



City of Lawton

City Council

Minutes

Lawton City Hall
212 SW 9th Street
Lawton, Oklahoma
73501-3944

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

6:00 PM

Lawton City Hall
Wayne Gilley Auditorium

Meeting Called to Order with Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

"Official action can be taken only on items which appear on the agenda. The Council may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, or continue any agenda item. The Council may also propose and enact floor amendments to any matter presented before them. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Council may refer the matter to the City Manager or the City Attorney. The Council may also refer items to standing committees of the Council or a board, commission, or authority for additional study. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely."

The regular meeting of the Lawton City Council was called to order by Mayor Stan Booker. The invocation was delivered by Pastor Larry Faaita, a member of the Race Relations Commission, who prayed for the council to be granted wisdom, humility, dignity, and unity in serving the citizens. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Roll Call

Present:

Councilwoman- Ward 1 Mary Ann Hankins
Councilman- Ward 2 RL Smith
Councilman - Ward 4 George Gill
Councilman - Ward 5 Allan Hampton
Councilman - Ward 6 Bob Weger
Councilwoman - Ward 7 Sherene L Williams
Councilman - Ward 8 Randy Warren

Absent:

Councilwoman- Ward 3 Linda Chapman

Also Present:

Stanley Booker, Mayor
John Ratliff, City Manager
Timothy Wilson, Interim City Attorney
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

Presentation

Before proceeding to presentations, Mayor Booker addressed the council and public, expressing appreciation for Mayor Pro Tem Randy Warren's leadership during recent

flooding while he was out of town. He commended City Manager John Ratliff, city employees, dispatchers, firefighters, and police officers for their extraordinary response. The Mayor noted that 71 people and nine pets were rescued and praised city staff for the rapid cleanup that left the city looking remarkably clean. He remarked that “government worked the way it was supposed to,” and all city employees received a round of applause.

City Manager Ratliff followed by announcing disaster recovery resources, including low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration for those impacted by flooding and free cleanup assistance provided by the Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief Team, operating from Cameron Baptist Church. He emphasized the importance of reporting damage at OKDamage.gov to assist with securing a federal disaster declaration.

1. Present the following employees their certificate and pin from the Oklahoma Municipal League for 25 years of service to a Municipal Government.
Guadalupe Arce, Mark Floyd, Judy Franco, Abel Luna, Darrin McKay, Michell Rosario, John Santos, and John Schwenk.

The Mayor and City Manager presented Oklahoma Municipal League 25-Year Service pins and certificates to City of Lawton employees Guadalupe Arce, Judy Franco, Abel Luna, Darrin McKay, Michelle Rosario, John Santos, and John Schwenk.

2. Employee Spotlight Award: Theodore Alvarado

Stricken.

3. Employee Recognition: Firefighters

Fire Chief Jared Williams and the crews of Engine 7 and Rescue 5 were honored for saving a citizen’s life on April 12, 2025. Ratliff described how firefighters cleared the patient’s airway, administered chest compressions, and established vascular access for cardiac medication. Rescue 5 arrived and the combined crews instituted “breakthrough CPR,” rotating the compressor about every two minutes to prevent the drop in compression quality that research and field experience show occurs with fatigue. The coordinated effort produced a return to a normal “sinus rhythm,” and by the time the ambulance took over, the patient had a stable heart rhythm and was breathing.

Chief Williams connected the successful outcome to departmental changes implemented last year: instead of the typical biennial CPR refresher, Lawton Fire now conducts quarterly CPR competencies so providers remain sharp on current protocols and team choreography. He also credited newer cardiac monitors purchased with COVID-relief funds, noting they’ve become integral to both treatment and post-event care. Cardiologists at Comanche County Memorial Hospital now request and review the pre-hospital rhythm data the department uploads when field ROSC is achieved, allowing earlier cath-lab decision-making and improving downstream patient outcomes.

Since January 1, the department’s return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) rate for

out-of-hospital cardiac arrests stands at 32.6%, which the Chief stated is significantly above the national average (roughly the low-to-mid-20s). He emphasized the goal is “not to be good, but to be the best,” and said the numbers continue trending upward with practice and equipment improvements. The Mayor added that these same firefighters were back in the field two weeks later performing flood rescues, and the Council joined the audience in extended applause for the crews’ professionalism and lifesaving work.

4. Young Achiever Award

Fifth-grader Serenity from Crosby Park Elementary was honored as the Young Achiever Award recipient. She won the regional Martin Luther King Jr. essay competition for her essay on environmental stewardship and organized a schoolwide cleanup effort.

5. Clean Sweep Award

The Clean Sweep Award was presented to Jones Construction Group for its consistent volunteer efforts in litter cleanup along city roadways. The Mayor praised the group’s quarterly participation, emphasizing that their actions helped keep Lawton clean and welcoming. The company representatives received applause and expressed appreciation for the recognition.

Proclamation

6. Proclamation for National Police Week 2025

Mayor Booker read a detailed proclamation recognizing National Police Week (May 11–17, 2025) and Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), honoring law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Chief James Smith accepted the proclamation, noting that 146 officers had died nationwide in the past year and three in Oklahoma. He thanked the council for its continued recognition and asked citizens to keep officers in their prayers. The Mayor encouraged the community to do the same, emphasizing the importance of supporting local law enforcement.

7. Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Members of the Race Relations Commission accepted a proclamation declaring May as Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The Mayor highlighted the rich cultural contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

8. Proclamation of Civil Emergency

The Mayor read aloud a Proclamation of Civil Emergency issued jointly with the Mayor Pro Tem pursuant to Lawton City Code. The proclamation cited extensive flooding, property damage, and infrastructure strain between April 25 and May 5, 2025. The declaration enabled the City Manager to access emergency funds and seek federal disaster assistance. Mayor Booker and Mayor Pro Tem Warren both signed the document, formally enacting the proclamation effective May 13, 2025.

Reports: Mayor/City Council

City Manager Ratliff reminded residents about the rescheduled citywide “Trash Off” cleanup event at McMahon Auditorium parking lot on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Councilman Smith thanked all city employees for their teamwork during the flooding.

Councilman Hampton encouraged citizens to attend “Food Truck Tuesday” at the Farmers Market and to participate in the Trash Off by bringing hard-to-dispose items such as tires.

Councilwoman Williams thanked Public Works for repairing potholes quickly, reminded citizens that flood debris can be placed curbside for pickup, and provided PSO’s outage hotline for residents using medical devices. She also reminded the public to observe Memorial Day on May 26.

Councilman Warren echoed praise for staff and reminded residents that property owners remain responsible for mowing the grass on both sides of their sidewalks.

Audience Participation

Lawton citizens who have completed a Request to Speak Form and wish to address business not listed on the agenda may step forward at this time.

To ensure compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, the Mayor and Council will receive comments but will NOT engage in direct responses. However, they may refer matters to the appropriate department or individual for further consideration and follow-up action.

To participate, speakers must submit a Request to Speak Form to the City Clerk and reside within the Lawton city limits. Each speaker is allotted 3 minutes, with a maximum of 9 minutes per topic, and Audience Participation is limited to 30 minutes total. All participants are expected to follow the Rules of Decorum as outlined in Council Policy 1-6.

Cindy McIntyre requested that the City establish a policy prohibiting local police from assisting federal immigration enforcement. She cited national incidents and urged the council to protect residents from what she described as inhumane immigration raids. The Mayor thanked her for her comments.

Consent Agenda

The following items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion. Should discussion be desired on an item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda prior to action and considered separately.

Motion by Randy Warren, Second by RL Smith, to approve the consent agenda as presented with the exception of pulling items 29 and 31 for discussion. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

9. Consider the following tort claim recommended for approval: Peyton

Davidson in the amount of \$62,500.00, and approve a resolution authorizing the filing of a friendly suit and confessing judgment in said amount.

Resolution 25-139

10. Consider the following three (3) damage claims recommended for denial: Trevor Doan in the amount of \$2,000.00, Damacio Ruiz in the amount of \$3,840.41, and Bianca Viggiani in the amount of \$6,043.00.
11. Consider approving the renewal of the contract with Zurich to provide Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and Loss of Use coverage for City of Lawton employees, effective July 1, 2025, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract.
12. Consider approving a contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma to provide a healthcare coverage package (i.e. medical and vision) to eligible City of Lawton employees and eligible retirees. To provide Group Life, AD&D, Short-term and Long-term Disability, Accident, Critical Illness and MD Live to eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2025, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contracts.
13. Consider approving the contract with Delta Dental to provide dental insurance to eligible City of Lawton General employees, eligible Retirees and Police employees.
14. Consider renewing a contract with Colonial Life, to include any floor amendments that may be necessary, to provide the following coverages; Life Insurance, Term Life, Cancer and Confinement Indemnity Insurance effective July 1, 2025, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the renewal contract.
15. Consider renewing the contract with PVCS Primary Vision Care Services, Inc. to provide vision insurance coverage to eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2025 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract.

16. Consider renewing an agreement with MASA, Medical Transport Solutions for Medical Transportation Coverage for eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2025, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contracts.

17. Consider allowing employees to continue, or start, coverage with Nationwide for group voluntary pet insurance coverage to eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2025.

18. Consider renewing an agreement with Aetna for Employee Assistance Program Services to eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2025 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the renewal.

19. Consider renewing the contract with LegalShield to provide legal and identity protection to eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2025, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contracts.

20. Consider renewing a contract with NueSynergy for services to our employees. Services include Health Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA), Dependent Care FSA and COBRA. The contract will become effective July 1, 2025. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the renewal contract.

21. Consider and take action approving the plans, specifications and authorize advertisement for the construction of the PU2505 FY25 High Maintenance Sewer Line Replacement Project to replace approximately 8,000 LF of high-maintenance sewer lines throughout the city.

22. Consider renewing a professional services agreement for bond counsel services with Floyd & Driver Law Firm, PLLC, of Norman, Oklahoma.

23. Consider extending contract (CL24-014) Mowing and Litter Control to Lawn Wizards of Lawton, OK and Sonrise Adult & Teen Challenge of Cache, OK.

24. Consider and take action extending the contract (CL23-018), Liquid Aluminum Sulfate, a chemical used to treat water for portable use, to Chameleon Industries, Inc. of Mesquite, Tx.
25. Consider awarding contract RFPCL25-023 Utility Billing and Invoice Mailing Services to Matrix Imaging Solutions, LLC of Coppell, TX.
26. Consider approval of Project Participation Agreement and Temporary Construction Easement from Cameron University for the SW 38th Street Project from SW Lee Boulevard to W. Gore Boulevard.
27. Consider and approve Amendment No. 1 to the WWTP Phase II Design contract with Garver, LLC, PU2103 in the amount of \$403,063 to design Primary Clarifiers rehabilitation as part of Phase II wastewater treatment plant Phase II upgrades.
28. Consider and take action in approving Change Order no. 2 reducing the contract by \$1,768,378.00, accepting the project in the final contract amount of \$7,481,406.00, and placing the maintenance bond into effect for the 2023 CIPP Liner Project PU2307 as constructed by SAK Construction, LLC.
29. Consider approving Change Order No. 1 on Project EN2108P1-McMahon Auditorium Addition and Renovation-Phase I in the amount of \$725,428.92 which will increase the contract value(GMP) from \$7,333,138.45 to \$8,059,595.65 and adds 70 calendar days to the contract.

Jason Poudrier, Arts and Humanities, explained that Change Order No. 1 for the McMahon Auditorium project was necessary to address unexpected asbestos discovered in ceiling structures and to replace outdated boilers. The increase of \$725,428.92 would restore the project to its original budgeted estimate of \$8 million.

Max Sasseen McMahon Auditorium Authority, explained that the boilers were simply an oversight and should have been included in the original price. The asbestos was not found until demolition began. He emphasized the importance of moving the project along in a timely manner.

Councilman Gill requested to table the item for review of documentation, including asbestos testing and boiler specifications.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Sherene L Williams, to table for further review for max of two weeks. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

30. Consider approving Change Order No. 1 with a deduction of \$284,168.38 for Project EN2004A – City Hall Renovation, as constructed by Willowbrook, changing the contract total from \$7,587,302 to \$7,303,133.62.

31. Consider accepting the project and releasing retainage in the amount \$365,156.68 for EN2004A - City Hall Renovation and placing the Maintenance Bond in effect pending completion of the items, as detailed in the Engineer's Final Report.

Councilman Gil pulled this item, citing incomplete contract obligations by the contractor, Willowbrook General Contractors. He expressed concern about delays and lack of responsiveness.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Bob Weger, to table indefinitely. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

32. Consider approving Amendment No. 4 in the amount of \$40,311.11 for MA+ Architecture, LLC for Engineering Project EN2004A City Hall Renovation, which compensates MA+ Architecture, LLC for additional services not included in the original contract fee.

33. Approve and support recommendation to relocate "Ned Shepler" plaque to a new, more appropriate, location within Shepler Park and clear a path for an ADA Ramp, improving Shepler Park by increasing its accessibility.

34. Consider determining the actual costs of the dismantling and removal of dilapidated buildings and other expenses that may be necessary in conjunction with same by approving invoices for demolition of properties as required by State Statue 11-22-112.4 for properties located at 1311 SW 9th Street, 1601 NW Andrews Avenue, 502 SW Washington Avenue and 1214 SW A Avenue.

35. Consider approving appointments to boards and commissions.

36. Consider approving the minutes of the April 22, 2025 Council Meeting

Business Items

37. Discussion and possible action with respect to a resolution approving and authorizing the Lawton Metropolitan Area Airport Authority to incur indebtedness by the issuance of its Revenue Note Series 2022A (AMT)(the “Note”) and approving an amendment to the Lawton Metropolitan Airport Authority Revenue Note, Series 2022 (ATM) in the amount not to exceed \$9,350,000; waiving competitive bidding for the sale of the Note and approving the sale of said Note to Arvest Bank; and containing other provisions relating thereto.

Tim Wilson explained that this item involved reissuing an existing note for the Lawton Metropolitan Airport Authority. The original 2022 note had expired, and the Authority was seeking approval to reissue it in an amount not to exceed \$9,350,000 with Arvest Bank. He clarified that this was not new debt but a renewal, and the Airport Authority had already held a public hearing and approved the measure. Bond counsel Lynn Driver and Jared Davidson with the Airport Authority were present to answer any questions.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Allan Hampton, to Approve Resolution 25-140. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

38. Consider approving a Resolution fixing the amount of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025, to mature each year; fixing the time and place the bonds are to be sold; designating a paying agent/registrar; approving the preliminary official statement and distribution thereof; ratifying and confirming a continuing disclosure agreement; authorizing the clerk to give notice of said sale as required by law and fixing other details of the issue.

Chris Gander, BOKFS presented the annual issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2025, for \$3,150,000. He explained that these bonds are part of the ongoing issuances tied to the 2017 and 2023 voter-approved ad valorem programs. The purpose of the resolution was to fix the time, date, and place for the sale of the bonds and to maintain a consistent tax rate. The Mayor clarified that the bonds were related to the 2017 authorization.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Randy Warren, to Approve Resolution 25-141. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

39. Receive a report from the H.E.L.P. Advocacy Center of Southwest Oklahoma on its FY 2025 activities and FY 2026 plan, and consider approving a Limited Support Agreement between the City of Lawton and H.E.L.P. in the amount of \$10,000.00 to support the identification and operation of a safe, trauma-informed space where sexual assault victims can receive coordinated, multi-agency care. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement.

Ashley Chapman, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator for Marie Detty New Directions and Chair of the Comanche County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), presented the annual report on the HELP Advocacy Center of Southwest Oklahoma.

She reported significant progress, including establishment of a trauma-informed Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Center, collaboration with Cameron University and local partners, and creation of a 24/7 hotline. Chapman shared that 91 exams were conducted locally this year, and 144 since the center opened in October 2023. She thanked the City for its support and requested a \$10,000 limited support agreement for FY2026 to help fund a new, larger location.

Council members praised the program's success. City Manager Ratliff, who serves on the board, publicly commended Chapman's leadership. Chapman announced that she would soon depart for a new position as a Victim Advocate with the U.S. Air Force.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by RL Smith, to Approve a Limited Support Agreement with the HELP Advocacy Center SWOK in the amount of \$10,000.00. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

40. Consider approving an Ordinance pertaining to Business by creating Sections 7-30-1-3007 & 7-30-1-3008, Division 7-30-1, Article 7-30, Chapter 7, Lawton City Code, 2015, by creating the same expiration date for Tattoo Artists, Body Piercers and Parlors, creating the requirement for the permittee who holds the parlor permit is responsible for the artists to maintain their permit as well, providing for severability, providing for codification, and establishing an effective date of July 1, 2025.

Larry Parks, Community Enrichment Director, introduced an ordinance aligning expiration dates for tattoo and body piercing permits and making parlor owners responsible for ensuring artists' permits remain valid. He explained that the ordinance would streamline enforcement.

Motion by RL Smith, Second by Sherene L Williams, to approve the ordinance, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

Interim City Attorney Timothy Wilson read the title into the record: ORDINANCE 25-24 AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO BUSINESS BY CREATING SECTIONS 7-30-1-3007 AND 7-30-1-3008; DIVISION 7-30-1, ARTICLE 7-30; CHAPTER 7, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015; BY CREATING THE SAME EXPIRATION DATE FOR TATTOO

ARTISTS, BODY PIERCERS AND PARLORS, CREATING THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE PERMITTEE WHO HOLDS THE PARLOR PERMIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARTISTS TO MAINTAIN THEIR PERMIT AS WELL, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JULY 1, 2025.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Staff Reports

41. Receive a report on construction delays at the Aquatics Center

Larry Parks, Community Enrichment Director, presented a detailed update on the Lawton Aquatic Center construction, now approximately 73% complete. He attributed a two-week delay to persistent rainfall and flooding that impeded soil compaction and concrete pouring. Parks reported that contractors were now working 12-hour days, six days a week, to recover lost time. The new estimated opening date was July 18, 2025. Council members expressed understanding and praised the diligence and quality of work being done despite weather setbacks.

Executive Session

Motion by George Gill Second by Allan Hampton to enter into executive session. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

The City Council remained in executive session from 7:31PM to 8:41PM.

Motion by Allan Hampton Second by George Gill to return to open session. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

42. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss pending action related to the settlement of United States of America v. City of Lawton, Case No. CIV-80-2148-E in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

No action taken.

43. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the seven (7) pending actions in Comanche County District Court, each titled City of Lawton vs. Great Plains Improvement Foundation, et al., Case No. CJ-2025-31, CJ-2025-32, CJ-2025-

33, CJ-2025-34, CJ-2025-35, CJ-2025-36, CJ-2025-37 , and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Motion by George Gill, Second by RL Smith, to approve the settlement agreement and release for the seven (7) pending actions in Comanche County District Court, each titled City of Lawton vs. Great Plains Improvement Foundation, ET. AL., Case No.CJ-25-31, CJ-25-32, CJ-25-33, CJ-25-34, CJ-25-35, CJ-25-36, CJ-25-37, settling for the amount of \$174,401.98, and releasing Great Plains Improvement Foundation, from any and all future claims related to the homes previously mortgaged by the City of Lawton. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

44. Pursuant to Section 307B.2, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss negotiations of the FYE 2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Local 1882, and the City of Lawton, and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

No action taken.

Adjournment

The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, notification to the City Clerk at (580) 581-3305 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if interpreters for the deaf (signing) is not the necessary accommodation."

Motion by George Gill, Second by Allan Hampton, to adjourn the meeting. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:49PM.