City of Lawton

City Council

Minutes

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

Tuesday, July 8, 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 Allan Hampton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

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
Councilman - Ward 8 Randy Warren

Absent:
Councilman- Ward 2 RL Smith

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

Presentation

1. Clean Sweep Award

Stricken

Reports: Mayor/City Council

Warren stated the rain had slowed down and encouraged residents to mow their lawns while conditions allow, noting grass growth would become difficult again once rain returns. He also encouraged use of the City's mobile app, describing it as easier to navigate than the City website and noting it contains information such as refuse schedules and bulk pickup.

Williams reminded the public about summer meal sites in Ward 7, including St. John Baptist Church, Owens Multipurpose Center, and D.E. Davis Education Center in the Ranch Oaks area,
stating meals would be available into July 25th for children ages 1–18, and for disabled individuals age 25 and below.

Weger thanked residents for prayers, cards, and kind words during a brief absence. Weger gave a "big shout out" to CCMH and Dr. Daniel Goats, stating appreciation for Dr. Goats' help and describing him as a great surgeon.

Hampton referenced the Farmer's Market and encouraged residents to visit, adding that while "Food Truck Tuesday" had ended, some food trucks were still expected on Tuesday nights. Hampton then made a personal announcement, stating it had been fulfilling to give back to the community and that constituents had encouraged another run for office. Hampton stated the intent to run again for what was described as a "last term," in order to continue serving the community.

Gill referenced ongoing road construction and projects, including activity on 38th Street between Gore and Lee, and stated the City would be going out for bids to extend work from 38th Street to 52nd Street. Gill also referenced starting "150 roads" toward the end of the month. He also stated the Council would later consider traffic control actions on Gore, describing plans to adjust signal timing by extending green time for traffic moving east/west on Gore and shortening timing for side streets at select intersections. Gill framed the purpose as improving travel times and reducing unnecessary delays at signals.

Chapman stated that councilmembers had a folder at their seats from the Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra, encouraging them to read it. Chapman said the upcoming season would commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, with three concerts including patriotic tributes. Chapman encouraged purchasing tickets and emphasized the importance of the arts. Chapman also gave a shout-out to the Lawton Community Theater, noting its season information was available online and encouraging attendance.

Hankins-Booker agreed with earlier comments about mowing and encouraged residents to maintain yards, stating it is not fair to neighbors when properties are not maintained.

Mayor Booker described two days of Independence-related events, referring to Lawton/Fort Sill as a patriotic community and highlighting fireworks and drone show elements. Mayor Booker encouraged community participation in upcoming events, including the Lawton Birthday Celebration and the International Festival, emphasizing the value of community gathering.

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.

Dennis Beasley introduced himself with personal background, referencing prior involvement in Lawton and stating he previously served as chairman of the Citizens Participation Committee that administered CDBG funds (stated years: 1979–1982). Beasley described the committee's administration as involving a large annual budget and referenced historic project funding related to Numu Creek (formerly "Squall Creek"), stating it was funded in 1979 and asserting the City has limited records of it.

Beasley stated the former Citizens Participation Committee no longer exists and said he had spoken with several citizens and decided to form a citizens-based participation committee to oversee how CDBG is handled. Beasley referenced concerns that in 2022 the City reportedly had to refund nearly 50% of CDBG monies back to HUD and questioned why funding levels were low.

Beasley asked why the City's CDBG amount is "so little," why a significant refund occurred, and questioned where the Citizens Participation Committee is now, stating they intended to investigate further. Beasley concluded by thanking the Council for time.

Matina Davis stated she was present to put on the record that she had been emailing her city representative and the mayor without receiving a response. Davis thanked the City Attorney and the City Clerk for responding to her emails, but requested responses from her city councilmember and the mayor.

Robert Morris stated he was commenting on zoning surrounding his neighborhood in Wyatt Village, specifically changes from light industry to heavy industry. Morris stated he believed residents were previously told they would be notified if heavy industry zoning was considered, but said nobody notified residents and that he learned about it through a mail circular.

Morris stated he was concerned about the impacts on property values and about industrial plants obstructing mountain views. He asked the Council to reconsider and suggested heavy industry would be better located farther west, leaving the area around the neighborhood in light industry zoning. Morris concluded with those comments.

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 Bob Weger, Second by Sherene L Williams, to approve the consent as presented. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

2. Consider the following damage claims recommended for approval: Kenneth and Jaqueline Robinson in the amount of $25,000.00, Scott Toft in the amount of $1,266.50, and Richard and Rachel Flores in the amount of $1,516.96, and approve a resolution authorizing the filing of a friendly suit and confessing judgment in said amount.

Kenneth and Jaqueline Robinson in the amount of $25,000.00

Resolution 25-181

Scott Toft in the amount of $1,266.50

Resolution 25-182

Richard and Rachel Flores in the amount of $1,516.96

Resolution 25-183

3. Consider the following tort claims recommended for denial: The Claims Center on behalf of Dobson Fiber in the amount of $24,298.56, and Wipyo Hong on behalf of the Korean First Baptist Church in the amount of $16,500.53.

4. Consider approving a resolution amending the City of Lawton FY26 budget by appropriating up to $1,200,000.00 to the Emergency Reserve Fund for the repair of landfill cells 6 and 7.

Resolution 25-184

5. Consider adopting a resolution approving certain new and revised pages in the form of a book entitled Volumes I and II to the City of Lawton Municipal

Code, 2015, printed and designated as the 2023-2024 Biennial Supplement, known as Supplements No. 9 and 10 to the Lawton City Code, 2015, and authorizing distribution.

Resolution 25-185

6. Consider approving a resolution directing the City Clerk to notify the public of the publication of the 2023-2024 Biennial Supplement, known as Supplements No. 9 and 10 to the Lawton City Code, 2015 and further directing the City Clerk to file certified copies of this resolution and copies of Supplements No. 9 and 10 to the Lawton City Code, 2015 with designated governmental entities as required.

Resolution 25-186

7. Consider approving a resolution amending Appendix A, Chapter A-19, Article A-19-8, Schedule of Fees and Charges, Lawton City Code, 2015, by creating fees for daily and seasonal passes for the Lawton Aquatic Park.

Resolution 25-187

8. Consider approving the change of the Lawton Animal Welfare Division's Shelter Management Software to ShelterLuv.

9. Consider approving an agreement between the Lawton Philharmonic Society, Inc. and the City of Lawton to fund activities by the Society designed to encourage, promote and foster tourism and economic development in the City, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement.

10. Consider renewing a professional services agreement , contract agreed-upon procedures, and a contract addendum which outlines management's responsibilities and agreed-upon procedures with FORVIS MAZARS, LLP (FORVIS) for the City's annual auditing services for FY 2024-2025, including the City's required single audit of expenditures from federal financial awards - base engagement fees total $198,500.

11. Consider directing staff to engage Crawford & Associates to perform an audit of the Capital Improvement Program Funds.

12. Consider directing staff to engage Crawford & Associates to prepare the 2024

Performeter.

13. Consider acceptance of an FAA Grant (Airport Improvement Program Reimbursement Grant 4-30-0051-048-2025) in the amount of $1,033,984.00 for reimbursement of the Revenue Bond utilized for the Lawton/Fort Sill Municipal Airport Terminal Project.

14. Consider approving the GoTo Communications agreement to continue our telecommunications and virtual needs.

15. Consider approving a contract with 4X Construction Group, LLC. on Project PW2505-Emergency Landfill Repairs, in the amount of $1,094,187.35.

16. Consider approving an annual contract extension for Emergency Generator Maintenance (CL23-040).

17. Consider and approve the contact extension CL24-003 Sludge Lagoon Maintenance to Hodges Farms and Dredging, 501 N West St. Lebo KS 66856, to perform sludge lagoon cleaning at Medicine Park Water Treatment plant and South East Water Treatment plant.

18. Consider approving an agreement between the Lawton Community Theatre, Inc. and the City of Lawton to fund activities by the Theatre 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 annual contract extension for priest Brothers Wrecker Service (Cars & Light Trucks Up To 15,000 GVW) CL23-027.

20. Consider accepting and acknowledging a First Amended Agreement between the Lawton Water Authority (for the benefit of the City of Lawton) and Schoolhouse Slough Convenience Store, LLC for the management and operation of the Schoolhouse Slough Convenience Store and Fuel System by

adding an Exhibit "B", contingent upon the Lawton Water Authority approving the amended agreement.

21. Consider authorizing the Mayor to execute the Local Elected Official Consortium Agreement for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act South Central Oklahoma Workforce Development Area.

22. Review a citizen request to pave SW 52nd Street between SW Bishop Rd and SW Coombs Rd and recommend disapproval.

23. Consider approving the construction plat for Eastlake Addition, Part 3D, subject to conditions.

24. 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 2603 SW B Avenue, 4505 SW G Avenue, 7710 SW Oxford Avenue. and 1109 NW 34th Street

25. Consider approving appointments to boards and commissions.

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION:
Francis Dwain Baxter – Ward 8 Appointment
6808 SW Oak Pointe Blvd
Lawton, OK 73505
7/08/2028

LAWTON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:
Jace Zacharias – Council Appointment
838 NW Hilltop Drive
Lawton, OK 73507
UT 08/24/2025

LAWTON YOUTH SPORTS TRUST AUTHORITY:
Taylor Watson – Trustee Nomination
611 NW Micklegate Blvd
Lawton, Ok 73505
UT 2/22/2026

STREETS, BRIDGES, AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEE:
RL Smith – Ward 2
212 SW 9th Street
Lawton, OK 73501
Council Term

26. Consider approving the minutes of the June 10, 2025 and June 24, 2025 City Council meetings.

Business Items

27. Discuss the process for appointing a new council member to represent Ward 1 in anticipation of Councilmember Mary Ann Hankins-Booker's upcoming resignation and take action as deemed necessary.

Timothy Wilson, Acting City Attorney, stated the process is governed by the City Charter and referenced Charter section addressing mayor/council vacancies. Wilson explained generally that after a resignation occurs, remaining members appoint a successor by majority vote until the next possible municipal election for the unexpired term. Wilson described a past example involving Councilman Fortenbaugh and referenced use of an application window, executive session interviews of qualified ward residents, and a subsequent appointment.

Wilson noted that the timing of the next possible election depends on the actual resignation date. Wilson stated that applications could potentially be accepted before the resignation, but no appointment could occur until an official vacancy exists.

Warren asked about a 60-day timeline, referencing a statute. Wilson stated a statute mentions filling within 60 days, and said it would be a “safe” approach to complete an appointment within 60 days of resignation, even though the Charter does not specifically state 60 days. Wilson also indicated he was still reviewing other potentially applicable state statutes but emphasized the Charter controls.

Wilson referenced another historical example involving Councilman Haywood (2015), describing that an election occurred to fill the remainder of that unexpired term.

Mayor Booker confirmed no action was needed and moved to the next item.

28. Discuss a cyber fraud incident involving LEDA and a $224,840.34 wire transfer and take action as deemed necessary.

Richard Rogalski, LEDA Executive Director, reported that LEDA experienced a fraudulent incident involving email deception and a wire transfer. Rogalski stated that LPD, the FBI, and the Secret Service were investigating due to multi-state elements. He said LEDA’s attorneys advised him not to disclose too much and that he would describe events generally to avoid jeopardizing the investigation.

Rogalski explained the fraud was notable because the fraudulent message appeared within an active email thread that had been ongoing for days among multiple participants, involving normal vendor payment processing steps and documentation. He stated the fraudulent message requested a wire transfer instead of a check. He said the issue was not discovered until more than a month later when he received a text message indicating the request “wasn’t me.”

Rogalski described the incident as disheartening, stating that even IT review could not easily distinguish real from fraudulent emails in the thread. He praised LPD’s investigative work and said they had developed leads he could not publicly share. Rogalski stated the purpose of bringing the matter forward was transparency to elected officials and the public, within limits of an active investigation.

Mayor Booker asked whether the public had received as much information as possible under the circumstances.

Rogalski stated LEDA was working with legal counsel and seeking an attorney with expertise in this area to determine how liability should be evaluated once the facts are fully known, stating he did not yet know where liability would fall.

Ratliff stated that as a result of the incident, the City had made policy changes that would be incorporated into support agreements with authorities, requiring specific wire transfer procedures. Ratliff emphasized authorities are separate legal entities, but stated that because the funds are public money, the City had an obligation to act. Ratliff added that administrative purchasing policy language was being updated and would be included in support agreements going forward.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Sherene L Williams, to direct the City Manager to draft a letter to all authorities to notify of future changes to support agreements and requirement to follow City's purchasing policy effective immediately.

Gill asked for a clearer explanation of the “trail” of the money for transparency, describing his understanding that the payment was made in good faith, but that the vendor’s system had been compromised, enabling a fraudulent actor to intercept or divert the payment, leaving both the vendor and LEDA harmed.

Rogalski confirmed Gill’s description was consistent with his understanding, adding that the funds went to an account in the vendor’s name but that the account had been established fraudulently at a legitimate bank.

Ratliff confirmed the vendor’s email system had been compromised and that the request appeared to come from the vendor, but was in fact fraudulent.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan

Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

29. Discuss the issues associated with directing staff to draft a resolution that would amend Resolution No. 2006-189, by increasing the per-fine allocation to the Lawton Police and Fire Department Training Fund from a total of ten dollars ($10.00) to twenty dollars ($20.00), with ten dollars ($10.00) designated to each department respectively and take action as deemed necessary.

Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager, stated the training fund allocation originated years earlier (referenced around 2010). Burk explained a $10 allocation from certain fine revenue had been established and split between police and fire for training purposes, but had not increased since inception. Burk stated costs have increased, and police/fire requested increasing the allocation to $20 total, split $10 each.

Burk stated the municipal judge advised the City was already at the fine cap and could not increase fines further. Burk described the remaining options as either redirecting more of the existing fine revenue away from the general fund, or addressing training needs through the annual budget process. Burk stated management recommended addressing the need through the budget process rather than drafting an ordinance to change fine allocations.

Mayor Booker expressed confusion about why the item was on the agenda, stating that the matter appeared within administrative purview.

Burk stated it came forward from the Fee Committee, where members were split and staff needed additional legal research, so it was brought for further discussion with no recommendation.

Motion by George Gill, Second by Randy Warren, to allow City Manager to deal with this request through the budget process.

Chapman asked for a ballpark annual amount.

Jillian Allison, Director of Municipal Court, stated she reviewed numbers from the last three years. Allison stated the impact would be just under 6% of what is deposited into the general fund from court receipts.

Allison stated a $10 change would equate to approximately $112,330, describing it as 5.93% based on a fiscal-year gross figure referenced during discussion. Allison confirmed the $10 amount was approximately $112,000.

Warren noted preference for the smaller figure and mentioned, as a separate thought, the option of becoming a “court of record” as something to consider for future evaluation.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

30. Receive a traffic report and consider the installation of traffic-control measures in the form of a stop sign on SW 69th Street at SW Beta and provide direction to staff as deemed necessary.

Weger stated he received numerous calls about speeding in the area and requested a traffic study. Weger stated the City provided a traffic study but it resulted in no clear recommendation. Weger stated he requested installation of a stop sign to slow drivers in the neighborhood.

Michael Watrous, Public Works Director, stated staff conducted the traffic study and it did not find excessive speeding and did not meet the neighborhood traffic calming policy threshold. Watrous stated that, despite the lack of threshold support, stop signs were an option that could be considered, and staff was presenting it to Council for direction.

Motion by Bob Weger, Second by Randy Warren, to approve the installation of a stop sign on 69th Street at SW Beta.

Warren raised a broader concern that long streets without controls often fail to meet criteria but still experience high speeds, giving a personal example of speeding on Columbia and suggesting street length between controls might be a factor worth studying.

Mayor Booker asked Watrous to define the criteria and its origin.

Watrous explained the original criteria came from peer cities (including Norman) and involved an 85th percentile speed benchmark and vehicle count thresholds. Watrous stated the policy was simplified more recently by using average speed rather than 85th percentile to improve public understanding and that current criteria were less restrictive than peers.

Mayor Booker asked whether staff measures traffic over a 24-hour period, and Watrous stated monitoring is typically done on weekdays in school-zone contexts to avoid weekend distortion.

Gill addressed the broader traffic-control framework, noting constraints on speed bumps (including safety and limitations on higher-speed roads), limited enforcement resources, and the practice of deferring to ward representatives regarding localized issues. Gill stated that when items come forward without recommendation, there is generally a reason.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: Mary Ann Hankins. Motion Passed.

31. Receive a traffic report and consider approving traffic control measures in the way of stop signs on SW Parkridge Blvd at the intersection of SW 43rd St and Parkway Drive.

Williams stated stop signage was needed in the area. Williams stated she initially requested a speed hump but agreed to proceed with stop signs.

Watrous stated the location did not meet the traffic calming threshold but did show a number of speeding vehicles. Watrous stated Public Works recommended stop signs in the area and that the item was presented to Council with the note that it did not meet policy threshold so Council could make the decision.

Motion by Sherene L Williams, Second by Allan Hampton, to approve the installation of stop signs on SW Parkridge Blvd at the intersection of SW 43rd St and Parkway Drive. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Executive Session

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

The City Council entered Executive Session at 6:54PM and reconvened in Open Session at 7:30PM. No action was taken in Executive Session, in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

32. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending tort claim of Ashley Woods and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Motion by Bob Weger, Second by Randy Warren, to approve the damage claim for Ashley Woods in the reduced amount of $3,583.55 and approved Resolution 25-190 authorizing the filing of a friendly suit and confessing judgment in said amount, and authorized the city attorney to sign all necessary forms to effectuate settlement. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

33. Pursuant to Section 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending action in the District Court of Comanche County titled City of Lawton, Oklahoma, A Municipal Corporation vs. Transforming Hand, Inc, et al, Case No. CJ-2025-265. and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

No Action Taken.

34. Pursuant to Section 307 B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending claim of Jibri Burgess and, if

necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

No Action Taken.

Adjournment

Motion by George Gill, Second by Randy Warren, to adjourn. AYE: Mary Ann Hankins, Linda Chapman, George Gill, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:31PM.