

City of Lawton

Public Input Meeting on Potential City Charter Changes

Thursday, June 27, 2025 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Wayne Gilley Auditorium, Lawton City Hall
212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, OK 73501

AGENDA

1. Brief Welcome and Instructions
2. Overview of Charter Amendment Process
3. Public Input Session
 - Open floor for citizens to suggest Charter changes
 - Staff will document input and answer brief procedural questions
4. Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Note: This meeting is for public input only. No formal decisions or endorsements will be made.

For questions, contact the City Clerk's Office at (580) 581-3305.

2025 CHARTER REVIEW SUGGESTED CHANGES

SECTION	PROPOSED CHANGE	CURRENT
ARTICLE B- PREAMBLE	We, the people of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, under the authority of the Constitution and laws of the State of Oklahoma, in order to provide for the operation of local government to serve the best interests of all our citizens <u>and create a community of choice where families thrive</u> , do hereby ordain and establish this Charter for the City of Lawton. <u>We commit to transparency, efficiency, safety, and world-class customer service in our pursuit of excellence.</u>	We, the people of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, under the authority of the Constitution and laws of the State of Oklahoma, in order to provide for the operation of local government to serve the best interests of all our citizens, do hereby ordain and establish this Charter for the City of Lawton.
ARTICLE I, SECTION 1-1	The inhabitants within the boundaries hereinafter defined, and as such boundaries may be changed from time to time in the manner provided by law, shall continue to be a municipal body politic and corporate in perpetuity, under the name of the "City of Lawton". <u>Our vision is to be a community of choice where families thrive, and we exist solely to serve our citizens collectively with efficiency and transparency.</u>	The inhabitants within the boundaries hereinafter defined, and as such boundaries may be changed from time to time in the manner provided by law, shall continue to be a municipal body politic and corporate in perpetuity, under the name of the "City of Lawton".
ARTICLE II, SECTION 2-1	There is hereby created, ordained and established the City Council of Lawton which shall be the governing body of said City. <u>The City Council shall operate with a commitment to transparency, efficiency, and accountability.</u>	There is hereby created, ordained and established the City Council of Lawton which shall be the governing body of said City
ARTICLE II, SECTION 2-2	ADDITION OF A TRANSITION PERIOD BETWEEN MAYORS. PENDING LEGAL GUIDANCE, THE INTENT IS FOR THE MAYOR ELECT TO HAVE AN OPTIONAL 45 DAY TRANSITION WHERE THEY CAN SHADOW THE CURRENT MAYOR PRIOR TO TAKING OFFICE.	NOT CURRENTLY ADDRESSED IN CHARTER
ARTICLE II, SECTION 2-4	9. To establish and maintain service level standards and performance metrics aligned with the city's True North Culture Statement. 10. To ensure transparent operations through: - Public access to non-confidential city data - Regular performance reporting - Clear communication of decision-making processes - Timely response to public inquiries 11. To promote business development through: - Streamlined permitting processes - Regular review of business regulations - Collaboration with economic development entities - Technology-enabled business services	THIS WOULD BE A NEW ADDITION TO AN EXISTING SECTION

ARTICLE II, SECTION 2-7	The council shall hold at least <u>one</u> regular meeting every month, at such time as prescribed by ordinance or otherwise. The mayor or any five councilmembers may call special meetings. All meetings of the council shall be held and conducted as authorized by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. In determining the time of council meetings, the council shall consider the public convenience.	The council shall hold at least two regular meetings every month, at such time as prescribed by ordinance or otherwise. The mayor or any five councilmembers may call special meetings. All meetings of the council shall be held and conducted as authorized by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. In determining the time of council meetings, the council shall consider the public convenience.
ARTICLE III, SECTION 3-7	City Council Relations Liaison to be administrative support to the Council The City Council Relations Liaison shall be elected by the council for an indenfite term. He shall provide administrative support to the City Council, assist in coordinating communications, and facilitate Council- related functions as directed. Additional responsibilities may be assigned by the Council to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in City governance. This position shall function in an adviosry and administrative capacity, without legislative or executive authority.	NOT CURRENTLY ADDRESSED IN CHARTER
ARTICLE III, SECTION 3-1	The city manager shall be the chief executive and administrative officer of the City government, <u>responsible for fostering the True North Culture Statement, subject to Section 2-2 of Lawton City Charter, which states, "He shall have no administrative duties except to sign such written obligations of the city as the council may require."</u>	The city manger shall be the chief executive and administrative officer of the City government
ARTICLE III, SECTION 3-7	a. The city manager shall: 1. Implement citizen service metrics aligned with True North principles 2. Maintain a performance dashboard accessible to the public 3. Regular benchmark against peer cities 4. Address service issues with documented urgency 5. Report quarterly on efficiency improvements	THIS WOULD BE A NEW ADDITION TO AN EXISTING SECTION
ARTICLE III, SECTION 3-8	a. The city manager shall: 1. Maintain a digital transformation strategy 2. Implement appropriate automation tools 3. Ensure data-driven decision making 4. Enable cross-department data sharing 5. Maintain cybersecurity protocols	THIS WOULD BE A NEW ADDITION TO AN EXISTING SECTION
ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4-2	c. The city shall maintain digital procurement systems that: 1. Enable online vendor registration 2. Automate routine purchases 3. Provide transparent tracking 4. Maintain competitive bidding integrity 5. Support local business participation	THIS WOULD BE A NEW ADDITION TO AN EXISTING SECTION

ARTICLE V, SECTION 5-1	The City Manager shall be the chief administrative officer and head of the administrative branch of the City government. He shall be responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all affairs of the City, <u>with a focus on efficiency, transparency, and delivering world-class customer service to our citizens</u>	The City Manager shall be the chief administrative officer and head of the administrative branch of the City government. He shall be responsible to the Council for the proper administration of all affairs of the City.
ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 8-8	Faithful Performance Insurance of officials and employees The city manager, the director of finance, and such other officials and employees as the council may designate, before entering their duties, shall provide <u>faithful performance insurance that covers</u> their respective duties, payable to the city, in such form and in such amounts as the council may prescribe, with an <u>insurance</u> company authorized to operate within the state. The city shall pay the premiums on such <u>insurance</u>.	Bonds of officials and employees The city manager, the director of finance, and such other officials and employees as the council may designate, before entering their duties, shall provide bonds for the faithful performance of their respective duties, payable to the city, in such form and in such amounts as the council may prescribe, with a surety company authorized to operate within the state. The city shall pay the premiums on such bonds.
ARTICLE XI, SECTION 11-1	Service Commitment a. The city commits to: 1. Placing citizen service as highest priority 2. Maintaining world-class customer service standards 3. Providing efficient, timely response to all requests 4. Ensuring accessibility of all city services 5. Regular citizen satisfaction measurement	
ARTICLE XI, SECTION 11-2	a. The city shall: 1. Maintain comprehensive public safety programs 2. Utilize technology for enhanced safety 3. Enable digital crime reporting and tracking 4. Provide emergency notification systems 5. Regular safety performance reporting	THIS WOULD BE A NEW ARTICLE
ARTICLE XI, SECTION 11-3	a. The city shall: 1. Maintain business-friendly policies 2. Provide digital business resource center 3. Enable online business applications 4. Regular review of business regulations 5. Support technology infrastructure development	THIS WOULD BE A NEW ARTICLE
NEED TO IDENTIFY SECTION	ALL STRATEGIC PLANS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FIRST SECTION OF COUNCIL POLICIES AND UPDATED AT THE MAYOR'S DISCRETION.	
ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 8-5(A)	The city manager or any other authority who lays off, suspends without pay for more than ten (10) days, demotes, or removes any employee in the classified service after a probationary period of six twelve months, shall, at that time or within two days thereafter, deliver, or have delivered, or mail by registered, certified, or similar special mail, to the employee a written statement of the reason or reasons for the layoff, suspension, demotion, or removal.	The city manager or any other authority who lays off, suspends without pay for more than ten (10) days, demotes, or removes any employee in the classified service after a probationary period of six months, shall, at that time or within two days thereafter, deliver, or have delivered, or mail by registered, certified, or similar special mail, to the employee a written statement of the reason or reasons for the layoff, suspension, demotion, or removal.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4-3	Section C-4-3 - Sale of property valued at more than thirty seventy-five thousand dollars (\$50,000 \$75,000). The sale of any city property, real or personal, including public utilities, or of any interest therein, the value of which is more than thirty seventy-five thousand dollars (\$50,000 \$75,000) may be made only:	Section C-4-3 - Sale of property valued at more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). The sale of any city property, real or personal, including public utilities, or of any interest therein, the value of which is more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) may be made only:
Article VI, Section 6-1(B)	REMOVE SECTION B COMPLETELY TO ELIMINATE TERM LIMITS.	The mayor and each councilmember shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. Beginning with the swearing in of the mayor and councilmembers after the effective date of this amendment the number of three (3) year terms of the mayor and each councilmember shall be limited to three (3) consecutive terms.
