



City of Lawton

STEM Board

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

Special Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 23, 2026

2:00 PM

Lawton City Hall
City Council Conference Room

Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

"Official action can be taken only on items which appear on the agenda. The Board may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, or continue any agenda item. The Board may also propose and enact floor amendments to any matter presented before them. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Board may refer the matter to City Staff. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely."

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

Roll Call

Minutes

1. Consider approving the minutes of the April 9, 2026 STEM Board Meeting.

Unfinished Business

2. Consider approving an additional funding request in an amount up to \$14,000.00 from Quest of Oklahoma, Inc. as the Community-Based Organization (CBO) Partner for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle and take action as deemed necessary.

Business Items

3. Consider a STEM Funding Request from FISTA in an amount up to \$170,000.00 for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle and take action as deemed necessary.

Adjournment

The City of Lawton encourages participation from all of its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, notification to the City Clerk at (580) 581-3305 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48 hour rule if interpreters for the deaf (signing) is not the necessary accommodation."

Item Title:

Consider approving the minutes of the April 9, 2026 STEM Board Meeting.

Initiator: Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

Information Source: Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

Background:

The minutes of the April 9, 2026 STEM Board meeting have been drafted and are awaiting approval.

Once approved, the minutes will be posted to the City of Lawton website at www.lawtonok.gov

Correlation to the True North Statement:

Transparency

Exhibit:

Draft Minutes

Key Issues:

N/A

Funding Source:

N/A

Recommended Action:

Approve the minutes.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 04.09.26 STEM Board Minutes (1)



City of Lawton

STEM Board

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

Minutes

Thursday, April 9, 2026

3:30 PM

Lawton City Hall
Council Conference Room

Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call

"Official action can be taken only on items which appear on the agenda. The Board may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, or continue any agenda item. The Board may also propose and enact floor amendments to any matter presented before them. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Board may refer the matter to City Staff. Under certain circumstances, items are deferred to a specific later date or stricken from the agenda entirely."

Meeting called to order by Chairman Stanley Booker.

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

City Clerk Donalynn Blazek-Scherler confirmed compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, O.S. 301-314.

Roll Call

Present:

STEM Board Member Kyle Moore
STEM Board Member Dana Ponder
STEM Board Member Nate Slate
STEM Board Member Matt Tranquill

Absent:

STEM Board Member Doug Brown
STEM Board Member Randall McIntire

Also Present:

Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk
Richard Rogalski, Lawton Economic Development Authority Executive Director

Business Items

2. Receive a report on an amendment to the Innovation Nexus STEM Strategic Plan approved by City Council on March 24, 2026. The amendment included the following modifications: (1) exempted public trust authorities for which the City of Lawton is the beneficiary from administrative funding caps; (2)

realigned the appointment structure of the STEM Board; (3) established funding priorities for TIF revenues dedicated to STEM initiatives; and (4) incorporated the FISTA STEM Lab and FISTA Youth Science Institute (FYSI) into the Strategic Plan's key objectives.

Chairman Booker read the title of the agenda item, and Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk, stated that the title of the item included all amendments made to the Innovation Nexus STEM Strategic Plan as approved by the Lawton City Council.

Chairman Booker noted that the Strategic Plan serves as the guiding document for the STEM Board and provides the direction established by the City Council for the Board's activities and funding decisions.

No additional discussion occurred, and the report was received.

3. Consider revising the total STEM Board funding amount and establishing funding distribution for Fiscal Year Ending 2027 (FYE2027) among Community-Based Partners and independent STEM applicants and take action as deemed necessary.

Richard Rogalski, LEDA Executive Director, reviewed the funding projections included in the agenda packet. He reminded the Board that when the STEM Strategic Plan was developed in 2024, the Board discussed that the annual TIF revenue dedicated to STEM was not sufficient to support a robust STEM program. To address that concern, the Board and City Council agreed to temporarily front-load the program by allocating 15.29 percent of the Lawton TIF revenues to STEM rather than the standard 10 percent. He explained that this approach established an annual STEM funding allocation of \$206,130, with the expectation that additional industrial projects would increase available revenues in future years.

Rogalski stated that the recent groundbreaking for the Firehawk Aerospace project provided an opportunity to revisit those projections. He explained that he incorporated projected revenues from Firehawk into the funding model using conservative estimates of approximately \$300,000 in FY2027 and \$600,000 in FY2028 before gradually reducing projected revenues in later years. He noted that the actual revenues would likely be higher than the estimates reflected in the model.

Using the graph included in the agenda packet, Rogalski explained that the blue line represented the Board's current funding level of approximately \$206,130 annually. He stated that, even without additional adjustments, the projections showed the fund balance continuing to grow through 2040. He then reviewed the orange line, representing an annual funding level of \$250,000, and explained that this option remained financially positive through 2040. He also reviewed a third scenario of \$275,000 annually, noting that under that projection the fund balance would begin going negative shortly after 2035. He stated that staff would not recommend the \$275,000 option unless the Board wished to be considerably more aggressive with spending.

Chairman Booker asked for clarification regarding the proposed funding amount after noticing the graph reflected \$260,000 while Rogalski had referenced \$250,000.

Rogalski acknowledged that the graph contained a labeling error from an earlier version of the presentation and confirmed that the intended recommendation was \$250,000 per year.

Chairman Booker commented that the Firehawk project had been incorporated into the funding model, but no additional future industrial projects had been assumed. He stated that he believed there was every reason to expect additional economic development successes before 2040 and expressed support for increasing the annual allocation to \$250,000. He remarked that waiting until 2040 without assuming another project would be overly conservative.

Tranquill asked whether maintaining the current annual allocation of approximately \$206,000 would still leave the STEM fund with money remaining in 2040 if no additional projects were secured.

Rogalski responded that the Board would have a substantial balance remaining, estimating approximately \$350,000. He stated there would be little reason to continue funding at that level because staff would likely recommend gradually reducing the allocation back toward the original 10 percent once sufficient reserves had accumulated.

Tranquill asked whether it would be more prudent to leave the funding at the current level until another industrial project was actually secured. He acknowledged that everyone hoped additional projects would come to Lawton but noted that those revenues had not yet materialized.

Chairman Booker responded that the Board was taking essentially the same approach it had used when it originally front-loaded STEM funding. He explained that the Board had previously chosen to spend anticipated future revenues in order to strengthen the STEM program, and Firehawk now provided another opportunity to responsibly increase funding based on projected revenues. He added that if another project was announced in the future, staff could again update the funding projections and make additional recommendations.

Chairman Booker stated that the proposal represented only a minimal amount of risk. He reiterated that the Board had reason to be optimistic about additional industrial development and believed increasing the annual funding allocation would allow the STEM program to continue expanding rather than accumulating unnecessary reserves.

Motion by Nate Slate, Second by Kyle Moore, to Revise the total STEM Board funding allocation and establish funding distributions for FYE2027 at \$250,000.00. AYE: Kyle Moore, Dana Ponder, Nate Slate, Matt Tranquill. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

5. Consider a STEM Funding Request from Crystallyn Guest/ CG Collective Group (Luv 4 STEM) & STEM 4 All in the amount of \$9,941,349.77 for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle and take action as deemed necessary.

Chairman Booker introduced the funding request from Crystallyn Guest/CG Collective Group (Luv 4 STEM) & STEM 4 All in the amount of \$9,941,349.77 for the 2026-2027 STEM funding cycle. He noted that the requested amount exceeded the total funding available for the entire STEM program.

Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk, explained that the Board's options were to deny the request because sufficient funding was not available or to approve a reduced amount. She advised the Board that the applicant was not present.

Chairman Booker observed that the requested amount far exceeded the Board's available funding and stated that the Board did not have sufficient resources to consider a request of that size. He remarked that the request was greater than the funding available for the entire STEM program.

Motion by Kyle Moore, Second by Matt Tranquill, to deny the request due to lack of funding in the program. AYE: Kyle Moore, Dana Ponder, Nate Slate, Matt Tranquill. NAY: None. Motion Passed.

1. Receive a report from Quest of Oklahoma Inc. regarding activities completed during the Fiscal Year Ending 2026 (FYE2026) as a Community-Based Organization (CBO) Partner.

Bernita Taylor, Quest of Oklahoma, Inc., introduced representatives from the participating organizations and noted that all partner organizations were represented except for the Red Shield Boys & Girls Club, which would be joining the partnership during the upcoming funding cycle.

Ms. Taylor reported that the I AM STEM Camp served 173 students during the 2025 summer program. She stated that enrollment would have been higher if all participating sites had sufficient capacity, explaining that some locations were forced to turn students away because they lacked adequate space and staffing. She expressed confidence that enrollment would continue to increase as capacity expanded.

Ms. Taylor reviewed the demographic information for the participating students and teens, noting that the program served a predominantly African-American population but served a diverse population of children from across the community.

Ms. Taylor reported that the program served 8,245 hot meals, consisting of breakfast and lunch, during the summer. She explained that Might Technology Center administers the Summer Feeding Program for Quest's STEM camps and several additional community sites. She noted that federal regulations prohibit generating a

profit from the Summer Feeding Program, requiring Quest to absorb approximately \$39,871 in food expenses through its general operating funds.

Ms. Taylor reviewed the program's financial summary, explaining that approximately \$52,776 in eligible expenses were reimbursed through STEM funding while participating organizations contributed more than \$83,000 in additional unreimbursed expenses for building use, transportation, salaries, supplies, and food. She emphasized that the participating churches and organizations remained committed to investing their own resources in the program and did not rely solely on City funding. A video highlighting activities from the 2025 I AM STEM Camp was then presented.

Tranquill commented that the program had provided approximately 47 meals per student during the summer and stated that many of the participating children likely depended upon those meals. He commended Quest and its partners for the impact the program was having on the community.

Chairman Booker asked Ms. Taylor about the length of the summer program.

Ms. Taylor explained that Quest's STEM camp operates for four weeks, from mid-June through mid-July, making it the only participating camp that provides four weeks of programming. She stated that students attend from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., receive breakfast and lunch each day, and are provided snacks by the participating churches. She added that the organization intends to keep the program operating as long as possible each summer to meet community needs.

Ms. Taylor informed the Board that changes in DHS funding for children ages 9 through 11 would likely increase the number of children needing affordable summer programming. She explained that Quest hoped to continue serving those children beyond the summer months to help prevent them from becoming unsupervised after school.

Chairman Booker asked if FISTA was providing any relief.

Ms. Taylor stated that Quest would like to meet with FISTA staff to develop a coordinated schedule for programming. She explained that Quest's teen participants currently visit the STEM Lab once each week and noted that Garver had already coordinated with Quest to bring STEM programming directly to the camps. She stated that Quest looked forward to working with FISTA and other community partners to expand STEM opportunities throughout the community.

Several of the representatives from the different community organizations stated that their facility opens prior to 8:00AM.

Charles Gladney, Powerhouse Church of God in Christ, remarked that their work extended well beyond STEM education by building relationships with families and providing support throughout the year. He explained that the organization routinely

works with entire families rather than just the participating students. He stated that staff provide counseling, budgeting assistance, mentoring, and other forms of support throughout the year, adding that the relationships established during the summer camps often continue long after the program ends.

Chairman Booker noted that the participating organizations contributed substantial matching resources in addition to the City's reimbursement and asked what prevented Quest from serving additional children.

Gladney and Dunaway responded that the greatest challenges were recruiting enough volunteers and maintaining appropriate student-to-teacher ratios. Gladney explained that available classroom space also limited enrollment and had required the program to expand into additional church facilities. He added that Quest employs Lawton Public Schools-certified instructors, allowing the program to maintain qualified staff while minimizing additional training requirements.

Tranquill asked for clarification that the financial information being presented reflected the previous year's expenditures rather than the current funding request.

Chairman Booker confirmed that the Board was reviewing Quest's annual report from the previous funding cycle before returning to the current funding request.

Chairman Booker asked for clarification regarding the prior year's funding, recalling that the Board had approved \$75,000 for Quest but only approximately \$52,000 had been reimbursed. He noted that there was a match provided from Quest, so the program is not completely funded by the STEM Board.

Rogalski explained that Quest expended more than the reimbursed amount, but reimbursement was limited to eligible expenses within the approved budget categories. He stated that the first year of the CBO Partner program involved a learning curve for both staff and the organization because the reimbursement agreement was structured with specific spending limits by category. As an example, he explained that if the approved budget allowed \$2,500 for building use but the actual expense was \$10,000, reimbursement could only be made up to the approved budgeted amount.

Chairman Booker stated that, although the cost per participant was higher than the City's partnership with Lawton Public Schools, the Board was serving a different population of students. He noted that Quest's participants attend all-day programs with extended programming and often represent children who require additional support and engagement. He stated that these were students who might otherwise not participate in traditional programs and who were at greater risk if not provided meaningful opportunities.

Tranquill asked why food expenses were not eligible for reimbursement, commenting that providing meals to participating children appeared to be an important component of the program. He asked whether the limitation was established by Board policy or

another funding requirement.

Rogalski explained that food expenses generally did not qualify under the STEM funding requirements because they were not considered STEM-related expenditures.

Ms. Taylor stated that Quest intentionally excluded other eligible program needs from its reimbursement request, including the neighborhood STEM lab initiative that had been discussed earlier. She explained that Quest hoped to request additional funding in the future for those initiatives but wanted the Board to understand that the participating organizations remained fully invested in the program regardless of reimbursement. She stated that Quest would continue seeking outside funding and partnering with organizations such as the FISTA STEM Lab, Lawton Public Schools, and the Lawton Public Library to maximize available resources for children throughout the community.

Ponder asked whether the reimbursement agreement could be modified in future years so that funding could be allocated differently among budget categories if actual program expenses varied from the approved budget.

Rogalski explained that certain budget categories, such as salaries, were subject to percentage limitations, while others were limited by the specific amounts approved in the funding agreement. He stated that once the agreement was executed, reimbursement was tied to those approved categories unless the agreement was formally amended. He noted that the agreement had been amended once during the previous year but explained that, generally, expenditures were limited to the approved budget allocations.

Rogalski added that the experience gained during the first year would allow staff and Quest to better structure the budget for future funding cycles so that reimbursement categories more accurately reflected the organization's anticipated expenses.

Tranquill asked why Quest had effectively left a portion of the approved funding unused if additional program expenses had been incurred.

Ms. Taylor explained that the funding was not intentionally left unused. Rather, Quest incurred the expenses but learned during the reimbursement process that only certain expenditures qualified under the approved budget categories.

Blazek-Scherler stated that Quest submitted every eligible expense it could for reimbursement.

Moore asked whether it would be appropriate to estimate the program's cost per student by dividing the reimbursed amount by the number of students served.

Ms. Taylor clarified that such a calculation would not fully reflect the program because the reported enrollment of 173 students did not include the teen participants.

Moore commented that, based on his experience operating youth summer programs at Cameron University, the overall cost per participant appeared to be very reasonable. He observed that Quest's program operated for four weeks rather than the two-week programs with which he was familiar and stated that the reported expenditures reflected responsible stewardship of public funds.

Ms. Taylor stated that Quest strives to provide high-quality programming while keeping costs as low as possible. She reiterated the organization's desire to establish neighborhood STEM labs so that children could gain experience with STEM equipment within their own communities before visiting larger facilities such as the FISTA STEM Lab. She emphasized that Quest remained committed to working collaboratively with community partners and thanked the Board for its continued support.

Gladney also noted that participating churches and volunteers routinely provide additional financial support beyond the reimbursed expenses, including purchasing supplies, food, and other materials needed to operate the camps.

Dunaway explained that Quest also utilizes Lawton Public Schools-certified instructors to ensure quality instruction and student safety while compensating them appropriately for their professional expertise.

Chairman Booker thanked Ms. Taylor for the presentation and advised the Board that it would return to the previously continued funding request under Item 4.

4. Consider a Community-Based Organization (CBO) Partner Funding Agreement Request from Quest of Oklahoma, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle and take action as deemed necessary.

Richard Rogalski, LEDA Executive Director, explained that, with the recent amendments to the STEM Strategic Plan adding the FISTA STEM Lab and other STEM initiatives, staff had evaluated how the annual STEM funding should be distributed among community partners and independent applicants. He reminded the Board that, during the previous funding cycle, approximately \$70,470 had been allocated between the Community-Based Organization (CBO) Partner and the Lawton Public Library.

Rogalski stated that staff believed \$75,000 represented the minimum funding level necessary to maintain an effective CBO Partner program. He explained that, if he were developing the overall funding distribution, he would recommend allocating approximately \$75,000 to the CBO Partner, \$150,000 toward the FISTA STEM initiatives, and retaining approximately \$25,000 as a contingency reserve. He stated that maintaining a reserve would allow the Board flexibility if additional funding needs arose during the year rather than committing the entire annual allocation immediately.

Chairman Booker asked whether representatives from Quest would be presenting information regarding the program.

Rogalski noted that Quest's presentation was item one on the agenda, but it was skipped over.

Bernita Taylor replied that Quest had prepared a presentation showing the activities completed during the previous year, including photographs and a video demonstrating how the STEM funding had been used. She stated that the presentation was also intended to demonstrate that the participating organizations operated as a collaborative partnership with no distinction between individual organizations. She emphasized that Quest wished to continue building upon the success of the existing program.

Ms. Taylor stated that it was important for the Board to see not only the amount reimbursed through STEM funding, but also the additional financial commitment made by the participating organizations. She explained that the presentation would demonstrate how much funding the organizations contributed beyond the City's reimbursement.

Chairman Booker stated that the Board would first receive Quest's annual report before considering the funding request. He continued Item 4 and advised that the Board would return to it after completing the remaining agenda items.

Following receipt of Quest's annual report, Chairman Booker reopened discussion on the Community-Based Organization (CBO) Partner funding request.

Slate stated that, unlike the previous discussion regarding the prior year's reimbursement, the Board was now considering the upcoming funding cycle and could discuss possible changes to the reimbursement structure. He asked what could be done to ensure Quest would be able to utilize the full \$75,000 if awarded. He also questioned whether \$75,000 was an adequate funding level for the organization.

Rogalski explained that staff had specifically asked Quest to identify the minimum amount of funding necessary to continue operating the program. He emphasized that \$75,000 represented the minimum amount Quest believed it could operate with, not necessarily the amount it could effectively utilize. He stated that Quest could easily expend additional funding if it were made available and reminded the Board that it could consider approving either the requested amount or another amount if it desired.

Slate commented that he liked the idea of increasing the funding if Quest would be able to receive reimbursement for the additional expenses. He noted that any increase would need to be accompanied by appropriate adjustments to the reimbursement categories so the organization would not encounter the same difficulties experienced during the previous funding cycle.

Rogalski responded that staff would work more closely with Quest during development of the upcoming budget. He explained that Quest now had a much better understanding of how expenses should be allocated within the reimbursement agreement. He stated that expenditures simply needed to be placed in the appropriate budget categories,

such as transportation or equipment, because reimbursement would be based upon those approved categories.

Ms. Taylor stated she removed the proposed neighborhood STEM labs from the funding request in order to reduce the request to \$75,000.

Slate asked what the total request would have been if the STEM labs had remained in the proposal.

Ms. Taylor replied that Quest would have requested at least an additional \$10,000. She explained that the organization's long-term goal was to establish a neighborhood STEM lab at each participating church. If additional funding were available during the current year, Quest planned to install the next STEM lab at the Red Shield Boys & Girls Club, with additional locations added in future years as funding permitted.

Slate asked if Quest received approximately \$85,000, the organization would be able to install one additional STEM lab during the upcoming year. Ms. Taylor responded that it would allow Quest to establish one additional neighborhood STEM lab and continue expanding the program over time.

Tranquill then shifted the discussion to the Board's overall STEM funding priorities. He asked how many organizations would be requesting funding through the annual STEM allocation, noting that approximately \$400,000 remained available in the STEM fund.

Chairman Booker explained that the recently amended STEM Strategic Plan designated the FISTA STEM Lab as one of the Board's funding priorities. He stated that the City Council viewed the STEM Lab as a community-wide STEM resource capable of serving children both at its facility and throughout the community by providing outreach programming.

Blazek-Scherler stated that no official request had been submitted from FISTA just yet, but one was expected.

Slate asked whether the STEM Lab had received STEM funding during the previous year.

Chairman Booker explained that it had not because the STEM Lab continued operating with ARPA funding through the end of the year.

Tranquill stated that he would like to increase Quest's funding by \$10,000 to support the neighborhood STEM lab initiative. Before making such a recommendation, he asked Mr. Rogalski whether sufficient funding existed within the current allocation.

Mr. Rogalski responded that, based upon the funding distribution staff had discussed, \$75,000 represented the minimum funding Quest could operate with, approximately \$150,000 represented the anticipated minimum funding need for the FISTA STEM Lab,

and approximately \$25,000 remained as a contingency reserve. He explained that increasing Quest's allocation by \$10,000 would reduce the contingency reserve to approximately \$15,000, while still leaving some funding available for future needs.

Chairman Booker observed that a portion of the contingency reserve had traditionally been retained to support STEM Consortium activities and monthly events. He expressed concern about reducing that reserve.

Slate explained that, although the contingency had historically supported the STEM Consortium, many Consortium activities were funded through donations and community partnerships. He also noted that the Consortium currently had approximately \$10,000 available and anticipated additional funding opportunities as its partnerships continued to develop.

Tranquill asked whether the FISTA Foundation could potentially assist with funding if future needs exceeded the available STEM allocation.

Mayor Booker replied that the Foundation could certainly be approached for assistance, although he cautioned that the Foundation would likely face its own funding priorities as the STEM Lab continued to expand. He noted that there were multiple potential funding sources available beyond the City's STEM allocation. He noted that the STEM Board had a \$25,000 cushion, that if the STEM Consortium is comfortable letting go if, could be used now.

Slate stated that he viewed all of the organizations as working toward the same mission and commented that "we're all spending the same money." He expressed support for increasing Quest's funding to \$85,000, explaining that establishing neighborhood STEM labs represented important community outreach. He stated that, if reducing the contingency reserve required the STEM Consortium to pursue additional outside funding, he believed those efforts could be successful.

Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk, advised the Board that the agenda specifically identified a funding request of \$75,000. She explained that, under the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, the Board could not approve an amount greater than what had been noticed on the agenda. If the Board wished to provide additional funding, Quest would need to submit a separate request that could be considered at a future meeting.

Motion by Matt Tranquill, Second by Nate Slate, to approve a Community-Based Organization Partner Funding Request from Quest of Oklahoma, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle. AYE: Kyle Moore, Dana Ponder, Nate Slate, Matt Tranquill. NAY: None. Motion .

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 Nate Slate, Second by Matt Tranquill, to adjourn. AYE: Kyle Moore, Dana Ponder, Nate Slate, Matt Tranquill. NAY: None. Motion .

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.

Item Title:

Consider approving an additional funding request in an amount up to \$14,000.00 from Quest of Oklahoma, Inc. as the Community-Based Organization (CBO) Partner for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle and take action as deemed necessary.

Initiator: Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

Information Source: Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk, Richard Rogalski- LEDA Executive Director, Bernita Taylor- Quest

Background:

On April 9, 2026, the STEM Board approved a funding request from Quest of Oklahoma, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle. During its consideration of the request, the STEM Board expressed its desire to provide additional funding to support the construction of another community-based STEM lab. However, the Board was unable to approve an amount greater than the \$75,000.00 identified in the agenda item title in order to remain compliant with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and based upon guidance provided during the meeting. During the discussion, Board members expressed their desire to provide an additional \$10,000.00 in funding, utilizing a portion of the \$25,000.00 contingency balance to support the construction of the additional STEM lab.

Since that time, Quest has secured additional grant funding that will allow the organization to expand the project beyond what was originally anticipated. Rather than constructing one additional community-based STEM lab, Quest now plans to construct two new STEM labs as part of its long-term goal of establishing a STEM lab at each of its partner sites. To complete the expanded project, Quest has requested an additional \$14,000.00 in STEM funding, an increase from the \$10,000.00 originally discussed by the STEM Board. Approval of this additional funding request would increase the total funding under the Community-Based Organization (CBO) Partner Funding Agreement from \$75,000.00 to \$89,000.00 for the current funding cycle.

Correlation to the True North Statement:

Community of Choice Where Families Thrive

Exhibit:

See 04.09.26 Meeting Minutes attached to Item 1; Funding Application

Key Issues:

N/A

Funding Source:

STEM TIF Revenue

Recommended Action:

Consider approving an amendment to the Community-Based Organization (CBO) Partner Funding Agreement with Quest of Oklahoma, Inc. in an amount up to \$14,000.00 for the May 1,

2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle and take action as deemed necessary.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. HPHP STEM 2026 Makerspace Grant and Current Funding (1)

March 25, 2026



Dear Grant Funder:

This summer will mark our fourth consecutive year hosting the **Chisholm Trail Reading STEM Camp** for at-risk youth in Lawton, Oklahoma and surrounding areas. Over the past three years, we have provided students with four weeks of literacy enrichment, hands-on science experiments, coding challenges, technology experiences and engineering activities designed to strengthen both academic skills and self-confidence in STEM.

Last year, we served 23 students, and the results were impactful:

- 78% of participants improved their reading comprehension and math scores
- **One student** advanced by an entire grade level in reading comprehension
- **100% of parents** reported a positive impact on their child's interest in STEM education and academic readiness
- **100% of parents** expressed their intent to re-enroll their children in the program

These outcomes demonstrate both the effectiveness of our program and the growing demand within our community. To continue and expand this work, we respectfully request funding support to sustain and enhance the Chisholm Trail Reading STEM Camp for the upcoming summer. Grant funds will directly support instructional materials, STEM supplies, technology resources, and program operations that ensure a high-quality learning experience for every participant.

We are committed to transparency and accountability. All expenditures will be documented with receipts, and a detailed, itemized budget report will be provided. Your investment will help us continue offering this impactful program without interruption and reduce the financial burden of covering costs in advance.

Over the years, this camp has become a trusted and highly anticipated opportunity for families, with many students returning each summer to build on their progress. With your support, we can expand our reach and continue equipping youth with the skills, confidence, and exposure needed to succeed in school and pursue future STEM opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to empowering youth in our community.

With gratitude,

Jennette Hutchinson

Program Director

Harvest Christian Academy – Chisholm Trail Reading STEM Camp

(580) 647-2876 – hcaLawton@gmail.com

EXHIBIT "A"

STEM FUNDING REQUEST FORM

Grant Period: May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2026

Application Deadline: March 31, 2026

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name / Organization Name: Harvest Christian Academy, Inc.

Point of Contact: Jennette Hutchinson

Mailing Address: P. O. 841 Lawton, OK 73502

Email Address: HcaLawton@gmail.com

Phone Number: 580-647-2876

Type of Applicant (check one):

☐ Individual ☒ Nonprofit Organization ☐ Educational Institution ☐ Business/Private
Sector ☐ Government Agency ☐ Other: _____

SECTION 2: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Chisholm Trail Reading STEM Camp

Project Summary (briefly describe your project): This program serves as a STEM literacy bridge designed to support at-risk youth, K-4th grades that struggle with reading by integrating STEM-based education and literacy development. The target is students at or below grade level in reading that often feel excluded from STEM activities because of reading insufficiencies. The aim is to improve literacy skills, boost confidence and ignite curiosity in STEM, laying the groundwork for long-term academic and STEM-related career success.

Target Audience (e.g., K-12 students, teachers, veterans, workforce development):
K-4th Grade Students

Geographic Area Served: Lawton, OK and surrounding areas

Project Timeline (start and end date): July 6, 2026 to July 31, 2026

Total Amount Requested: \$ _____

Total Project Budget: \$ _____

Other Funding Sources (if any):

Registrations, Private Donors, STEM Consortium, MIGHT, Non-Profit Organizations, FISTA, Local Businesses

SECTION 3: PROJECT IMPACT

Describe how this project promotes STEM education, workforce development, or innovation: By focusing on growth in skills such as teamwork, collaboration, communication, and task completion through project-based learning and group activities.

Expected Outcomes (quantifiable, if possible):

Enhanced STEM Interest & Awareness (80%), Workforce Readiness Skills Development (80%), Improved Literacy Skills/Scores (70-80%), Exposure to STEM Careers & Innovation (100%), Program Retention & Engagement (85%)

How will success be measured and reported?: Pre- and post assessments, student/parent surveys, career exploration activities (guest speakers, STEM-related field trips, project simulations), and daily attendance records to indicate strong participant engagement & program effectiveness.

SECTION 4: ATTACHMENTS (REQUIRED)

- ☒ Project Budget (itemized)
- ☒ Timeline and Milestones
- ☒ IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter (if applicable)
- ☐ Letters of Support (optional)
- ☒ Additional Supporting Materials (optional)

SECTION 5: AUTHORIZATION

I certify that the information provided is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that submission of this form does not guarantee funding.

Name: Jennette Hutchinson

Title: Program Director

Signature: Jennette Hutchinson

Date: March 25, 2026

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Submit completed forms and attachments to: CityClerkEmailList@lawtonok.gov

Questions may be directed to:

City Clerk's Office- City of Lawton
Phone: 580-581-3305 EXT 1033
212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, OK 73501

Harvest Christian Academy

Itemized Budget for Chisholm Trail Reading STEM Camp - 2026

CATEGORY	ITEM DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
STEM Supplies/Materials		\$ 14,100.00
	Equipment for MakerSpace	
	Interactive White Board	\$ 3,500.00
	Chrome Books	\$ 1,500.00
	Basic Consumables & Craft Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
	Low-Tech Tools	\$ 350.00
	Reusable Building Supplies/LEGGOS	\$ 750.00
	Simple Machines & STEM Kits	\$ 1,500.00
	Storage & Workspace Supplies/Equipment	\$ 800.00
	Mobile Collaborative Whiteboard Tables	\$ 2,900.00
	Mobile School Chairs	\$ 1,300.00
	Technology Accessories	\$ 500.00

Account Activity

6/1/2026 Through 7/31/2026

STEM Camp Field Trips Exp (5137)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
7/10/2026		Oth Pay	iFly Skydiving	910.00		
7/17/2026		Oth Pay	Chisholm Trail Heritage	66.00		Chisholm Trail Musuem - Duncan, OK
7/24/2026		Oth Pay	Great Plains Musuem	350.00		

1,326.00 0.00 Net: -1,326.00

STEM Camp Gas Exp (5146)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
7/17/2026		Oth Pay	Casey's	25.20		Chisholm Trail Musuem - Fuel
7/24/2026		Oth Pay	Casey's	100.00		Great Plains
7/30/2026		Oth Pay	Casey's	200.00		iFly - OKC

325.20 0.00 Net: -325.20

STEM Camp Materials/Supplies Exp (5144)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	25.99		50pk kids scissors
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Sam's Club	18.98		Clorox wipes
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Southwest Chemical Company	139.00		Paper Towel Rolls
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	60.96		Organization supplies, desk trays, paper cups, erasers
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Sam's Club	26.98		Tissue
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	37.44		First Aid Kit
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Sam's Club	22.54		Scissors/box cutter
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	171.02		Staples, Erasers, White Board Cleaner, sticky notes, sharpies, pens, construction paper, dry erase markers
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Sam's Club	12.96		Duct tape
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Walmart	160.13		Educational & Creative Games
7/13/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	27.99		Sheet protectors
7/14/2026		Oth Pay	Staples	59.99		Copier Paper
7/15/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	36.83		Educational & Creative Games
7/15/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	107.50		Educational & Creativity Games
7/15/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	24.53		Educational & Creative Games

Grouped by Account, Sorted by Date

Harvest Plenty House of Prayer Church

rptCheckingActAnyAcct_L

Account Activity
6/1/2026 Through 7/31/2026

STEM Camp Materials/Supplies Exp (5144)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
7/17/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	102.98		Sensory sand, hole punch, glass jars, (chew toys - special needs supplies)
7/17/2026		Oth Pay	Amazon	22.99		24pk water colors

1,058.81 0.00 Net: -1,058.81

STEM Camp Meals Exp (5138)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
7/17/2026		Oth Pay	Little Ceasar's Pizza	74.90		Pizza for lunch
7/30/2026		Oth Pay	McDonald's	250.00		

324.90 0.00 Net: -324.90

STEM Camp Miscellaneous Exp (5145)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
7/24/2026		Oth Pay	Walmart	250.00		Bounce House & Foam Machine Rental
7/31/2026		Oth Pay	Arvest Bank	700.00		Stipends

950.00 0.00 Net: -950.00

STEM Camp Snacks Exp (5141)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Sam's Club	9.98		Animal crackers
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Sam's Club	23.64		Goldfish snacks
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Sam's Club	14.96		Cheeseballs
7/7/2026		Oth Pay	Sam's Club	10.78		Fruit Snacks
7/31/2026		Oth Pay	Sam's Club	200.00		Food for last day of camp

259.36 0.00 Net: -259.36

STEM Camp Software Exp (5136)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
7/21/2026		Oth Pay	Brightwheel Software	200.00		

200.00 0.00 Net: -200.00

Grouped by Account, Sorted by Date

Harvest Plenty House of Prayer Church

rptCheckingActAnyAcct_L

Account Activity

6/1/2026 Through 7/31/2026

STEM Camp Transportation Exp (5139)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
7/17/2026		Oth Pay	Enterprise Rental	212.19		15-Passenger van rental - Duncan, OK
7/24/2026		Oth Pay	Enterprise Rental	250.00		Great Plains Musuem
7/30/2026		Oth Pay	Enterprise Rental	250.00		Trip to iFly

712.19 0.00 Net: -712.19

STEM Camp T-Shirts Exp (5143)

Date	Chk#	Type	Payee	Payment	Deposit	Note
6/17/2026		Oth Pay	Vista Print	640.43		T-shirts
7/10/2026		Oth Pay	Vista Print	89.88		T-Shirts

730.31 0.00 Net: -730.31

	Payments	Deposits	Net Total
Total Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	5,886.77	0.00	-5,886.77
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00

PSO has Received Your Payment.

1 message

Public Service Company of Oklahoma <communications@aep-email.com>

Tue, Jul 21, 2026 at 6:09 AM

Reply-To: American Electric Power <reply-QJTQC4NOH26EPJTVONQEEP2MCI.10205@aep-email.com>

To: harvestplentyhop@gmail.com



We have received your payment.



Service Address: 3826 E***, Lawton, OK

Account ending in: ***972-2-7



Your payment of \$2,279.91 was received on 7/21/2026

[View payment activity](#)

Thank you for being our customer.

Sincerely,
PSO Customer Service Team



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Item Title:

Consider a STEM Funding Request from FISTA in an amount up to \$170,000.00 for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle and take action as deemed necessary.

Initiator: Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk

Information Source: Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk, Richard Rogalski- LEDA Executive Director, Krista Ratliff, Board Member

Background:

The Innovation Nexus STEM Strategic Plan identifies the Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator (FISTA) as a key partner in advancing STEM education, workforce development, and innovation throughout the Lawton-Fort Sill region. The Strategic Plan specifically calls for leveraging the FISTA STEM Lab and FISTA Youth Science Institute to provide hands-on STEM learning opportunities, workforce preparation, advanced STEM programming, and collaboration among industry, education, government, and community partners. The plan also emphasizes expanding access to year-round STEM programming and increasing opportunities for students regardless of socioeconomic status.

FISTA has submitted a funding request in the amount of \$170,000.00 for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle. The proposed project includes free robotics summer camps, community STEM outreach, homeschool STEM kits, educator professional development, and workforce development initiatives designed to expand access to STEM education and prepare students for high-demand career pathways. The application projects thousands of annual student interactions through no-cost programming while utilizing measurable performance metrics to evaluate program outcomes.

Correlation to the True North Statement:

Community of Choice Where Families Thrive

Exhibit:

Funding Request; Proposed Budget

Key Issues:**Funding Source:**

STEM TIF Revenue

Recommended Action:

Consider a STEM Funding Request from FISTA in an amount up to \$170,000.00 for the May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 STEM funding cycle and take action as deemed necessary.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Application Packet- FISTA

Project Summary

The FISTA STEM Lab and Makerspace proposes a comprehensive, free STEM education and workforce development program for the Lawton–Fort Sill community now and in future years. The robotics summer camps, community outreach, and educator professional development programs are designed to be enduring programs that will last for years without significant investment. This initiative is purposely designed to eliminate financial barriers and increase access to high-quality STEM experiences for underrepresented and underserved students, while also enhancing all levels of educators', including non-profit agencies, capabilities and preparing a future-ready regional workforce.

No-Cost Student Access & Equity Focus

At the heart of this project are free robotics summer camps, community STEM outreach programs, homeschool STEM kits, and year-round hands-on learning experiences for students. All programs are offered at no cost, ensuring anyone can participate regardless of household income. Priority outreach focuses on students from economically disadvantaged households, rural areas, first-generation learners, and groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields.

Robotics

Students will participate in hands-on learning in robotics, engineering basics, problem-solving, teamwork, and applied technology, developing both technical skills and confidence. By removing cost barriers, the project guarantees equal access to STEM pathways that are often out of reach for these groups. The robotics summer camps are designed to be enduring programs that will last years, with only minimal investment into consumables.

Homeschool STEM Kits

To reach the community's homeschool, church, youth, and non-profit organizations, we offer free take-home STEM kits. These kits are meant to spark interest in STEM fields and support homeschool education. They align with the FISTA STEM Lab programs, making it easy for students to transition into our in-person STEM Lab programs and camps.

Community Outreach

The STEM community outreach programs are designed to bring high-quality STEM programs to where the students are. Local churches, clubs, and community centers are looking to expand their STEM education programs. These STEM kits will allow the FISTA STEM team to bring free, exciting, and educational STEM programs directly to the community, further reducing accessibility to robotics, drones, engineering, and physics-based education.

Teacher Professional Development

The project includes no-cost professional development for K–12 educators and nontraditional educators working with non-profit programs, equipping educators with hands-on STEM curriculum training, classroom-ready resources, and exposure to emerging technologies. Educators will gain practical experience in robotics, engineering design, and project-based learning methods that they can directly integrate into their classrooms. This multiplier effect expands project impact well beyond direct participants, benefiting thousands of additional learners through improved instruction and sustained STEM engagement.

Workforce Development & Career Pathways

This initiative intentionally aligns STEM education with regional workforce needs, introducing students and educators to career pathways in engineering, defense, manufacturing, advanced technologies, and skilled trades. Through exposure to real-world tools, collaborative problem solving, and industry skills, participants develop competencies that translate directly into future employment, internships, and post secondary education opportunities.

Community Impact

These projects represent a holistic, inclusive approach to STEM education by providing free access, empowering educators, and aligning workforce efforts to produce measurable results in student engagement, educator skills, and long-term economic opportunities. Through strategic partnerships and sustainable programs, the FISTA STEM initiatives ensure that innovation, opportunity, and workforce readiness are available to everyone. We aim to give every youth equal access to high-quality STEM education. We meet students wherever they are.

Expected outcomes:

Student reach and access:

- **7,000 – 7,500 interactions with students annually** through robotics programs, no-cost STEM camps, and outreach events
- Provide **100% of programming at no cost** to ensure access to populations historically underrepresented in STEM.
- Conduct **20-25 outreach events per year at** schools, churches, non-profits, libraries, and community centers.

Skill Development:

- **85% of participating students** will demonstrate increased understanding of robotics, engineering, or coding concepts (measured through pre/post surveys)
- **80% of students** will report increased confidence in their ability to succeed in STEM subjects
- **75% of students** will successfully complete a hands-on robotics or engineering design challenge

Work force and career development:

- **70% of participants** will identify at least one STEM career they are interested in after program participation
- Expose students to **at least 5 high-demand STEM career pathways** (robotics, engineering, programming, aviation/drones, advanced manufacturing, etc.)
- Engage **local industry or workforce professionals in 3–6 events per year** as guest speakers, mentors, or judges

At-Home and Homeschool STEM Kit Distribution

- Distribute **2,500 – 3,000 take-home STEM kits annually** to homeschool families and students unable to attend in-person programs
- Each kit will support **hands-on engineering, electronics, or physics-based design challenges**
- 75% of kit recipients will report completing at least one full STEM build activity

- Increase engagement with rural and home-educated students in the greater Lawton area.
- Increase homeschool students' attendance at FISTA STEM Lab

Program growth and sustainability:

- Increase robotics program capacity from approximately **20 students per session to 45+ students per session**
- Serve **1,500-2000 students annually** through robotics classes, camps, and team programs
- Offer **at least 6–8 robotics camps or multi-week programs per year**, at no cost
- Enable **simultaneous beginner, intermediate, and advanced robotics programming** using GO, IQ, EXP, and V5 platforms
- Support development of **competition-ready robotics teams** using VEX V5 competition equipment

How will success be measured and reported?

FISTA Innovation STEM Lab will measure program impact using participation data, skill assessments, student surveys , and digital badging to ensure grant-funded activities are effectively expanding STEM access and workforce readiness for Lawton area students.

Student reach and access:

FISTA will track student enrollment and attendance across robotics programs, free summer camps, and community outreach events.

Metrics include:

- Total number of interactions with students
- Number of students participating in no-cost programs
- Number of outreach events conducted in Lawton
- Percentage of first-time and returning participants

STEM Skill development

Student learning will be measured through hands-on performance tasks and brief pre/post self-assessments.

Metrics include:

- Percentage of students completing a robotics or engineering design challenge. Instructor verification of student ability to build, program, or troubleshoot robotics systems.
- Student-reported increases in STEM confidence and understanding

Workforce and Skill Development FISTA will assess growth in student awareness of STEM career pathways connected to robotics and engineering.

Metrics include:

Percentage of students identifying at least one STEM career of interest after participation

- Number of career-connected learning experiences offered (guest speakers, industry engagement, etc.)

At-Home and Homeschool STEM Kit Distribution

For home and homeschool learners, FISTA will track distribution and learning engagement.

Metrics include:

- Number of STEM kits distributed
- Family or student feedback on completed activities
- Number of students who attend FISTA STEM Lab programming after completing take home STEM kit.

Digital badging:

Through a partnership with the **Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance**, FISTA Innovation STEM Lab will implement a digital badging system that allows students in Lawton to earn industry-aligned micro-credentials in robotics, coding, engineering design, and other STEM skill areas. These digital badges will document specific competencies students have acquired and will follow them throughout their academic journey

Metrics include:

- Number of students earning at least one digital STEM badge
- Total badges awarded by skill area (robotics, coding, engineering design, etc.)

FISTA STEM
Draft Budget
FYE 6/30/27

OPERATIONS

REVENUE:

Sponsorships	10,000.00
Grants	25,000.00
Prototyping Lab	2,500.00
STEDI Project Income	170,000.00
Total Revenue	207,500.00

EXPENDITURES:

Advertising & Marketing	2,000.00
Auto & Fuel	1,000.00
Camps & Outreach	15,000.00
Convention Fees	1,000.00
Depreciation	1,000.00
Association Dues	1,000.00
Educator Professional Development for community	8,000.00
Employee Benefits	10,000.00
Equipment	8,000.00
First Aid & Emergency	1,000.00
Licenses, Fees, & Software	8,000.00
Meals & Luncheons	1,000.00
Office Expense	1,500.00
PPE & Safety Equipment	3,000.00
Professional Development Fees	1,000.00
Repairs & Maintenance	1,000.00
Robots & Drones	8,000.00
STEM Competitions	15,500.00
Small Equipment	12,500.00
Special Events	500.00
Supplies - STEM	20,000.00
Supplies - Prototyping Lab	12,000.00
Supplies - Adv. Prototyping Lab	23,000.00
Taxes - Payroll	3,800.00
Travel	2,500.00
Utilities	5,000.00
Wages	40,000.00
Website	700.00
Total Expenditures	207,500.00
Net Income (Loss)	0.00