City of Lawton

City Council

Minutes

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 **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 Pastor Dwayne Hall of Get the Word Out, Inc, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present:
Councilman - Ward 1 Lane Hooton
Councilman - Ward 2 Taron Epps
Councilman - Ward 3 Kirby Brown
Councilwoman - Ward 4 Tiffiney Dimery
Councilman - Ward 5 Allan Hampton
Councilman - Ward 6 Bob Weger
Councilwoman - Ward 7 Sherene L Williams
Councilman - Ward 8 Randy Warren

Absent:

Also Present:
Stanley Booker, Mayor
John Ratliff, City Manager
Jari Askins, Interim City Attorney
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk
COL Kevin A. Poole, Fort Sill Garrison Commander

38.

Consideration and action upon a resolution of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, (the "City") approving and authorizing the incurring of indebtedness by the trustees of the Lawton Industrial Development Authority (the “Authority”) to be accomplished by the issuance of its Note, or other evidences of indebtedness, to be loaned to the Lawton Economic Development Authority (“LEDA”) in one or more series either in series names or others determined as needed on a tax-exempt or taxable basis, at a premium or discount, in the aggregate principal par amount of not to exceed Eight Million and No/100 Dollars ($8,000,000.00) (the “Note”) to provide for the financing of all or a portion of the costs of acquisition, development, and construction, of a completed and functioning industrial manufacturing facility for Firehawk Aerospace, Inc. (“Firehawk”) development project (the “Project”) and to address potential timing differences for LEDA in project construction payments and receipt of grant funds for the Project, all for the benefit of the City; and pay costs of issuance related thereto; approving the award of the sale of said Note on a negotiated basis, waiving competitive bidding in regard to the sale of said Note; approving and authorizing execution and delivery of documents in connection therewith; and the taking of other action with respect thereto.

Deputy City Attorney Tim Wilson explained that earlier in the day, the Lawton Industrial Development Authority had approved incurring debt in an amount not to exceed $8 million to assist with bridge financing associated with the Firehawk project. He introduced bond counsel Lynne Driver and Chris Gander from Bank of Oklahoma.

Driver explained that the resolution would authorize the issuance of a note to local banks on a draw-down letter of credit basis. She stated the proceeds would be loaned to the Lawton Economic Development Authority to assist with development of an industrial manufacturing facility for the Firehawk project. She further explained that the debt would be repaid using funds awarded through a state-administered program managed by the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority. Driver noted that Lawton Economic Development Authority had been awarded approximately $22 million through the program, but because the funds would be distributed incrementally, the bridge financing would allow construction activities to begin immediately. She advised that the loan was anticipated to be short-term and potentially repaid within the year, with final maturity no later than 2029. She also advised that Council would also be waiving competitive bidding.

Mayor Booker asked if Council had questions. No questions were presented.

Motion by Randy Warren, Second by Sherene L Williams, to approve Resolution 26-119. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Presentation

1. Receive a report from Arts for All, Inc. regarding its Summer Arts Institute program.

Jo Ann Knecht, President of Arts for All, addressed the Council accompanied by members of the Arts for All Board. She expressed appreciation to the City of Lawton for its support following flooding at the Carnegie Library building approximately one year earlier. She stated the City had provided temporary office space in City Hall while renovations were completed and thanked Mayor Booker, the City Council, City Manager Ratliff, Max Sasseen, and Jason Poudrier for their assistance in helping Arts for All continue operations. She announced that Arts for All had returned to the renovated Carnegie Library building and extended invitations to Councilmembers to attend the upcoming Arts for All Festival at Shepler Park, including a kickoff event recognizing volunteers and sponsors. Knecht described the festival as Arts for All's "gift to the city," highlighting artist tents, food vendors, children's activities, esports programming, entertainment, and a wine garden.

Ronda Norrell then presented an update regarding the Summer Arts Institute supported through Propel 2040 funding. Norrell thanked the Mayor, Council, City Manager John Ratliff, and City Clerk Donalynn Blazek-Scherler for their support in administering the program. She stated the 2026 program marked the fourth year of the Summer Arts Institute and credited Propel 2040 for making the initiative possible. Norrell explained that the program had continued to evolve annually with new programming and creative opportunities designed to keep returning students engaged.

Norrell spoke extensively about the value of arts education, emphasizing that exposure to art fosters creativity, openness, and social development in children. She cited data indicating reductions in disciplinary actions and criminal activity, while improving graduation rates and community engagement. She described the 2026 curriculum, which would include dance, theater, screen printing, music, historical experiences at the Trading Post, and other hands-on creative activities. She stated that teachers were given flexibility to develop unique instructional experiences each year.

Norrell further explained that many participating students had remained in the program for several consecutive years, requiring organizers to continuously develop new content. She shared examples of student artwork, robotics projects, and collaborative activities, emphasizing that arts education positively impacts academic performance and long-term opportunities for youth. She also discussed statistical improvements in standardized test scores and youth volunteerism associated with arts participation.

Mayor Booker commended the program and recalled that when the initiative began, it had been one of the most cost-effective youth programs in the city at approximately sixty cents per hour per child. He noted the program now served approximately one thousand children and was expanding into additional neighborhoods to provide access to children unable to attend the June arts camp. Mayor Booker praised the partnership between Arts for All, Lawton Public Schools, and the City of Lawton and encouraged inclusion of the Kids First logo on program materials.

2. Recognition of Lawton Public Schools Students Participating in the Annual Cardboard Boat Race

A video presentation was shown featuring students participating in the annual Cardboard Boat Race. Students and educators described the engineering and teamwork involved in designing and building cardboard boats, emphasizing STEM learning concepts such as design processes, teamwork, problem-solving, displacement, buoyancy, and iterative learning through mistakes.

Following the video, Mayor Booker announced Freedom Elementary as the overall winner and congratulated participating students. Mayor Booker shared his experience attending the event at Fort Sill and observing students calculating displacement and engineering concepts while constructing their boats. He stated the event demonstrated the importance of STEM education and creativity.

Mayor Booker then presented certificates of recognition to participating students. The certificates recognized students' creativity, teamwork, engineering, and problem-solving abilities, and included the phrase, "You have risen to the highest level of some kind of wonderful." Mayor Booker also distributed "I Love Lawton" pins to participants. A group photograph was taken with the students and certificates.

An LPS representative thanked the City for supporting STEM initiatives and recognizing the capabilities and accomplishments of local students.

3. Receive the Youth & Family Affairs Committee Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025–2026.

Joshua Hale and Carl Fuqua presented the Youth and Family Affairs Committee annual report. Hale explained that the committee evaluates and recommends programs focused on assisting at-risk youth and helping youth develop life and career skills while reducing involvement in the criminal justice system.

Hale summarized the committee's oversight of the United Way Success by Six Family Empowerment Program, which had received $35,000 in funding. He stated the program focused on increasing school attendance and improving graduation rates while reducing adverse childhood experiences through family support programming and outreach events. Hale reported that the program conducted four outreach events serving 378 youths and maintained free libraries throughout the community. He also discussed mentoring relationships established through Junior Leadership Lawton. While quantitative data regarding graduation and attendance rates was not yet available, Hale stated the committee believed the program effectively advanced juvenile crime reduction strategies through educational support and mentorship opportunities.

Fuqua informed the Council that the committee had approved two programs for funding and emphasized that committee members conduct onsite visits, meet with staff, observe operations, and evaluate interactions with youth before making funding recommendations. He stated the committee was currently revising application and scoring rubrics to better align with the committee's mission of serving at-risk youth.

Mayor Booker thanked the committee members for their service and commended the involvement of younger community leaders in the process.

4. True North Award Recipient

City Manager John Ratliff announced that Mincie Beamesderfer had been selected as the City's True North Award recipient for the month. Ratliff stated Beamesderfer had served the City for approximately twenty years, first in the municipal prosecutor's office and later as a claims investigator in the City Attorney's Office. Ratliff described Beamesderfer as a thorough investigator who personally inspected claims and consistently gave citizens the benefit of the doubt while protecting the City's interests. He noted she would be retiring later in the year.

Deputy City Attorney Tim Wilson praised Beamesderfer's professionalism and dedication, noting that she had earned a paralegal certification while employed with the City and had served as the "first line of defense" in evaluating tort claims. Wilson emphasized her role in protecting taxpayer resources and ensuring fair claim evaluations.

Proclamation

5. Clean Sweep Award - Anna Belle Carter Memorial Foundation

Mayor Booker presented the Clean Sweep Award to the Anna Belle Carter Memorial Foundation. He recalled Anna Belle Carter's passing during the COVID-19 pandemic and praised the Foundation for turning tragedy into meaningful community service. Mayor Booker stated the Foundation had helped address litter concerns throughout the city through regular clean-up efforts.

Anna Belle's mother and sister explained that the organization also provided approximately $7,500 annually in educational and arts scholarships, including support for dance students and scholarships for band and choir students at Cache High School. They encouraged the community to support the Foundation's mission.

6. Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month

Mayor Booker read a proclamation recognizing April 2026 as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. The proclamation acknowledged the diverse strengths and challenges associated with autism and highlighted the importance of advocacy, early intervention, access to services, and community inclusion. The proclamation specifically recognized Trinity Autism and Behavior Services for providing advocacy and support services to families.

Representatives from Trinity Autism and Behavior Services thanked the community for its support and praised staff and families for their collaborative efforts in helping children with autism fully participate in daily life and community activities.

Mayor Booker thanked the organization for the compassion and dedication required to perform their work.

7. Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor Booker presented a proclamation recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month and honoring CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Southwest Oklahoma. The proclamation highlighted the number of children in DHS custody across the region and emphasized the need for additional volunteer advocates to serve children in the foster care system.

Mayor Booker displayed a fundraising doll named “Jamal,” which he had previously sponsored through CASA’s fundraising program.

CASA representatives explained that CASA relies heavily on trained volunteers who commit significant personal time to advocate for children involved in the child welfare system. Representatives discussed the emotional challenges associated with the work and emphasized the importance of ensuring every child has a voice in court proceedings and permanency planning.

Mayor Booker thanked volunteers for their dedication to vulnerable children.

8. National Air Quality Awareness Week May 4–8, 2026

Mayor Booker presented a proclamation declaring May 4 through May 8, 2026 as Air Quality Awareness Week in Lawton-Fort Sill. The proclamation discussed the impact of ozone pollution and air quality issues, especially for vulnerable populations, and highlighted city initiatives intended to reduce emissions, including improved traffic signal timing, no-idle policies, closure of utility drive-through windows on poor air quality days, and reduced transit fares.

Hope Davis, Planning Department, explained that National Air Quality Awareness Week had been recognized annually since 1999 and emphasized the City’s efforts to reduce emissions during air alert days. The representative encouraged residents to monitor conditions through AirNow.gov and take precautions when air quality conditions deteriorate.

Mayor Booker commented that improvements to traffic signal systems along Gore Boulevard were underway and expected to improve traffic flow.

Reports: Mayor/City Council/City Manager

COL Poole thanked the City for its continued support of military personnel and military families. He discussed events recognizing Month of the Military Child and announced preparations for Freedom Fest scheduled for June 27 at Polo Field on Fort Sill in celebration of the nation’s 250th birthday. He also informed the Council that his replacement, Colonel John Morgan, would arrive the following week and that he would soon transfer to Germany.

Warren promoted the Farmers Market and humorously encouraged residents to arrive early to purchase jalapeño cheddar bread before it sold out.

Williams announced volunteer home painting efforts in the Lawton View area and reminded everyone about Mother’s Day.

Weger remarked on the importance of adults investing in the next generation and praised community efforts benefiting children.

Hampton also promoted the Farmers Market and discussed an upcoming fundraising golf tournament benefitting the Farmers Market.

Dimery emphasized the importance of volunteerism and announced a wellness fair and 5K event sponsored by the VFW at the Lawton-Fort Sill Veteran Center.

Brown discussed attending the McMahon Foundation event supporting Cameron University’s School of Business and announced an upcoming dedication ceremony for a Safe Haven Baby Box at Fire Station No. 5.

Epps stated that he had recently spent time meeting with constituents to discuss concerns within Ward 2 and encouraged additional community engagement.

Hooton shared a story regarding Kathy Banks and her grandson Sean Barry, an Oklahoma State University student recently named “Mr. Black OSU,” highlighting the positive impact of mentorship, arts exposure, and supportive family involvement.

Ratliff reminded residents about the upcoming Trash-Off event and the Armed Forces Day Parade. Ratliff also addressed recent dog attacks in the community and urged residents to keep pets properly restrained to prevent injuries.

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 Randy Warren, Second by Sherene L Williams, to approve the consent agenda as presented with the exception of pulling items 12, 13 and 27. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

9. Consider adopting a resolution approving the joint petition settlement in the amount of $16,830.00 and making payments in the workers’ compensation claim of James Churchwell.

Resolution 26-114

10. Consider approving a resolution amending the FYE26 budget, as amended, to appropriate $2,000.00 to the Officer Training Fund for court administrative fees due to the General Fund.

Resolution 26-115

11. Consider approving a resolution thereby formally supporting the Clean Air Program and the continued implementation of Administrative Policy No. 1-2, Clean Air Program – Procedure for Air Alert Days.

Resolution 26-116

12. Consider approving a resolution terminating the lease agreement between the City of Lawton, the Lawton Water Authority, and the Board of Commissioners of Comanche County regarding Ahlschlager Park, and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute any necessary documents.

Kelvin Ingram, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the item. Ingram explained that in July 2016, the City of Lawton and the Lawton Water Authority entered into a lease agreement with Comanche County regarding the use of ball fields located near 17th Street and G Avenue behind the county bus barn. In exchange for use of the facilities, the City provided treated water service for the Great Plains Coliseum and the Comanche County Health Department free of charge.

Ingram stated that the Lawton Youth Sports Trust Authority had determined at its April 9, 2026 meeting that it no longer required use of Ahlschlager Park. He noted the existing lease was set to expire June 30, 2026, which coincided with the completion of the ten-year agreement. He further advised that Parks and Recreation staff had continued routine maintenance of the facility, including upkeep of fields and grounds, and that no equipment remained onsite requiring special attention. He stated staff's recommendation was to approve the resolution terminating the lease agreement and authorize execution of the necessary documents.

Mayor Booker noted there was one citizen signed up to speak on the item but stated he wanted to first allow Councilmember Hampton to ask questions before hearing public comment. Mayor Booker indicated the issue involved broader concerns regarding recreational opportunities for children in the area and stated he wanted those concerns discussed before moving forward.

Mayor Booker stated that while he understood the Youth Sports Authority no longer needed Ahlschlager Park for organized games, the park continued to serve an important role for informal neighborhood practices and recreation. He explained that children throughout the city practiced at available backstops, many of which were city-owned. He stated that within the area bounded by Lee Boulevard to the south, Gore Boulevard to the north, 11th Street to the east, and Sheridan Road to the west, he was unaware of any other maintained backstops or practice areas available to neighborhood children. Mayor Booker emphasized that many underprivileged children lived within that section of town and relied on Ahlschlager Park for baseball and football practice without needing to cross major streets. He asked whether any other comparable facilities existed within that immediate area.

Ingram responded that while other parks existed throughout the city, he could not identify any comparable backstops within the specific square mile referenced. Ingram noted that some parks in other parts of the city had received additional attention and improvements but acknowledged there were no immediately identifiable alternatives in that immediate area.

Ratliff added clarification, explaining that he and Mark Henry had previously discussed the matter. Ratliff stated that, based on conversations with representatives of the Lawton Youth Sports Authority, Ahlschlager Park had never been formally used by the Authority as an official or sanctioned practice location. He explained that while the park had long been used informally by neighborhood residents and families, the Youth Sports Authority itself did not schedule or designate the park for organized practices. Ratliff further stated that as long as Comanche County permitted informal use, neighborhood families could likely continue using the fields in that manner.

Brian Henry confirmed Ratliff’s explanation and stated the Youth Sports Authority does not schedule practices for outdoor sports at city parks. Henry clarified that the Authority’s role primarily involves scheduling organized games rather than managing practice facilities. He explained that the only exceptions are McMahon Fields and Lawton Sports Park, where fields are rented, unlocked, and monitored through reservation systems. Henry stated practices are only scheduled at those facilities when games are not taking place.

Hampton then delivered extended remarks regarding the importance of Ahlschlager Park to Ward 5 residents. Hampton stated the issue was not about him personally, but about properly representing the residents of his ward. He explained that much of Ward 5 consisted of economically challenged families who often could not afford sports equipment, organized league fees, or transportation to larger sports complexes. Hampton reflected on his own upbringing in a family of seven with limited means and stated he strongly related to the struggles many residents in his ward continued to face.

Hampton stated that while he fully supported development of modern sports complexes elsewhere in the city, he believed neighborhood recreational facilities remained critically important for children whose families lacked financial resources. He explained that he had personally used ward funds to help improve another neighborhood park with basketball courts and pickleball facilities and stated he frequently observed families actively using Ahlschlager Park for baseball and football activities. Hampton emphasized that many children simply needed a safe and accessible place to play, even if they were not involved in organized sports programs.

Hampton further stated that he could not ignore the needs of residents in his ward who struggled to afford even basic utilities. He stressed that neighborhood children still deserved access to recreational opportunities and safe places to gather. Hampton also noted the historical significance of Ahlschlager Park, explaining that several well-known athletes had played on those fields and that many longtime residents held fond memories associated with the park. He urged the Council to remember both the history of the facility and the needs of lower-income families before making a final decision.

Mayor Booker then invited citizen speaker Mark Henry to address the Council. Henry stated he had not originally intended to speak because he had previously emailed Councilmembers regarding the matter, but he appreciated the opportunity to comment publicly. Henry explained that he had lived in Lawton since 1964 and personally played baseball at Ahlschlager Park during his childhood. He humorously recalled a 1966 game against Bishop School where he still believed he had been safe at second base on a potential tying run.

Henry stated his primary frustration was that discussions about discontinuing use of the park had apparently been underway for a considerable period of time, yet the County was only now learning the facility would be returned without a clear transition plan. Henry questioned what would happen to the existing backstops, dugouts, concession structures, and other deteriorating facilities onsite. He argued that simply returning the property to the County without a cooperative strategy was unfair and lacked proper planning.

Henry requested that the City extend the arrangement long enough for City and County officials to jointly develop a long-term plan for the property. He emphasized that the park remained important to low-income families and children who rode bicycles to the fields for informal recreation and practice. Henry stated he believed the City and County could work together to determine an appropriate future use of the facility while being responsible stewards of the property.

Mayor Booker stated he had spoken with all three County Commissioners regarding the issue. Mayor Booker acknowledged there were challenges for both the City and County but stated he shared concerns about preserving recreational opportunities consistent with the City’s “Kids First” philosophy. Mayor Booker stated he was also unaware of any comparable maintained backstops in that section of the city aside from those located near the former Roosevelt School, which he noted were in poor condition.

Mayor Booker stated he believed the City should do more than simply return the property and leave the matter entirely to the County. He suggested the City provide notice that it did not intend to renew the lease for another ten-year term while simultaneously working collaboratively with the County toward a phased transition plan that would continue serving neighborhood children and families.

City Manager Ratliff suggested that Council instead direct staff to work with the County and develop an equitable path forward. Mayor Booker stated he preferred to proceed with his original suggestion. Councilmember Hampton offered a friendly amendment requesting that Mayor Booker personally participate in the discussions with the County while working alongside staff. Mayor Booker accepted the amendment.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Lane Hooton, to send a letter to the county that we desire to not renew the lease for 10 years and to work together for a way forward that's mutually beneficial for not only the kids, but the City and County, and the Mayor is to work with staff on this issue. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

13. Consider approving a resolution amending Appendix A, Schedule of Fees and Charges, Lawton City Code, 2025, by implementing an approximate fifteen (15) percent increase to applicable fees and charges as set forth in Exhibit "A" of the resolution, as previously approved for implementation by the Lawton City Council on March 24, 2026; correcting and standardizing formatting within Appendix A; providing that adjusted fees shall be rounded to the nearest five-cent increment; excluding fees collected through the utility bill, statutory fees established by state law, and any fees not specifically identified for increase in Exhibit "A"; and establishing an effective date.

Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager, explained that Council had previously approved the proposed fee increases during the March 24, 2026 meeting and directed staff to return with a formal implementing resolution. Burk stated the item before Council represented that implementing resolution. He further advised that there had been discussion regarding the effective date, noting that the original motion contemplated implementation concurrent with the new fiscal year budget.

Burk stated staff’s recommended action was approval of the resolution, though he understood there may be consideration of making the effective date earlier than originally anticipated.

Warren stated that was the reason he had originally intended to pull the item for discussion. Warren explained that when the original motion was approved in March, it had not occurred to him that delaying implementation until the new fiscal year would create situations where fees associated with recreational and seasonal activities, such as boating and recreation programs, would increase in the middle of an active season. Warren stated that implementing the changes immediately would avoid raising fees halfway through seasonal operations.

Warren then made a motion to approve the same resolution with an immediate effective date.

City Manager John Ratliff requested a slight modification to the motion, asking that the effective date instead be May 1, 2026, in order to provide staff sufficient time to implement the changes operationally.

Motion by Randy Warren, Second by Kirby Brown, to approve Resolution 26-117 with a floor amendment to establish the effective date as May 1, 2026.

Councilmember Hampton clarified for the public that the resolution did not include any increase to utility bills or water rates and emphasized that the adjustments only applied to user fees identified within the fee schedule. Burk confirmed that no water bill increases were included.

Councilmember Epps asked staff to explain the basis for the approximately 15% increase across the fee schedule. Burk explained that the City had not implemented fee increases for approximately four to five years and that City policy required annual review using Consumer Price Index data. He stated that the proposed increase represented the cumulative CPI adjustment over that time period.

Mayor Booker reminded Council that the 15% increase itself had already been approved approximately one month earlier and that the current action simply implemented the previously approved direction through formal resolution. He again emphasized that utility bills were excluded from the increases.

Williams sought clarification regarding what exactly Council was voting on during the meeting. Williams stated that while some Councilmembers had voted in favor of the increases during the March meeting, her understanding was that the only issue before Council now was establishing the effective date and formally implementing the previously approved increase. Burk confirmed that understanding and explained that the resolution implemented the prior direction while changing the effective date from the beginning of the new fiscal year to May 1, 2026.

Hooton asked whether recently approved fee adjustments related to swimming facilities and recreational areas had already been incorporated into the updated fee schedule. Burk confirmed those adjustments were included in the document before Council.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Randy Warren. NAY: Sherene L Williams. Motion Passed.

14. Consider extending contract RFPCL25-023 Utility Billing and Invoice Mailing Services to Matrix Imaging Solutions, LLC of Coppell, TX.

15. Consider approving contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma to provide health care coverage to eligible City of Lawton employees and eligible retiree's effective July 1, 2026. The contracts will be for medical, vision, Group Life and AD&D, Short Term and Long Term Disability, Accident, Critical Illness and MD Live coverage. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contracts.

16. Consider approving a contract with LegalShield to provide legal and identity protection to eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2026, and authorize the Mayor and City clerk to execute the contracts.

17. Consider approving an agreement with MASA, Medical Transport Solutions, for Medical Transportation Coverage for eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2026, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contracts.

18. Consider approving a contract with PVCS Primary Vision Care Services, Inc. to provide vision insurance coverage to eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2026 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract.

19. Consider approving an agreement with Nationwide to offer group voluntary pet insurance coverage to eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2026 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract.

20. Consider approving an agreement with Aetna for Employee Assistance Program Services to eligible City of Lawton employees effective July 1, 2026 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract.

21. Consider approving a contract with Colonial Life, to provide the following coverages; Life Insurance, Term Life, Cancer and Confinement Indemnity Insurance effective July 1, 2026, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contracts.

22. Consider renewing the agreement with Delta Dental to provide dental insurance to eligible City of Lawton General employees, eligible Retirees and Police employees, effective July 1, 2026 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contracts.

23. Consider and take action in approving Change Order no. 1 reducing the contract by $48,377.34, accepting the project in the final contract amount of

$11,299,359.66, and placing the maintenance bond into effect for the Map 11A Waterline Replacement Project PU2309 as constructed by Southwest Water Works, LLC

24. Consider and take action in approving Change Order no. 1 reducing the contract by $273,718.68, accepting the project in the final contract amount of $7,375,598.32, and placing the maintenance bond into effect for the Map 11B Waterline Replacement Project PU2313 as constructed by Southwest Water Works, LLC.

25. Consider approval of Change Order No. 1 to the agreement with Martus Stones for the installation of a memorial celebrating the legacy of Dunbar Elementary School and two key figures from the Lawton community within Lemuel Harkey Park, increasing the contract amount by $1,160.00 for a total cost of $15,660.00.

26. Consider approving Change Order No.2 for Miller-Tippens Construction on Engineering Project PR2309-Elmer Thomas Park Aquatic Center, in the amount of $237,836.81 and also consider approving Payment Application #12 for pay-out to Miller-Tippens Construction for 2.5% of the Retainage Fee.

27. Consider accepting the recommendation of the Library of Tomorrow Council Committee, to proceed with the Lawton Public Library Ceiling Renovation, Project EN2201, and authorize staff to bid.

Mayor Booker announced that Items 27 and 45 would be considered together.

Mike Jones, Engineering Director, explained that plans for the library ceiling renovation project had been completed. Jones stated the project would represent the second major renovation effort at the facility following the 2020 restroom and lobby renovation project. He explained the proposed work included architectural ceiling improvements, repairs to portions of the mechanical system, updated LED lighting fixtures, and sprinkler and fire protection system upgrades. Jones stated staff's recommended action was approval.

Hooton then raised questions regarding environmental concerns within the building, specifically asking whether asbestos or similar issues had been identified during prior assessments associated with the project. Hooton described the matter as "the elephant in the room" and asked whether there were any hidden conditions within the ceiling or roof areas that could substantially increase project costs.

Kristin Herr, Library Director, responded that an environmental study had previously been conducted. She explained the assessment included testing throughout various portions of the building, including the ceiling areas, prior to the 2020 restroom renovations. Herr stated the study identified asbestos-containing floor tile within the meeting room area but indicated that the material could safely remain in place through encapsulation. She explained the City had already planned to address that condition by pouring over the existing flooring for a price of $25,000.00. Herr further stated that no additional asbestos concerns had been identified within the ceiling or other portions of the building. She noted that the study was a very large document.

Mayor Booker asked who had performed the study and whether the engineers associated with the current project had reviewed it.

Herr explained the consultant had been employed through ASCOG out of Duncan, OK. She also stated that ASCOG had previously completed similar work for other City facilities.

Scott Vaughn with Chisolm Trail Consulting, working on behalf of the Engineering Department, stated he had reviewed the study and confirmed there were no concerns regarding asbestos that would prevent moving forward with the project. Vaughn stated that based on the prior environmental assessment, staff was not aware of any hidden conditions likely to substantially increase project costs.

Hooton stated he mainly wanted assurance that there was nothing hidden above the ceiling that could significantly increase the cost of the project later. Vaughn confirmed that, based on the environmental study, staff was not aware of such concerns.

Mayor Booker then raised concerns regarding the timing of the ceiling renovation project relative to the broader building assessment proposed under Item 45. Mayor Booker questioned whether Council risked installing a new ceiling and then later discovering through the assessment process that additional major issues existed above the ceiling or elsewhere in the building.

Vaughn acknowledged there is always some possibility of discovering additional issues in older buildings, but reiterated that the focused assessment completed in 2022 for the ceiling project did not reveal concerns that would prevent moving forward. Vaughn stated his recommendation would still be to proceed with the ceiling project, although he noted he had not been involved in all discussions of the Library of Tomorrow Committee and could not fully speak to the committee's intentions regarding the broader assessment.

Brown stated he would "try to make these severable items" and clarified that the $65,000 study included deep within the agenda packet for Item 45 was "not at all what the committee asked for." Brown stated the committee did not want the broader facilities planning study contained in the packet. Brown explained that if the City already had a completed design package for the ceiling, fire suppression, and related work, and if environmental concerns such as asbestos and mold had already been addressed, then that portion of the project could stand separately from the broader assessment discussion.

Brown then explained that Item 45 was specifically intended to support the broader charter and mission previously given to the Library of Tomorrow Committee, which involved developing a “data-based decision matrix” evaluating future library alternatives. Brown stated that one of those alternatives involved potentially retaining the existing library building long-term, and therefore the committee needed a baseline understanding of the building’s remaining useful life and anticipated future costs.

Brown stated the committee was not looking for a broad demographic or site-selection study. Instead, the committee wanted an engineering-style assessment addressing questions such as whether the building had twenty years of life remaining or whether major structural systems were nearing failure. Brown specifically referenced HVAC systems, wiring, and the “basic gut structure” of the building as the areas needing evaluation. Brown stated the committee wanted projected maintenance and replacement timelines, such as identifying whether a wall, foundation, or other major component might require significant work within five or ten years. Brown explained that the purpose was to develop cost projections and lifespan estimates that could then be compared against at least four other future library alternatives. Brown described the assessment as the “baseline metric” for evaluating the Library of the Future discussion moving forward. Brown then asked whether that explanation clarified the committee’s intent.

J.D. Clark with Guernsey responded that his firm had been asked to prepare the facilities planning study proposal included in the agenda packet. Clark explained that the proposal evaluated building life-cycle costs, future expenditures, location suitability, and demographic considerations, including whether the building was serving the proper area.

Brown immediately stated, “I don’t want that.” Brown clarified that the committee did not want demographic or location analysis included in the study. Brown stated, “What’s contained in the packet for this is not what I would like,” and explained that he had verbally outlined the type of limited infrastructure assessment the committee actually wanted. Brown stated staff could later articulate those needs “in engineering stuff,” but reiterated that the committee was requesting “a lot less” than the broader proposal included in the packet.

Clark acknowledged the clarification.

Mayor Booker then stated that if Council obtained a motion on the floor regarding Item 27, there were additional matters that still needed discussion.

Motion by Kirby Brown, Second by Lane Hooton to approve Item 27 and initiate the ceiling renovation project.

Warren stated he felt Council was “in the same place” it had been before. Warren stated that if Council proceeded with Item 45, the City would essentially be evaluating the whole building to determine its condition and estimate how much money would need to be spent over the next eight to fifteen years. Warren questioned why Council would approve spending money on a ceiling before first determining whether the building itself remained viable long-term. Warren stated that while he hoped the building was not in poor condition, there was still the possibility it could end up like the library in Norman “that’s now got a fence around it and it’ll never be opened again.” Warren asked why Council would proceed “backwards” by installing the ceiling first instead of conducting the study, determining what was going on with the building, and then moving forward with the ceiling project if everything checked out appropriately.

Hampton responded that, looking at both items together, the committee was “not short of engineers.” Hampton stated that while he was not criticizing the engineering work already completed, part of the committee’s responsibility involved development oversight and ensuring citizens’ money was being spent appropriately. Hampton suggested taking the matter to the Streets and Development Committee so everyone could review it together and “get a better direction” on providing the kind of “systematic way” Councilmember Brown was discussing. Hampton stated there was “no doubt” the City needed to move forward with the project, but he believed additional review regarding sequencing and engineering considerations would be prudent.

Brown responded that he had no objection to additional review and stated Council could proceed whichever way it wanted. Brown stated, however, that he fundamentally believed the City owed it to the citizens to move forward with fixing the ceiling because voters had approved the funding. Brown stated he did not believe the City would arrive at a decision regarding a “library of the future” or any alternative facility anytime soon. Brown noted the library building was approximately fifty years old and commented that many other buildings currently in use throughout the community were of similar age.

Brown acknowledged the concern that the City could potentially spend money on improvements that five years later might be viewed as unnecessary. However, Brown stated he believed “the probability of that’s less than 50 percent.” Brown further stated that based on the alternatives reviewed so far, the City would likely spend “a ton more money” on most other options. Brown described that conclusion as a “heuristic assessment” based on the pros and cons that had been reviewed to that point.

Brown reiterated that the committee was simply requesting “a building infrastructure report” identifying the projected lifespan of the building and future maintenance needs. Brown stated he did not believe the assessment would be a huge expense and noted the committee had already reached its 120-day review period. Brown stated that, “for the most part,” the committee’s recommendation was still to move the ceiling project forward while obtaining additional baseline information regarding the building.

Mayor Booker then asked J.D. Clark an additional question, stating that Clark had said something earlier that “may change my thoughts.” Mayor Booker asked whether he correctly understood that some form of building assessment had already been completed prior to development of the ceiling renovation plans.

Clark responded that the engineering team had completed “a small assessment,” which he described as a “very focused assessment of certain conditions.” Clark explained that the assessment looked primarily at the ceiling itself, portions of the mechanical system, electrical systems, and fire suppression systems that would directly interact with the proposed ceiling project. Clark clarified that the review did not evaluate broader issues such as envelope performance or structural conditions. Clark stated that, based on his understanding, the building appeared to be “fairly sound” structurally, although he noted the fifty-year-old facility was not thermally efficient compared to modern buildings.

Mayor Booker thanked Clark for the clarification.

Hampton stated he appreciated the work being done and acknowledged that Councilmember Brown “probably isn’t as keen” on the building’s location and appearance within the area. Hampton emphasized that he represented Ward 5 and stated he cared deeply about what the building looked like and how it fit into the surrounding area. Hampton noted that he had originally planned to personally serve on the Library of Tomorrow Committee but ultimately deferred to another board member instead.

Hampton discussed recent investments occurring within Ward 5, specifically referencing the Farmers Market, which he described as “a jewel of a building and facility.” Hampton also referenced other beautification efforts underway through the Chamber of Commerce and stated he wanted the library building to become part of that same “jewel” within the area. Hampton stated he shared many of Councilmember Brown’s concerns and agreed with Mayor Booker’s point that citizens had already voted to fund the ceiling project. However, Hampton stated he believed it would still be prudent to first conduct the infrastructure study before proceeding with the ceiling work. Hampton explained that his earlier suggestion regarding committee review was intended to ensure the City first evaluated the engineering and structural issues that “probably should be done first.” Hampton concluded by stating there was “no doubt” the City would ultimately complete the building improvements, but emphasized the issue was simply determining “what comes first” and ensuring the City acted prudently.

Warren then asked what year the original funding for the ceiling project had first been approved. Mayor Booker responded that he believed the project funding was included in PROPEL 2040. Warren questioned whether the project may have actually originated during PROPEL 2019 instead. Mayor Booker responded that he did not recall it being included in PROPEL 2019.

Williams stated that during one of the Library of Tomorrow Committee meetings she had specifically asked when the original assessment work had been completed and recalled being told the assessment dated back to approximately 2017, while the CIP funding itself originated in 2019.

Mayor Booker acknowledged he could be mistaken regarding the timeline.

Warren then stated that if the proposed assessment study would only take approximately six to eight months, he believed the time and money would be “well spent” in order to ensure the City was acting as a good steward of public funds.

Epps asked for an estimate regarding how long the narrowed infrastructure assessment would actually take to complete.

J.D. Clark responded that the assessment would likely take approximately three to six months. Clark further explained that approximately half of the original $65,000 proposal involved the type of infrastructure assessment Council was now requesting. Clark estimated that the narrowed scope would likely cost approximately $32,000.

Brown responded that he had reviewed the proposal “ad nauseam” and understood every line item within the cost estimate.

Brown then stated that if Council wanted to amend the project and conduct the assessment prior to moving forward with the ceiling renovation, Council needed to understand that the study would require an additional appropriation of approximately $32,000 beyond the money already allocated within the CIP project. Brown stated he did not believe the City could simply pull those funds from the already approved ceiling project allocation. Brown stated he would support amending the motion to allow the assessment to move forward before the ceiling work if Council desired.

Brown added that he personally did not believe the assessment would actually take six months because he did not think the City needed a particularly extensive study.

Clark responded that he would still need to hire a consultant for portions of the technical review and explained that the timeline depended largely on consultant availability.

Brown noted that one portion of the proposal only involved approximately $4,000 worth of technical work, but Clark reiterated that he could not control consultant scheduling timelines. Brown then commented that Council did not direct day-to-day contracting decisions by engineering staff.

Mayor Booker reminded Council that a motion and second were already pending on Item 27 approving the ceiling project and noted that Council also effectively had “an invitation for an amendment.”

Hampton then asked for procedural clarification regarding whether the existing motion needed to be withdrawn before a different motion could be considered.

Mayor Booker explained that Hampton could either request acceptance of a friendly amendment or make a substitute motion.

Hampton responded that he would instead make a substitute motion.

Substitute Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Sherene L Williams to table Item 27 and refer the matter to the Streets and Development Committee for review of project scope, costs, and potential efficiencies prior to Council action.

Mayor Booker then clarified that the substitute motion effectively tabled Item 27 while referring Item 45, the broader building assessment, to the Engineering Selection Committee. Hampton confirmed. Mayor Booker noted the substitute motion would be considered first.

Brown then raised an additional concern, stating that one element of the discussion had not yet been addressed — whether Council was actually authorizing expenditure of City funds to conduct the assessment under Item 45. Brown noted that no funding had been budgeted for the study and described the request as “unfunded” at that point.

Mayor Booker responded that his understanding of the motion was that staff would identify a funding source and later bring the matter back to Council. Mayor Booker acknowledged it was somewhat unusual to refer the matter to Engineering Selection before fully identifying the funding source. Mayor Booker then asked whether the approximately $32,000 estimate represented the anticipated cost for the narrowed infrastructure assessment.

Jones explained that the $32,000 figure resulted from approximately dividing the original $65,000 study proposal in half after narrowing the study scope. Jones clarified the figure was only an estimate at that time.

Mayor Booker then stated that if Council wished to move forward, he would support setting aside approximately $32,000 from CIP contingency funds above and beyond the existing $2 million library allocation in order to conduct the assessment and “get this done and get it moving.” Mayor Booker asked whether Hampton wished to incorporate that funding language into his motion. Hampton confirmed.

Ratliff stated he believed the items should be handled separately because, even as companion agenda items, they still represented two separate agenda actions. Ratliff stated one motion should not cover both items simultaneously.

Mayor Booker agreed and stated Council would first vote on tabling Item 27 before separately addressing Item 45. Mayor Booker confirmed with Hampton and the second that Council would first vote solely on tabling Item 27.

Substitute Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Sherene L Williams to table Item 27.

AYE: Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown. Motion Passed.

45. Receive a recommendation from the Library of Tomorrow Committee to conduct a study/assessment of the overall condition of the existing Lawton Public Library building and if desired, direct staff to identify a funding source and bring the matter back for Council approval.

Mayor Booker stated that Item 45 would now be considered separately and summarized the proposal as referring the matter to the Engineering Selection Committee while approving $32,000 from CIP contingency funds above the existing $2 million library allocation in order to proceed with the assessment. Mayor Booker confirmed there was a motion by Councilmember Hampton and a second by Councilmember Williams.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Sherene L Williams, to send item 45 to Engineer Selection Committee and approve $32,00 0 from the CIP Contingency Fund to fund the study. AYE: Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: Lane Hooton. Motion Passed.

28. Consider accepting the project and releasing retainage in the amount of $98,707.74 to MTZ Construction for Engineering Project EN2107-On-Call Citywide Sidewalks.

29. Consider approving the construction plans for public improvements associated with Lawton Sports Complex to be located at 3802 E Gore Blvd, Lawton, OK 73501, subject to the conditions recommended by the City Planning Commission.

30. Consider approving plans and specifications for Engineering Project PR2308-Elmer Thomas Park Amphitheater & Boardwalk and authorize staff to advertise for bids.

31. Consider approving the construction plans for Willow Ridge, Part 1, subject to conditions recommended by the City Planning Commission.

32. Consideration to approve acceptance of an FAA Grant in the amount of $4,713,441.00 for a reimbursement grant for the terminal project.

33. Consideration to approve acceptance of an FAA Grant in the amount of $534,484.00 for a Rubber Removal and Remarking project.

34. Consideration to approve acceptance of an FAA Grant in the amount of $76,000.00 00 for a Runway Safety Area analysis.

35. Consider approving the minutes of the April 14, 2026 meetings.

36. Consider approving proposed appointments to boards and commissions.

Building Development Appeals Board:
Arthur Patrick, Commercial Contractor Re-Appointment
03/26/2028

Citizens Police Advisory Committee:
Ronald Hill, Nominating Committee Re-Appointment
03/26/2027

Robert Porter, Nominating Committee Re-Appointment
03/26/2027

Walter Wilson, Nominating Committee Re-Appointment
03/26/2027

Jerry Hrnciar, Nominating Committee Re-Appointment
03/26/2028

Mary Fountain, Nominating Committee Re-Appointment
03/26/2028

STEM Board:
Stan Booker, Chairman Re-Appointment
03/12/2027

Sheena Towsey, Development/Workforce Representative
03/12/2027

Dr. Kyle Moore, Cameron University Re-Appointment
03/12/2027

Doug Brown, Lawton Public Schools Re-Appointment

03/12/2027

Dana Ponder, Great Plain Tech Re-Appointment
03/12/2027

Nate Slate, Industry Re-Appointment
03/12/2027

BG (R) Randy McIntire, Industry Re-Appointment
03/12/2027

Matt Tranquill, Chamber of Commerce Re-Appointment
03/12/2027

Unfinished Business

37. Adopt a resolution declaring the structures located at 501 SW 16th Street (Secondary Structure), 1109 NW Williams Avenue, and 2308 NW 20th Street, to be dilapidated pursuant to Section 6-5-1 Lawton City Code, ordering the owner to abate the nuisance, authorizing summary abatement, and authorizing the City Attorney to commence legal action in District Court to abate the nuisance.

Division of Safe and Clean Neighborhood Services Supervisor Antonio Hopson presented the item.

Hopson advised that no action was recommended for the secondary structure located at 501 SW 16th Street, as the structure had already been demolished since the matter was originally presented to the Council.

Hopson then presented the property located at 1109 NW Williams Avenue, recommending that the Council declare the structure dilapidated. He explained that the property was previously considered by the Council and had been tabled to allow time for insurance claims and pending litigation. He stated that the structure continued to exhibit significant fire damage, a damaged roof, broken windows and doors, and that no permits had been obtained or additional information provided by the property representative.

During discussion, Mayor Booker requested confirmation that the required public hearing had previously been conducted. After discussion with staff and legal counsel, it was confirmed that the public hearing had been held and closed during the earlier Council proceedings. Mayor Booker requested staff verify the record to ensure all procedural requirements had been satisfied.

Motion by Taron Epps, Second by Lane Hooton, to approve Resolution 26-118 declaring the property on the property a dilapidated public nuisance and authorize the abatement thereof as set forth in the resolution. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Hopson next presented the property located at 2308 NW 20th Street and advised that staff recommended no action. He reported that substantial improvements had been completed, including installation of a new roof, siding, windows, and doors, and photographs were displayed illustrating the progress.

Business Items

39. Consider, and if desired, approve an amendment to the Construction Manager at Risk Agreement with the Boldt Company for the construction of a sports complex, with said amendment establishing Boldt's Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the construction of the sports complex, approving project costs and excluding the owner’s contingency from GMP.

Deputy City Attorney Tim Wilson presented the item. Wilson reminded the Council that a Construction Manager at Risk agreement with The BOLT Company had previously been approved and explained that the proposed amendment establishes the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the project. He noted that the Lawton Sports Authority had reviewed the GMP and recommended Council approval.

Following Wilson's presentation, Sports Authority Chairman Brian Henry addressed the Council. Mr. Henry introduced Tony Anda, Director of Project Development for The BOLT Company, Matt Rogers, Senior Estimator with The BOLT Company, and Brian Kay, Project Manager with Eastern Sports Management. He explained that he would provide an overview of the project before turning the presentation over to the project team to discuss the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) and the overall project budget.

Mr. Henry explained that the project budget includes construction costs, furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E), and other previously approved soft costs. He noted that approval of the GMP would allow the City to issue notices to proceed for the next phase of the project.

Mr. Henry reported that the competitive bidding process produced exceptionally favorable results, with bids coming in below anticipated costs. He explained that the project was bid using a base bid for the sports complex building, parking areas, and associated site improvements, along with multiple bid alternates. The alternate bid structure was developed because the final construction cost of the building was unknown when bids were solicited, and it allowed additional project components to be added if funding remained available.

As a result of the favorable bids, Mr. Henry stated that the City would be able to construct two additional athletic fields that were not originally expected to be included in the project. He also advised that an additional parking lot south of the new fields would be reconstructed and that a new sidewalk would be constructed from Gore Boulevard along Keith Jackson Parkway to provide pedestrian access to the facility. He further explained that an additional sidewalk connection to adjacent Lawton Public Schools property fulfills the City's agreement with the school district by allowing shared parking between the sports complex and MacArthur High School during large events.

Mr. Henry concluded by noting that the favorable bid results will allow the project to deliver additional amenities while remaining within the approved budget. He then turned the presentation over to Mr. Anda.

Mr. Anda reviewed the Guaranteed Maximum Price amendment package, explaining that it includes an executive summary, detailed cost breakdown by construction division, bid tabulations, project schedule, and the assumptions and clarifications supporting the GMP. He advised that approximately 108 bids were received during the competitive bidding process, resulting in strong competition and favorable pricing for the project. He noted that the bid tabulations identify the recommended contractor for each division of work and offered to answer any questions regarding the GMP package.

Warren expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hossein Moini, the Sports Authority, and all project partners for their years of work advancing the project. He stated that the sports complex would be a tremendous asset for Lawton's youth while providing significant economic development opportunities and attracting visitors from throughout the Southwest.

Motion by Randy Warren, Second by Allan Hampton, to approve. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Following the vote, Warren gave a special thank you to Deputy City Attorney Tim Wilson for his work on this project. Wilson thanked Public Utilities Director Rusty Whisenhunt for his assistance throughout the project. He also noted that the project budget includes up to $200,000 for an owner's representative to oversee construction on behalf of the City.

Mayor Booker commented that the sports complex would serve as a lasting legacy project.

40. Consider a request for temporary stay on a dangerous and dilapidated structure located at 2211 NW Baltimore Avenue.

Division of Safe and Clean Neighborhood Services Supervisor Jonathan Jernigan presented the item. Jernigan explained that the request was brought before the Council following consultation with the City Attorney's Office after the City Clerk's Office received correspondence from the property owner requesting that the City cease demolition activities.

Jernigan reviewed the history of the property, explaining that the structure was declared dangerous and dilapidated by the City Council on March 25, 2025. He advised that on May 13, 2025, the Council considered and denied a request to rescind the resolution declaring the structure dilapidated. He further stated that the property was sold on June 12, 2025, after which the new owner applied for remodeling permits. Jernigan explained that the permit application was ultimately canceled on December 23, 2025, after the owner became unresponsive to requests from the Building Division for additional information. He stated that staff mailed a letter to the owner on February 27, 2026, advising that the property had previously been declared dangerous and dilapidated and that demolition was being scheduled. He further advised that the water meter was disconnected on March 27, 2026, in preparation for demolition and that the City Clerk's Office subsequently received a letter from the property owner on April 8, 2026, requesting that demolition activities cease. Jernigan stated that staff recommended proceeding with demolition.

Mayor Booker asked why the matter had been returned to the Council. Jernigan explained that while the City had not received a court-issued stay, the City Attorney's Office recommended returning the matter to the Council after receiving the property owner's written request to stop the demolition. Mayor Booker also requested clarification regarding the timeline of the dangerous and dilapidated proceedings. Jernigan confirmed that the property had first been declared dangerous and dilapidated on March 25, 2025, and that the Council denied a request to rescind that determination on May 13, 2025. Mayor Booker observed that the property had remained in the dangerous and dilapidated process for more than one year.

Hooton questioned Jernigan regarding communications between the property owner and City staff. Jernigan explained that the previous owner had obtained a roofing permit and that staff assisted in restoring water service during that ownership. However, following the sale of the property, Building Division and Neighborhood Services staff repeatedly attempted to contact the new owner to obtain additional information, schedule inspections, and complete the permitting process for rehabilitation of the dangerous and dilapidated structure. Jernigan stated that those efforts were unsuccessful and that communication from the property owner had been minimal.

The property owner addressed the Council and disputed staff's characterization of the City's communications. He stated that he had invested approximately $15,000 in replacing the roof, removed the carport as requested, and was completing repairs as his financial circumstances allowed. He asserted that he had not received previous notices from the City other than the recent certified letter notifying him of the Council meeting. He further stated that he had obtained estimates for masonry and electrical work, requested additional time to complete the rehabilitation of the home, and asked that water service be restored. The property owner explained that the residence was his family's home and not an investment property.

Hampton asked the property owner whether he was aware the property had already been declared dangerous and dilapidated when he purchased it. The property owner acknowledged that he became aware of the designation during the purchase process and believed staff would work with him as he completed the necessary repairs.

Hampton then asked whether the owner had obtained the required dangerous and dilapidated permit. Jernigan responded that a permit application had been submitted, but Building Division staff had repeatedly requested additional information and attempted to schedule inspections. He stated that Residential Plans Examiner Rowan and Chief Building Inspector Dudley each made multiple attempts to contact the property owner without success. The property owner disputed that characterization, stating that staff had spoken with his son but failed to return for a scheduled meeting.

Mayor Booker stated that he had personally visited the property within the previous week and observed significant debris throughout the yard.

Hooton stated that he had also viewed the property and observed that neighboring homes were well maintained while the subject property remained in poor condition. He commented that the Council has historically been willing to work with property owners who actively communicate and demonstrate progress toward rehabilitation, but he believed the prolonged lack of communication and limited progress supported staff's recommendation to continue with demolition.

Motion by Lane Hooton, Second by Randy Warren, to deny the request. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: Kirby Brown. Motion Passed.

41. Consider holding a public hearing and consider an ordinance for a change of zoning request from Bowmans Consulting Group on behalf of O’Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC and Richards Maria J Trustee, Nick J Richards 1992 Trust from the C-4 Tourist Commercial District to the C-3 Planned Community Shopping Center District zoning classification for the property located at 3422 E Gore Blvd, Lawton, Oklahoma 73501 more particularly described as proposed Lot 1, Block 1, O’Reilly-E. Gore and take appropriate action as deemed necessary.

Planning Department Senior Planner Kameron Good presented the item. Good explained that the request, submitted by Bowman's Consulting Group on behalf of O'Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC and Maria J. Richards, Trustee of the Nick J. Richards 1992 Trust, would rezone an approximately L-shaped tract of vacant property located on East Gore Boulevard just west of NW 35th Street to accommodate construction of a proposed O'Reilly Auto Parts store.

Good advised that the property had previously been approved for subdivision by the City Council on March 24, 2026, to create two lots for the proposed development and that the final plat was pending filing with the County. He explained that the requested rezoning would change the property's zoning classification from C-4 Tourist Commercial District to C-3 Planned Community Shopping Center District because the proposed auto parts store is a specifically permitted use within the C-3 zoning district.

Good reviewed the surrounding zoning classifications and advised that notice of the public hearing had been mailed to eighteen (18) property owners within 300 feet of the subject property on March 31, 2026, and published in the Lawton Constitution on April 5, 2026. He stated that the Planning Department had not received any comments either in support of or in opposition to the request. Good further advised that the Lawton Planning Commission considered the request on March 26, 2026, and unanimously recommended approval by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Booker asked whether there were any questions from the Council. Hearing none, he opened the public hearing and invited comments from the public. No one appeared to speak, and the public hearing was closed.

Following the close of the public hearing, Warren commented that the proposed development illustrated how quickly the future youth sports complex was already generating commercial interest and business investment on the east side of the city.

Motion by Randy Warren, Second by Sherene L Williams, to approve Ordinance 26-09, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

The Interim City Attorney read the title: ORDINANCE 26-09
AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE EXISTING ZONING CLASSIFICATION FROM THE C-4 TOURIST COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO THE C-3 PLANNED COMMUNITY SHOPPING CENTER DISTRICT ZONING CLASSIFICATION ON THE TRACT OF LAND WHICH IS HEREINAFTER MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SECTION ONE (1) HEREOF; AND AUTHORIZING CHANGES TO BE MADE UPON THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ORDINANCE.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

42. Consider and possible action on a recommendation by the Streets and Development Committee to transfer the design and engineering services for EN2303 – Sheridan Road Reconstruction Project to WSB, and if so desired, direct staff to prepare any necessary documents for future council consideration and action to effectuate the transfer.

Engineering Director Mike Jones presented the item. Jones explained that the EN2303 Sheridan Road Reconstruction Project extends from Lee Boulevard south to just beyond Bishop Road, a distance of approximately 1.2 miles. He advised that the City received a preliminary engineering report for the project in March 2024 and subsequently entered into a design contract with Freese and Nichols in October 2024. Jones stated that the City is currently approximately halfway through that design contract.

Jones explained that, following discussion by the Streets and Development Committee, staff was directed to evaluate delivering the Sheridan Road project using a similar pavement rehabilitation approach as the SW 38th Street project. He stated that the SW 38th Street project had been completed successfully while reducing both project costs and construction time. Jones advised that previous estimates for the Sheridan Road project had ranged from approximately $6 million to $16 million depending upon the design approach. By utilizing the proposed pavement rehabilitation method, staff estimates the project cost could be reduced to approximately $4.5 million to $5 million. He further noted that staff had already begun preparing a task order for WSB in anticipation of the committee's recommendation.

Mayor Booker expressed concern that describing the project as a "mill and overlay" could be misleading to the public because the proposed work was substantially more extensive than a typical asphalt mill and overlay project performed on residential streets. Mayor Booker requested that Chris Serrano of WSB explain the proposed construction method.

Chris Serrano, representing WSB, explained that the proposed work would involve complete removal of the existing pavement structure rather than simply milling and replacing the asphalt surface. Serrano stated that crews would remove all existing pavement layers, stabilize and modify the roadway subgrade to a depth of approximately eight to ten inches, and then reconstruct the roadway by installing approximately eight to nine inches of new asphalt pavement. He explained that the completed roadway structure would consist of approximately sixteen to eighteen inches of reconstructed pavement and stabilized base material.

Mayor Booker asked Serrano about the testing methods used during construction of the SW 38th Street project, specifically referencing proof rolling and nuclear density testing. Serrano explained that proof rolling and nuclear density testing are used to verify that the stabilized subgrade has achieved the proper level of compaction before pavement is installed. He further advised that while nuclear density testing utilizes radioactive materials, the testing process is safe and is a standard engineering practice for ensuring a stable roadway foundation.

Mayor Booker remarked that deterioration of the roadway base was the primary reason the existing pavement had failed. Serrano agreed, stating that the roadway base had become compromised and that reconstruction of the foundation was necessary to achieve a long-lasting repair.

Hampton, Chair of the Streets and Development Committee, stated that he appreciated the additional explanation regarding the proposed construction method. He commented that the committee's goal was to continue evaluating delivery methods that provide quality infrastructure improvements in a cost-effective and timely manner for the citizens of Lawton.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Sherene L Williams, to approve the committee's recommendation to transfer the design and engineering services for the Sheridan Road project to WSB and direct staff to prepare the necessary legal, procurement, and engineering documents for future Council consideration. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Mayor Booker commented that the City should adopt terminology that more accurately reflects the scope of work than the phrase "mill and overlay." Serrano explained that while the SW 38th Street project constituted essentially a full reconstruction of the roadway, portions of the existing curb and gutter remained in place because they were still serviceable. For that reason, WSB had avoided describing the project as a complete reconstruction. Warren suggested using the term "full-depth rehabilitation," and Serrano agreed that the phrase accurately describes the engineering approach proposed for both the SW 38th Street and Sheridan Road projects.

Williams commented that she wanted to reiterate for citizens who had asked her about the project that the Council's action would allow the Sheridan Road corridor from Lee Boulevard to Bishop Road to move forward toward reconstruction, and she thanked the Council for its support.

43. Consider, and if desired, approve Council Policy 0-04 establishing the Artificial Intelligence Policy for the City of Lawton to ensure transparency in how artificial intelligence will be used.

City Clerk Donalynn Blazek-Scherler presented the proposed Artificial Intelligence Policy. Blazek-Scherler explained that the policy was the result of several years of research, testing, and evaluation of artificial intelligence technologies and their potential application in municipal government. She stated that the policy was developed to establish appropriate standards for transparency, accountability, and responsible implementation while identifying safeguards to protect sensitive information and ensure the technology is used appropriately. Blazek-Scherler further advised that, after compiling the research and drafting the policy, the document was submitted to the City Attorney's Office for legal review to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Interim City Attorney Jari Askins advised that the City Attorney's Office reviewed the proposed policy and compared it with artificial intelligence policies adopted by several peer municipalities. Askins stated that the City's goal was to develop a policy that was clear, practical, and easy to understand while maintaining the objectives established by the Council to promote efficiency, transparency, and appropriate safeguards against misuse of artificial intelligence.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Randy Warren, to approve. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

44. Consider approving an ordinance pertaining to Offenses and Crimes amending Section 16-3-2-205, Division 16-3-2, Article 16-3, Chapter 16, Lawton City Code 2025, relating to enforcement and penalties of unauthorized camping by amending the penalties to follow the appropriate jurisdictional limits and to stay consistent with corresponding chapters in City Code, providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

City Manager John Ratliff presented the item. Ratliff explained that he initiated the proposed ordinance amendment after determining that the penalty provisions contained in the existing unauthorized camping ordinance exceeded the jurisdictional authority of the City's Municipal Court. He advised that the current ordinance established escalating penalties for repeat offenses, culminating in a penalty that exceeded the maximum confinement authorized for a court not of record. Ratliff explained that because the City of Lawton Municipal Court may impose a maximum term of confinement of sixty (60) days, the ordinance must be amended to conform to the court's legal authority. He emphasized that the amendment does not alter the City's policy regarding unauthorized camping but simply brings the penalty provisions into compliance with applicable law.

Motion by Randy Warren, Second by Allan Hampton, to approve Ordinance 26-10, waive the reading of the ordinance, and read the title only.

The Interim City Attorney read the title: ORDINANCE 26-10
AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO OFFENSES AND CRIMES AMENDING SECTION 16-3-2-205, DIVISION 16-3-2, ARTICLE 16-3, CHAPTER 16, LAWTON CITY CODE 2025, RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES OF UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING BY AMENDING THE PENALTIES TO FOLLOW THE APPROPRIATE JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS AND TO STAY CONSISTENT WITH CORRESPONDING CHAPTERS IN LAWTON CITY CODE, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION: AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Executive Session

Motion by Sherene L Williams, Second by Allan Hampton, to adjourn into executive session. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

The City Council entered Executive Session at 8:53PM and reconvened in Open Session at 10:13PM. No action was taken in Executive Session, in compliance with the

Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Allan Hampton, Second by Taron Epps, to return to open session. AYE: Taron Epps, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

Mayor Booker noted Hooton and Brown were not yet in their seats. The Council waited for them to return before proceeding.

Present in Executive Session:
Councilman - Ward 1 Lane Hooton
Councilman - Ward 2 Taron Epps
Councilman - Ward 3 Kirby Brown
Councilwoman - Ward 4 Tiffiney Dimery
Councilman - Ward 5 Allan Hampton
Councilman - Ward 6 Bob Weger
Councilwoman - Ward 7 Sherene L Williams
Councilman - Ward 8 Randy Warren

Also Present:
Stanley Booker, Mayor
John Ratliff, City Manager
Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager
Jari Askins, Interim City Attorney
Timothy Wilson, Deputy City Attorney
Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk
Craig Akard, Chief of Police
Garrett Lam, Assistant City Attorney
Chandra Young, Finance Director
Will Hines, Deputy Chief of Police
Robert Whittington, Police Captain

46. Pursuant to Section 307B.2, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss negotiations with International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), Local 24, and the City of Lawton, and, if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

The Interim City Attorney read the title. No action was taken.

47. Pursuant to 307B.4, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, consider convening in executive session to discuss the pending action in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma titled Felisha Parker and Laresha Parker as next of kin to Isaac D’Wayne Parker, deceased v. City of Lawton, et al, Case Number CIV-24-178-JD, and if necessary, take appropriate action in

open session.

The Interim City Attorney read the title. No action was taken.

48. Pursuant to Section 307B.3, Title 25, Oklahoma Statues, consider convening in executive session to discuss the potential purchase of real property, and if necessary, take appropriate action in open session.

The Interim City Attorney read the title. No action was taken.

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.

Matina Davis addressed the Council and expressed concern regarding what she described as the treatment of citizens by members of City government. She stated that she believed public comments made by individuals associated with the City's court system and other officials had gone beyond professional disagreement and amounted to harassment and disrespect toward private citizens.

Ms. Davis alleged that City officials had engaged in conduct she believed to be inappropriate, including sending invitations to known hate groups, pursuing unreasonable charges, making disparaging public comments about her, and using government-affiliated platforms to speak negatively about private citizens. She stated that these actions reflected a broader culture within the City's administration and asserted that new leadership was needed.

Ms. Davis further stated that she had documented the incidents she described and had provided that information to an attorney. She commented that, while she had received private apologies, she believed public actions required public accountability.

Before concluding, Ms. Davis noted that the Chamber of Commerce receives public funding. She also referenced the Council's earlier discussion regarding the dangerous and dilapidated property at 2211 NW Baltimore Avenue, stating that the comments made about the property owner and his home could have been handled in a more respectful manner. Ms. Davis then yielded the remainder of her time.

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 Sherene L Williams, Second by Randy Warren, to adjourn. AYE: Lane Hooton, Taron Epps, Kirby Brown, Tiffiney Dimery, Allan Hampton, Bob Weger, Sherene L Williams, Randy Warren. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:17PM.