



City of Lawton

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

Lawton Transit Trust Authority

Special Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

6:00 PM

Lawton City Hall
Wayne Gilley Auditorium

"Official action can be taken only on items which appear on the agenda. The Authority may adopt, approve, ratify, deny, defer, recommend, or continue any agenda item. The Authority may also propose and enact floor amendments to any matter presented before them. When more information is needed to act on an item, the Authority may refer the matter to the City Manager or the City Attorney. The Authority 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. Consider approving the Chairperson to sign the Authorizing Resolution from FTA that will allow Donald Morrison the authority to execute and manage all FTA grants that the Transit Trust has approved.
2. Consider approving the Interim City Attorney to sign the Opinion of Counsel from FTA that will allow Donald Morrison the authority to execute and manage all FTA grants that the Transit Trust has approved.

Executive Session

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

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 Chairperson to sign the Authorizing Resolution from FTA that will allow Donald Morrison the authority to execute and manage all FTA grants that the Transit Trust has approved.

Initiator: Christine James, Director

Information Source: Christine James, Director

Background:

The Authorizing Resolution is a resolution or equivalent, from the recipient's Board of Directors or equivalent Authorizing Official, to be responsible for applying for assistance and legally committing the applicant or recipient to compliance with terms of an award of any grant that has been approved by the Transit Trust.

The resolution is necessary for several reasons. First, federal law requires the FTA to have this resolution on file for every grantee of FTA funds. Second, it communicates who the applicant is as well as who the designated recipient is and ensures that the FTA and the applicant, the City of Lawton, have a clear understanding of that statute. Third, it establishes the legal chain of authority, i.e. that the City has received authority from the designated recipient, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

The resolution also advises the FTA that there is no threatened litigation or legal impediment to receiving these funds, and that the applicant is legally able to receive federal assistance and how it will use its authority to provide the assistance to serve public transit needs of the community.

Additionally, this is a new required document by FTA for grant execution.

Correlation to the True North Statement:**Exhibit:**

Authorizing Resolution

Key Issues:

Without this signed document, the City of Lawton will not be able to execute any grants for the Lawton Area Transit System.

Funding Source:**Recommended Action:**

Approve the Chairperson to sign the Authorizing Resolution from FTA that will allow Donald Morrison the authority to execute and manage all FTA grants that the Transit Trust has approved

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Authorizing Resolution

Resolution - No. 2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53; TITLE 23, UNITED STATES CODE, OR OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION.

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administrator has been delegated authority to award federal financial assistance for a transportation project;

WHEREAS, the grant or cooperative agreement for federal financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the applicant, and may require the applicant to provide the local share of the project cost;

WHEREAS, the applicant has or will provide all annual certifications and assurances to the Federal Transit Administration required for the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY City of Lawton Transit Trust and City of Lawton

1. That **Donald Morrision, General Manager of the Lawton Area Transit System (LATS)** is authorized to execute grants for federal assistance that have been presented and approved by **City of Lawton Transit Trust and the City of Lawton** with the Federal Transit Administration for federal assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23, United States Code, or other federal statutes authorizing a project administered by the Federal Transit Administration. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), as the designated recipient, has given authority to the City of Lawton Transit Trust, the direct recipient, to apply for Urbanized Area Formula Program assistance.
2. That **Donald Morrison, General Manager of the Lawton Area Transit System (LATS)** is authorized to execute and file with its applications the approved annual certifications and assurances and other documents as approved by the City of Lawton Transit Trust the Federal Transportation Administration requires before awarding a federal assistance grant or cooperative agreement.

The undersigned duly qualified **Stanley Booker, Chairman of the City of Lawton of Transit Trust** acting on behalf of the **City of Lawton Transit Trust**, certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Lawton Transit Trust Authority.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Transit Trust this 23rd day of September, 2025.

Stanley Booker, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, SECRETARY

APPROVED as to form this 9th day of September, 2025.



Timothy Wilson, INTERM CITY ATTORNEY

Item Title:

Consider approving the Interim City Attorney to sign the Opinion of Counsel from FTA that will allow Donald Morrison the authority to execute and manage all FTA grants that the Transit Trust has approved.

Initiator: Christine James, Director

Information Source: Christine James, Director

Background:

The Opinion of Counsel is a legal document that empowers Donald Morrison to carry out the activities specified in the City Transit Trust approved grant award.

The opinion is necessary for several reasons. First, federal law requires the FTA to have this opinion on file for every grantee of FTA funds. Second, it communicates who the applicant is as well as who the designated recipient is and ensures that the FTA and the applicant, the City of Lawton, have a clear understanding of that statute. Third, it establishes the legal chain of authority, i.e. that the City has received authority from the designated recipient, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

The opinion also advises the FTA that there is no threatened litigation or legal impediment to receiving these funds, and that the applicant is legally able to receive federal assistance and how it will use its authority to provide the assistance to serve public transit needs of the community.

Additionally, this is a new required document by FTA for grant execution.

Correlation to the True North Statement:**Exhibit:**

Opinion of Counsel Letter

Key Issues:

Without this signed document, the City of Lawton will not be able to execute any grants.

Funding Source:

Recommended Action:

Approve the Interim City Attorney to sign the Opinion of Counsel from FTA that will allow Donald Morrison the authority to execute and manage all FTA grants that the Transit Trust has approved.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Opinion of Counsel Letter



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

212 Southwest Ninth Street
Lawton, Oklahoma 73501
Telephone (580) 581-3320
Facsimile (580) 581-3539

September 23, 2025

Donald Morrison
611 SW Bishop Rd.
Lawton, OK 73501

Re: OPINION OF COUNSEL

Dear Donald Morrison:

This communication will serve as the requisite opinion of counsel to be filed with the Federal Transit Administration, United States Department of Transportation, in connection with an application of City of Lawton Transit Trust for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53; Title 23, United States Code; and other federal statutes authorizing activities administered by the Federal Transit Administration.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), as the designated recipient, has given authority to the City of Lawton Transit Trust, the direct recipient, to apply for Urbanized Area Formula Program assistance.

Citations to the legal authority of City of Lawton Transit Trust to carry out transportation projects for which federal assistance is sought is set forth below:

1. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2025-____ that **Donald Morrison, General Manager of the Lawton Area Transit System (LATS)** is authorized to execute appropriated grants for federal assistance that have been presented and approved by **the City of Lawton Transit Trust**, with the Federal Transit Administration for federal assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23, United States Code, or other federal statutes authorizing a project administered by the Federal Transit Administration.
2. Allocations in the City of Lawton's annual budget allows for the City of Lawton Transit Trust to provide funds for the local share of a project.

Providing efficient, effective, and responsive service. Promoting a quality of life based on harmony and cooperation. Creating leadership and opportunity for southwest Oklahoma.

3. I have reviewed the pertinent federal, state, and local laws, and I have concluded that for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, pursuant to the annual Cooperative Agreement between the **City of Lawton and the City of Lawton Transit Trust**, there is no legal impediment to your filing an application for a project for which **City of Lawton Transit Trust** seeks assistance. Furthermore, as a result of my examination, I find that there is currently no pending or threatened litigation or other action which might in any way adversely affect a proposed project or the capability of City of Lawton of Transit Trust to carry out a project.
4. This opinion letter shall not apply to discretionary grants.

Sincerely,

Timothy Wilson,
Interim City Attorney

Item Title:

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

Initiator: Christine James, Director

Information Source: Christine James, Director

Background:

Section 307 B.3 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes permits a public body to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or appraisal of real property. This provision allows the committee to deliberate privately in order to protect the integrity of potential negotiations and ensure the City's best interests are maintained. Following the executive session, any necessary action will be taken in open session in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

Correlation to the True North Statement:

Safe Community; Quality of Life

Exhibit:

None.

Key Issues:

N/A

Funding Source:

N/A

Recommended Action:

Take any action deemed necessary in open session.

ATTACHMENTS:

None