi McElroy (Vice President)	City of Ardmore
Joe David McReynolds (President)	Carter County
Don "Salty" Melton	Marshall County
Rebecca Niernberger	City of Lindsay
Ian O'Neal	City of Lone Grove
Jay Perry	Bryan County
John Redman	Choctaw Nation
Gary Starns	Pontotoc County
Bob Stick	Chickasaw Nation

SODA FY 2022 Staff

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Steve Mills	Executive Director	Brenda McCarty	Finance & Administration Director
Esteban Bravo	Administrative Assistant, Board Clerk		

AREA AGENCY ON AGING (AAA)

Mickey Peercy	AAA Director	Joye Angel	Grants/Program Specialist
Teri Kaleiohi	Information & Assistance Coordinator	Wilnet Martinez	Aging Specialist
Tiffany Wingfield	Ombudsman Supervisor	Rebekah Williams	Ombudsman Supervisor
Gina Jones	Ombudsman Supervisor		

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CED)

Pat Jones	CED Director	Michelle Powell	Grants Specialist
Makayla Jackson	Economic Development Planner		

RURAL FIRE DEFENSE (RFD)

Phil Powell	RFD Director
-------------	--------------

SOUTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SCORTPO)

Kyle Henry	Regional Transportation Planner
------------	---------------------------------

SODA Members

<u>COUNTIES</u>	<u>CONSERVATION DISTRICTS</u>
Atoka County	Arbuckle Conservation District
Bryan County	Atoka County Conservation District
Carter County	Bryan County Conservation District
Coal County	Coal County Conservation District
Garvin County	Garvin County Conservation District
Johnston County	Johnston County Conservation District
Love County	Marshall County Conservation District
Marshall County	Love County Conservation District
Murray County	Murray County Conservation District
Pontotoc County	Pontotoc County Conservation District

<u>CITIES AND TOWNS</u>		
Town of Achille	City of Ada	Town of Allen
City of Ardmore	City of Atoka	Town of Bennington
Town of Bokchito	Town of Bromide	Town of Byng
Town of Caddo	Town of Calera	Town of Caney
Town of Coalgate	Town of Colbert	City of Davis
Town of Dickson	Town of Dougherty	City of Durant
Town of Elmore City	Town of Fitzhugh	Town of Foster
Town of Francis	Town of Gene Autry	Town of Healdton
Town of Hendrix	Town of Hickory	Town of Kemp
Town of Kenefic	Town of Kingston	City of Lehigh
Town of Lindsay	Town of Lone Grove	City of Madill
Town of Mannsville	City of Marietta	Town of Maysville
Town of Mead	Town of Milburn	Town of Mill Creek
Town of Oakland	City of Paoli	City of Pauls Valley
Town of Phillips	City of Ratliff City	Town of Ravia
Town of Roff	Town of Silo	Town of Springer
Town of Stonewall	Town of Stratford	Town of Stringtown
City of Sulphur	Town of Tatums	Town of Thackerville
City of Tishomingo	Town of Tupelo	Town of Tushka
Town of Wapanucka	City of Wilson	Town of Wynnewood



Southern Oklahoma is Lake Country!



SODA

**SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

www.soda-ok.org