



City of Lawton

City Council

Minutes

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

Tuesday, August 26, 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 at 6:00 p.m. in the Wayne Gilley Auditorium of Lawton City Hall, 212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, Oklahoma. The meeting was held in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

Pastor Dwayne Hall of Get the Word Out, Inc. delivered the invocation, offering words from Proverbs 11:11 and praying for wisdom and blessing over the City of Lawton and its leaders. Following the invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Booker.

Roll Call

Present:

Councilwoman- Ward 1 Mary Ann Hankins-Booker
Councilwoman - Ward 3 Linda Chapman
Councilman - Ward 4 George Gill
Councilman - Ward 5 Allan Hampton
Councilman - Ward 6 Bob Weger
Councilwoman - Ward 7 Sherene L Williams

Absent:

Councilman- Ward 8 Randy Warren

Also Present:

Stanley Booker, Mayor
John Ratliff, City Manager
Timothy Wilson, Interim City Attorney
Tammy Branstetter, Sr. Deputy City Clerk

Presentations

1. Clean Sweep Award- Eisenhower JROTC

Mayor Booker presented the Clean Sweep Award to the Eisenhower High School JROTC for their continued efforts to keep the community clean through regular litter pickup along 52nd Street from the school to Lee Boulevard. He commended the students for their civic involvement and community pride. Sergeant Major Hall spoke briefly, describing how the JROTC adopted the roadway several years ago and the importance of volunteerism and leadership development in the program. The Mayor expressed appreciation for the program's positive impact and encouraged continued youth involvement in community service.

Proclamation

2. National Deaf Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Booker noted that the proclamation for National Deaf Awareness Month was deferred to the September 9, 2025 meeting to allow participation by students from the Oklahoma School for the Deaf.

Reports: Mayor/City Council/ City Manager

Colonel Peay, Fort Sill Garrison Commander, announced a Department of Defense-mandated 'Black Start' exercise scheduled for September 10, which will involve an eight-hour power outage across the installation to test operational readiness. He also invited the community to participate in the annual 9/11 Remembrance Run on September 11 at McNair Hall.

Councilwoman Williams shared positive feedback from residents about the new Lawton Aquatic Center, noting that visitors were coming from other cities. She thanked the Streets Committee for recent road repairs in Ranch Oaks.

Councilman Weger expressed gratitude for the Southwest Cancer Center and shared a personal testimony of recovery, emphasizing the facility's vital role in community health.

Councilman Hampton reminded citizens that the Farmers Market remains active every Saturday and announced the upcoming 'Bouncing into Fall' Fit Kids event on September 20 at Elmer Thomas Park. He encouraged citizens to contact him directly with any concerns.

Councilman Gill addressed "character assassination" and highlighted numerous city accomplishments in recent years, including the new dog adoption center, sports complex, aquatic center, transit station, airport improvements, and infrastructure upgrades. He praised city staff and the council for their hard work.

Councilwoman Chapman announced that the Museum of the Great Plains would hold the grand opening of its new Trade Post exhibit on October 25, encouraging residents to attend.

Councilwoman Mary Ann Hankins-Booker commended city crews for keeping public spaces maintained and encouraged citizens to stay positive and help keep Lawton

clean. She reminded residents that many city projects are investments in the future of the community.

City Manager John Ratliff announced the launch of the City of Lawton's redesigned website. Communications Director Caitlin Gatlin provided an overview of new features, including department-level update access, a real-time news banner, and a chatbot to assist citizens. She also reminded citizens they can subscribe to text notifications or download the city's app. The City Manager concluded by noting that lifeguard positions remain open at the Aquatic Center.

Mayor Booker congratulated newly selected Ward 2 representative Taron Epps, whose appointment will be formalized at the next meeting. He thanked all council members for their dedication and reflected on the success of the recent State of the City Address.

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 spoke first, addressing concerns regarding a June protest at Shepler Park and alleging misconduct by a Councilmember. She expressed her concerns regarding freedom of speech and the City's response to the protest.

Kaysa Whitley followed, speaking on behalf of the Western Resistance organization. She discussed the lack of public input opportunities regarding industrial and economic development decisions, stating that communication with city leadership had been difficult in the past but had recently improved through meetings with the City Manager and City Clerk.

David Burkett expressed interest in the future of Ron Stephens Stadium, noting its underutilization and disrepair. Mayor Booker clarified that the facility is owned by Lawton Public Schools and encouraged Mr. Burkett to contact the appropriate school board representative.

Christina Boswell reiterated a previous request for speed bumps in her neighborhood, explaining that speed limit signs had been installed instead and that speeding remained a concern, particularly near homes with children. Mayor Booker assured her that staff would follow up by Thursday and encouraged her to contact him directly if she had not heard back.

Matina Davis-Prudhome raised concerns regarding her pending Open Records Request related to FISTA and alleged that she felt intimidated during her interactions with the City. She stated that she would continue to engage in local government proceedings.

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 Sherene L Williams, Second by Mary Ann Hankins, to approve the consent agenda as presented with the exception of item 24, which is stricken. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

3. Consider the following tort claims recommended for denial: Jason Norris in the amount of \$37,723.00, and Jose Mendez-Velazquez in the amount of \$16,356.00.

4. Consider approving a resolution amending the City of Lawton FYE26 budget, as amended, to appropriate \$41,027.18 in forfeiture funds to the Grant Fund for the purchase of a vehicle and other allowable expenses and \$1,927.27 in funds reimbursed by the Ft. Sill Apache Casino to the General Fund for police overtime expenses.

Resolution 25-216

5. Consider and take action in awarding a contract in the amount of \$3,778,632.00 to Horseshoe Construction, INC, for the construction of PU2505 High Maintenance Sewer Line Replacement Project to replace approximately 8,000 LF of high-maintenance sewer lines throughout the city.

6. Consider extending contract RFPCL25-012 Rental or Lease Work Clothing for Public Utilities to UNIFIRST CORP.

7. Consider extending contract CL25-014 Pest Control Services for Parks and Recreation to Allstate Termite and Pest Solutions.

8. Consider extending contract CL25-009 Manhole Rings and Covers for Public Utilities to Core & Main LP.

9. Consider extending CL25-002 Precast Concrete Manholes (Large) to Primary Structure Inc. of Guthrie, OK.
10. Consider extending contract RFPCL24-004 for Physical Damage Coverage (Select Vehicles & Heavy Equipment) to North American Insurance Agency of Lawton LLC dba INSURICA of Lawton underwritten by OMAG.
11. Consider extending contract RFPCL25-005 Employee Physicals for Human Resources to Comanche County Hospital Authority DBA MMG Occupational Health Medicine.
12. Consider extending contract RFPCL25-006 Employee Drug & Alcohol Screening for Normal Business & After-Hours for Human Resources to Allied Laboratories.
13. Consider awarding a bid to Midwest Wrecking, Co., in the amount of \$61,240.00 for the demolition of the property located at 508 NW 2nd Street.
14. Consider approving Amendment No. 2 for SCS Engineers, in the amount of \$24,140.00 for continued professional engineering services on Project PW2505-Landfill Emergency Repairs.
15. Consider approving an agreement between the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lawton to fund activities by the Chamber designed to encourage, promote, and foster tourism, including elements of economic development related thereto in the City of Lawton, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement.
16. Consider approving an agreement between the Lawton Farmers Market Institute and the City of Lawton, subject to the Lawton Farmers Market Institute also approving the agreement, to fund activities by the Market designed to encourage, promote and foster tourism and economic development in the City, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute

the agreement.

17. Consider approving an agreement between the Lawton Fort Sill City-Wide Juneteenth, Inc. and the City of Lawton, subject to the Lawton Fort Sill City-Wide Juneteenth, Inc. also approving the agreement, to fund activities by Juneteenth designed to encourage, promote and foster tourism and economic development in the City, and authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the agreement.

18. Consider approving an agreement between the Museum of the Great Plains Authority and the City of Lawton, subject to Museum of the Great Plains Authority also approving the agreement, to fund activities by the Authority designed to encourage, promote and foster tourism and economic development in the City, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement.

19. Consider approving an agreement between the Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority and the City of Lawton, subject to approval by the Authority, to fund activities designed to encourage, promote and foster economic development in the City of Lawton and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement.

20. Consider approving a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Lawton and Rubenstein & Pitts PLLC for consultation services related to Project No. EN2104, the US-62 Interchange at Goodyear Boulevard, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement.

21. Consider waiving the fees related to a variance request for a reduction in required parking spaces for the new animal shelter to be located at 1701 SW Lee Boulevard.

22. Consider granting a temporary easement for Cotton Electric Cooperative to work on city property by Lake Ellsworth and authorizing the Mayor to

execute the document.

23. Consider approving a Record Plat located off E Gore Blvd, for the Replat of Lot 2A, Block 1, of the Replat of Lot 2, Block 1, Independence Place and take appropriate action as deemed necessary.

24. Consider approving an Agreement between the Lawton Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and the City of Lawton to fund activities designed to encourage, promote and foster economic/industrial development in the City of Lawton, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement.

This item was stricken from the agenda.

25. Consider waiving the fees for the Geronimo Public School use of Elmer Thomas Park for a Cross Country meet on September 6th, 2025 and October 1st, 2025.

26. Consider waiving the fees for the Shelley May Breast Cancer Walk in Elmer Thomas Park on October, 10th, 2025.

27. Consider waiving the fees for the 6th Annual Park-o-Treat event, scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2025, at Elmer Thomas Park.

28. Consider and take action approving Amendment No. 11 to the existing Master Services Agreement contract with Garver, LLC, in the amount not to exceed \$1,293,200.00 for Professional Engineering Services to include bidding and construction services for the previously approved SEWTP Dewatering improvements and SEWTP Force Main Improvements projects.

Unfinished Business

29. Adopt a resolution declaring the structures located at 2550 NW Fort Sill Blvd., to be dilapidated pursuant to Section 6-5-1 Lawton City Code, ordering the owner to abate the nuisance, authorizing summary abatement, and

authorizing the City Attorney to commence legal action in District Court to abate the nuisance.

Jonathan Jernigan, Division of Safe and Clean Neighborhoods, presented the item, providing background that the property was first brought before Council on December 10, 2024, and tabled to January 28, 2025, before being tabled again to the present meeting. He explained that the property owner currently holds a remodel permit and has been actively working on improvements, including sandblasting and repainting the trusses and preparing to install a new roof once that work is complete. Jernigan noted that the owner also intends to purchase the adjacent property to the north.

Mayor Stan Booker asked for clarification on staff's recommendation. Jernigan confirmed that staff recommended granting an additional six months to allow the property owner to continue the remodeling process. Councilmember Mary Ann Hankins-Booker moved to approve the extension, emphasizing that progress should be monitored closely. Councilmember George Gill seconded the motion.

Timothy Wilson, Interim City Attorney, asked whether the six-month period would run to the second Council meeting in that month, to which Mayor Booker and Jernigan confirmed that it would. City Manager John Ratliff clarified that this would place the review at the February 2026 meeting.

Motion by Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Second by George Gill, to approve for six more months, and item will appear back on the Council agenda for the second meeting in February 2026. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Business Items

30. An ordinance amending Personnel Policies and Procedures Section 17-2-9-202, Division 17-2-9, Article 17-2, Chapter 17, Lawton City Code, 2015 by renaming certain departments or divisions within the membership; reorganizing the Employee Advisory Committee Membership to include the new departments/divisions; to delete department/division names that no longer exist; removing the two (2) reserved groups; providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

Human Resources Director Craig Akard introduced the proposed ordinance, explaining that the City's Employee Advisory Committee (EAC) membership is defined in City Code by department and division. Because of the City's recent departmental reorganizations—such as renaming Parks and Recreation to Community Enrichment—an update was needed to realign EAC groupings and eliminate divisions that no longer exist. Akard confirmed that the EAC reviewed and approved the proposed changes.

Councilmember Chapman asked whether the updated departmental names and groups

would appear on the new City website so citizens could identify department heads. Akard responded that the new titles should appear online and that staff might add references to previous names for clarity.

Councilmember Hampton inquired whether these changes would alter the departmental flowchart included in the City's budget book. Akard clarified that the update applies only to the EAC and would not modify the organizational chart.

Motion by Linda Chapman, Second by Allan Hampton, to approve the ordinance, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

Interim City Attorney Timothy Wilson then read the ordinance title into the record:
ORDINANCE 2025-36

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SECTION 17-2-9-202, DIVISION 17-2-9, ARTICLE 17-2, CHAPTER 17, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015 BY RENAMING CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OR DIVISIONS WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP; REORGANIZING THE EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP TO INCLUDE THE NEW DEPARTMENTS/DIVISIONS; TO DELETE DEPARTMENT/DIVISION NAMES THAT NO LONGER EXIST; REMOVING THE TWO (2) RESERVED GROUPS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYE: Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

31. Consider an ordinance pertaining to Utilities by creating Section 22-1-2-120, Division 22-1-2, Article 22-1, Chapter 22, Lawton City Code, 2015, to establish temporary utility service rates for City of Lawton utilities; providing for two tiers of temporary service duration; providing for severability, providing for codification, and establishing an effective date.

Utility Services Director Kristen Brown introduced the ordinance and explained its purpose of establishing temporary utility service rates to assist homeowners, realtors, and contractors in facilitating inspections and repairs. City Manager John Ratliff emphasized that this measure supports the City's True North initiative by clarifying code gaps and improving customer service efficiency.

Motion by Linda Chapman, 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 ordinance title into the record as follows:
ORDINANCE 2025-37

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO UTILITIES BY CREATING SECTION 22-1-2-120, DIVISION 22-1-2, ARTICLE 22-1, CHAPTER 22, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, TO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY UTILITY SERVICE RATES FOR CITY OF LAWTON

UTILITIES; PROVIDING FOR TWO TIERS OF TEMPORARY SERVICE DURATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYE: Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

32. Consider approving a resolution amending Appendix A, Schedule of Fees and Charges, Lawton City Code, 2015, to establish temporary utility service rates for City of Lawton utilities as set forth in Exhibit "A" of the Resolution, subject to approval by the Lawton Water Authority, and establishing an effective date.

Kristin Huntley, Interim Finance Director, explained that this resolution is a companion item to the ordinance that was just approved. It formally adds temporary service fees to the City's fee schedule.

Councilmember Hampton reiterated that the temporary service fees are separate from standard residential billing and would appear as a separate line item on the utility bill. Huntley confirmed that no customer's existing bill would increase as a result of this resolution.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Allan Hampton, to approve Resolution 25-217. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

33. Receive a presentation from the Lawton Police Department regarding public access to sex offender registry information and the corresponding safety zone map available on the City of Lawton's website and take action as deemed necessary.

Detective Pauley of the Lawton Police Department presented an overview of the City's public sex offender registry and the safety zone map available on the City of Lawton's website. He explained that citizens can access the registry through the "Services" tab on the LPD website, which links to both the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC) and the National Sex Offender Registry. Searches can be performed by name or address to locate registered offenders and view details such as photos and conviction history.

Detective Pauley described the Safety Zone Map, which shows areas where offenders are prohibited from residing—generally within 2,000 feet of schools, parks, or daycares. Approximately 90 percent of the city falls within restricted zones, leaving only about 10 percent available for legal residence. He clarified that undeveloped parks without playground equipment are not subject to the 2,000-foot rule until developed. Pauley also discussed "grandfathered" cases, where offenders may legally remain in restricted areas if they owned their homes prior to conviction or registered before the distance

laws were updated.

He explained that LPD monitors roughly 149 registered offenders, 27 of whom are classified as homeless and must check in weekly. The department partners with the District Attorney's Office and U.S. Marshals Service for compliance checks and enforcement, resulting in more than 30 arrests in 2025 for failure to register.

Following the presentation, Councilmembers posed several questions.

Councilmember Gill asked about the relationship between state and federal sex offender laws. Detective Pauley explained that while there is a federal statute—the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act—each state has its own legal requirements. He stated that he primarily enforces state law but occasionally collaborates with federal authorities when jurisdiction overlaps.

Councilmember Weger inquired about the severity of penalties for offenders who fail to register. Pauley explained that failure to register is a felony, typically resulting in sentences ranging from two to five years for a first offense, with harsher penalties for repeat offenders.

Mayor Booker asked whether registered offenders are permitted to enter city parks. Pauley clarified that offenders convicted of crimes against minors cannot enter or loiter within 500 feet of a park, while those with adult victims are not bound by that restriction but may not loiter.

Councilmember Hampton asked how residents could report violations observed in their neighborhoods. Pauley stated that citizens may report concerns through the City's online reporting system or by calling the Police Department directly. He noted that evidence such as surveillance footage can greatly assist investigations, as proving residency violations often depends on documentation showing a pattern of behavior.

Councilmember Williams asked which offenses prevent an individual from using social media. Pauley explained that restrictions on internet or social media use depend on a judge's sentencing order and vary case by case; once the court-imposed sentence is completed, those restrictions no longer apply.

Mayor Booker expressed appreciation for the department's diligence in monitoring offenders and asked if LPD considers itself an aggressive enforcer of the law. Pauley confirmed that the department actively investigates and prosecutes violations to protect the community.

Councilmember Weger then asked whether the department has the resources it needs to continue enforcing sex offender laws effectively. Pauley said LPD has the necessary tools but noted that enforcement depends on available time and staffing due to other calls for service.

City Manager Ratliff noted that Police Chief Smith was shaking his head "no" from the back of the room.

City Manager Ratliff humorously remarked that if Council wished to provide more resources, the department would gladly accept them.

Mayor Booker emphasized that Council only responds to requests for funding. He thanked Detective Pauley for the thorough presentation and praised LPD for its proactive efforts to keep the community safe.

No action was taken on this item.

34. Consider an ordinance pertaining to signature designation for municipal warrants and checks, repealing paragraph B of Section 1-1-115.1, Article 1-1, Chapter 1, Lawton City Code, 2015, thereby no longer allowing the animal welfare supervisor and animal shelter worker to execute municipal checks from the Animal Shelter Fund, providing for severability, and establishing an effective date.

Interim Finance Director Kristen Huntley explained that the Animal Shelter Fund had been dissolved in 2021. Historically, the Animal Welfare Supervisor and staff had been authorized to sign checks from that fund for deposits or refunds, but such practices ceased when the fund was dissolved. She stated that repealing paragraph B would align the code with current practice and remove outdated authorization.

Motion by Linda Chapman, Second by Sherene L Williams to approve the ordinance, waive the reading, and read the title only.

Interim City Attorney Timothy Wilson read the ordinance title into the record as follows:
ORDINANCE 2025-38

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO SIGNATURE DESIGNATION FOR MUNICIPAL WARRANTS AND CHECKS, REPEALING PARAGRAPH B OF SECTION 1-1-115.1, ARTICLE 1-1, CHAPTER 1, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, THEREBY NO LONGER ALLOWING THE ANIMAL WELFARE SUPERVISOR AND ANIMAL SHELTER WORKER TO EXECUTE MUNICIPAL CHECKS FROM THE ANIMAL SHELTER FUND, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYE: Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

35. Consider approving a special non-emergency ordinance declaring approximately 4 acres of City-owned real property located at approximately 580 NW Rogers Lane as nonessential and surplus, authorizing the sale by public auction, setting a minimum reserve price or directing staff to have an

appraisal to determine an appropriate reserve price, providing for an effective date, making provisions for a vote thereof if a valid referendum petition is filed, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute all documents necessary therefore.

Cindy Augustine, Real Property Administrator, presented the item, explaining that a party had inquired about purchasing a 4-acre tract of City-owned property located on the south side of Rogers Lane, approximately one-half mile west of I-44. The City had acquired the property in 1999 for a drainage channel project. She stated that she had consulted with Public Works and Engineering, who had no objection to selling the property as long as the City retained a 100-foot drainage easement.

Mayor Booker asked about the process for determining the property's minimum reserve price, noting that the agenda item referenced either setting a minimum or obtaining an appraisal. Augustine replied that an appraisal would be necessary, as staff did not have sufficient expertise to determine market value independently. The Mayor further asked whether state law required any specific percentage of appraised value for the sale; Augustine clarified that sales are based on fair market value, which is determined through appraisal, not solely by auction activity.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Allan Hampton, to approve the ordinance, waive the reading of the ordinance, read the title only, and direct staff to obtain a licensed appraisal.

Interim City Attorney Timothy Wilson read the ordinance title into the record as follows:
ORDINANCE 2025-39

A SPECIAL NON-EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR (4) ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OF CITY-OWNED REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 580 NORTHWEST ROGERS LANE AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREINAFTER; WHICH PROPERTY IS HEREBY DECLARED AS NON-ESSENTIAL AND SURPLUS; THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY EXCEEDING \$50,000; PROVIDING FOR ALL POTENTIAL BIDDERS TO MAKE AN ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION OF SAID PROPERTY; DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO SET A MINIMUM BID FOR THE PROPERTY, TO DETERMINE THE METHOD OF PUBLIC AUCTION, AND TO ESTABLISH OTHER CONDITIONS OF SALE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; MAKING PROVISIONS FOR A VOTE THEREON IF A VALID REFERENDUM PETITION AS REQUIRED BY THE LAWTON CITY CHARTER IS FILED; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF THE FULL TEXT OF THIS ORDINANCE; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR CONVEYANCE OF SAID PROPERTY AFTER IT IS SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYE: Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Staff Reports

36. Community Enrichment Department, Safe and Clean Neighborhood Services Division Progress Update.

Deputy Director Antonio Hopson of the Community Enrichment Department presented a progress update on the Safe and Clean Neighborhoods Division. He introduced himself as the new Deputy Director and reviewed several performance and staffing improvements made since the division's rebranding from "Neighborhood Services."

Hopson explained that prior to reorganization, code enforcement officers were assigned to cover multiple wards, making citywide monitoring difficult. The updated structure now assigns each officer to a specific ward, improving responsiveness. Staffing had increased from five to nine code enforcement officers, with added support staff and abatement contractors.

Hopson provided detailed statistics showing improvements in abatement volume, compliance rates, and enforcement metrics across several fiscal years, highlighting that the division has completed over 1,800 abatements and processed more than 3,000 work orders in FY 2024–2025. He also described process timelines, contractor coordination, and the city's lien recovery procedures for unpaid abatements.

He reported that the division's D&D efforts brought 174 properties before Council in FY 2024–2025, with 76 demolitions completed, and reviewed new performance benchmarks, including a 96% accuracy rate on public postings and full 100% compliance with county filing timelines.

Hopson concluded with updates on outreach programs, including "Yard Compliance of the Quarter", the HAP relocation program for homeless residents, and partnerships with neighborhood watch groups to encourage community involvement in reporting blight.

Councilmember Weger asked how the City responds when a property owner receives a courtesy notice and resolves the issue before receiving a formal letter. Jernigan explained that when owners notify staff of cleanup, a code officer verifies compliance and closes the case, voiding any pending notices.

Councilmember Chapman commended staff, particularly Larry Parks and Kelvin Ingram, for their informative presentation at a recent neighborhood watch meeting and expressed appreciation for their dedication and professionalism.

Mayor Booker complimented the new "Kids First"–branded signage, noting the crayons in the design symbolize the City's child-centered approach to community improvement. He suggested expanding the "Yard of the Month" recognition to multiple properties per ward to ensure equitable visibility across neighborhoods.

Booker then asked about the error rate reported in public posting metrics. Jernigan clarified that the 4% error rate represented seven properties that required corrections due to ownership changes or posting mistakes.

The Mayor also revisited prior benchmarks tied to the Safe and Clean Neighborhoods initiative, noting that the division was originally tasked with achieving certain cleanup timeframes and abatement goals. City Manager Ratliff reminded the Council that the targets included demolishing 95% of dilapidated structures within one year and 99% within 18 months, but progress had been delayed due to landfill access issues. Booker acknowledged those challenges and reiterated his support for staff efforts, emphasizing that the initiative's intent extends beyond demolitions to include maintaining overall neighborhood cleanliness and safety.

The Mayor thanked staff for their commitment to the City's "Kids First" vision and invited applause from the audience in recognition of their work.

No action was taken on this item.

Executive Session

Motion by George Gill, Second by Sherene L Williams, to enter into executive session. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

The City Council remained in executive session from 7:37PM to 8:48PM.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Allan Hampton, to return to open session. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

37. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss a pending claim for potential litigation involving Sabrina Turner stemming from an incident involving a former City of Lawton Correctional Officer and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Interim City Attorney Timothy Wilson read the title of the item. No action was taken.

38. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma titled Jose Arciniega and Dante Guzman v City of Lawton and Clear Creek Development, LLC, Case number CIV-24-1039-HE, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Interim City Attorney Timothy Wilson read the title of the item.

Motion by Mary Ann Hankins-Booker, Second by Allan Hampton, to approve Council members George Gill and Allan Hampton as the City's representatives at the Court ordered mediation for case number CV-01039-HE, Arciniega et al vs. City of Lawton. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

39. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss a pending claim for potential litigation involving Jeremy Rhymes and the property located at 401 SW Summit and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Interim City Attorney Timothy Wilson read the title of the item. No action was 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 Sherene L Williams, Second by Bob Weger, to adjourn the meeting. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.