

AI & Arkansas Cities

What Every Mayor, Clerk, and Council Should Know in 2026

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AI is already being used in Arkansas cities — often without formal approval or safeguards. This page covers safe uses, common risks, and the minimum steps cities should take to stay compliant.

What AI Is (Plain Terms)

- Summarizes emails & documents
- Drafts minutes, agendas, policies
- Speeds up repetitive admin tasks

AI assists staff — it doesn't replace staff.

Safe Uses (With Review)

- First drafts of minutes & agendas
- Summaries of reports & emails
- Policy/resolution first drafts
- Code enforcement documentation

High-Risk Uses to Avoid

- Putting city data into public/free AI tools
- Uploading FOIA, police, court, personnel records
- Letting AI auto-send emails or auto-decide outcomes
- Using tools with no logs, retention, or admin control

AI, FOIA & Records

- AI-generated content may become a public record
- Records must be retained and discoverable under FOIA
- Confidential data must stay in approved systems

If AI touches city data, FOIA/retention rules still apply.

What Cities Should Do Now

- Adopt an **AI Use Policy** (approved vs prohibited tools)
- Train staff on safe use + what not to upload
- Use government-grade platforms where available
- Align AI use with FOIA, retention, and Act 929 expectations

AI is coming to every city — the choice is whether it's controlled and compliant, or informal and risky.



Free Resources for Arkansas Cities

Policy templates • Readiness checklist • Webinars

blueguysit.com/cybersafearkansas

Provided as an educational resource for Arkansas municipalities.
Blue Guys IT • Mountain Home, Arkansas

Blue Guys IT

23. East 6th Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653
blueguysit.com

870-425-2583
877-249-2583

Questions about AI or need assistance with Arkansas Act 929 (.gov requirements)? **Blue Guys IT** helps Arkansas cities navigate compliance, security, and emerging technology.

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