



City of Lawton

City Council

Minutes

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

Tuesday, November 4, 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."

Meeting called to order by Mayor Stanley Booker with invocation led by Chaplain Lisa Northway followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present:

Councilman - Ward 1 Lane Hooton
Councilman - Ward 2 Taron Epps
Councilwoman - Ward 3 Linda Chapman
Councilman - Ward 4 George Gill
Councilman - Ward 5 Allan Hampton
Councilman - Ward 6 Bob Weger
Councilman - Ward 8 Randy Warren

Absent:

Councilwoman - Ward 7 Sherene L Williams

Also Present:

Stanley Booker, Mayor
John Ratliff, City Manager
Jari Askins, Interim City Attorney
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

Presentation

1. Citizen of the Month- Mary Fountain

Mayor Booker presented the Citizen of the Month to Mary Fountain.

2. True North Award Recipient

Ratliff presented the True North Award to Detective Marcus Rucker, Lawton Police Department.

Reports: Mayor/City Council/City Manager

Mayor Booker expressed appreciation for the community members recognized during the meeting and stated he was inspired by the level of service and engagement shown by residents and City employees.

Epps highlighted upcoming holiday activities, including Holiday in the Park, and encouraged community support for volunteers assisting with setup.

Chapman commented on the success of new park facilities along 38th Street near Kid's Zone and praised the Parks Department for the completed improvements.

Gill provided an update on the Farmers Market and the City's mill and overlay street improvement program, noting ongoing and upcoming roadway projects.

Hampton thanked residents for supporting the City's approach to addressing homelessness and referenced partnerships with the Salvation Army to connect individuals with appropriate services.

Weger reflected on the Thanksgiving season and expressed gratitude for Lawton's strong sense of community and neighborhood engagement.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion by Randy Warren, Second by Allan Hampton, to approve the consent agenda as presented with the exception of pulling item 14. AYE: Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Randy Warren, Taron Epps, Lane Hooton. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

3. Consider adopting a resolution and approving a joint petition settlement in the amount of \$9,504.00 in the Workers' Compensation case of Chad Meyer.

Resolution 25-268

4. Consider approving a Resolution rescinding Resolution No. 24-169, which declared the structure(s) located at 1308 SW Pennsylvania Avenue a dilapidated structure.

Resolution 25-269

5. Approve a resolution ratifying all action taken by the City Council during its

October 28th, 2025, City Council meeting, including all matters approved by the City Council during said meeting.

Resolution 25-270

6. Consider and take action in approving Change Order no. 1 reducing the contract by \$203,240, accepting the project in the final contract amount of \$1,714,285, and placing the maintenance bond into effect for the Industrial Water Main Phase II Project PU2412 for waterline as constructed by Southwest Water Works, LLC.
7. Consider authorizing staff to utilize \$37,500.00 from the Fire Cost Recovery fund for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) cylinders.
8. Consider and take action in accepting the Green Sand Pilot Project PU2421 in the final amount of \$463,213 and accept the final report.
9. Consider approving a Revocable Communications Cable Permit for Unite Private Networks, LLC dba Segra to run fiber (Ring Closure 1) to serve a Lawton Public School facility, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the permit.
10. Consider approving a Revocable Communications Cable Permit for Unite Private Networks, LLC dba Segra to run fiber (Ring Closure 2) to serve a Lawton Public School facility, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the permit.
11. Consider approving a Revocable Communications Cable Permit for Unite Private Networks, LLC dba Segra to run fiber (Ring Closure 3) to serve a Lawton Public School facility, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the permit.
12. Consider approving a Revocable Communications Cable Permit for Unite Private Networks, LLC dba Segra to run fiber (Ring Closure 4) to serve a Lawton Public School facility, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the permit.

13. Consider approving a Revocable Communications Cable Permit for Unite Private Networks, LLC dba Segra to run fiber (Media Tech Center) to serve a Lawton Public School facility, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the permit.

14. Consider approving the traffic signal at 50th and Cache to be placed with the north and southbound signals onto flashing red, and east and west signals to flashing yellow until such a time that development of properties in which the signals are required are fully developed and ready to open to the public.

Michael Watrous, Public Works Director, explained that the item proposed placing the traffic signal into flashing operation, with northbound and southbound traffic flashing red and eastbound and westbound traffic flashing yellow.

Chapman expressed safety concerns, stating that drivers may not clearly understand differing flashing signal indications and voiced concern due to traffic volumes and lane changes in the area.

Watrous explained that the flashing red and yellow are a national standard. Flashing red means to stop and flashing yellow means to proceed.

Weger stated concern about changing driver expectations after traffic patterns had already adjusted and supported leaving the signal in its current configuration.

Motion by Bob Weger, Second by Linda Chapman, to disapprove and leave the light as it is.

Hooton shared personal observations, noting that while accidents occurred early after the signal activation, traffic flow had since stabilized and appeared safer with the signal operating normally.

Warren stated concern about repeatedly changing traffic control patterns and recommended maintaining the current configuration to avoid further confusion.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Randy Warren, Taron Epps, Lane Hooton. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

15. Consider approving a First Amendment Professional Services Agreement between the City of Lawton and the Honorable Jari Askins for the position of Interim City Attorney.

16. Consider ratifying the City Manager's decision to co-sponsor a Resource Fair with the Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator (FISTA) to support furloughed government civilians, scheduled for November 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at FISTA Innovation Park.

17. Consider approving 105 in 25 Mill and Overlay Project Management Task Order for WSB in the amount of \$382,670.00.

18. Consider determining the actual costs of the dismantling and removal of dilapidated buildings and other expenses that may be necessary in conjunction with same by approving invoices for demolition of properties as required by State Statue 11-22-112.4 for properties located at 1008 SW Roosevelt Avenue, 2031 SW Dr Charles W Whitlow Avenue and 1805 NW Lawton Avenue.

19. Consider approving proposed appointments to boards and commissions.

MUSEUM OF THE GREAT PLAINS

AUTHORITY:

George Gill-Mayoral Appointment
212 SW 9th St.
Lawton, OK 73507
UT 06/11/2027

WATER CONSERVATORY COUNCIL COMMITTEE:

Robert Weger-Ward 6 Representative
212 SW 9th St.
Lawton, OK 73501
Council Term

George Gill-Ward 4 Representative
212 SW 9th St.
Lawton, OK 73501
Council Term

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE:

Lane Hooton – Mayoral Appointment
212 SW 9th St.
Lawton, OK 73501
Council Term

Sonny Puletasi-CCMH EMS Director-CCMH Representative
3401 W. Gore Blvd.
Lawton, OK 73505

Bruce Crowell, Kirk's EMS Director-Kirks Ambulance Representative
1616 SW F Ave.
Lawton, OK 73501

Clint Langford, Emergency Management Director- Comanche County Emergency
Management Representative
315 SW 5th St., Suite 107
Lawton, OK 73501

Jared Williams, Fire Chief-COL Staff Member
212 SW 9th St.
Lawton, OK 73501

20. Consider approving the minutes of the October 22, 2025 Special Meeting.

Business Items

21. Consideration and action upon a resolution of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, (the "City") approving and authorizing the incurring of indebtedness by the trustees of the Lawton Industrial Development Authority (the "Authority") to be accomplished by the issuance of its Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness in one or more series either in series names or others determined as needed on a tax-exempt or taxable basis, at a premium or discount, in the aggregate principal par amount of not to exceed Eighty-Five Million and No/100 Dollars (\$85,000,000.00) (the "Bonds") for the purpose of financing all or a portion of the costs of acquisition, construction, equipping, renovating and improving certain streets and capital improvement projects which are expected to include, but are not limited to, a portion of or all of the costs of the improvements to the Lawton Youth Sports Facility, Elmer Thomas Park, the discovery zone, and other acquisitions, repairs and improvements relating to City capital projects all for the benefit of the City; and pay costs of issuance related thereto; providing that the organizational document creating the Authority is subject to the provisions of the Bond Indenture authorizing the issuance of said Bonds; approving the award of the sale of said Bonds on a negotiated basis, approving the waiver of competitive bidding with regard to the sale of said Bonds; and approving the proceedings of the Authority pertaining to the sale of said Bonds; approving and

authorizing a sales tax agreement (the “Sales Tax Agreement”) by and between the City and the Authority pertaining to a year-to-year pledge of certain sales tax revenues; and all matters related thereto, including execution of all related documents thereto.

Stricken

22. Consider adopting a resolution proposing that the improvement district entitled Willow Springs Neighborhood Water Main Improvement District be created upon setting a public hearing date and instructing the City Clerk to give notice of such hearing on the proposed district to the property owners of record within the proposed district boundary.

Christine James, Planning Director, presented the item and explained that the request originated in March, when residents of the Willow Springs condominiums and townhomes requested assistance with replacement of aging private water lines. She stated that the existing lines were installed in the 1980s, have experienced ongoing maintenance issues, and are no longer sustainable for the neighborhood to maintain independently.

James explained that on June 24, the City Council determined that creation of an improvement district was necessary to address the issue. Following that action, the City engaged Garver to prepare preliminary engineering plans and cost estimates, which were received on September 11. Those estimates were provided to the neighborhood association, which indicated its desire to move forward.

She described the proposed project area, noting it includes the Willow Springs condominium and townhouse development located near 67th Street, and explained that the project would replace existing four-inch and six-inch water lines with eight-inch lines to meet current City standards. The project would also include new fire hydrants, meters, and related infrastructure.

James reviewed the estimated costs, stating that the projected construction cost is approximately \$1.2 million, with total project costs—including inspection, staff time, and contingencies—estimated at approximately \$1.3 million as a worst-case scenario. She emphasized that the figures presented represented conservative estimates intended to provide transparency to property owners.

She further explained the improvement district financing process, including potential 15-, 20-, 25-, or 30-year repayment options, and stated that financing would likely occur through the Water Resources Board. James clarified that Council was not being asked to select financing terms at this time.

James outlined the statutory process, explaining that approval of this item would set a public hearing for December 9 to formally consider creation of the district. If approved at that hearing, a 30-day protest period would follow as required by state law. After that

period, the City would proceed with final design, bidding, and construction. She noted that once the protest period expires, the project must proceed.

She stated that upon completion, the new water infrastructure would be dedicated to the City, built to City standards, and maintained by the City going forward. Liens would be filed on benefited properties to secure repayment, similar to other improvement district projects.

Mayor Booker asked clarifying questions to confirm his understanding that the neighborhood currently has privately owned water lines, that the improvement district allows costs to be spread over time rather than paid upfront by residents, and that ownership and maintenance responsibility would transfer to the City after completion. James confirmed each point.

Mayor Booker also confirmed that the upgrade would improve fire protection, to which James responded that the increased pipe size would meet current fire flow requirements.

Mayor Booker commented that improvement districts are a valuable but underused tool for addressing aging infrastructure and expressed support for the approach.

No further questions were raised.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Allan Hampton, to approve Resolution 25-271. AYE: Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Randy Warren, Taron Epps, Lane Hooton. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

23. Consider approving an ordinance pertaining to Utilities, Amending Sections 22-4-1-410 And 22-4-1-412 , both in Division 22-4-1, Article 22-4, Chapter 22, Lawton City Code 2015 by adding provisions for abandoned shopping carts to be considered bulk waste, clarifying bulk waste terminology and setting fees as such, providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

Stricken

24. Consider approving an ordinance pertaining to Nuisance and Health, amending Divisions 15-1-101, 15-1-118, and 15-1-119, and creating Division 15-1-120, all in Article 15-1, Chapter 15, Lawton City Code 2015 by adding definitions, changing numbering, adding shopping cart provisions concerning unlawful possession, and requiring retailers to play an active role in the public nuisance of abandoned shopping carts within the city, providing for codification, providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

Stricken

Executive Session

Motion by George Gill, Second by Lane Hooton, to enter into executive session. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

The City Council entered Executive Session at 6:34PM and reconvened in Open Session at 6:53PM. No action was taken in Executive Session, in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Randy Warren, to return to open session. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

25. Pursuant to Section 307B.3, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the potential purchase of real property, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

No Action.

26. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending action in the Court of Civil Appeals titled Julie Magness v. City of Lawton, Case No. 123509 and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Motion by Lane Hooton, Second by Taron Epps, to approve addendum one to the retainer agreement between City of Lawton and the Law Firm Pierce, Couch, Hendrickson, Baysinger & Green, for said firm to continue to represent the City during the appeal of this action and make the addendum retroactive to October 22, 2025. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

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.

Mark Gibson, Justin Stevens, and Walter Smith were all called to speak, but no one was present.

Adjournment

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

Motion by George Gill, Second by Randy Warren, to adjourn. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55PM.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE JOINT PETITION SETTLEMENT AND MAKING PAYMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION CASE OF CHAD MEYER FOR THE AMOUNT OF NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FOUR AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$9,504.00) INCLUDING AN ATTORNEY'S FEE PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND 80/100 DOLLARS (\$1,900.80); DIRECTING THREE PERCENT (3%) OF SAID JUDGMENT, IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE AND 12/100 DOLLARS (\$285.12), TO BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE OKLAHOMA TAX COMMISSION AS A MULTIPLE INJURY TRUST FUND TEMPORARY ASSESSMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 85A OKLA. STAT. SECTION 31.A.7; AND FILING A FOREIGN JUDGMENT IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF COMANCHE COUNTY FOR PURPOSE OF PLACING SAID JUDGMENT ON THE TAX ROLLS.

WHEREAS, Chad Meyer has filed an injury claim with the Workers' Compensation Commission for disability benefits as a result of an injury to his right foot, which occurred on July 23, 2025, while on duty as a Fire Captain for the City of Lawton, Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, a Joint Petition Settlement has been reached in the amount of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Four and No/100 Dollars (\$9,504.00), including an attorney's fee payment in the amount of One Thousand Nine Hundred and 80/100 Dollars (\$1,900.80); and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 85A Okla. Stat. Section 31.A.7., for injuries occurring on or after July 1, 2019, the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall assess and collect from claimants a Multiple Injury Trust Fund temporary assessment in the amount of three percent (3%) of the total award or settlement for permanent partial disability or permanent total disability; and,

WHEREAS, in the Joint Petition Settlement filed with the Workers' Compensation Commission, the claimant agreed that said assessment, representing three percent (3%) of the joint petition settlement amount attributable to permanent partial disability or permanent total disability, shall be deducted from the settlement amount and paid by the employer; and,

WHEREAS, the above referenced Multiple Injury Trust Fund Assessment representing three percent (3%) of the joint petition settlement amount attributable to permanent partial disability or permanent total disability is Two Hundred Eighty-Five and 12/100 Dollars (\$285.12); and,

WHEREAS, the amount due to Chad Meyer will be Nine Thousand Five Hundred Four and No/100 Dollars (\$9,504.00), including an attorney's fee payment in the amount of One Thousand Nine Hundred and 80/100 Dollars (\$1,900.80) and including a Multiple Injury Trust Fund Assessment to be paid to the Oklahoma Tax Commission in the amount of Two Hundred Eighty-Five and 12/100 Dollars (\$285.12).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Lawton, that the City Council approves the Joint Petition Settlement and filing of a foreign judgment for

purposes of placing said judgment on the tax rolls and making payment of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Four and No/100 Dollars (\$9,504.00), including an attorney's fee payment in the amount of One Thousand Nine Hundred and 80/100 Dollars (\$1,900.80) and a Multiple Injury Trust Fund Assessment to be paid to the Oklahoma Tax Commission in the amount of Two Hundred Eighty-Five and 12/100 Dollars (\$285.12), in the workers' compensation case of Chad Meyer.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma this 4th day of November 2025.

STANLEY BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONALYNN BLAZEK-SCHERLER, CITY CLERK

 APPROVED as to form and legality this 24th of October 2025.

GARRETT LAM, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY