

MINUTES  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
LAWTON REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 18, 2021

Richard Rogalski, Deputy City Manager, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted at City Hall as required by the Open Meeting Act.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: David Denham, Ron Jarvis, Craig Jensen, Kent Jester, John Purcell, Vince Cambron.

Absent: Michael McGill, Darren Medders, James Stewart

Also Present: Richard Rogalski, Deputy City Manager; Michael Cleghorn, City Manager; Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, Sr. Deputy City Clerk; Paul Martin, Planning; Kristi Shannon, GIS; Judy Franco, GIS.

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INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introductions were as follows: Richard Rogalski, Deputy City Manager; Vince Cambron, Ward 5 Representative; David Denham, also lives in Ward 5 but is the City Planning Commission Representative; Kent Jester, Ward 2 Representative; John Purcell, Ward 4 Representative; Ron Jarvis, Ward 1 Representative; Craig Jensen, Ward 3 Representative; Michael Cleghorn, City Manager.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Elect a Chair and Vice-Chair

Cambron stated he would like to nominate David Denham to be Chair, and Denham stated he would like to nominate Vince Cambron as Vice Chair.

**Motion** by Cambron, **Second** by Denham, to elect David Denham as Chair and Vince Cambron as Vice Chair. **AYE:** Jarvis, Jensen, Jester, Purcell, Cambron, Denham. **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Approve the minutes of February 28, 2012.

**Motion** by Jester, **Second** by Jensen, to approve the minutes of February 28, 2012. **AYE:** Jensen, Jester, Purcell, Cambron, Denham, Jarvis **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Discuss redistricting process, the 2020 population counts by Ward, discuss goals for a successful population and demographics balance between wards, provide direction to staff, and take other action as necessary.

Rogalski stated the Decennial Census was just taken, which means it is time to redistrict the wards to account for the change in population. The last time this was done, there was a swing of about 14,000 in one ward and maybe around 7,000 in the smallest ward. This created quite a bit of work for this Commission, and they went all the way to alternate "J".

Rogalski then stated, from the data that's been put together so far for this Census, the precincts or census blocks change a little bit, so there are some split census blocks. There is some balancing that needs to be done just to move the lines to match the census blocks. The stretch between the most and the least in terms of population is 11,000 plus to 7,000 plus. This shows a much easier task this time. The goal is not so much to play with the demographics, but instead balance the numbers. Because of the diversity of the city, there has never been an issue with demographics. The most you want to have is a ten percent spread between your highest and lowest wards. Currently there are 8,500 to 9,000 per ward, so what we are looking for is around 1,000 plus or minus per ward. Last time, we ended up with about eleven percent on that spread, but it looked right and worked well. The wards changed quite a bit last time: Ward 2 expanded East of I-44, and it is still one of the smaller wards. That may have to take on a little more population during this redistricting.

Purcell stated it also caused a split precinct, which is the only bad thing that he recalled.

Rogalski stated they will work with the Tax Assessor's Office a little more this time to avoid splitting precincts. He was not aware that they were splitting precincts last time because they were focused on moving census blocks around, but a precinct is larger than a census block. We also want to try to split the wards in a way that makes sense. For example, we don't want to change wards in the middle of a neighborhood, but you could go down a through street and that would be okay. At the next meeting, we will bring you some solutions and some different options to look at. What you'll find is that we may be able to resolve this in just one meeting because of how close we already are.

Rogalski stated the trick this time is that the growth is on the outside, and some of the population loss is on the inside, so we have a lot of switching around to move some of the outside to the inside.

Purcell asked if Rogalski will be able to provide how many people are currently in each ward and how many people he is projecting.

Rogalski stated yes, and there will be multiple options shown.

Purcell asked if Ward 2 also includes Fort Sill.

Rogalski stated yes it does, but we don't count Fort Sill and we don't count the prison. The balance has always been done without those.

Chairman Denham asked if the largest ward is a little over 11,000 and the smallest ward is just over 7,000.

Rogalski stated did I say 7,000? It should be 8,000. I think the first time it was 14 to 7 and this time it was 11 to 8, so it's not very far off.

Denham asked if they can also get an overlay map of the precincts as well when the proposals are presented.

Rogalski stated yes. We have the benefit of better technology this time. Last time we were doing auto-CAD and a spread sheet. This one will be done in GIS, so we will be able to put layers on the screen and turn things off and on as we go.

Chairman Denham stated that they added all the growth out West to Ward 7 last time.

Rogalski stated they then had to take some away from Ward 7 to make it balanced.

Paul Martin, Kristi Shannon, and Judy Franco presented the preferred alternative from the last meeting. Rogalski stated it shows the population breakdown by ward. There is also an option that's kind of been drafted up, but it will be brought back to be looked at formally at the next meeting. It shows Ward 5 is off target by about 1,400. This option shows just nice clean lines without splitting any precincts. More options will be brought to the next meeting.

Chairman Denham stated we are down 6,700 people.

Rogalski asked if there are any questions.

Chairman Denham asked what the little squares were on the map provided.

Rogalski stated those squares are areas that are not within city limits.

Cleghorn stated some of those areas are referred to as "donuts". For example, next to 6 is Goodyear and there is a piece down 38<sup>th</sup> and Bishop.

4. Establish a date for next meeting.

Chairman Denham asked how much time staff needed to prepare for the next meeting. Rogalski stated two weeks to a month would be okay. They can also go out further because of the upcoming holidays.

The Commission agreed to set the next meeting for **November 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**

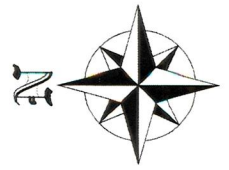
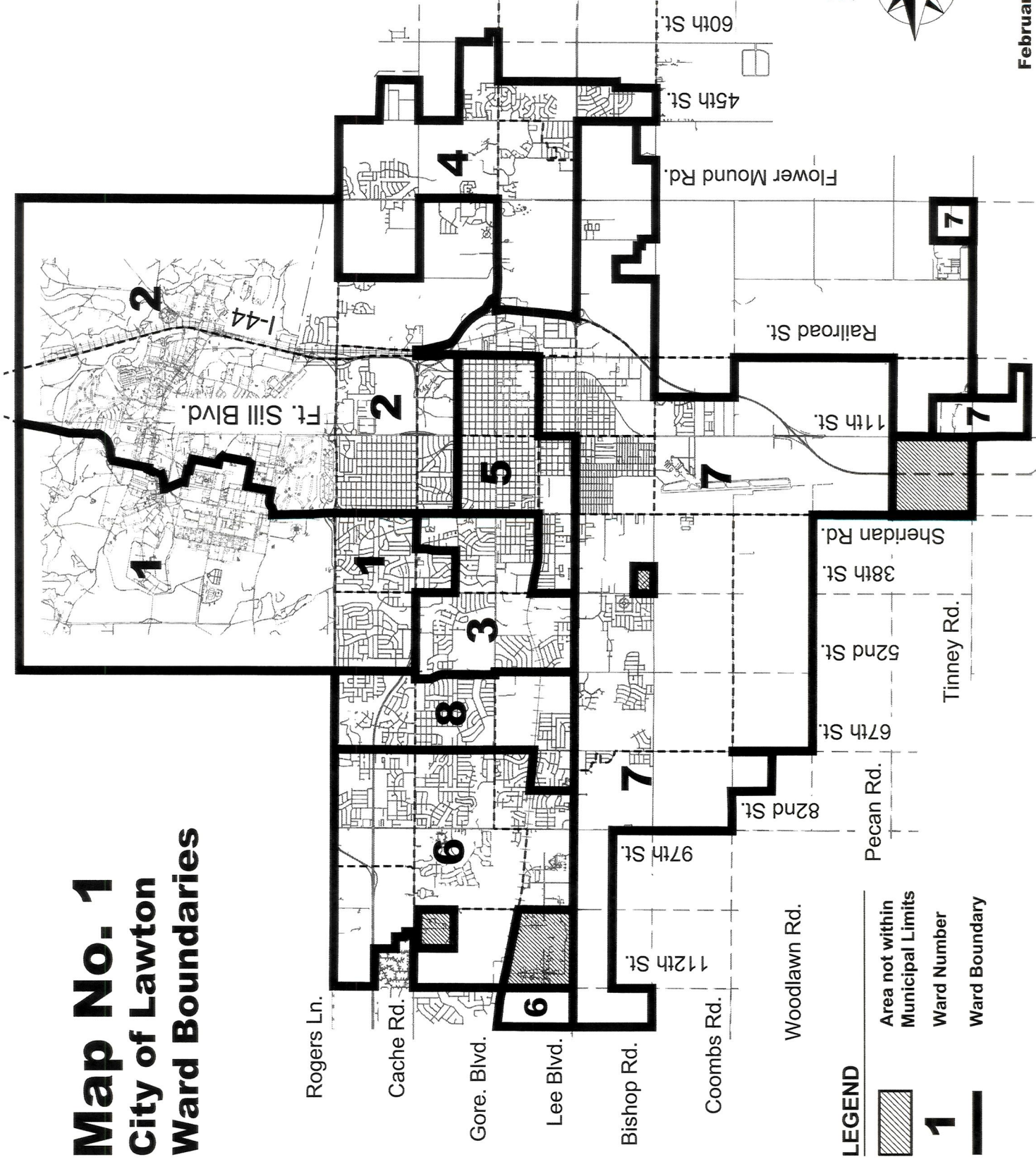
5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.


# Map No. 1

## City of Lawton

### Ward Boundaries



**LEGEND**

-  Area not within Municipal Limits
- 1** Ward Number
-  Ward Boundary

**Current Population Estimate Within Current Precinct and Current Ward Boundaries (Without Split Blocks)**

Total Population: 76,752

Population deviation between smallest & largest wards:

Target Population per ward: 9,594

Precinct #	Lawton Pop	Ft Sill Pop	Prison Pop	Ward*							
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	3,841								3,841		
2	3,601										3,601
3	3,658			3,658							
7	4,183										4,183
8	5,671					5,671					
9	4,673								2,287		2,386
11	3,905									3,905	
13	5,770				5,770						
14	0	7,110									
15	4,175			4,175							
17	4,053			800		2,798					
19	1,842				1,842						
20	3,654							3,654			
21	2,232							2,232			
25	1,635									1,635	
26	1,931									1,931	
27	2,298							2,298			
29	1,009									1,009	
30	769	2,136			769						
31	6,208				1,637		4,541				
32	277									270	
33	2,071						2,071				
34	4,048						4,048				
42	430								430		
43	249		2,525							249	
45	386									386	
50	4,183								4,183		
51	0	2,255									
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,752</b>	<b>11,501</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>8,633</b>	<b>10,018</b>	<b>8,469</b>	<b>10,660</b>	<b>8,184</b>	<b>10,741</b>	<b>9,385</b>	<b>10,170</b>

eviation from target population per ward

\*ward data not including highlighted split blocks

**Split Blocks**

<u>Block GeoID</u>	<u>Wards</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Reccomendation**</u>
400310007002018	1 & 3	Pop = 61	
400310020012000	2 & 4	Pop = 30	
400310007002020	1 & 3	Pop = 77	
400310019012000	2 & 4	Pop = 270	Ward 2
400310005061001	6 & 8	Pop = 394	Ward 8
400310019012009	2 & 7	Pop = 7	
400310007002029	1 & 3	Pop = 73	

400310019012010	2 & 7	Pop = 58	Ward 7
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400310006002009	1 & 3	Pop = 143
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400310006002002	1 & 3	Pop = 101
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Total Pop = 492
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\*Reccomendation based on 2021 Aerial Imagery

**PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

**Maintaining Precinct Lines and Excluding Populations Within Fort Sill and Prison**

Total Population: 83,375  
 Target Pop per Ward: 10,422

Population Deviation Between the Largest and Smallest Wards: 11%  
 Population Deviation Including Ongoing Subdivision Development: 15%

Precinct	Lawton Pop	Fort Sill Pop	Prison Pop	WARD							
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	4,019								4,019		
2	3,928										3,928
3	4,135			4,135							
7	4,661										4,661
8	6,432					6,432					
9	4,495								2,408		2,087
11	3,205									3,205	
13	6,472				6,472						
14	0	6,629			0						
15	5,010			5,010							
17	4,840			1,134		3,706					
19	2,024				2,024						
20	4,432							4,432			
21	2,564							2,564			
25	2,095									2,095	
26	2,561									2,561	
27	2,909							2,909			
29	1,310									1,310	
30	884	2,460			884						
31	5,614				1,688		3,926				
32	346									346	
33	2,268						2,268				
34	4,338						4,338				
42	24								24		
43	173		2,496							173	
45	288									288	
50	4,348								4,348		
51	0	1,907		0							
	83,375	10,996	2,496	10,279	11,068	10,138	10,532	9,905	10,799	9,978	10,676

Deviation from Target Population per Ward:    -1%        6%        -3%        1%        -5%        4%        -4%        2%

# 2021 REDISTRICTING GUIDELINES

The Redistricting Commission intends to apply the following guidelines as consistently as possible and to the greatest extent possible in the drawing of City Council ward boundaries that are in the best interest of the residents of the City of Lawton. In some instances these guidelines may conflict with one another; the Redistricting Commission acknowledges that resolving such conflicts is the crux of the task before them.

The following guidelines regarding, and Contiguity, Compactness and Common Interest, Minority Representation, Population Equality, and Incumbents shall be applied as required by City of Lawton Charter (C-6-2) the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and other federal and state laws:

## 1. Contiguity, Compactness, and Communities of Common Interest

The wards should be geographically compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness and contiguity involve both a functional and a geographic aspect. Functional compactness and contiguity include factors such as:

- a. The existence of common social, cultural, community, and economic interests;
- b. The use of public school attendance boundaries as defined by the independent school districts in the City of Lawton to assist in defining neighborhoods;
- c. The drawing of ward boundaries that facilitate communications between constituents and their elected representatives;
- d. Neighborhoods shall be maintained in a single ward, where possible. For purposes of this guideline, “neighborhoods” include areas with common homeowner associations, neighborhood associations, crime watch groups, public and traditionally recognized areas of Lawton.

## 2. Minority Representation

As required by the Voting Rights Act, the voting strength of racial, ethnic, and language minorities in the wards should not be diluted by depriving minority voters of an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice by packing or fracturing wards. Race, ethnicity, and language minority consideration, however, cannot be the predominant factor to which other redistricting legal principles are subordinated. A majority minority ward may be created to provide fair representation to the members of racial, ethnic and language minority populations where compelling justification requires such a ward as determined by the following factors:

- a. A reasonably compact ward can be drawn in compliance with the other redistricting guidelines in which voters of the minority group constitute a majority of the electorate and will increase the probability that members of the minority will be elected;
- b. The minority community is politically cohesive and usually votes together; and

- c. The past voting record of an existing ward has demonstrated it to be a majority minority ward.

### **3. Population Equality**

The wards should be drawn so that they are substantially equal in population according to the total count as presented in the 2020 census data. The total deviation between the largest and the smallest ward must be as small as possible, but in all cases must be less than ten percent (10%). Population deviations of more than ten percent (10%) may be allowed if they are necessary to achieve a legitimate and good faith objective, such as:

- a. Preserving the cores of existing wards as permitted by case law, meaning to recognize the traditional geographic, economic, cultural or social center of an existing ward as supported by public testimony;
- b. Following voting precinct boundaries such that that they are not split between wards;
- c. Preserving the voting strength of minority populations in compliance with the Voting Rights Act;
- d. Following easily identifiable geographic boundaries and other unique geographical configurations; or
- e. Facilitating responsiveness of elected representatives to their constituents.

### **4. Incumbents**

The configuration of wards shall be neutral as to incumbents. The wards must not be configured for the purpose of either protecting or defeating an incumbent.