



City of Lawton

Council Fee Committee

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

Minutes

Monday, March 16, 2026

2:00 PM

Lawton City Hall
Wayne Gilley Auditorium
Conference Room

Recommending Body

"Official action can only be taken on items listed on the agenda. As a recommending body, the Committee may review and discuss agenda items, propose and enact floor amendments, and then choose to make a recommendation to the City Council or provide direction to the City Manager. The Committee may also defer items for further review, refer matters to the City Attorney, or send items to standing committees, boards, commissions, or authorities for additional study. In some cases, items may be postponed to a later date or removed from the agenda entirely."

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman Allan Hampton 2:00 PM.

Statement of Compliance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 301-314

The notice and agenda were posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. 301-314.

Roll Call

Present:

Councilman - Ward 6 Bob Weger
Councilman - Ward 5 Allan Hampton
Councilman - Ward 1 Lane Hooton

Absent: N/A

Also Present:

- Dwayne Burk, Deputy City Manager
- Kristen Huntley, Finance
- Michael Watrous, Public Works
- David Hastings, Public Utilities
- Kelvin Ingram, Parks & Recreation
- Charlotte Brown, CED
- Larry Parks, CED
- Julia Mantzke, City Council Liaison

- George Gill, Citizen
- Tiffiney Dimery, Ward 4 Councilmember
- Mike Ray, Lawton Constitution
- Yolanda Allen, CED

Introduction of Guests

Business Items

1. Consider the recommendation from the Stormwater Advisory Committee regarding proposed changes to the Stormwater Fee and make a recommendation to City Council.

Motion: by Weger, second by Hooton, Table item 1: Consider the recommendation from the Stormwater Advisory Committee regarding proposed changes to the Stormwater Fee and make a recommendation to City Council. AYE: Hooton, Weger, Hampton. NAY: None MOTION PASSED

2. Consider making a recommendation to Council regarding an increase in the fee for uncovered/improperly covered loads to the landfill for commercial customers.

Motion: by Weger, second by Hooton, Table Item 2. Consider making a recommendation to Council regarding an increase in the fee for uncovered/improperly covered loads to the landfill for commercial customers. AYE: Hooton, Weger, Hampton. NAY: None MOTION PASSED

3. Receive an annual briefing from the Director of Public Works regarding the Solid Waste State Fee.

Motion: by Weger, second by Hooton, Table Item 3, Receive an annual briefing from the Director of Public Works regarding the solid Waste State Fee. AYE: Hooton, Weger, Hampton. NAY: None MOTION PASSED

4. Receive a briefing on a proposal to round fees to the nearest 5 cents and provide feedback and direction to staff.

Motion: by Weger, second by Hooton, Table Item 4, Receive a briefing on a proposal to round fees to the nearest 5 cents and provide feedback and direction to staff. AYE: Hooton, Weger, Hampton. NAY: None MOTION PASSED

5. Consider making a recommendation to City Council regarding an increase in Daily and Season Pass Fees for Lawton Aquatic Center

Motion: by Weger, second by Hooton, Table Item 5, Consider making a

recommendation to City Council regarding an increase in Daily and Season Pass Fees for Lawton Aquatics Center. AYE: Hooton, Weger, Hampton. NAY: None MOTION PASSED

6. Consider making a recommendation to City Council regarding increasing and adding items in the Lawton Aquatic Center Concession Stand Fees

Motion: by Weger, second by Hooton, Table Item 6, Consider making a recommendation to City Council regarding increasing and adding items in the Lawton Aquatics Center Concession Stand Fees. AYE: Hooton, Weger, Hampton. NAY: None MOTION PASSED

7. Consider making a recommendation to City Council regarding fees for upcoming aquatic season programming.

Motion: by Weger, second by Hooton, Table item 7. Consider making a recommendation to the City Council regarding fees for the upcoming aquatic season programming for the next fee committee meeting. AYE: Hooton, Weger, Hampton. NAY: None MOTION PASSED

8. Discuss and consider recommending to the City Council a fifteen percent (15%) increase across the board to the City of Lawton Fee Schedule, excluding fees charged on the water bill, statutory fees established by law, and any exemptions identified by the Fee Committee.

Chair Hampton introduced the item for consideration: a proposed 15% across-the-board increase to the City of Lawton Fee Schedule, excluding:

- Fees associated with water bills
- Statutory fees established by law
- Any identified exemptions

Burk presented the staff report and provided the following information:

- City code requires annual review and adjustment of fees based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Southwest Region, per Council Resolution 22-93.
- The last comprehensive fee adjustment occurred in 2022, with no annual CPI-based adjustments implemented since.
- The proposed 15% increase is intended to account for cumulative CPI impacts over the past several years.
- Certain fees will be excluded, including:
 - o Statutorily regulated fees
 - o Fees previously adjusted by Council action (e.g., lake leases)
- Staff is preparing a resolution identifying all applicable exemptions.
- Adjustments will include rounding to the nearest nickel or dime, resulting in minor variations from the exact 15% increase.

Burk further advised that the proposed increase is necessary to support revenue projections and budget development.

Hooton and Weger discussed the following:

- Clarification of the 2022 fee increase and its intended purpose.
- The absence of annual CPI adjustments in 2023 and 2024.
- Concerns regarding the magnitude of a 15% increase and its potential impact on residents and businesses.
- Consideration of alternative approaches, including:
 - o Phased or incremental increases over multiple years
 - o Differentiation between residential and commercial fee impacts
- Discussion regarding City exemptions, including stormwater-related considerations. Staff indicated the City does not currently bill itself for such services and implementation would require administrative changes.
- The importance of benchmarking against peer cities and maintaining operational efficiency.

Burk recommended that the Committee:

- Forward the proposal to the City Council for consideration, and
- Allow staff to prepare additional analysis, including:
 - o Identification of exempted fees
 - o Potential categorization of fees (residential vs. commercial)
 - o Alternative rate scenarios

Motion: by Weger, second by Hooton, Direct staff to present the proposed fee increase to the City Council for consideration. AYE: Hooton, Weger. NAY: Hampton MOTION PASSED

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 Weger, second by Hooton, Meeting adjournment at 3:02 PM. AYE: Hooton, Weger, Hampton. NAY: None MOTION PASSED