City of Lawton

City Council

Minutes

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

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | **2:00 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 special meeting was called to order by Mayor Stan Booker. Councilman Bob Weger delivered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Present:
Councilwoman- Ward 1 Mary Ann Hankins-Booker
Councilman- Ward 2 RL Smith
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
Councilman - Ward 4 George Gill

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

Unfinished Business

1. 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.

Scott Vaughn, project manager, stated that in March the Council approved use of Engineering professional services funds for additional asbestos abatement at McMahon Auditorium. Subsequent work identified additional asbestos in ceiling areas and in piping in the attic, necessitating a construction change order to replace the affected ceiling and perform related work. The change order applies to the Construction Manager at Risk contract with CDBL, Inc. The architect, Engineering staff, and CDBL representatives were present for questions. Vaughn requested a floor amendment due to a typographical error in the agenda memorandum; Vaughn stated the correct change-order amount is $726,457.20, consistent with the change-order document in the packet.

Mayor Booker noted that he spoke with Councilman George Gill about this item, and Councilman Gill was in agreement.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by RL Smith, to Approve Change Order No. 1 on Project EN2108P1 with a floor amendment to change amount to $726,457.20. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

2. Direct the City Manager to develop and implement a temporary roof repair plan for the Museum of the Great Plains pending permanent repairs through CIP funding.

Mayor Booker stated that the purpose of this item was to provide clear direction and immediate next steps for addressing leaks at the Museum of the Great Plains. He noted his understanding that a prior offer from the City Manager or Deputy City Manager to arrange temporary roof repairs had been declined, after which significant rainfall occurred and related posts appeared on social media. The Mayor stated that, to avoid further delay, the City Manager should take control of the situation and make decisions in the best interest of the City and the building, while permanent repairs proceed later through CIP funding.

Motion by Sherene L Williams, Second by Bob Weger, to Direct City Manager to develop temporary roof repair plan for Museum of the Great Plains pending permanent repairs through CIP funding. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, RL Smith, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Business Items

3. Consider the FY 2026 City of Lawton proposed operating preliminary budget and take appropriate action if necessary, to include making amendments to the preliminary budget to be incorporated in the final budget that Council

considers.

Rebecca Johnson, Finance Director, stated that budgets are management's best estimates and guidelines, while audits provide factual evidence of actual results. She noted that the City's budget uses fund accounting and the audit uses government-wide accounting, and that Crawford & Associates performs the City's audit work. She reported that three audits were completed in the past 12 months, bringing the City current. She attributed prior delays to the City's 2021 transition to a new operating system and 2022 transition to a new financial institution, which created disruptions delaying completion of the FY 2022–FY 2024 audits. Comparing audits to budgets, she stated FY 2023 was under-budgeted by $14 million, FY 2024 was under-budgeted by $18 million, and FY 2025 was over-budgeted by $691,000. She stated the FY 2026 preliminary budget is timely and the figures can be relied upon, acknowledging some tight areas. In response to a question from the Mayor, she said "under-budgeted" means the City believed at budget time that it had less than later shown under government-wide audit accounting. She referenced a peer-city filing-timeliness summary provided to Council and noted that COVID-era extensions may have affected peers' timing. The Mayor remarked on the plan to be on time by December 31 and observed the City had not been on time since 2011; Johnson confirmed the 2011 reference and that FY 2024 had been filed.

Kristen Huntley, Deputy Finance Director, summarized revisions since the April 30 preliminary budget book: increasing projected water revenue from Goodyear by $92,000 (item forthcoming to Council); substituting a Solid Waste enforcement officer for a container maintenance worker (saving $5,200); adding an Animal Welfare adoption/rescue trailer ($65,000); reducing FY 2025 projected expenses by $2.3 million to correct claims in excess of appropriations; deferring a ¾-ton pickup from FY 2025 to FY 2026 (no fund-balance change); deferring Aquatic Center expenses and associated loan proceeds from FY 2025 to FY 2026 due to weather delays; moving certain projected FY 2026 CIP expenditures into FY 2025; and reducing the lobbyist contract by $36,000. She stated that, to align with City Code, the 2.125% CIP sales tax will be recorded in the General Fund and then transferred to the CIP fund; Parks & Recreation revenue is lower because lake proceeds now reside in the Special Revenue Fund per a March 2024 resolution; and there are no known General Fund grants at this time. She noted new swimming-pool revenue projected at $429,000 for the Aquatic Center and that TIF sales and use taxes are now recorded directly in the TIF fund.

For the Lawton Water Authority, Huntley cited increases in water, sewer, and garbage revenues, with other revenues increasing due to loan proceeds. She referenced a $14 million federal grant for the Ellsworth Dam and projected $363 million in loan proceeds. She stated the stormwater and drainage maintenance funds are being combined. Huntley reported a net decrease of 26 positions citywide, with an estimated $1.6 million in savings, and summarized staffing levels of 880 (FY 2023), 857 (FY 2024), 883 (FY 2025), and 857 (FY 2026 proposed). She stated the General Fund operating budget has been reduced to approximately FY 2021 levels, noted impacts from the waiver of Council Policy 4-1 on street-repair lines, described new operating costs for Aquatic

Center chemicals and maintenance, changes in professional and technical services (including funding for an insurance adjuster, the WSB contract for Streets, and a projected insurance-premium increase), and reductions to most out-of-state travel. In the Enterprise Funds, she outlined category-specific increases and decreases and stated that the Oklahoma State Department of Health landfill-fee exposure is projected to decrease from $55,000 (current-year projection) to $25,000 next year due to the rate increase's effect on uncollected amounts. She summarized other-fund changes, including information-technology software and security costs (Tyler financial software and other applications), E911 contractual software expenses, and LIDA loan closing costs.

Regarding capital outlay and capital improvements, Huntley stated General Fund capital outlay is significantly lower year-over-year, with the prior Central Mall roof project accounting for last year's higher level. She listed General Fund items (metal-detector software for the City Manager's Office; lake improvements to be reimbursed by a LIDA note; DataWorks software for the jail; Animal Welfare equipment including a livestock trailer, incinerator, adoption/rescue trailer, and intake center; and Fire fitness equipment per the collective bargaining agreement). For the Enterprise Funds, she listed Water Treatment and Wastewater equipment and projects, including HVAC repair and replacement. She summarized additional items such as the Rogers Lane lighting project (constructed by the City with reimbursement to follow under a grant), rolling-stock lease payments, Cemetery Care purchases, and IT licensing projects (including the second of five payments for police body and dash cameras, a fire-alarm system, and Windows Server/Microsoft SQL Server licensing).

In the 2019 Capital Improvement Program, she referenced allocations including McMahon Auditorium ($6.4 million), Elmer Thomas Park Aquatic Center ($5 million) remaining for next-year invoices, and several water and sewer projects tied to CWSRF/DWSRF loans with projected FY 2026 spending. For Streets and Bridges (G.O. Bonds), she noted placeholder amounts, reported the 11th Street Bridge cost came in lower than expected (approximately $3.1 million), and stated that the savings would free up ad valorem funds for other projects; she also summarized funding status and timing for the 38th Street rehabilitation. In response to a question from the Mayor, Huntley stated expected CIP sales-tax revenue of $31.7 million for the 2.125% sales tax (to be recorded in the General Fund and transferred to CIP) and confirmed that the use tax (just under $5 million) is not included in that figure and would be added. Comments from Councilmembers included appreciation for staff efforts and observations regarding differences between public and private budgeting and the importance of accountability for taxpayer funds. Staff stated no action was required at this meeting and that a public hearing is scheduled for the following Tuesday meeting. The Mayor confirmed the item proceeds without action.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:07PM.