

Sponsored by: Courts and Public Safety Committee
ORDINANCE 13-__

Be it enacted by the Quorum Court of the County of Faulkner, State of Arkansas. An Ordinance to be entitled: An Ordinance to regulate outdoor commercial shooting ranges within Faulkner County; and prescribing other matters pertaining thereto.

Section 1 – Definitions

- A. Commercial range: a space owned by a private individual or corporate entity, utilized for discharging firearms in which the payment of money or other valuable consideration is required for use. Ranges owned or operated by government entities and ranges in operation prior to the passing of this ordinance are excluded.
- B. Fully automatic weapon: a firearm with which more than one round can be discharged with a single pull of the trigger.
- C. Handgun: a firearm with a barrel length of 12 inches or less and designed so that it can be used with only one hand.
- D. Rifle: a firearm with a barrel length of more than 12 inches, which discharges a single projectile with a single pull of the trigger.
- E. Shotgun: a firearm which discharges a group of projectiles with a single pull of the trigger.
- F. Certified Operator: any individual possessing current certification as a range safety officer from law enforcement , U.S. military, or NRA Certified Range safety Officer or NRA Certified Chief Range safety Officer
- G. Berm – An embankment or wall constructed to restrict bullets to a given area, the purpose of which is the self containment of shot rounds.

Section 2 – Permit

- A. If the County Judge is satisfied with the following required items, then the County Judge may grant a permit for a commercial range.
 - 1. A completed application obtained from the Faulkner County Judge’s Office
 - 2. A sketch of the proposed location for the commercial range that shows the location’s boundaries, individual ranges with direction of fire, and neighbors

(providing name and address).

3. A copy of the location's deed or other proof that the applicant has permission to use the land.
 4. A written list describing the types of firearms proposed. These firearms must be consistent with those defined in section 1 parts A-E in this Ordinance.
 5. A copy of the range rules.
 6. And a certificate of liability insurance of no less than one million (\$1,000,000) dollars.
- b. If the County Judge is not satisfied with the items mentioned above, then the Courts and Public Safety committee will review the applicant's request for a permit and will submit a report, either for or against approving the permit, to the full Quorum Court. The Full Court will then vote for or against enacting an ordinance for the permit.

Section 3 – Minimum Standards

In any commercial range, the following minimum standards shall apply:

A. Sanitation/Environmental

1. Toilet facilities shall be provided.
2. Off-street parking shall be provided for vehicles.
3. Fully automatic weapons shall be prohibited.
4. Ranges shall have a lead abatement plan that meets or exceeds local, state and federal regulations in place and shall abide by the plan.

B. Safety

1. Ranges designed for the use of shotguns shall be provided with a safety zone of uninhabited space that is a minimum of a 180-degree semicircle from the firing point. For up to #4 shot, the radius of the safety zone shall be a minimum of 926 feet. For shot larger than #4, adhere to the NRA's Range Source Book guidelines.
2. Ranges designed for the use of handguns and rifles not more powerful than a .22 long rifle shall be provided with a safety zone of uninhabited space that is a minimum of 7,000 feet downrange of the firing point. An exception to this is if

overhead baffles are provided in accordance with the NRA's Range Source Book guidelines from the firing point to the backstop berm.

3. Ranges designed for the rifles more powerful than a .22 long rifle shall be provided with a safety zone of uninhabited space that is a minimum of 18,500 feet downrange of the firing point. An exception to this is if overhead baffles are provided in accordance with the NRA's Range Source Book Guidelines from the firing point to the backstop berm.
4. Ranges designed for the use of handguns and rifles shall be provided with either man-made or naturally occurring backstop berms and sidewall berms. Backstop berms shall be at least 20 feet high and 4 feet thick at the top, made of soft earth with no rocks or other material that could cause ricochets for at least a thickness of 24 inches. Backstop berms shall extend at least 5 feet past the end target, as measured from the top of the backstop. Sidewall berms shall be at least 8 feet high and 3 feet thick at the top, made of soft earth with no rocks or other material that could cause ricochets for at least a thickness of 12 inches. The ground between the firing line and the backstop berm shall be free of any rocks or hardened surfaces that could cause ricochets.

4a[this paragraph could be written as this since "berm" is now included in the definitions to mean self containment of shot rounds]: Ranges designed for the use of handguns and rifles shall be provided with either man-made or naturally occurring backstop berms and sidewall berms. Backstop berms shall be at least 20 feet high and 4 feet thick at the top. Backstop berms shall extend at least 5 feet past the end target, as measured from the top of the backstop. Sidewall berms shall be at least 8 feet high and 3 feet thick at the top. The ground between the firing line and the backstop berm shall be free of any rocks or hardened surfaces that could cause ricochets.

5. Ranges for handguns and rifles not more powerful than a .22 long rifle: the backstop shall be at least 150 feet from the firing line.
6. Ranges for rifles more powerful than a .22 long rifle: the backstop shall be at least 300 feet from the firing line.
7. The range proper shall be fenced off with fencing that is at least 6 feet high and constructed of material with a maximum opening size of 2 inches. Signs shall be posted at maximum 100 foot intervals warning potential intruders of the danger. For handgun and rifle ranges, the backstop and sidewall berms shall be within the fenced boundary. For shotgun ranges, the safety zone shall be within the fenced boundary.

Section 4 - Range Control

- A. Ranges shall be supervised during all hours of operation by a certified operator.
- B. The range's rules shall be posted during all hours of operation.
- C. Ranges shall only be used in the manner in which they were designed for.

Section 5 – Sound Abatement

- A. Sound Abatement:
 - 1. For ranges designed for the use of handguns and rifles, each firing point shall be provided with a permanent sound enclosure that is at least 8 feet high for sound abatement/redirection; the enclosure shall consist of a roof and one, two, or three walls. Material of construction shall be wood or other material unlikely to resonate.
 - 2. Each firing point shall be located a minimum of 600 feet from the adjacent property line of the nearest neighboring land that is not owned or leased by the range operator.
- B. If any firing point is located less than 2,600 feet from an adjacent property line of neighboring land that is not owned or leased by the range operator, then the range operator shall obtain permanent written permission to utilize that land as a sound buffer for the range prior to operating the range. Such permission shall be recorded as an easement in the Faulkner County Circuit Clerk's office.

Section 6 – Variance

- A. Plans for a commercial range that do not meet the requirements of this ordinance are required to request a variance from the full Quorum Court.
- B. This request for a variance shall include:
 - 1. A completed variance form obtained from the Faulkner County Judge's Office
 - 2. And a description showing that the proposed commercial range will have standards for safety, patron competency, range control, and sound abatement that are equivalent to or better than those defined in this ordinance.
- C. The full Quorum Court will then review and vote on the request for a variance. A majority vote is required for approval.

D. If the request for variance is approved, a written permit will be granted.

Dated: April 4, 2014

Dated: August 13, 2013

Attest: _____

**Margaret Darter
Quorum Court Secretariat
Faulkner County, AR**

Approved: _____

**Allen Dodson
Faulkner County Judge
Faulkner County, AR**