



# City of Lawton

## City Council

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

### Special Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 27, 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."

#### Roll Call

#### Business Items

1. Receive reports concerning various homeless response activities and consider approving an ordinance related to Offenses and Crimes, amending Section 16-3-2-202, Division 16-3-2, Article 16-3, Chapter 16, Lawton City Code, 2025 by deleting the exclusion of land owned by the Lawton Unhoused Trust Authority from the definition of Other Real Property, providing for severability, and establishing an effective date.

#### Reports to Include:

- A 30-day update from the community group requested to provide an update to the City Council.
- A report from the City Manager regarding the task force created on July 14, 2026 and the proposed plan for closing the Engage Community.
- Other reports concerning various homeless response activities.

#### 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:**

Receive reports concerning various homeless response activities and consider approving an ordinance related to Offenses and Crimes, amending Section 16-3-2-202, Division 16-3-2, Article 16-3, Chapter 16, Lawton City Code, 2025 by deleting the exclusion of land owned by the Lawton Unhoused Trust Authority from the definition of Other Real Property, providing for severability, and establishing an effective date.

**Reports to Include:**

- A 30-day update from the community group requested to provide an update to the City Council.
- A report from the City Manager regarding the task force created on July 14, 2026 and the proposed plan for closing the Engage Community.
- Other reports concerning various homeless response activities.

**Initiator:** John Ratliff, City Manager

**Information Source:** Jari Askins, Interim City Attorney, John Ratliff, City Manager, Various Homeless Response Groups

**Background:**

In August 2025, the Lawton Unhoused Trust Authority accepted property located at 1303 SW E Avenue, Lawton, Oklahoma, which was deeded by The Salvation Army. On June 12, 2026, the Lawton Unhoused Trust Authority met and discussed the future use of the property, including the possibility of prohibiting camping due to public safety concerns. On June 23, 2026, the Lawton Unhoused Trust Authority presented its recommendation to the City Council to prohibit camping on the property.

Following discussion, the City Council directed Brenda Spencer-Ragland to develop a community plan, working together with nonprofit organizations, and provide a 30-day update to the City Council at the July 28, 2026 meeting and a final plan at the August 25, 2026 meeting. The Council further directed that the plan fit within the Kids First Initiative, address neighborhood safety, and that the City Manager address neighborhood safety concerns at the current location while the plan was being developed.

At the July 14, 2026 City Council meeting, the Council directed the City Manager to assemble a task force consisting of The Salvation Army, the Lawton Police Department, the City Manager's Office, and the Legal Department to develop a plan for closing the Engage Community ("Tent City"), bring back any actions requiring City Council authorization at the next Council meeting, and place a police officer at the Engage Community on a 24-hour basis until the site is closed.

The City Council will receive reports from Brenda Spencer-Ragland regarding the community plan and 30-day update, from the City Manager regarding the task force's findings and recommendations, and on other homeless response activities currently underway. As part of its consideration of these reports and recommendations, the City Council will also consider the

attached ordinance, which would amend Section 16-3-2-202 of the Lawton City Code by removing the exclusion of land owned by the Lawton Unhoused Trust Authority from the definition of "Other Real Property," allowing the City's anti-camping regulations to apply to that property.

**Correlation to the True North Statement:**

Safe Community

**Exhibit:**

Ordinance

**Key Issues:**

N/A

**Funding Source:**

N/A

**Recommended Action:**

Receive reports and approve an ordinance related to Offenses and Crimes, amending Section 16-3-2-202, Division 16-3-2, Article 16-3, Chapter 16, Lawton City Code, 2025 by deleting the exclusion of land owned by the Lawton Unhoused Trust Authority from the definition of Other Real Property, providing for severability, and establishing an effective date.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. ORDINANCE 26-X AntiCamping

## **ORDINANCE NO. 26-\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE RELATED TO OFFENSES AND CRIMES, AMENDING SECTION 16-3-2-202, DIVISION 16-3-2, ARTICLE 16-3, CHAPTER 16, LAWTON CITY CODE 2025, BY DELETING THE EXCLUSION OF LAND OWNED BY THE LAWTON UNHOUSED TRUST AUTHORITY FROM THE DEFINITION OF OTHER REAL PROPERTY, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, that:

### **Section 1. Section 16-3-2-202 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

#### **16-3-2-202 – Definitions.**

For the purpose of the sections in this division, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

#### **1. "Camping" means any or a combination of the following activities:**

A. "Erecting temporary shelters:" The act of setting up or maintaining any form of temporary shelter, such as tents, tarpaulins, or other structures, for the purpose of habitation.

B. "Sleeping activities:" Engaging in sleeping or preparing to sleep, including the use of sleeping bags, blankets, or other bedding materials, in areas not designated for overnight accommodation.

However, "camping" shall not include recreational overnight activities by persons under eighteen (18) years of age on residential property with the consent of a parent, guardian, or property owner.

2. "Personal property" means any item of personal property including, but not limited to, clothing, bedding, sleeping bags, luggage, backpacks, shopping carts, tarpaulins, tents, non-motorized vehicles, and household items. This definition shall not include a motorized vehicle that is legally parked.

3. "Public property" means any real property located within the Lawton City Limits owned, leased or controlled by the City of Lawton, including, but not limited to:

A. Streets, alleys, sidewalks, and rights-of-way;

B. Parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities;

C. Public buildings and grounds;

D. Utility easements and corridors;

E. Stormwater retention areas;

F. Parking lots and garages.

4. "Other real property" means any real property within the Lawton City Limits not owned, leased or controlled by the City of Lawton, including, but not limited to, residential, commercial, industrial, or undeveloped property. This definition shall exclude: ~~(1) areas within the municipal city limits where the city does not have enforcement jurisdiction; and (2) any land owned by the Lawton Unhoused Trust Authority.~~

5. "Written permission for camping" means explicit written authorization from the property owner or lawful occupant, which must include:

A. The property owner of lawful occupant's name and signature;

B. The specific property address or legal description;

C. The dates during which camping is authorized;

D. The signature date within thirty (30) days of the current date.

**Section 2. Severability Clause.** If any section, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, said portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance.

**Section 3. Effective Date:** The provisions of this ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after the passage of the ordinance.

**ADOPTED and APPROVED** by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STANLEY BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONALYNN BLAZEK-SCHERLER, CITY CLERK

APPROVED as to form and legality this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JARI ASKINS, INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

**ORDINANCE NO. 26-\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE RELATED TO OFFENSES AND CRIMES, AMENDING SECTION 16-3-2-202, DIVISION 16-3-2, ARTICLE 16-3, CHAPTER 16, LAWTON CITY CODE 2025, BY DELETING THE EXCLUSION OF LAND OWNED BY THE LAWTON UNHOUSED TRUST AUTHORITY FROM THE DEFINITION OF OTHER REAL PROPERTY, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**BRIEF GIST**

This ordinance deletes the exclusion of land owned by the Lawton Unhoused Trust Authority from the definition of “Other Real Property.”

**ADOPTED and APPROVED** by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STANLEY BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONALYNN BLAZEK-SCHERLER, CITY CLERK

(Published in the Lawton Constitution this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.)