



McMahon Memorial Auditorium

801 NW Ferris Ave
PO Box 522
Lawton, OK 73502
580-581-3472
Fax 580-581-3473
www.lawtonok.gov



Max Sasseen
Chair

Allan Jolly
Vice-Chair

Teresa Pendergraft
Secretary/Treasurer

Dory Thomas
Jason Poudrier
Paul Ellwanger
Taron Epps
OPEN
OPEN

Jason Poudrier
Arts & Humanities
Director

Andrea Morman
Arts & Humanities
Deputy Administrator

Michell Rosario
Arts & Humanities
Community Events &
Outreach Coordinator

Haley Moore
Arts & Humanities
Digital Media &
Records Specialist

Reagan Phillips
Administrative
Assistant

Jimmy Carswell
Arts & Humanities
Technical Coordinator

Darwin McHenry
Arts & Humanities
Maintenance Tech

Minutes
Regular Meeting
McMahon Auditorium Authority
March 12, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.
Carnegie Library Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL – 4:00 pm

PRESENT: Sasseen, Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Poudrier, and Thomas

ABSENT: Epps

STAFF: Morman, Phillips

VERIFY POSTING OF MEETING

Action: Verification of posting time, place, and date

CONSENT AGENDA: The following items are considered to be routine by the McMahon Auditorium Authority 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.

1. Consider approving minutes from February 12, 2026.

2. Consider accepting the bank register reports for February 2026.

Motion by Pendergraft to approve the meeting minutes from February 12, 2026 and the February 2026 bank register reports. Second by Poudrier.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

3. Auditorium Update

Sasseen and Jolly reported on the construction happening at the McMahon Memorial Auditorium. Jolly stated that the project is progressing well with floor covering and tile work mostly done. Poudrier reported that the Auditorium staff is walking through and developing punch lists. Sasseen reported that there is a chance the project is coming in on budget. Sasseen reported that he and Poudrier have secured \$5,000 from the Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority to go towards landscaping and that there may be an additional \$5,000 available that was left over from the McMahon Foundation Grant for the auditorium marquee.

4. CLTH Update

Sasseen reported that Terry Wells has completed his work in the basement. Steps have been taken to address mold issues and Arts for All should be able to move back into the building soon.

5. Armory Update

Sasseen reported that now that the final invoices are being paid for the Carnegie Library Town Hall repairs, he and staff will be looking at the repair budget to see how much is left for the reroof project on the National Guard Armory.

6. Other announcements

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

7. CPA's Financial Reports

Pendergraft reported that she just received the financial report from the CPA and has not been able to fully study it. Pendergraft noted that the auditorium's financial position remains relatively stable, especially given the limited income over the past year.

8. Audit Update

Pendergraft reported that she has received a bid from Christopher Turner for three years of auditing services with the first year requiring extra work. The first year bid is higher, with subsequent years decreasing in price. The previous audit fee was \$9,000.00, while the new bid is around \$13,000.00.

STAFF REPORTS

9. Review Events Calendar

Morman reported on the March and April calendars for the Arts and Humanities division and events at the Carnegie Library Town Hall. She and Phillips reported that Student performances on March 31 has approximately 1,400 students registered for two free shows. Morman also reported that staff is assisting with several City groundbreaking events. Morman went on to report on the March book discussion, led by Thomas, the Arts and Humanities division's involvement with Open Streets on April 4, and the possibility of an Earth Day Art Show in late April at the Carnegie Library Town Hall.

10. Hotel/Motel, ARPA Funds Update and Grants Update

Poudrier reported that purchasing speakers, a screen, and a truss system for movies in the park will take the remaining ARPA funds. He is planning on \$20,000 of Hotel Motel to be allocated for the opening act at the auditorium and the remaining balance will be used for speakers and screens and to support programming at CLTH.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. Receive Report from International Festival Committee and take action as necessary.

Thomas reported on the updated International Festival Poster Submission Guidelines and the proposed festival layout in Elmer Thomas Park.

Motion by Thomas to ratify the International Festival Poster Guidelines and the proposed festival layout in Elmer Thomas Park. Second by Poudrier.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

12. Receive Report from Arts and Humanities Committee and take action as necessary.

Poudrier reported that he is partnering with Fort Sill's MWR to support the Lawton–Fort Sill Freedom Festival. In an effort to raise additional funds to enhance entertainment for the event, he proposed hosting a "Princess Prom Party" at Curiosity Avenue.

Ellwanger made a motion to approve the use of auditorium equipment and to allocate up to \$750 from Hotel/Motel funds to support the "Princess Prom Party" at Curiosity Avenue, with proceeds benefiting the 2026 Lawton–Fort Sill Freedom Festival. The motion was seconded by Thomas.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, and Thomas voted yes, Poudrier abstained, motion carried.

Poudrier reported on the grant submission received from Studio 13 and reviewed by the Arts and Humanities Committee. He reported that she is asking for funding to help her purchase adaptive art tools to expand the offerings that she provides and to create special programs for individuals with special needs. Discussion ensued about programs and how the tools would be used.

Motion by Poudrier to approve the grant application from Studio 13. Second by Jolly.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

Sasseen asked the authority their thoughts on changing the name of the Arts and Humanities Committee back to the Lawton Arts and Humanities Council. Poudrier replied that the original name change was initiated after talking to the City of Lawton legal department. Sasseen felt that the title of "committee" doesn't fully encapsulate the who of what the Arts and Humanities committee does.

BUSINESS ITEMS

13. Consider Selection of McMahon Auditorium Authority Auditor and take action as necessary.

Sasseen introduced this item. Discussion ensued about difficulties on finding qualified auditors, how the bid received is from a local auditor, and how many years the auditor should be contracted.

Motion by Pendergraft to accept the Christopher Tuner bid that has been received for 36 months contingent on the auditor charging no more than \$14,000 a year and authorizing staff to discuss a potential extension. Second by Poudrier.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, Ellwanger abstained, motion carried.

14. Consider recommendations of performer(s) for a re-opening performance and take action as necessary.

Poudrier introduced this item. He updated the authority on who is available to perform on August 1, 2026. Discussion ensued about which artists would sell tickets and who would be within the price range previously discussed and Neal McCoy and Cross Canadian Ragweed were two of the selected names. Poudrier mentioned that Neal McCoy already has a performance in July in Wichita Falls that would conflict with an August performance at the auditorium.

Motion by Jolly to have the Arts and Humanities staff explore dates of availability in August and September and costs for Neal McCoy and Cross Canadian Ragweed and to report back to the authority via email with consensus from the authority members. Second by Pendergraft.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

15. Review and discuss 2027 operating budget and take action as necessary.

Poudrier introduced the item and reported that only a few updates had been made from previous years. He noted that any request for Hotel/Motel funding must include an attached budget. He explained that several columns had been revised to better clarify payments received by the auditorium and those disbursed to promoters who utilize the auditorium's ticketing system. He also highlighted updates to the International Festival budget due to the change in the festival site and expressed his intent to expend the remaining insurance funds. Sasseen asked the authority their thoughts on the possibility of returning the custodianship of the National Guard Armory back to the City of Lawton, seeing as they have not received promised CIP funding to repair and restore the armory. Consensus was that the authority was charged with repairing and restoring the National Guard Armory and if the City of Lawton would like the building to be restored and repaired, they must help by providing the funding that was promised.

Discussion followed regarding the balance of available insurance funds and the status of the \$22,000 of CIP funds that have been pledged to the authority annually for programming but not yet received.

Motion by Jolly to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget. Second by Pendergraft.

Jolly, Pendergraft, Ellwanger, Poudrier, and Thomas voted yes, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS – none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morman announced that a new Fort Sill representative should be appointed following Sibilla's departure.

Thomas announced that the National Endowment for the Arts will be sending the final \$2,000 for the Lawton NEA Big Read that took place in the fall of 2025.

Poudrier announced that there is still an open seat on the authority board from when Neil West resigned.

Jolly announced that Lawton Community Theatre had one of it's most successful runs for Sweeney Todd. He also announced upcoming auditions for Lawton Community Theatre production of Oliver.

ADJOURNEMENT – The meeting adjourned at 5:33PM.