



City of Lawton

CIP Advisory Committee

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

Minutes

Thursday, May 29, 2025

1:30 PM

Lawton City Hall
3rd Floor Conference Room

Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Cross called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. in the 3rd floor conference room of City Hall.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dwight Tanner, Mark Ashton, Jesse Cross, Chris Rabon, Judy Odom, *Scott Hatch, Evan Watson, John Beemer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Wells, Terry Stamper

ALSO PRESENT: Stan Booker, Mayor; Councilman George Gill, Ward 4; Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager; Judy Franco, IT Director; Rebecca Johnson, Finance Director; Larry Parks, Community Enrichment Director; Michael Watrous, Public Works Director; Tammy Branstetter, Sr Deputy City Clerk; Mike Jones, City Engineer; Sneha Dongre, Engineering; Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Utilities Director; Kim McConnell, Lawton Constitution

*Arrived at 1:35PM

Statement of Compliance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 301-314

Chairman Cross confirmed with Branstetter that the meeting notice and agenda were posted by the City Clerk's Office as required by State Law.

Introduction of Guests

Reports

1. Receive a report from the Public Utilities Department regarding the status of CIP Projects.

Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Utilities Director, gave a presentation regarding the status of CIP Projects for the Public Utilities Department.

Whisenhunt said Public Utilities currently has five major project areas underway. The first is

at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, where Phase One of the rehabilitation project is ongoing. We are in the process of starting up the new effluent treatment facility. Financially, the project is about 75% complete, while physical construction is approximately 95% finished. The total cost for Phase One is \$85 million, and we are nearing the completion of this phase.

Whisenhunt discussed the Ellsworth Spillway, which was damaged during the 2015 flooding events. Whisenhunt said we have under contract with McMillen Construction a \$46.4 million project, of which \$11,925,000 are grant funds. The rest of it is funded through Clean Water State Revolving Funds. The notice to proceed with construction is scheduled for next week, so construction will be starting on this project.

Whisenhunt discussed waterline replacement projects. Whisenhunt said we currently have 12 projects under construction across various mapped areas within the City of Lawton. Additionally, three more projects are in the design phase and have not yet gone out for bid. With regard to the projects that we do have under construction, the Cache Road waterline projects are nearing completion. The 12-inch water main is currently in the punch list phase, and the 36-inch water main is about 95% complete. All line work is in, and they're doing final restoration on this project. Once this project is complete, we will be entirely off Cache Road for waterline construction. These projects began at 67th Street and extends to Fort Sill Boulevard.

Chairman Cross asked if there is still a leak on 67th Street.

Whisenhunt said that is not part of this project. That issue involves a water leak in a bore under Cache Road. We had to get the 36-inch main completed so that we could take that line out of service to actually dig up on the north side, pull the pipe out of the casing, put new piping into the casing and reconnect it instead of digging up Cache Road across this area. Whisenhunt noted that this is an internal maintenance project — not a capital improvement project.

Chairman Cross asked how the Council person responsible for that particular ward would know about this.

Whisenhunt said maintenance projects are identified through the Water Distribution Division, which is under Public Utilities. He said right now, they're establishing a street closure and a waterline improvement portal that's separate — it's not part of the public CIP portal.

Judy Frano, IT Director, said this is on our website. If you go to "road maintenance" or "road closures" at the very top of the website, it lists everything and has an interactive map.

Judy Odom asked if 53rd Street between Cache Road and Gore Boulevard is a maintenance issue as well - it's had repeated problems, and right now it's down to two lanes.

Whisenhunt said this is a road construction project, which is an engineering project.

Chairman Cross asked which projects are going on specifically in wards 1, 3, 5 and 7.

Whisenhunt said we've had quite a few projects in this area, including both waterline and major sewer line projects. The 2023 CIP Sewer Line Project was predominately located in Ward 5, beginning on I Avenue around Lee Boulevard, following Numu Creek, and continuing up I Avenue all the way to Sheridan Road. That was a major sewer line improvement project that has been completed. This project is shown under the sewer line replacement project 2307. Subbasins 105, 106, and 107, were on the east side of town. Part of that work involved sewer line projects near 45th Street and Lee Boulevard. We currently have under construction a pipe-bursting project that is predominantly located around the YMCA area, and the other part is up around Baltimore Circle.

Mayor Booker asked Chairman Cross if we're getting his questions answered.

Chairman Cross said some of them.

Mayor Booker said he thinks Chairman Cross's question is what work is going on in Ward 5. The first project is all wastewater treatment, which affects the whole city. The Ellsworth Spillway Project affects the whole city, but it's not in a ward. He asked Whisenhunt if there are any waterline replacement projects located in Ward 5.

Whisenhunt said I don't believe any of those are within Ward 5.

Mayor Booker said there is some sewer line replacement going on in Ward 5, and while he hasn't gotten to the alternate water supply, that will affect the whole city, but it's not specifically in Ward 5. He noted that the format we chose was to go over five projects in each department, and this is what the Committee received.

Whisenhunt said basically, we broke it into five categories, and we've got multiple projects within those five categories. The five categories are: Wastewater Treatment Plant, Ellsworth, Water Line Replacement, Sewer Line Replacement, and Alternate Water Supply.

Ashton said it would help me if I had a readable street map that designated the wards in the city attached to the binder that comes to us.

Mayor Booker said we will have that next time. He noted the map is also online for citizens to look at.

Whisenhunt discussed the Alternate Water Supply project, which will support all of Lawton. Whisenhunt said we have two production wells now that we have drilled, and we have three more under contract to drill. Of the two completed wells, one produces 1.25 million gallons per day, and the other produces 1.5 million gallons per day. We recently completed our second pilot study on water treatability. This last one was a greensand filtration pilot. Both the reverse osmosis (RO) system and the greensand filtration system work very well. But, if

we can keep the iron in solution, then we don't need the greensand filtration.

Ashton asked for an estimate of water usage in Lawton during a given day.

Whisenhunt said the average daily water use between both facilities is a total of about 18 million gallons a day.

Ashton asked if both wells could meet this requirement.

Whisenhunt said no - the two wells we have drilled right now we meet about three million gallons a day. We've got three more under contract, and we believe those three will take us to about five and a half to six million gallons of water a day.

Mayor Booker noted that this is a 25-30% increase in capacity.

Whisenhunt said yes, in available water for treatment.

Mayor Booker asked if the other two plants are producing at capacity.

Whisenhunt said no - both plants are producing well at less than half capacity.

Mayor Booker said so we have lots of capacity - the problem is when we have a drought, we need more water.

Whisenhunt noted that we've had lots of rain, so all of our lakes are full. Waurika Lake is approximately 125% full. Our total lake levels are around 115%. Waurika is releasing water, and so is Lawtonka.

Odom asked if we ever sell water.

Mayor Booker said I don't believe so, but we would have to really consider it, because once you start selling water, you have to continue to sell water, which puts us in a problem every few decades.

Whisenhunt said when the lakes get dry, then you would still have to sell that water to whoever you have under contract.

Odom noted that Texas is really struggling with water.

Whisenhunt said we have a total of 35 active projects under construction right now.

Mayor Booker said what we agreed to last time was to show the top five projects, and then you can go to the portal, which is updated approximately every two weeks, and you can look at that as every citizen can. The goal is for everybody to have transparency at their fingertips.

Whisenhunt said we have a number of projects under design. The 35 construction projects under construction total \$340 million.

No action was taken on this item.

2. Receive a report from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding the status of CIP Projects.

Larry Parks, Community Enrichment Director, gave a report regarding the status of CIP projects for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Parks noted that the handout provided has six projects on there, and of those six, there are 19 active CIP projects for us. The first step was the youth sports facility—the complex—and right now, what I can tell you is that it's in the negotiation phase and moving forward. No shell is in the ground yet, but the site has been approved, and we're looking forward to continuing progress on that project.

Odom asked where the site is located.

Parks said East Side Park.

Mayor Booker said just west of MacArthur Senior High and Junior High, there's a city-owned park, and it has school land on, I think, two sides of it, and they've made an agreement with the school to use that and to work with the school for the facility.

Odom said it's a great location.

Parks said the Boardwalk and Amphitheater is also moving forward. We're in the design phase. If you look down at the bottom portion of that slide, you should be able to see where we're at right now in the schematics. Basically, we're designing contract documents right now—that's where we're at with this project. If you go inside the portal, you will see the photos that are on the slide deck with some depiction of what is forthcoming as far as this project. Again, we're in the design phase and moving forward.

Beemer said I used to do a lot of events in Elmer Thomas Park. And the same reason I never used that stage back there—it looks to me, in the description here, that it's going to be facing the same exact logistical and operational problems backstage that I was facing when I tried to do events there, because there's nowhere to load in or out. If you do a multi-element concert or something like that, and you've got an element right there where you have to move the bands in and out—most of the time, these guys are, let's call them amateurs. They don't have a system they follow. Their buddy shows up with a hatchback, and they just bail everything out. You cannot get in and out of that place effectively, because most of our events encompass the park as a whole. You can't move through that place, and there's nowhere behind the stage to go out—say, to the northwest—because you're going into a lake. So it's tough, and I didn't know if that was going to be addressed or not.

Parks said all of that's going to move forward, and you will be able to access it in the plan. Again, these are all conceptual. You will see that the design for the new amphitheater has a lot of access to it, and it will move forward.

Parks said the aquatics center is 85% complete. The houses are well on their way — it has a roof, brick and motor going around it, plumbing, and they put in some of the ceiling. Regarding the lazy river, the slides are in, most of the plumbing is in, and they're pouring decking for shades and things around the outside of it. It's mainly fixture and finishing work going on right now in that area, and with the rain, it continues to slow down progress.

Chairman Cross inquired about restrooms at the facility.

Parks said on the male's side, there will be seven urinals and five toilets. On the female side, there will be 12 toilets. The capacity of the water is 709 people in the water at one time, and the capacity of the bath house right now is 86 total.

Regarding park improvements, Parks said we are finishing up round two of park improvements. You will see that Skyline is complete, and Hunter Hills is complete. Right now, we are in the middle of working on Kid Zone, or 38th Street Park, and we're probably about 30 percent complete. We expect completion of it by mid-July as well, and it's a big project. We will complete the remainder of the parks. We did a park in each ward for park improvements each year, so we do have four left over that will be completed, finishing up with Lee West.

Chairman Cross asked what we are going to do about telephones. He asked if there is a station there.

Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager, asked if he's referring to an emergency phone. He said he's not aware of any.

Chairman Cross inquired about the availability of aid stations.

Burk said if it's during an event, we would typically have personnel there on site to provide all that kind of stuff. On a normal day, there wouldn't be anyone there.

Ashton asked if there will be lifeguards.

Parks said yes — we have an aquatics staff of 24 total.

Mike Jones, City Engineer, said on the first aid, I think we're still at the point where we could address that with JD—just basic first aid kits and measures to be provided in the concessions building, so they'd be available anytime that building is in use or open. I can verify that, and if it's not already included, we can suggest it.

Parks said I will tell you that the aquatics center does have an aid station.

Burk said that is something that we could install in the park in various places—like the Holiday House, maybe over near the Miracle Field area, and around the park near the playground. I don't know about a call box, but maybe an aid station.

Tanner said it used to be less than four minutes that the fire department would respond if someone gets hurt and calls 911.

Burk said I think it would definitely be less than four minutes to the park, considering where the new public safety center is.

Tanner said most people have cell phones, so if someone gets hurt they can call 911. Probably the first responders from the fire department are going to be there within at least five minutes.

Burk noted that we now have a full-time staff that's assigned to that facility, and so there will be people on site daily, I believe, that can help address these issues.

Parks discussed lake improvements. Parks said the lake improvements are a special fund — it's not CIP funded. We put it in there so the citizens can see and track the improvements we do out there. Those funds are garnered at the lakes and the projects that are funded through this special fund are all at the lakes. We did upgrades to some campgrounds, and there's work going on with the parking lots and pavement.

Chairman Cross asked if there will be any tax increases.

Mayor Booker said there will be no tax increases on any of this.

Tanner said I think the vast majority of these CIP projects are tax increases, but they're tax increases that the citizens went out and voted on.

Mayor Booker said they don't raise the rate of tax, they extend the allowable period of collection. So, the citizens have voted to extend the 2 1/8 cent collection to 2040. 1% of that they voted to extend indefinite, which doesn't mean forever — it means until they change their mind. And that 1% is divided up by one half cent for water, sewer, and infrastructure—which is where Rusty gets a good portion of his funds—and a quarter of a cent for streets, and a quarter of a cent for parks. Those are indefinite, once again, until the citizens vote to stop them.

Burk said the improvements at the lake are all in accordance with the new council policy. All that funding comes from revenue generated from the lakes. It's reinvested back into infrastructure improvements, so the people using that facility are actually contributing to the upkeep and maintenance of all that infrastructure.

Mayor Booker said per the council policy, all funds raised at the lakes should stay at the lakes, and the lake should move towards self-sufficiency. They're not there. They are supplemented by the general fund. But the theory is that when you have a park in town

that's used by a lot of citizens, then it generally comes from the general fund. At the lakes, we ascertained that less than half of the people renting spaces at the lakes were citizens of Lawton, and the lake recreation was being supplemented by all citizens for less than one percent of the people that make it out there. So, the council adopted a policy that the lakes should be self-supporting, or move toward self-supporting, and that all money generated at the lakes should not be absorbed into the general fund. We were able to take the increases that we've put in place for rental fees—both in boathouses and RVs—and generate three million dollars. We took out a note for ten years, and that will pay for three million dollars' worth of improvements, paid for by the people that use them.

3. Receive a report from the Public Works Department regarding the status of CIP Projects.

Michael Watrous, Public Works Director, gave a report regarding the status of CIP projects for the Public Works Department.

Watrous said we have three CIP projects. The first project is for landfill cells six and seven. Construction on those cells finished in January of this year. Unfortunately, with the historic rain event we had in April, those cells flooded. We are currently working through that issue. Some things have changed since this report. When we sent this report, it was the beginning of May, and the rainfall event happened toward the end of April. Since then, more information that has come fourth. We won't be seeking CIP funds for the repair of this. Instead, we will be seeking emergency funds for the repair of the cells. So, although the report says we're seeking CIP funds, we are actually going to request emergency funds for that.

Watrous discussed the Stormwater Master Plan. Watrous said we met toward the end of April—April 25—which was right before the rainfall occurred. We had a workshop about the Stormwater Master Plan. On the map here, you can see the different dots; those are pointed to the trouble areas being focused on in this master plan update. We met during that workshop to figure out the best way forward with these areas. We're due to have that plan presented at another big meeting in September, where everything will be fully fleshed out and, hopefully, wrapped up. So, hopefully, next year we'll have that master plan updated.

Tanner noted that people are throwing their couches and debris into the different creeks and canals that we have, and it stops them up. He asked what type of system is in place to monitor this.

Watrous said we have a stormwater hotline that anybody can call if they notice any kind of pollution. That number should be posted at any street crossing—or any major street crossing—over creeks or watershed areas. So places like Wolf Creek and Numu Creek all have those signs along them, at least on major roads. If any citizen notices illegal dumping or any kind of pollutants being deposited into the water, they are free to call. It's a 24/7 number—someone will pick up that number, no matter what time of day that they see it happening, and we can go ahead and address it from there. That's the active part of how we take care of it. The passive part is that our drainage maintenance crews go out about once every two months and check every section of drainage creeks in the area. They

usually mow, take care of the grass, and remove any debris they find. We also have our stormwater management - Cam. He really started in the November timeframe with "Stream Clean Sunday," which happens on the last Sunday of every month. He picks out a portion of a stream somewhere in the City of Lawton, and a bunch of volunteers come out to clean that area. We've removed several hundreds of tons of trash from the streams because of that. Watrous noted that we still offer bulk waste pickup once a month. That is still curbside — just put out your bulk waste four cubic yards, and we'll pick that up from the city side, free of charge.

Watrous discussed street maintenance. Street maintenance—again, that was not funded this year, so we do not have any ongoing project or any ongoing work with street maintenance with the CIP as far as this year is concerned. For next year's requested funds, we're waiting for the budget to be finalized, and once we have that finalized budget, we'll be able to tell how much is allotted for next year for street maintenance.

Chairman Cross asked what is considered street maintenance.

Mayor Booker clarified that June 30th is the end of this year. July 1, the new budget starts, and it was voted on Tuesday, and in that is 105 mill and overlay projects that are considered maintenance if they're capital maintenance. They're too big to be a maintenance project, but they're not replacing a road. So they're considered maintenance with their capital maintenance. So when he says there's no maintenance, that's not exactly communicated correctly. There are 105 road projects, and that's mill and overlays — that doesn't include the major rebuilds in the 2025-2026 budget.

Watrous said I apologize for misspeaking on that. So the maintenance on this is the Capital Improvement Fund maintenance, which is typically going to be a million dollars a year—that is what was voted on. And that's going to be taking care of your sealing of your roads, your crack sealing, restriping your roads, crosswalks, things along those lines — that kind of maintenance is what this CIP is for.

Chairman Cross inquired about flushing of fire hydrants. He asked if this is the same.

Watrous said that does not come out of street maintenance — that would be under both the fire department and water department.

Whisenhunt said the fire department flushes them, and water distribution maintains them. That's unbilled water loss, and it's approximately 40,000 gallons every time you flush the fire hydrant.

Chairman Cross asked if it goes back to the system.

Watrous said no — once it's out of that, it goes into the stormwater system—through the lakes, creeks, and everything else—and exits the city that way. So, theoretically, it goes down East Cache Creek into Waurika Lake. Theoretically, some of it would get pumped back if the Waurika pumps get turned back on, but that would be the reuse portion of it, and

it would be minimal, if anything.

4. Receive a report from the Engineering Department regarding the status of CIP Projects.

Mike Jones, City Engineer, gave a report regarding the status of CIP projects for the Engineering Department.

Jones said we'll talk about five of Engineering's key projects at the moment. Some of these are Parks and Recreation projects that we're managing. Larry's already touched on a few of those highlights. We'll start out, again, with the Aquatic Center at Elmer Thomas Park. It's a Ward 2 project. The report goes into a little description there—more depth into some of the features that you may not be familiar with on the project. We are still currently on track to be completed by July 18th. As you're aware, we've had some historic rain events, and there have also been some PSO issues to overcome there in the park. The crews have been battling back, getting the work done, working hard, and fighting through some things. We're on track for July 18th currently. One question that has come up—and this applies to every city building, facility, event, or what have you—is the issue of ADA accessibility, which also applies in the case of the Aquatic Center and the attractions there too. In the case of the pools, they're fitted with wheelchair lifts, like you see at hotels, that sort of thing. Really, the only thing that accessibility doesn't apply to is the waterslides in this case — there's just absolutely no way to do that in some of these cases. It's moving along well. We'll keep these photos updated on the portal for all the projects as they move along.

Jones said the next project is West Gore Boulevard. You may have noticed that project was completed just in the last couple of weeks. It was a pretty extensive widening project—now five lanes with bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides. It's been very well received. We do have some pedestrian traffic out there walking both directions, east and west, to various attractions and buildings in the area.

Beemer asked if there is anything that can be done about the manholes in the westbound lanes on Gore Boulevard between 67th Street and 82nd Street. He said this is pretty rough.

Jones said we worked through some of those issues and got them the best that we could with the contractor out there. If the areas around those manholes continue to be problematic, then we'll probably work those out with our Streets Department.

Beemer said there's one place they might want to look at coming out of Crystal Hills. To the west is fine, but when you come to that intersection, there's a block wall, or concrete wall, that jets out a little bit. With the way they moved that stop sign and so fourth, you can't see. You literally have to lean forward in your car to look to the east to see that you're not going to hit somebody coming down the sidewalk.

Jones said we'll double-check that. This was an ODOT cooperative project, so I would think that's been checked and verified.

Regarding the Amphitheater and Boardwalk Project – Jones said Larry talked about that

one a little bit. There's about 2.2 million on the project. This is probably the most high-profile project that we're currently working on. It's under design, and the design is going well. The picture you see there is a simulated picture from the Amphitheater. It's going to be a really amazing project when it's finished.

Jones said the next project will be the Animal Welfare Building. If you've been tracking that one, then you're aware that this has changed locations, and we're now focused on reusing and repurposing an existing city building—which was the old Fire Department Training Building at 17th and Lee. Somebody had a really good idea to repurpose that building, and it's worked out really well. It's going to be much better in terms of visibility and access for the public. It's currently under design, and I think we're nearing completion on that design. We're down to working on some of the smaller issues now.

Jones discussed the McMahon Auditorium. Jones said this project is currently under construction with local contractor, CDBL. Again, it's a project that's going to significantly improve and highlight an older existing building around town. It brings it into compliance with modern ADA renovations and fitments. New heat and air systems are being installed that are going to be much more comfortable for the public. We're currently about 20% completed in construction.

Jones noted that all this information will be available on the portal. You'll be able to search it by project, location, wards, or anything else that's available.

Business Items

1. Consider approving the minutes of the January 20, 2025, meeting.

A copy of the minutes from the January 20, 2025, meeting may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon request.

Motion by Tanner, **Second** by Beemer, to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2025, meeting as presented. **AYE:** Tanner, Hatch, Cross, Ashton, Watson, Beemer, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Receive an update regarding the status of the CIP Portal and provide staff with feedback regarding the portal.

Judy Franco, IT Services, demonstrated the CIP Public Portal, which can be found on the city's website at: <https://colgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/9fb579981b9641a1ae35b21ddfa5b1ec>.

Franco said each of the different departments have entered what they have as far as project milestones and updated photos. So you can, as a citizen, go to the portal, search it by a number, and you can even actually search it by a name, and it will bring up the project that references it.

Franco said at our last meeting, we discussed changes to the portal, and that's why I

worked with Garver to actually go for a different way of presenting it to the public. Franco presented a slideshow depicting sample images of the changes. Franco said option one is a little bit cleaner look—this is what you'd see if you were to go directly into the portal. If you search in the project list on this option, it gives you a lot more information. If you wanted to see the statuses, those are still there, but we changed it to where it's showing project milestones. So as things come in—like your groundbreaking, or when a project moves from budgeted to construction, or anything like that—it lists all the milestones, with the help of each department entering that information into the system. So we're working toward that. You still have the same information, like the funding source and your charts. One of the things that the current portal doesn't do is when you zoom to ward, you zoom into the ward, but you wanted to see where the project list tailors down to all those projects that are within that ward — so that's what we're working towards too. That will be in our next version of it. So that's what we're working on in the back end. But I wanted to present what it would look like so I can get a little bit of feedback if that's what you're going for as far as information.

Mayor Booker said I think what I understood you to say is you don't have it to the point yet where someone could click on their ward and then see all the projects that are going on in the ward, and then click on a project and get updated on that project. What you're telling us, I think, is that you'll have that at the next meeting.

Franco said yes — that's what I'm working for.

Hatch said

I want to make sure I understand what the money is telling me in these snapshots. At some point, maybe when you finish the presentation, we can go to this PR 2102 project, and we can go through those numbers, and you can explain to me what these things represent.

Franco discussed the second formatting option. Franco said you'll have your list of projects. This is what it would look like if you filtered it down. Here's the project, general project information. Your funding source is down here, and then over here is your project milestones. Then it actually zooms into the map, and you'll have your photos. So it gives you a little bit more real estate to where you can actually go through the photos and scroll through. I'm wanting to make it more user-friendly.

Odom asked who's going to be using this.

Franco said anybody in the public — this will be forward-facing.

Chairman Cross asked if it will be accessible with cell phones.

Franco said yes. When you access it through your cell phone, behind the scenes it'll recognize it and go to a mobile app. So it's a more confined space, but it's easy to read.

Hatch said I sure don't care for the project budget graphing. Number one, I'm colorblind. Trying to figure all that out is almost impossible for me — and I'm not the only one that's color-blind. For me, it's here's how much we budgeted, here's how much we're budgeting in

each of these years and here's how much we spent, and it takes 25% of the page to tell me that. Then it's still difficult, really, to get there from here.

Mayor Booker asked for clarification from Hatch in regard to what he'd want to see.

Hatch said as it relates to a project, what I think is relevant is — how much the project is going to cost; how much we have budgeted for it—using CIP money, or general fund, wherever that money is coming from, and if you want to throw grant money in there, I think that's also helpful; how much we've spent to date; and how much we have left to spend. That's what I would want to know from a finance standpoint in terms of where we are on these projects.

Odom said at the last meeting, we talked about putting a billboard on the east side and the west side that would alert the public that there is this website, and this is what the city's doing with your money. Did we make any progress on that?

Mayor Booker said I don't think we did, and Caitlin is not here, but it seems like what we talked about was having stickers made for every project site to say something about Propel 2040, to promote that this was being paid for by your Propel dollars.

Odom said I think it was just so people that were just driving by could see a sign and say this is where your dollars are going, and if you want to know more, this is the site you can get the information. She asked how the general public is even going to know that it's available.

Mayor Booker said like everything, communication with the general public is very difficult, even through the media — it's so fractured today. If they don't go to our website, they don't know anything about it, but everything is at our website — this is at our website.

Odom said I don't know if I'm the only one, but I'll look at the billboards, and that would target our target area. That would show — and if there was just one on the east side on a major thoroughfare, and one on the west side, maybe rotating from Cache, to Gore, to Lee — just so people like me, who've never looked at this, would say, "Gosh, we're having a water park? Wow, I didn't know anything about that."

Beemer said I can tell you that those ones at Sheridan and Cache, I couldn't tell you what's on them right now — I pass that intersection a dozen times a week, and I couldn't tell you what's on the billboards, because I don't care. But if you put it on a City of Lawton truck that's going by and it's got a banner, or a wrap on the side of a truck, and it's mobilized around the city, I'd see that. If it's on our buses — the LATS buses — you'd have a mobile billboard constantly going around.

Ashton said another way you can advertise, I think that's currently existing, is you put a sign up — like the water project north of Cache Road. There's a sign there. The problem with the sign is, it's parallel to the road. The only person that can read it is the person that's passing it — and they're not looking straight ahead, they'd be looking that way. If you put it

diagonally on the corner, people could read it, instead of parallel to the roadway.

Mayor Booker said at the end of the day, what I'm hearing is better communication about projects and about overall CIP investment in the city, maybe with projects highlighted.

Ashton said you could have a logo or something on the sign that's typically put up on project sites that says this is part of this whole project funding.

Beemer said I think it's one of those things where you're sometimes not seeing the forest through the trees either, because if you're spending hundreds of man hours to produce this information to people that only 2% of our population even reads. He asked if we have traffic on who's even looking at this.

Franco said I can run the analytics on it.

Odom said it seems like a lot of trouble for something that I don't think a lot of people will look at.

Hatch said isn't the purpose to say this information is available to everybody? If you choose to look at it, that's fine.

Mayor Booker said that information has always been available. It hasn't been readily available, and today, people expect things, and I don't blame them. As a tax payer, you want things where you can get to them from home on your computer. I sat through a program today — you can file deeds online today. The world's changing, and if we're not changing with it, we're not communicating. Communication is difficult today, but we'll visit about this internally and kind of see what we can come up with.

Tanner said so what we're wanting is some type of public service announcement, saying, "Hey, this is where the information is if you want it." That could include billboards or KCCU, which runs free announcements. There are different demographics that you have to reach, so I think any type of billboards, radio, or newspapers, just to let people know: if you want the information, it's there. I'm glad that it is there, even though, like you said, there's probably only a minority of people use it, but at least it's there.

Franco said those were the two options—I just kind of wanted your feedback, and I appreciate the feedback. So I'll go back in, and by our next quarterly meeting, we should have it set up to where you can search by the ward, and it lists the projects.

Franco displayed project PR2102, per request of Hatch.

Hatch said I'm looking at the project budget status. If I'm looking at that, that is telling me that that project is going to cost \$8 million. He said is that not what that's going to cost?

Franco said I believe that's how Council approved it, saying it was \$8 million to start it off, and then once you go through there, they've only spent \$175,000 - that's how much they've

spent, and it also shows how much they have remaining.

Hatch said I understand that, but that project is going to cost much more than \$8 million as I understand it. Do I understand that correctly?

Franco said yes, and if there's a budget amendment, then that budget will change. So you will see it grow.

Hatch said I think the confusion is that when you say "project cost," what I would expect that to be is what the project is actually going to cost—not what you guys have budgeted for the project. I understand that if it's a multi-year budget, you're going to buy part of it this year and part of it next year, and you're potentially going to get grant money, and we might get money from other places. But if I'm just looking at this website here and looking at this project, it would look to me like that's an \$8 million project.

Mayor Booker said there's a reason for that — that's all that's been approved through the Council. The citizens have voted for a parks and recreation budget that goes out indefinite that's millions of dollars, but until the Council votes on it, that's not approved — it's just an idea.

Hatch said I get the point.

Rebecca Johnson, Finance Director, said the fatal flaw of this website is that it is based on the numbers we have in our financials, and our financials are bound to only what the council approves. So, in order for a number to show up that you're looking for, our financial system would have to account for it—and it does not.

Hatch said I think it may be as easy as putting a footnote on the project saying that one round of this only includes what Council has budgeted - the project may be higher than that.

Tanner asked if it would be allowable to list the overall projected cost.

Hatch said I think that would be helpful, unless there's some reason why legally, you could not.

Burk said I don't think we'd want to put a projected cost out until it was authorized by the Council.

Burk said I wanted to offer some information. We just launched a new app called "Go Lawton." We could combine with our new app and start pushing information out through the app as well.

3. Consider accepting the Financial Statements Report for the CIP fund.

Rebecca Johnson, Finance Director, presented the May 2025 Financial Statements. A copy of the May 2025 Financial Statements may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office upon

request.

Johnson said we've got the balance sheet and the income sheet. Let's look at the income sheet first. I'm looking at the income statement. Major observations would be, if you notice, from 2023 to 2025, our numbers continue to increase. That is directly related to the loans we have taken out to do these projects. They appear as interagency transfers, first going into the general fund and then moving to the appropriate funds. The second observation is that in 2025, water and parks were our two primary sources of increase, as you have noted in all of your reports prior to me. The bottom line that I know you all look at, is our deficit is due to timing. With the draw-downs on the loans and the way the paperwork flows, that's just a matter of timing. These accounts are in good standing, and I have no concerns. Johnson said this balance sheet and income statement came straight out of our accounting system.

Hatch said on the revenue, you're saying the revenue includes borrowed money?

Johnson said correct.

Hatch said and that borrowed money is under the transfer from general fund?

Johnson said it's in the transfer lines.

Motion by Hatch, **Second** by Watson, to accept the Financial Statements Report for the CIP fund as presented. **AYE:** Tanner, Hatch, Cross, Ashton, Watson, Odom, Beemer, Rabon. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM.