



City of Lawton

City Council

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

Special Meeting Agenda

Friday, May 8, 2026

9:00 AM

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."

Roll Call

Business Items

1. Consider directing staff to coordinate with WSB to prepare engineering cost estimates and evaluate the feasibility of bundling bridge projects for the remaining bridges identified under Project B of the 2023 General Obligation Bond Program.
2. Administer the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Chief of Police, Craig Akard
3. Consider waiving the rules of Council Policy 1-06, Section 5-E, to allow reconsideration within a six-month timeframe. If approved, reconsider a request for a temporary stay of demolition on a dangerous and dilapidated structure located at 2211 NW Baltimore Avenue and take action as deemed necessary.

Executive Session

4. Pursuant to Section 307C.11, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session for the purpose of conferring on matters pertaining to economic development, including the transfer of property, financing, or the creation of a proposal to entice a business to locate within their jurisdiction, the public disclosure of which would violate the confidentiality of prospective business entities, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

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."

Item Title:

Consider directing staff to coordinate with WSB to prepare engineering cost estimates and evaluate the feasibility of bundling bridge projects for the remaining bridges identified under Project B of the 2023 General Obligation Bond Program.

Initiator: Allan Hampton, Councilman - Ward 5

Information Source: Michael Jones, Engineering Director/ ADA Coordinator

Background:

At the March 31, 2026 Streets and Development Committee meeting, the Committee discussed the status of eleven (11) remaining bridges identified under Project B of the 2023 General Obligation Bond Program.

Committee members emphasized the importance of maintaining and improving the City's bridge infrastructure and discussed opportunities to improve efficiency in project delivery. WSB provided input indicating that bundling multiple bridge projects into a single contract could increase contractor interest, improve coordination, and potentially reduce overall costs through more competitive bidding.

It was further discussed that obtaining engineering cost estimates and evaluating the feasibility of bundling the projects would provide the City Council with clearer information regarding anticipated costs, timelines, and construction approaches. The evaluation is intended as a preliminary step to support future decision-making and does not commit the City to a specific construction method.

The City previously obtained a bridge inspection study from Lochner Engineering as part of its ongoing infrastructure assessment efforts. That study focused on inspection and condition reporting of the City's bridges. The direction contemplated in this item differs in that it would involve WSB performing an engineering evaluation to develop cost estimates, assess project scope, and determine the feasibility of bundling the remaining bridge projects for construction.

The Committee approved a motion recommending that WSB be directed to prepare engineering estimates and assess the feasibility of bundling the remaining bridge projects, with the findings to be brought back for further review.

This item allows the City Council to consider that recommendation and provide direction to staff moving forward.

Correlation to the True North Statement:

Efficiency

Exhibit:

Minutes of the 03.31.26 Streets and Development Committee Meeting

Key Issues:

N/A

Funding Source:

Ad Valorem

Recommended Action:

Direct staff to coordinate with WSB to prepare engineering cost estimates and evaluate the feasibility of bundling bridge projects for the remaining bridges identified under Project B of the 2023 General Obligation Bond Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

Item Title:

Administer the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Chief of Police, Craig Akard

Initiator: John Ratliff, City Manager

Information Source: Nathan Johnson, Municipal Judge

Background:

The City Manager has appointed Craig Akard to serve as Chief of Police for the Lawton Police Department. In accordance with that appointment, the Oath of Office will be administered to Chief Akard prior to his assumption of duties on May 11, 2026.

The administration of the Oath of Office formally recognizes Chief Akard’s commitment to faithfully discharge the duties and responsibilities of the Office of Chief of Police for the City of Lawton.

Correlation to the True North Statement:

Safe Community

Exhibit:

Oath of Office

Key Issues:

N/A

Funding Source:

N/A

Recommended Action:

Administration of Oath to Chief Craig Akard

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Oklahoma Title 51- Officers- Chief of Police
2. Loyalty Oath- Chief of Police

**Oklahoma Secretary of State, instructions for completing and filing
the LOYALTY OATH required by Oklahoma Statutes, Title 51, § 36.2A and § 36.3**

Instructions for completing the form:

1. Type and print legibly in black ink. The typed and printed text **MUST** be dark enough to be detected by a photo copier and electronic document scanner.
2. Notary Public's official seal **MUST** also be affixed in such a manner so that it too, can be detected by a photo copier and electronic document scanner.
3. After the oath has been administered, affiant and notarial officer must fully execute and complete each section of the form as indicated (notes are provided for guidance).
4. Once filed this form will be public record and available for public view. Please **do not** add or write any personal information, such as a home address, social security number, personal phone numbers or emails, etc.

Where to submit and file your completed Loyalty Oath form:

- **APPOINTED State officers*** please double check with your appointing authority for instructions on submission of this form. Each appointing authority will have their own specific process for submission and filing of a completed Loyalty Oath form.
- **ELECTED State officers*** please submit your executed Loyalty Oath form to the Oklahoma Secretary of State office for filing.
- **STATE EMPLOYEES** (not elected or appointed) Loyalty Oath forms must be filed with the personnel officer of the state entity employing the state employee. Contact your personnel office for instructions.
- **COUNTY officers** shall be filed with the office of the county clerk of the county of official residence of the officer. All other employees shall be filed with the office of the county clerk of the county in which the entity employing the employee is located. For questions and records regarding oaths for County level officials and employees please contact the County Clerk's office.
- **MUNICIPAL judges and officers** or employees OR **SCHOOL DISTRICT officers** or employees shall be filed in the office of the municipal clerk of the municipality OR in the office of the school clerk of the school district for which the officer or employee serves OR by which the officer or employee is employed. For questions and records regarding oaths for Municipal & School District level officials and employees please contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk OR the Office of the School Clerk.

*NOTE: For State Officers ONLY -- unless otherwise instructed by your appointing authority, please mail-in or deliver in person your executed, original Loyalty Oath to the Oklahoma Secretary of State office.

**Oklahoma Secretary of State office
Attn: Executive Legislative Services
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
State Capitol Building, Ste. 122
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
email: executivelegislative@sos.ok.gov / phone: 405-522-4355**

LOYALTY OATH
(Okla. Statutes, Title 51 § 36.2A)

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and the Constitution and the laws of the State of Oklahoma, and that I will faithfully discharge, according to the best of my ability, the duties of my office or employment during such time as I am

the City of Lawton Chief of Police

to the best of my ability.

Affiant Signature

State of **Oklahoma** _____

County of **Comanche**

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this _____ day of _____, _____
(day) (month) (year)

by _____
(affiant's name must be stated here, print clearly)

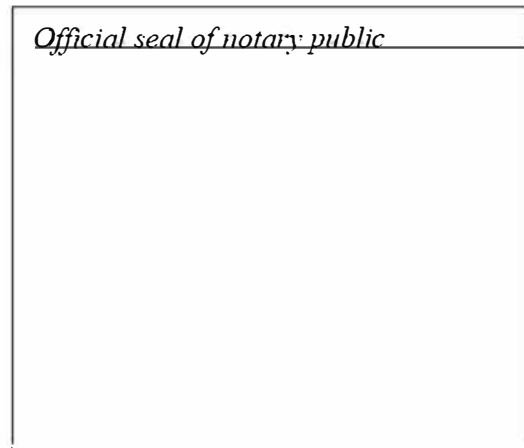
*Signature of the Notary Public OR
other Notarial Officer*

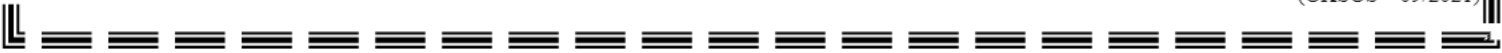
Commission Expires: _____

Commission Number: _____

Official seal of notary public

*IF a Notarial Officer (not a Notary Public)
please provide Title and Rank (51 O.S. §21)*





Item Title:

Consider waiving the rules of Council Policy 1-06, Section 5-E, to allow reconsideration within a six-month timeframe. If approved, reconsider a request for a temporary stay of demolition on a dangerous and dilapidated structure located at 2211 NW Baltimore Avenue and take action as deemed necessary.

Initiator: Larry Parks, Director

Information Source: Antonio Hopson, Deputy Director- Safe and Clean Neighborhood Services

Background:

The structure(s) located at 2211 NW Baltimore Avenue did not have an active water account, among other factors, and was declared dilapidated pursuant to Lawton City Code, Division 6-5-1 on March 25, 2025.

On May 13, 2025, the property returned to Council to consider rescinding the resolution declaring the property dilapidated, as the property then had an active water account and a roofing permit. Council voted not to rescind the resolution.

The property was sold on June 12, 2025, and the new owner applied for remodel permits.

Once the owner became unresponsive to the Building Division, the permits were canceled on December 23, 2025. A letter was mailed to the owner on February 27, 2026, stating the property had been declared dilapidated and the City was preparing for demolition.

On March 27, 2026, the water meter was disconnected and removed in preparation for demolition.

On April 8, 2026, the City Clerk's Office received a letter from the property owner requesting that the City cease and desist all demolition activities.

On April 28, 2026, the City Council considered a request for a temporary stay of demolition for this property and voted to deny the request.

At this time, the Council is being requested to reconsider the stay of demolition to allow the property owner to restore water service to the property.

Correlation to the True North Statement:

Safe Community

Exhibit:

Photos

Timeline

Cease and Desist letter

Key Issues:

Whether or not to stay the demolition of the property

Funding Source:

None

Recommended Action:

Waive the rules of Council Policy 1-06, Section 5-E, in order to reconsider an item within a six-month timeframe. Then, reconsider a request for a temporary stay of demolition on a dangerous and dilapidated structure located at 2211 NW Baltimore Avenue and take action as deemed necessary.

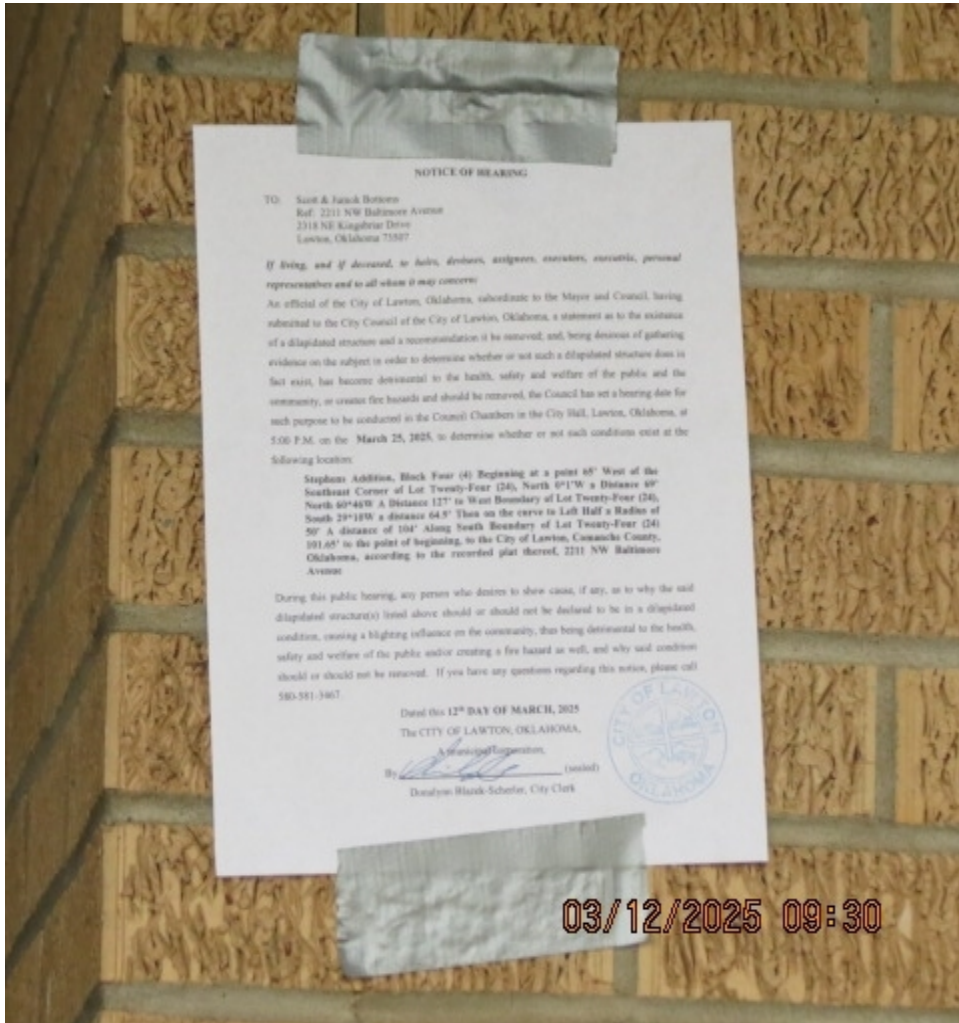
ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. 2211 NW Baltimore Avenue
- 2. Timeline
- 3. Cease D&D



Dilapidated and Dangerous Structures April 28, 2026

2211 NW Baltimore Avenue Ward 1



NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Sant & Jarak Bottoms
Ref: 2211 NW Baltimore Avenue
2211 NW Kingfisher Drive
Lawton, Oklahoma 73807

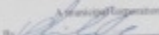
If living, and if deceased, to heirs, devisees, assignees, executors, administrators, personal representatives and to all whom it may concern:

An official of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, subordinate to the Mayor and Council, having submitted to the City Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, a statement as to the existence of a dilapidated structure and a recommendation it be removed, and, being desirous of gathering evidence on the subject in order to determine whether or not such a dilapidated structure does in fact exist, has become detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the public and the community, or create fire hazards and should be removed, the Council has set a hearing date for such purpose to be conducted in the Council Chambers in the City Hall, Lawton, Oklahoma, at 5:00 P.M. on the **March 25, 2025**, to determine whether or not such conditions exist at the following location:

Stephens Addition, Block Four (4) Beginning at a point 65' West of the Southeast Corner of Lot Twenty-Four (24), North 47°1'W a Distance 49' North 60°44'W a Distance 127' to West Boundary of Lot Twenty-Four (24), South 29°18'W a Distance 64.9' Then on the curve to Left Half a Radius of 50' a Distance of 104' Along South Boundary of Lot Twenty-Four (24) 101.65' to the point of beginning, to the City of Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof, 2211 NW Baltimore Avenue

During this public hearing, any person who desires to show cause, if any, as to why the said dilapidated structure(s) listed above should or should not be declared to be in a dilapidated condition, causing a lighting nuisance on the community, thus being detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the public and/or creating a fire hazard as well, and why said condition should or should not be removed. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call 580-581-3467.

Dated this **12th** DAY OF MARCH, 2025
The CITY OF LAWTON, OKLAHOMA,

Attest:
By:  (signed)
Donatone Blank-Scheele, City Clerk



03/12/2025 09:30

2211 NW Baltimore Avenue Ward 1



2211 NW Baltimore Avenue Ward 1



2211 NW Baltimore Avenue Ward 1



2211 NW Baltimore Avenue Ward 1



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2211 NW Baltimore Avenue Ward 1



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2211 NW Baltimore Avenue Ward 1



2211 NW Baltimore Avenue Ward 1



Timeline of 2211 NW Baltimore Circle

2025

- **March 25, 2025**
City council declared the property dilapidated.
 - Owner: Scott Bottoms
 - No active water account
 - Mr. Bottoms stated at the meeting that he had a rent-to-own contract, and occupants were living there
 - Attempt to obtain a roofing permit was denied due to inability to perform decking work
 - **April 3, 2025**
Notice of dilapidation filed with the county clerk as a public record
 - **May 2, 2025**
Roofing permit issued
 - **May 3, 2025**
Water account established
 - **May 13, 2025**
Property brought back before council
 - Reason: active water account and current roofing permit
 - Outcome: Council voted **not** to rescind the dilapidated declaration
 - **June 12, 2025**
Property sold to Charles Defatta
 - **June 16, 2025**
Mr. Defatta applied for a D&D remodel permit
 - Owner became non-responsive
 - Permit was later canceled on December 23, 2025
-

2026

- **February 27, 2026**

Neighborhood Services sent notice to Mr. Defatta

- Reminder: property declared dilapidated on March 25, 2025
- City preparing to begin demolition bid process

- **March 20, 2026**

Contract awarded to Gills Demolition for demolition

- **March 27, 2026**

Water meter removed by Revenue Services in preparation for demolition

- **April 8, 2026**

Received letter from property owner to cease and desist

Lawton, City Clerk or
To: Whom it may concern;

RECEIVED

APR -7 2026

Subject: Formal Notice of occupancy
and demand to Cease Abatement
of 2211 NW Baltimore Circle
Lawton, OK 73505.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

I Charles Defatta am the
owner of the said property. It
is my primary dwelling.

The water meter was removed
without a 10-day notice required
by Oklahoma Law and that
the City is Attempting to demolish
an occupied residence without
a Notice to vacate.

I Charles Defatta Demand an

immediate stay of all
demolition activities and a
post-deprivation hearing to
address the expired permit
and the conditions of the
home.

RECEIVED
APR 07 2026
CITY OF LAWTON
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Charles Defatta

X Charles Defatta

4-02-2026

ph: 580 647-2165
ph: 580 514-1838

Item Title:

Pursuant to Section 307C.11, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session for the purpose of conferring on matters pertaining to economic development, including the transfer of property, financing, or the creation of a proposal to entice a business to locate within their jurisdiction, the public disclosure of which would violate the confidentiality of prospective business entities, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

Initiator: Stan Booker, Mayor

Information Source: Stan Booker, Mayor

Background:

This discussion will include conferring on matters pertaining to economic development, which the public disclosure of would violate the confidentiality of prospective business entities. The City Attorney advises the City Council that the Council should determine that disclosure of such confidential communications regarding the above-referenced item will seriously impair the development of the proposal and violate the confidentiality of prospective business entities involved, and from that determination, the Council should convene in executive session to discuss this matter.

Correlation to the True North Statement:**Exhibit:****Key Issues:****Funding Source:****Recommended Action:**

Pursuant to Section 307C.11, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session for the purpose of conferring on matters pertaining to economic development, including the transfer of property, financing, or the creation of a proposal to entice a business to locate within their jurisdiction, the public disclosure of which would violate the confidentiality of prospective business entities, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

ATTACHMENTS:

None