

Lawton Public Library Board

Wednesday April 1, 2026

Notice of the meeting and agenda were posted in accordance with Oklahoma law.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Patty Neuwirth, Chair.

Roll Call: Patty Neuwirth, Chair; Sue Kremmer, Vice Chair; Frantzie Couch, Member; Fermin Viruet, Member; Michael Wilson, Member (Absent); Kristin Herr, Library Director; Tina King, Deputy Library Director; Megan Stockton, Administrative Assistant; Sherene L. Williams, City Council Liaison

Draft minutes for the March 4, 2026 Board meeting were presented to the Board. Frantzie made a motion to approve these minutes as presented. Sue seconded this motion and it was approved unanimously by the Board.

Reports:

- No customer comments or correspondence were presented to the Board.
- The Financial Report was given.
 - Kristin informed the Board that the City has ordered that there be no more non-essential spending for the remainder of the fiscal year.
 - Kristin presented a new fund for the Board to review. She stated that this fund is for special or designated funding and currently holds some remaining Beak Week money.
 - Kristin also explained that the remaining funds left in the grant's accounts are from the Health Literacy Grant and State Aid funding.
- The Director's Report was given.
 - Kristin informed the Board that she had been out on vacation for the past two weeks.
 - Kristin stated that the Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference went well.
 - A written report from the Community Engagement Team was presented detailing the previous month's events.
- The Friends of the Library Report was given.
 - Fermin stated that the annual Library Book Sale will take place April 16th through April 19th and that volunteers are needed for moving the books on April 11th.
 - Kristin informed the Board that non-profits and teachers can have free books on the final day of the sale.
 - Fermin notified the Board that the next quarterly Friends meeting is to take place on April 27th with Kerrie Matthews of Marie Detty Youth and Family Services as the speaker.
 - Fermin also reminded the Board that Chautauqua is to take place this summer and Frantzie spoke about the upcoming scholar performance of Lucille Ball.

- The Family and Local History Report was given.
 - A written report from Clifford Takawana, Family and Local History Librarian, was presented to the Board. In this report Clifford, spoke about the recent events he hosted at the Library.
- The City Council Report was given.
 - Sherene announced the dates of several events including D&D meetings on April 14th and April 28th at 5:00 PM, City Council Meetings on April 14th and 28th at 6:00 PM, Open Streets on April 4th at 10:00 AM, the Easter Pageant at the Holy City of the Wichitas on April 4th at 8:00 PM, and an Easter egg hunt at the New Light Methodist Church at 12:30 PM on April 5th.
 - Sherene also spoke some about the upcoming Lawton View painting project in Ward 7 that Is take place on April 30th and May 1st.
- The Grant Report was given.
 - Kristin informed the Board that the Library had received a \$2,500.00 grant that will be used to help fund Chautauqua.

Business:

- The Library of Tomorrow Committee was not discussed as Kristin stated that there have been no further meetings and therefore, there was nothing new to discuss.
- The FY27 Budget request was briefly reviewed by the Board.
 - Kristin informed the Board that the preliminary budget had not been presented yet and that she had no further information until that was released.

Comments from the Floor:

- Patty stated that Lawton High is showing a production of Mamma Mia on April 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.
- Patty also informed the Board that the Teacher of the Year is going to be announced on Friday April 3rd.
- Patty announced that the LCT is going to be doing a fundraiser soon.
- Kristin asked for the Board to look at the newest newsletters and their new layout.
- Kristin informed the Board that she had received a quote to replace the meeting room blinds and that the meeting room doors were going to be finished off soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 PM.

Megan Stockton, Administrative Assistant III

Library Financials - General
As of 4/1/26

Org	Object	Description	2026 Revised Budget	2026 Actual	2026 Encumbrances /Requisitions	2026 Available	2026 Percent	2026 Original Budget
1003501	50000	Salaries and Wages	681,000.00	495,464.18	0.00	185,535.82	72.76	681,000.00
1003501	50005	Differential/Standby Pay	950.00	0.00	0.00	950.00	0.00	950.00
1003501	50010	Sick Leave-Pay in Lieu	6,200.00	42.79	0.00	6,157.21	0.69	6,200.00
1003501	50015	Contract Labor	4,000.00	3,953.82	0.00	46.18	98.85	2,000.00
1003501	50020	Part Time	133,000.00	110,729.54	0.00	22,270.46	83.26	133,000.00
1003501	50025	Overtime	1,700.00	86.97	0.00	1,613.03	5.12	1,700.00
1003501	50035	Unemployment Contribution	2,770.00	0.00	0.00	2,770.00	0.00	2,770.00
1003501	50040	FICA	51,500.00	35,280.69	0.00	16,219.31	68.51	51,500.00
1003501	50042	Medicare	12,500.00	8,251.16	0.00	4,248.84	66.01	12,500.00
1003501	50045	Workers' Compensation	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
1003501	50050	Group Life & Hospital	92,000.00	69,775.86	0.00	22,224.14	75.84	92,000.00
1003501	50055	City Pension Plan	80,000.00	57,047.24	0.00	22,952.76	71.31	80,000.00
1003501	51000	Supplies, Tools & Equipment	22,396.00	18,638.70	0.00	3,757.30	83.22	23,886.00
1003501	51001	Computer Supplies	1,664.00	584.63	0.00	1,079.37	35.13	2,664.00
1003501	51004	Library Books	91,300.00	88,786.42	0.00	2,513.58	97.25	92,250.00
1003501	51020	Repair & Maintenance	12,900.00	8,131.31	4,605.72	162.97	98.74	13,500.00
1003501	51025	Contractual Maintenance	16,169.00	15,378.85	475.00	315.15	98.05	15,219.00
1003501	51035	Uniform and Clothing	796.00	604.26	186.19	5.55	99.30	306.00
1003501	52025	Prof & Technical Service	93,510.00	66,990.22	11,066.54	15,453.24	83.47	68,510.00
1003501	52044	Postage	4,200.00	2,604.71	0.00	1,595.29	62.02	4,200.00
1003501	52045	Electricity and Natural Gas	99,925.00	83,664.23	9,905.53	6,355.24	93.64	103,425.00
1003501	52050	Insurance	60.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
1003501	52055	Dues and Memberships	9,875.00	5,258.39	0.00	4,616.61	53.25	9,275.00
1003501	52060	Training and Travel	6,100.00	3,634.00	0.00	2,466.00	59.57	2,600.00
1003501	52090	Other Expenses	250.00	145.40	0.00	104.60	58.16	250.00
		Totals	1,428,765.00	1,075,053.37	26,238.98	327,472.65		1,403,765.00

Library Financials - Special
 As of 4/1/26

Org	Object	Description	2026 Revised Budget	2026 Actual	2026 Encumbrances /Requisitions	2026 Available	2026 Percent	2026 Original Budget
2003501	51000	Supplies, Tools and Equipment	2,728.65	2,728.65	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
2003501	51004	Library Books	5,701.85	5,331.93	369.92	0.00	100.00	0.00
2003501	52025	Prof & Technical Service	1,569.50	1,569.50	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
		Totals	10,000.00	9,630.08	369.92	0.00		0.00

Library Financials - Grants
 As of 4/1/26

Org	Object	Description	2026 Revised Budget	2026 Actual	2026 Encumbrances /Requisitions	2026 Available	2026 Percent	2026 Original Budget
2653501	51000	Supplies, Tools & Equipment	5,521.04	5,445.82	0.00	75.22	98.64	0.00
2653501	51001	Computer Supplies	8,569.69	8,569.69	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
2653501	51004	Library Books	34,434.36	12,094.36	1,716.00	20,624.00	40.11	0.00
2653501	52025	Prof & Technical Service	9,727.19	1,757.39	3,582.00	4,387.80	54.89	0.00
2653501	53020	Construction, Imprvm, Addition	65,591.81	65,591.81	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
		Totals	123,844.09	93,459.07	5,298.00	25,087.02		0.00

Director Report

April 2026

Kudos

From Amanda: Patron C left the following text message: I want to give a big thank you and apology to the staff member that was at the Branch today! I just went in last minute to grab picture books not realizing I had some ready to pickup in the outdoor locker. Always grateful and thankful that we have this branch available on the west side and appreciate the customer service that is always spectacular!

Events and Classes

The Library continues to stay busy, offering a variety of events and classes. STEM activities with FISTA, such as the Artemis II launch party and weekly LEGO Coding. Spring Break activities, which included Family Game Day, Leprechaun Traps, and Tiny Art Time.

Tiny Art Time



Artemis Launch Party

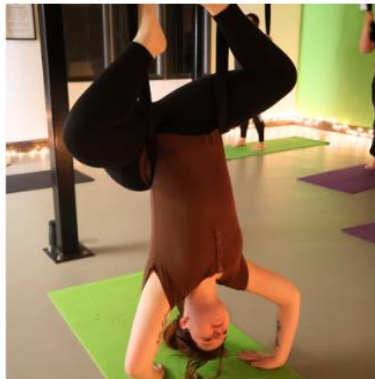


OLA 2026

Beth, Julia, and Dana were attended the 2026 OLA Conference with a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.



March
2026



Community Engagement Report

Library Board

March 2026

Events & Classes: From health literacy to spring break activities, March was packed with exciting programs at the Lawton Public Library! Sixteen participants attended How to Take Better Photos, taught by Wichita Wildlight Photographic Society, where they learned how to enhance their own photography skills. We look forward to hosting this program in April on a weekday evening.

When school is out, our community can count on the library to have engaging activities for children and family to keep them occupied – and often still learning. During spring break, we reached 53 people during Bright Beginnings Storytime and welcomed 30 participants during Tiny Art Time, nearly all of whom submitted their work into April’s Tiny Art Show.

We utilized the Children’s Area to host Gentle Yoga and Soundbath after hours on Friday, March 24. We had 25 people participate. The feedback from these classes continue to be overwhelmingly positive. These sessions remain wildly popular regardless of how frequently they are offered. We are excited to bring our instructor back for seven more of these sessions during the duration of the health literacy grant.

Looking Ahead: Summer Reading planning is in full swing. We are currently seeking donations for prize bag coupons and prizes. We are searching for the next great set of grand prizes to incentivize our community to read all summer long!

National Library Week is in April. We’re celebrating with a set of fun spirit days for the community to enjoy. Below is a full list of spirit days:

Monday, April 20: Crazy Hat Day

Tuesday, April 21: Tie Dye Day

Wednesday, April 22: Favorite Color Day

Thursday, April 23: Animal Day – Wear animal print or dress as an animal

Friday, April 24: Pajama Day

Community Partnerships: We are collaborating with Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge to offer two full-day field trips for families. These trips will include transportation to and from the Refuge, a guided hike, a story and craft time, lunch, a Visitor Center scavenger hunt, and a trip up Mount Scott.

We are collaborating with Amethyst & Ink to celebrate Independent Bookstore Day. We will serve as a destination for the Lawton Book Crawl. Participants will receive a “passport” at Amethyst and can travel around town earning stamps & small prizes.

In the Community: We had a full class for our first Aerial Yoga class at Dragonfly Yoga Studio on Saturday, March 7. All of our participants had a wonderful time. It was a fun but delightful challenge for all who attended.

We are looking forward to Open Streets on Saturday, April 4. Library staff will help facilitate opportunities for families and children to meet and take photos with the Easter bunny! Our wonderful Zumba instructor, Mandy, will also be leading a class during the event.

Feedback: Embrace Hope Southwest Oklahoma posted on Facebook: “Always fun things happening at the Lawton Public Library!”

KBZQ The Breeze posted on Facebook: “Our Lawton Public Library offers so much in our community. Have you checked them out lately?”

Jennifer Denise commented on our HEART Storytime post: “I love y’all. You have such great programming, and your staff are fabulous”

Melissa Beck commented on our throwback photos post: “This is the best post from any city office I have ever seen.”

Comment cards from Gentle Yoga and Soundbath:

“So thankful for the opportunity to attend. Looking forward to seeing more subjects coming up. Thank you!”

“The sound bath was wonderful. Adam [instructor] is amazing. Thank you, Library!”

“I did not want the sound bath to end.”

“Uplifting! I loved every minute.”

“This was AMAZING! Physically, spiritually, and emotionally. I will be on the lookout for similar events in the future. The library always finds creative ways to engage the community.”

Kathy Hines commented on a Staff Pick post: “Thank you for introducing me to this author. This was a very good book. At first I thought this is not for me, then it captured me. Wow, so many emotions. Thank you!”

Family & Local History

Board Update

April 2026

Dearest Board Members,

Roots & Branches: Genealogy Lab – March 2, 2026

In the most classical Lawton, Oklahoma way, the Roots & Branches Gene Lab participants must have collectively decided to make me sweat in anticipation of starting this month's lab. In other words, it's 5:59 p.m. and I'm surrounded by 12 empty laptop terminals. Minutes felt heavy and seconds felt like heartbeats. However, at one-minute past 6:00 p.m., in what felt like a chance meeting, each passing second brought a new person, joining me at the Family History table.

Much to my delight, we began the meeting by discussing naming traditions—specifically the reasoning behind why a person might be named after a significant family member. Such patterns can be of great interest to genealogists, as they may reveal clues that help identify relationships within a family. Naming patterns were more prevalent during the 18th and 19th centuries, often acting as an informal guide for how families named their children. As David A. Fryxell notes,

Historically, many cultures followed recognizable naming traditions in which children were named after parents, grandparents, or other relatives. While modern naming practices in the United States are often more creative and individual, earlier generations commonly used established patterns that honored family members and preserved names across generations. Understanding these traditions can sometimes help genealogists form clues about family relationships, especially when working through gaps or “brick walls” in their research.

In the British Isles and several European cultures, a common pattern involved naming children after grandparents and parents in a specific order. For example, the first son was often named after the paternal grandfather, the second after the maternal grandfather, and the third after the father. Daughters were often named after grandmothers and mothers in a similar sequence. Variations of this pattern appeared in England, Ireland, Scotland, Scandinavia, Italy, the Netherlands, and parts of Germany, though families occasionally skipped names or adjusted the pattern to avoid duplication.

Other cultures followed different traditions influenced by religion or language. In Catholic countries such as Poland, Russia, and Ukraine, children were frequently named after the saint whose feast day fell near the date of birth or baptism. French- and French-Canadian families often used hyphenated names or religious names such as Joseph or Marie. Jewish naming traditions commonly honored deceased relatives rather than living ones, while Spanish and Hispanic naming customs often added additional religious or saint names during baptism.

Although these naming patterns were not strict rules and exceptions were common, they can still offer useful hints for genealogical research. By recognizing cultural naming traditions and examining recurring names within families, researchers may uncover clues about earlier generations, geographic origins, or missing family members. Used carefully alongside documentary evidence, naming patterns can provide valuable leads when tracing family history.

Though many of these patterns are now obsolete or operate solely by family preference, they offer a fascinating glimpse into cultural dynamics while also providing a possible—even if slight—genealogical clue.

Family History Starts Here: Family History Workshop – March 7, 2026

One of my initial goals in this position has been to establish a visible and consistent presence associated with family history research—essentially becoming the library’s “genealogy guy.” Building that recognition requires regularly being present in programs, labs, and activities centered around family history. I believe that recognition is beginning to take shape.

As an example, this past Saturday I offered a different type of program that focused on highlighting portions of our collection that patrons often do not realize exist or that we rarely have time to fully explore during typical research visits.

The program showcased the depth and variety of materials within the Family & Local History collection, including microfilm records documenting the early history of Comanche County—marriage records, divorce records, naturalizations, land records, civic group materials, church records, funeral home records, cemetery records, and early library records. Participants were also introduced to our historical map collections, including Comanche County school district maps from the early 1950s, tribal maps, cattle trail routes, and military road maps. Additional materials such as city directories and telephone books dating back to the early 1900s, as well as our extensive biography files, were also featured.

Sixteen patrons attended the program and expressed genuine interest and surprise at the depth of resources available in their local library. Many participants left with a clearer understanding of the research materials available to them and a stronger awareness of the Family & Local History Room as a starting point for genealogical research.

Library Grants

As of 3/3/2026

Status	Grant	Amount	Type	City Council Agenda Date	Details	\$ Received
Submitted	ODL Civics250	\$2,500.00	unknown		applied for Chautauqua	
Awarded	ODL Conference Grants	\$3,652.47	reimbursable	n/a	conference is 3/11-3/13	
Awarded	Carnegie Foundation	\$10,000.00	upfront	2/24/2026	unrestricted	
Awarded	ODL FY26 Health Literacy	\$5,000.00	upfront	12/2/2025	funds received January 2026	
Awarded	E-Rate Cat 2 from ODL	\$4,000.00	reimbursable	n/a		
Awarded	E-Rate Category 2	\$53,994.30	vendor receives money	n/a		
Completed	OK Heritage Preservation	\$25,000.00 + \$2,500.00 match	reimbursable	3/11/2025	final report completed	
Completed	ALA Thinking Money	kids finance kits	non-cash	N/A	final report completed	
Completed	BEAK Week Eisenhower	\$10,000.00	upfront	4/8/2025	literacy related	5/22/2025
Completed	Priddy Foundation	\$70,000.00	upfront	5/27/2025	replacing brick floor, mtg room windows	6/24/2025
Completed	ODL Technology Grant	\$8,569.69	upfront	N/A	technology related	8/12/2025
Declined	OK Heritage Preservation	\$25,000.00 + \$2,500.00 match	reimbursable		will hear in January 2026	

Friends Grants

As of 4/1/2026

Status	Project	Grant	Amount	Type	Details	\$ Received
Submitted	Literacy	Dollar General	\$10,000.00	upfront		
Submitted	Literacy	Pizza Hut Foundation	\$10,000.00	unsure	deadline is 12/1	
In Progress	Chautauqua	Arts For All	?	unsure		
Awarded	STEM	Science Across America	\$500.00	upfront	space activities	
Awarded	Literacy	Citizenship (ODL)	\$14,000.00	upfront	Received notice of award - 11/6	
Awarded	Literacy	Nora Roberts Foundation	\$5,000.00	upfront		6/24/2025
Awards	Literacy	Dollar General	\$10,000.00	upfront		6/?/2025
Awarded	Library/STEM	Walmart Sparklight	\$1,500.00	upfront	Sheridan Walmart	
Awarded	Literacy	Laura Fields Foundation	\$7,500.00	upfront	met with on 4/8/2025	4/23/2025
Completed	Literacy	ODL28 Adult Literacy	\$7,200.00	upfront	application awarded	Sep-24
Completed	Chautauqua	Oklahoma Arts Council ARPA Recovery	\$7,160.63	reimbursable	submitted 1st, 2nd, & 3rd reports. GR24-2412-12056	
Completed	Library	STEM Board	\$4,743.37	reimburse	funds received January 2026	1/2/2026
Completed	Literacy	Dollar General Adult Literacy	\$7,500.00	upfront	final report due 4/17/25	6/4/2024