Picking the perfect location for your business is like picking the perfect vehicle for your trip! Many factors need to be looked at to make your ride more efficient as well as fit all your needs.

Your business location determines the taxes, zoning laws, and regulations your business will be subject to following. You will need to make a strategic decision about which state, city, and neighborhood in which to start your business.

1. **Research the best place to locate your business**
   Where you locate your business depends in part on the location of your target market, business partners, and your personal preferences. In addition, you should consider the costs, benefits, and restrictions of different government agencies.
   You’ll need to register your business, pay taxes, and get licenses and permits in the city you choose to locate your business so know these costs in advance is important to your business plan. You can find additional information about Muskogee tax rates, and how to acquire permits and licenses from the City of Muskogee by clicking here.

   Market data for Muskogee can be found here.

2. **Region-specific business expenses**
   When you calculate your startup costs, take into account the way different expenses might cost more or less depending on your location.

   In addition to city fees and taxes, other varying costs should be considered. Standard salaries, minimum wage laws, property values, rental rates, business insurance rates, utilities, and government licenses and fees can all vary significantly by city, county and state.

3. **Local zoning ordinances**
   If you buy, rent, build, or plan to work out of a physical property for your business, make sure it conforms to local zoning requirements.

   Neighborhoods are generally zoned for either commercial or residential use. Zoning ordinances can restrict or entirely ban specific kinds of businesses from operating in an area.

   You might have fewer zoning restrictions if you base your business out of your home, but zoning ordinances can still apply even to home-based businesses.

   To get specific information and contact information please see Stop 8: City Processes.
4. State and local taxes
Consider the tax landscape for the state, county, and city. Income tax, sales tax, property tax, and corporate taxes can vary significantly from place to place.

Sales Tax Rates:
- City of Muskogee – 4.0¢
- Muskogee County - .65¢
- State of Oklahoma – 4.5¢
- Total Sales Tax – 9.15¢

Property Tax:
The median property tax in Muskogee County, Oklahoma is $589 per year for a home worth the median value of $84,100. Muskogee County collects, on average, 0.7% of a property’s assessed fair market value as property tax.

Visit the City of Muskogee, and State of Oklahoma web sites to get additional information and details.

5. State and local government incentives
Muskogee has created tax environments and incentives that are very friendly to companies. The City of Muskogee offers financial incentives for businesses in various districts within our city. Downtown, our historical district and the original township areas are some of those.

Contact Gary Garvin, at the City of Muskogee for application and information about these incentive programs.

Gary Garvin, Director of Planning and Community Development
Ggarvin@muskogeeonline.org; 918.684.6232

Manufacturing and Industry related businesses should contact the Port of Muskogee Business Development office at 918.682.7887; or on the web at http://www.muskogeedevelopment.org/index.php/contact_us/offices_locations/

The Port’s Industrial Development office has a strategic initiative program that offers large incentives related to job creation, redevelopment, and expansion.

6. Federal government incentives
The federal government offers benefits to small businesses that contract with the government and are based in underutilized areas. Check into the Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) program to see if you qualify for preferential access to federal procurement opportunities.

Resources:
Click Here to get a list of things and more information about what to consider when selecting your location.

Visit local SBA Offices, Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business Centers state and local government websites to find more information.

Information within provided by Small Business Resource Administration, Muskogee Public Library, and the Greater Muskogee Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

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