Youth and Family Affairs Committee
MINUTES
Monday, April 25, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
Lawton City Hall First Floor, Banquet Hall
212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, Oklahoma

Members Present: Onreka Johnson, Jeff Elbert, Rick Lowe, Brenda Myers, Dianne Owens, Lisa Shaw, Willie Smith, Woogie Burgess (Administrative Assistant).

Members Absent: Davison Virgil

Guests Present: Mayor Stan Booker

I. The meeting was called to Order at 5:34 pm by Chair Onreka Johnson. Upon roll call vote, a quorum was determined to be present, and public notice requirements were met.

Chair and Administrator Report: Administrative Assistant Woogie Burgess reported briefly on a meeting she and Onreka held with the STOP-SPOT program directors regarding items to consider when reapplying for funding.

II. Minutes: Minutes were not available for review. Rick Lowe moved to table approval of minutes from the March 15, 2022 meeting until the May 17, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeff Elbert. Upon conclusion of discussion, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously by all present, as noted above.

III. Business:

A. The first item considered was applications received since the last application deadline. Applications were received from Boy Scouts of America, Lawton Public Schools for a STEAM Camp, and a request for additional funding from Kimberly Jones, for the Greenwood Project.
After full discussion of each applicant, the following action was taken:

(1) Greenwood Project

This program was previously approved for funding, but due to unanticipated circumstances, additional funding was requested, and a full budget supplied and reviewed by the Committee. Motion was made by Brenda Myers to approve and recommend to the City Council increased funding of $29,318.07 for the Greenwood Project. Seconded by Jeff Elbert. Discussion ensued. Upon conclusion of the discussion, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously by all members present, as noted above.

(2) Boy Scouts of America

After discussing the application in full, concern was expressed that the application was not specific to at risk youth, as required by the Ordinance authorizing funding. The Committee asked that the applicant be contacted and that a discussion ensue about revising the application and program, and resubmitting so that the program meets the requirements of the ordinance. Woogie Burgess agreed to contact the Boy Scouts program administrator. Motion was made by Rick Lowe, seconded by Dianne Owens, to table action on this application. Discussion ensued. Upon conclusion of the discussion, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously by all members present, as noted above.

(3) Lawton Public Schools – STEAM Camp
Extensive discussion was engaged in regarding the application. Motion was made by Rick Lowe,

seconded by Jeff Elbert to provisionally approve the application for full funding in the amount of $75,000, and that final approval is contingent upon completion of a site visit by Committee members. Woogie Burgess agreed to contact Lawton Public Schools and arrange for a site visit as soon as possible, ideally on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. Discussion ensued. Upon conclusion of the discussion, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously by all members present, as noted above.

B. The second item of consideration was whether to contract with youth services providers for training across the city to better assist at risk youth. Two proposals were received, and the potential for informal training by currently trained individuals in the community was also discussed in detail. Motion was made by Brenda Myers, seconded by Willie Smith, to enter into a contract for two initial sessions with OU-NRCYS (University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services) for training, in accordance with their submitted contract. Discussion ensued. Upon conclusion of the discussion, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously by all members present, as noted above.

IV. Other Topics – general questions, input. Jeff Elbert discussed concerns that various applicants were under the impression he was against their programs, and that they were not responding to his efforts to contact to assist them. He also wanted it to be clear that he was very favorable to all of the applicants, and the only concerns were the same as other members had, regarding meeting the requirements of the ordinance. The Committee acknowledged that all messages coming from the Committee should be positive, and not cause issues to any one or more of the members.

V. New Business. None

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned 6:27 p.m.