

2016 STATE OF THE City



“Beneath an August sun in 1901, our community began...an
adventure of certain risk but of uncertain reward.

Yet those who then so courageously committed themselves
thereby directed us to the high plateau of opportunity which we
now enjoy.

This Charter, in a sense, is an expression of our gratitude.

But it is much more than that.

It is a new beginning...dedicated to the challenge of change.

It seeks to conserve what is good, correct what is lacking, and above
all, to create an instrument by which the community purpose may
best be achieved.

And, as we and our children move down the long corridors of time
which lie ahead, we hope that, through this document, those who
follow will sense and respond to the bright expectations of this
summer of 1972.

Therefore, in this reflection and this spirit, we the people of the City
of Lawton, exercising the powers of home rule granted to us by
the Constitution and laws of the State of Oklahoma, in order to
provide for more efficient, responsive, and responsible
government, do hereby ordain, ratify, and establish this Charter.”

City of Lawton Charter Preamble

My Fellow Lawtonians,



Reflecting over the past year, I realized that the City of Lawton made great strides in our efforts to move forward with the five priorities established last year. These five priorities were identified, with input from the community, as areas needed to make Lawton the choice place to live, work, and play in Southwest Oklahoma by creating a vision of where we want the City to be.

You would think that as the largest municipality in Southwest Oklahoma and the 5th largest in the State, the natural choice to shop, live, and work would be Lawton. In the past, many of our citizens were forced to leave the city and travel for national-chain store shopping and dining experiences that couldn't be found here. With the completion of two new large shopping centers, one on the West side and one Downtown, those popular nation-wide chains have been added to the already favorite local shopping and dining venues. This addition helps to keep those tax dollars local which builds opportunity for more growth.

However, we feel, as many of you do and as studies have shown, that it's not enough. There are still many opportunities for retail business and nationally recognized restaurants to be successful here. That's why we have contracted with The Retail Coach, a company that specializes in attracting and working with national chains, to draw more business to the City of Lawton. They've identified several areas from Grocery Shopping to Department Stores to Restaurants that could potentially be drawn to our great City and provide a recognized service to the community.

While improving the quality of life (through the additional shopping and dining experiences) in the City is imperative, it is only one step in making a difference in the lives of our citizens. The purpose of this State of the City is to inform everyone of the progress being made, not only in quality of life areas, but also in those priority areas identified:

- **Priority #1:** *Create a safer city.* Over the last year, the City has increased the starting salaries approximately 24% for the Police to make these positions more attractive to qualified applicants. Successful negotiations with the Police union netted the officers a \$5,165 incentive bonus during the fiscal year and in addition, this fiscal year (16/17) they will receive a 5% salary increase, a 5% bi-weekly incentive bonus and \$190,000 early signing bonus split between 63 officers. The Fire union negotiated a two year contract with similar increases/bonuses. Finally, we've been working on the design of the new Public Safety building, and broke ground on Fire Station #8 to better meet response times for the growth experienced on the Southwest side of the City.
- **Priority #2:** *Explore new water reuse technologies, reevaluate water conservation efforts, and support state and federal legislation that supports more flexibility in the local control of water resources.* While we are not suffering from a water shortage at this time, preparations for the future are always wise. We've hired the companies that will be conducting the surveys and drilling the test wells to determine if it will be feasible to tap in to the underground aquifers for supplemental water supply.
- **Priority #3:** *Closely monitor new developments at the Fort Sill Army Installation.* By coming together as a community, we were able to show the Pentagon just how valuable and desired Fort Sill is to our future. By doing so, we not only avoided troop reductions through sequestration, but we are seeing an increase of 800 soldiers and their families over the next year. Approximately half of those soldiers and their families have already arrived in the community to date.

Priority #4: Rigidly monitor the fiscal health of our general fund budget. Dealing with budgets are never easy, be it your home budget or the City's operating budget. When a reduction in revenue hits you, it becomes even more difficult. Even with the additional shopping and dining opportunities, City sales tax has been flat and the utility revenues are down. However, the City staff has worked hard to cut expenditures to create an overall savings in the budget.

· **Priority #5:** Build lasting relationships with our community partners. Only by coming together for a common purpose can we ever achieve our dreams. Working with Lawton Public Schools, Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce, Fort Sill, and Cameron University has benefitted us all with a well-rounded vision for the future that is definitely attainable.

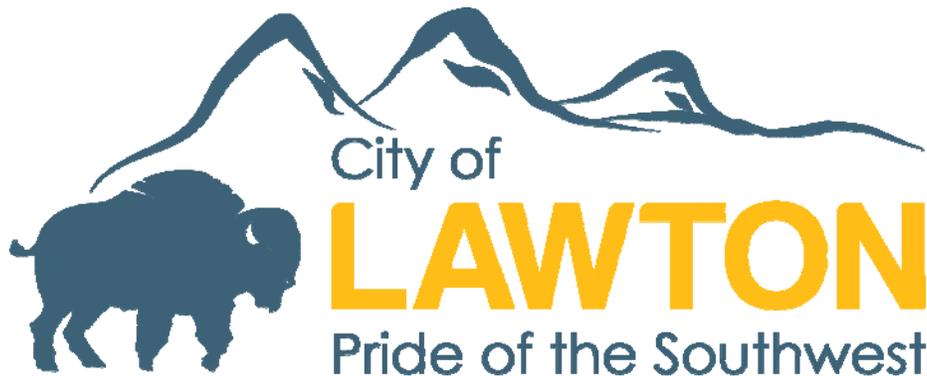
As you read through this document, you'll be able to discover the details of the progress made within the City this year and briefly touched on in this letter. I hope it builds excitement and confidence in you, as it has me, that things are going in a positive direction for our future.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention and thank the more than 890 police, fire, and general employees that work hard for you each and every day. These men and women are the very best employees a city could have taking care of our everyday needs. While many are working behind the scenes and many in positions that don't interface directly with the public, each one of them take personal pride in providing the highest quality services available to our residents. They are truly the backbone of this organization.

While we look to the future, it is a very exciting time to live in Lawton. While we will continue to work to provide the services and infrastructure necessary to make Lawton a fantastic place to live and raise a family. I want to thank you, our residents, for taking such pride in our city. So many of you are involved with beautification, crime prevention, and the planning of our future. Without engaged citizens and businesses, communities cannot continue to prosper and I want to encourage you to not only continue in your efforts, but to bring along your family and friends to get involved as well.

Let's continue to **IMAGE**^{ine} Lawton's best!

FRED L. FITCH, MAYOR OF LAWTON





Pictured left to right: City Manager Jerry Ihler, City Clerk Traci Hushbeck, Ward 1—Dr. Robert Morford, Ward 2—Keith Jackson, Ward 3—Dr. Rosemary Bellino-Hall, Ward 4, Jay Burk, Mayor Fred Fitch, City Attorney Frank Jensen, Ward 5—Dwight Tanner, Ward 6—Cherry Phillips, Ward 7, V. Gay McGahee, Ward 8—Doug Wells, Fort Sill Liaison—Col Sam Curtis

The City Council approves all ordinances, resolutions, and contracts, including but not limited to property sales, acquisitions and leases as well as major purchases of materials, equipment and services required by the City. With the advice and assistance of the City Manager, the Council reviews proposals for community needs, initiates action for new programs and determines the ability of the City to provide financing for City activities. The Council is responsible for approval of the annual operating budget.

The Council members have distribution boxes in the City Hall, 212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, Oklahoma.

Lawton City Council meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, at City Hall, 212 SW 9th Street. Meetings begin at 6:00pm and are televised on Fidelity Cable, channel 2.

The Mayor and all eight council members are elected officials and serve 3-year terms. Beginning and ending years for terms are:

2016-2018	2017-2019	2015—2017
TERM	TERM	TERM
Mayor	Ward 3	Ward 6
Ward 1	Ward 4	Ward 7
Ward 2	Ward 5	Ward 8

Primary elections are held the 4th Tuesday each June with the General elections held the first Tuesday each November. The elected Councilor takes office the second Monday in January.

Mayor and Council Contact Information



Fred Fitch
Mayor

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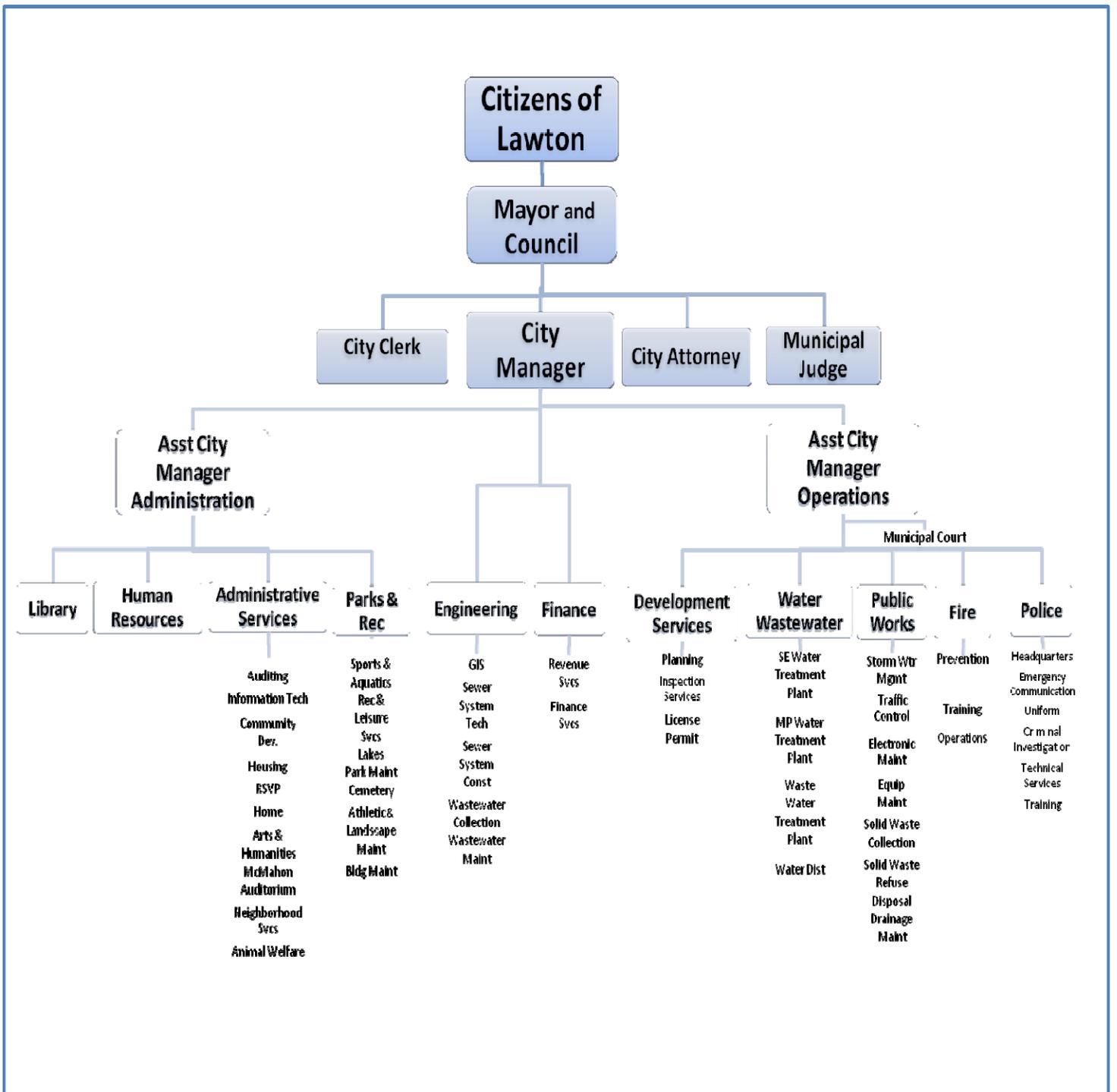
V. Gay McGahee
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Doug Wells
Ward 8

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City Staff Contact Information

City Manager, Jerry Ihler.....	580.581.3301
Asst City Manager, Operations, Bart Hadley.....	580.581.3301
Asst City Manager, Administration, Jim Russell.....	580.581.3301
City Attorney, Frank Jensen.....	580.581.3320
City Clerk, Traci Hushbeck.....	580.581.3307
Municipal Judge, Nathan Johnson.....	580.581.3263

Administrative Services, Jim Russell—Director.....	580.581.3367
Community Services, Richard Rogalski—Director.....	580.581.3375
Engineering, George Hennessee—Director.....	580.581.3369
Finance Director, J.I. Johnson—Director.....	580.581.3329
Fire, Dewayne Burk—Chief.....	580.581.3280
Human Resources, Chase Massie—Director.....	580.581.3395
Legal Services, Frank Jensen—City Attorney.....	580.581.3320
Library, Kristin Herr—Director.....	580.581.3450
Municipal Court, Bart Hadley—Director.....	580.581.3269
Parks & Recreation, Jack Hanna—Director.....	580.581.3400
Police, James Smith—Chief.....	580.581.3200
Public Works, Larry Wolcott—Director.....	580.581.3410
Water/Wastewater, Afsaneh Jabbar—Director.....	580.581.3410

Other Helpful Numbers...

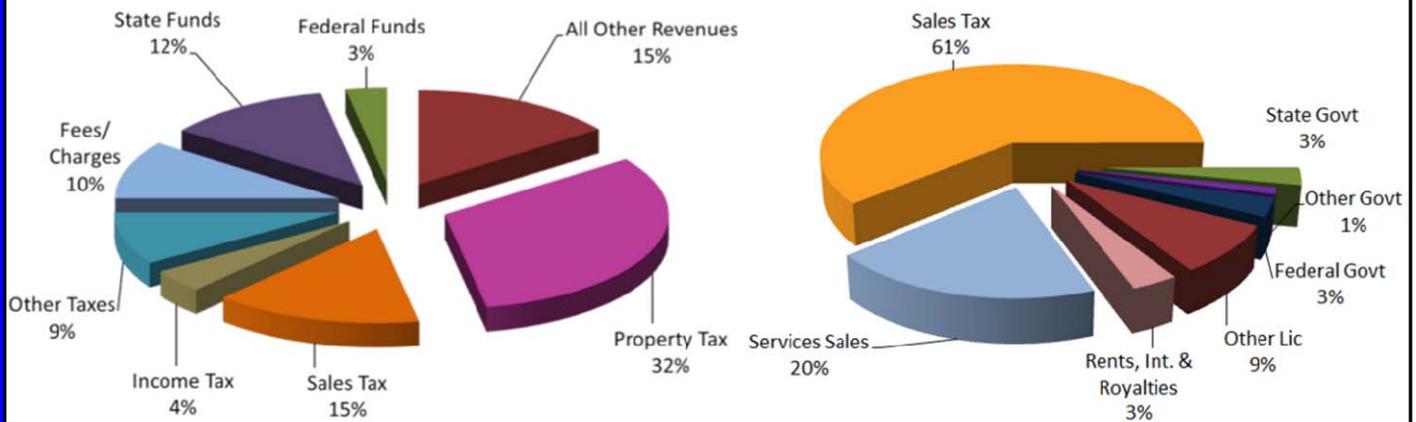
Animal Welfare.....	580.581.3219
Animal Welfare Officer.....	580.581.3272
City Clerk Main Line.....	580.581.3305
Human Resources Main Line.....	580.581.3392
License & Permits Main Line.....	580.581.3365
Neighborhood Services Main Line.....	580.581.3592
Parks & Recreation Main Line.....	580.581.3400
Revenue Services Main Line.....	580.581.3317

How Does the City Budget Work?

Did you know that Oklahoma is the ONLY State in the Nation that does not receive property taxes as a source of revenue for operations? While it is allowed (by Article 10 of the State Constitution), it has to be approved by the County Excise Boards which is made up of a representative of the Oklahoma Tax Commission, a representative of the County Commissioners, and a representative of the County Judges. With two-thirds of the votes given to County representatives, the money is generally kept in the County coffers across the State...including Lawton.

As you can see below, property taxes make up 32% of the revenue while sales tax accounts for only 15% of the revenue in cities across the nation. In Oklahoma, sales tax is almost two-thirds of our revenue source! Property taxes are generally stable throughout the year while sales taxes fluctuate month-to-month, week-to-week, and day-to-day. This creates an overdependence on sales tax.

A look at the numbers



US Municipal Revenue

OK Municipal Revenue

How Does the City Budget Work?

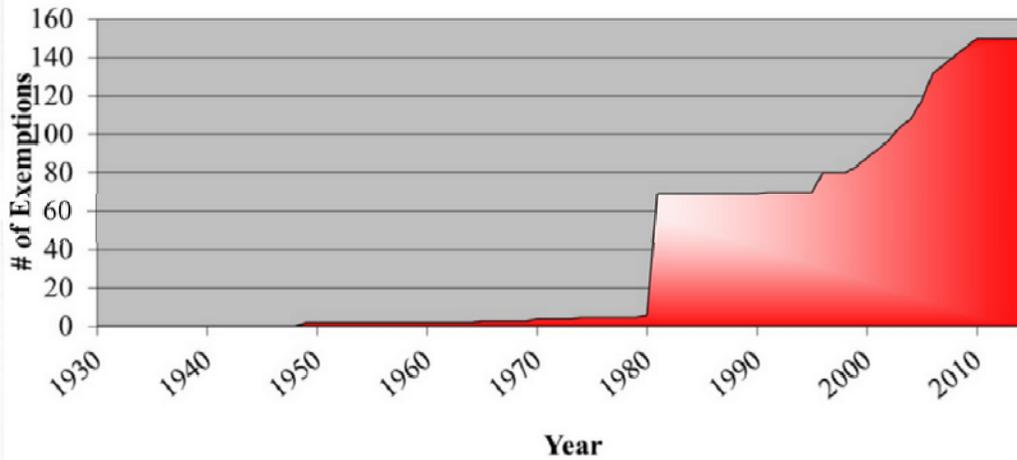
Various other issues that affect sales tax

Since sales tax is a primary source of our budget revenue, let's take a look at a few "outside" influences that have impact on our revenue source.

Internet sales has skyrocketed over the past few years as shoppers become more and more technology driven. With very few exceptions, those sales tax dollars go uncollected by the retailer and unaccounted for on individual State Tax filings. Uncollected internet sales tax on purchases alone account for a loss of \$81.5 million in State revenue and \$66.7 million lost in municipal collections. Imagine if that amount is poured back into municipal budgets on the improvements that could be made to city streets, general employee/police officer/firefighter salaries...imagine how that would impact your utility service costs...imagine what other city services could be maintained or saved...and finally, imagine how those collections could help keep you local sales taxes down. When you combine State, County, and City sales taxes, the goal is to keep that percentage below 10%. Anything above that causes people to shop in other cities and retailers from bringing additional shopping/dining options into the city.



State exemptions=no revenue



2015 Totals: 150 Exemptions= \$7.2 Billion

The final variance we have experienced, and must make adjustment for, comes from state tax exempt. Those exemption numbers have increased approximately 10 in 1980 to 150 in 2015 at a cost of \$7.2 BILLION dollars.

As you can see, when sales tax revenues decline, something must adjust in other areas to compensate for the loss. Those adjustments come in the form of neglected services (roads, parks, and other quality of life services) or an increase in utility rates for customers. At that point, it all becomes a matter of priority and balance.

Motor Vehicle Fees

41% of state highway miles are driven within municipalities, yet cities and towns only receive 3.1% of the motor vehicle fees.



For every \$1.00 in motor vehicle fees



Municipalities receive just over \$.03

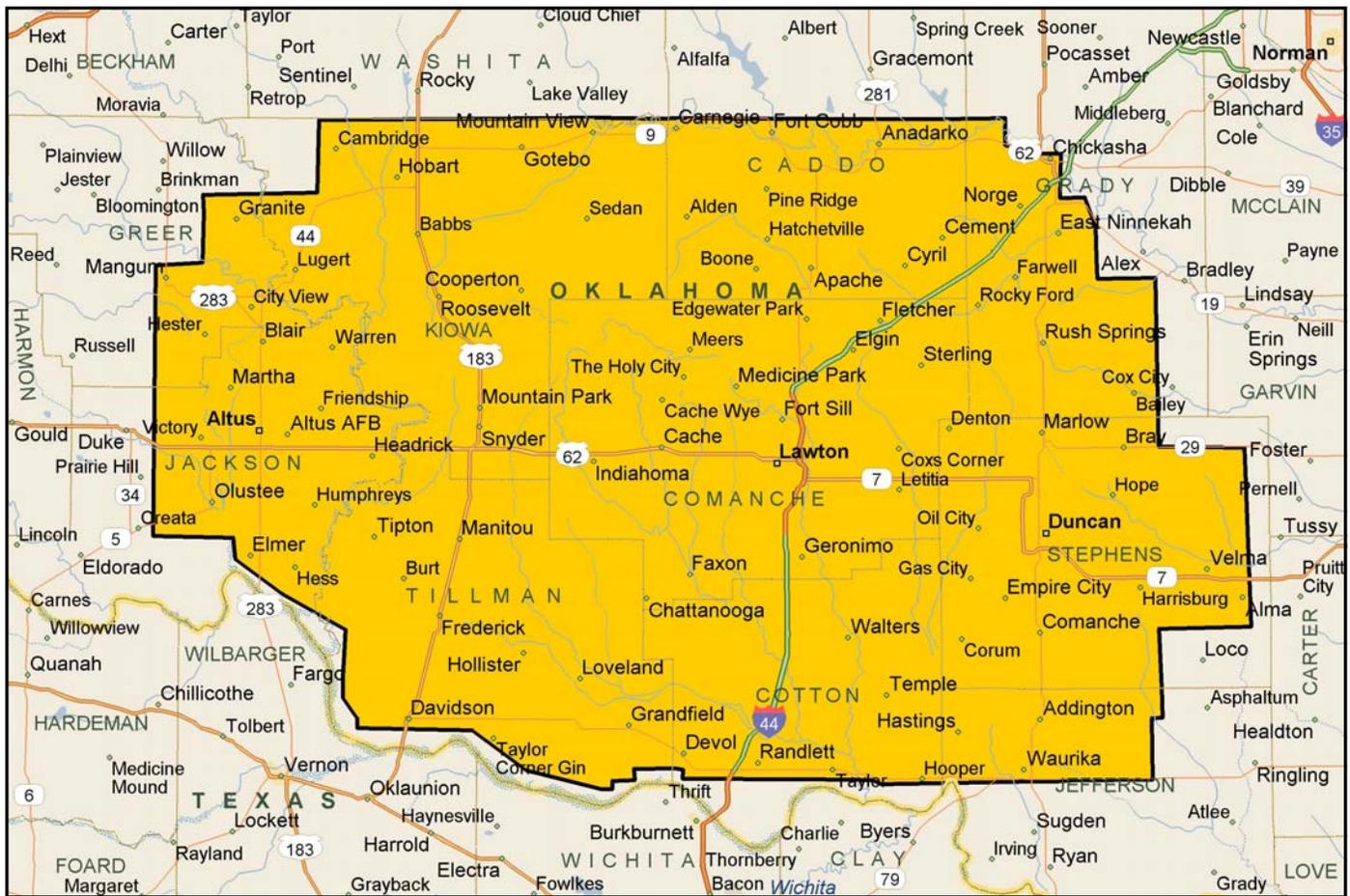
Finding New Retail Business for Lawton

As an offset to increasing utility costs or cutting services, we are working diligently with a company to find additional retail businesses to attract to Lawton and increase your shopping/dining options and keep those sales taxes local. This brings us to The Retail Coach.

The Retail Coach goes well beyond other retail consulting and market research firms' offerings by combining current national and statewide demographics and trend data with real-world, "on-the-ground" data gathered through extensive visits within our community.

Every community is different, and there is no "one size fits all" retail recruitment solution. Compiling the gathered data into client-tailored information packets that are uniquely designed for, and targeted to, specific retailers and restaurants who meet the community's needs helps assure our clients that they are receiving the latest and best information for their retail recruitment efforts.

Through their data collection, areas of potential new retail and restaurants will be identified and contacted. These potential new businesses include Grocery stores, Electronic/Appliance Stores, Clothing and Accessories, Restaurants, and other Miscellaneous Retailers. Adding these national chains will make Lawton the destination to shop and play within an 80 mile radius.



Lawton POLICE

The Lawton Police Department is a full service police department in whose officers are committed in creating a safe environment where citizens can live and work in this community without the fear of crime. We take great pride in the professional service we provide and the positive interaction we have with the residents of this community.



JUST THE FACTS...

Of the homicides that occurred in Fiscal Year 15-16 (there were 5) four of them have been solved and arrests have been made. One remains under investigation. That's a local clearance rate of 85%, greater than the national average of 64%.

Our Special Operations (Drugs, Vice, etc.) officers have been doing a great job getting drugs off the streets of Lawton. They recently made the largest prescription pill bust ever within the City. They are thoroughly investigating any and all tips received and constantly following up on leads developed to insure a drug free community.

The Lawton Police Department currently employs 174 officers, 2 Deputy Chiefs and 65 civilian personnel. We have hired nineteen (19) new officers this year, in addition to the twenty-eight (28) hired in the previous two years. Eleven (11) of these officers are still assigned to a Field Training Officer but should be ready to patrol the streets alone in the near future. Our training division not only taught the new officers, but also logged numerous hours of continuous education training hours for keeping CLEET mandates up to date for all sworn personnel. There were three (3) K-9's added to our force as well.

The LPD has targeted high crime areas and it has seemingly been beneficial in burglary reductions for 2015-2016. We have also ramped up our COP involvements to try and curtail our youth from entering crime trends. As a matter of fact, we just completed our first Junior Citizen's Police Academy and are in the mid-term of our second. The Police Explorer Program was reinstated after many years of being idle and it has really taken off. We have also begun "Coffee with Cops" so citizens can meet with Officers and ask questions which affect them or give them information they might need.

MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY...

The LPD prides itself on being involved in the community through various programs such as Community Oriented Policing (COP), CrimeStoppers, and the Citizen's Police Academy. The COP program is responsible for conducting programs for civic groups, schools, churches, and neighborhood organizations. They also head up the Neighborhood Watch programs that help specific neighborhood areas understand problems in their respective housing additions within the City.

The Oklahoma Highway Safety Grant for \$100,000 was awarded to the department to enhance the enforcement of DUI compliance and has been instrumental in reducing more incidents of alcohol and substance abuse improprieties, again this year. There were eight (8) fatality accidents last year, some of them involved alcohol while others did not. The department is currently determined to reduce as many impaired driving incidents as possible.

We have sponsored the annual Cops and Kids picnic, Cops and Kids Poker Run, Shop with a Cop, and Coffee with Cops Programs. We also partnered with Marie Detty New Direction's Women's Shelter for the 3rd Annual Domestic Violence Seminar.

Lawton FIRE

In 2015 there were significant changes to the minimum training requirements for all new Lawton Fire Fighters. Specifically, all new personnel must obtain certification as an Advanced EMT thereby improving the knowledge, skills and abilities of responding Fire Crews.

New Facilities and Equipment

From a facility standpoint, the Fire Department completed the design process of the new SW Fire Station which will be known as Station 8 and has since begun construction on the project which is set to open in the spring of 2017. Also, in the design process is the new ARFF/Fire Station 2 facility which is and will be located at the Lawton Municipal Airport as well as the new Public Safety Facility which will be constructed at the intersection of Railroad and Gore Boulevard. The completion of these two facilities will take place over the course of the next two years. Lastly, the Lawton Fire Department welcomed three new fire apparatus when it accepted delivery of two (2) new 1500 GPM Sutphen Engines and one (1) new 100' Sutphen Aerial Platform. Also added to the fleet was a new state of the art brush truck which has been assigned to Fire Station #6 on the East side of Lawton.

The Operations Division responded to over 10,000 calls for service and the Prevention Division conducted 71 investigations as well as numerous compliance and building inspections.

Lawton Fire Department 2015 Emergency Response data:

Total # of Emergency Calls for Service	10,722
Emergency Medical Responses	6328
Rescue and Service Calls	1524
Actual Fire Calls*	280
False Alarms	956
Good Intent Calls	1250
Hazardous Condition/other	375



**Fire Call broken down by type: The LFD responded to 100 Structure fires, 53 Brush/wildland fires, 38 Vehicle fires, and 88 categorized as "other".*

Our Fire Marshal's Office opened and conducted 62 fire investigations and 73 complaints in 2015. They also conducted 241 code compliance inspections of local businesses and approximately 130 final building inspections in our city as well.



Parks & Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department provides activities, programs and events for the Lawton/ Fort Sill community and surrounding areas. The events provided recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for the Lawton/Fort Sill community. With over 100 pools, parks and pavilions, the citizens of Lawton have many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and get their bodies in motion.

When the weather's too hot or cold to be outside, the recreation centers offer plenty of indoor activities through camps, sports, and programs that exercise the mind and body.



Parks & Recreation



Youth sports saw an increase in participation in every sport!

Football - 600 kids

Basketball - 575 kids

Volleyball - 200 kids

Tee ball, Coach pitch, Machine pitch, Baseball and Softball - 450 kids

RSVP

Upon launching its sponsorship of RSVP on April 23, 1973, City of Lawton established the means for Comanche County residents aged 55 and older to engage in national community service volunteering. A formal cake and punch reception in City Hall this past April marked the program's 43rd anniversary, and each of its current 260 volunteers was thanked for having joined the ranks of the thousands of caring senior volunteers who came before them.

While the average age of a City of Lawton RSVP volunteer is 75, we have active volunteers whose ages range from 55 to 100. The majority of our volunteers signed on with the program during and since 2000, but our longest-serving volunteer has been with us since 1992 – or for 24 years.

Ninety of our 260 volunteers are military veterans, and a dozen of those are female veterans. Our most senior female veteran enlisted in the US Air Force in 1951. Our most senior gentleman veteran is a US Navy combat veteran from three wars: World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

In addition to a number of married couples who have signed on with City of Lawton RSVP, we have a mother and daughter pair and three sisters serving as well.

Our volunteers continue to assist the community in a number of ways – by serving nutritious hot meals six days a week to the hungry and homeless through St. John's Missionary Baptist Church's Feeding Ministry; by delivering meals to eligible seniors in their homes through Mobile Meals; by restocking shelves, coolers and freezers at Lawton Food Bank for the provision of groceries to the hungry; by staffing the Military Welcome Center lounge at our regional airport, a facility established exclusively for the rest and relaxation by travel-weary men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States, many of whom are transitioning duty stations here with their families, and some of whom are en route either to or from a military combat zone; by responding to local and regional disasters through their work with the American Red Cross; as a Sentinel, by assisting the Lawton Police Department conduct safety patrols and redirect traffic wherever congested; and by participating in environmental stewardship projects throughout the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge.



Human Resources

Human Resources is another department that operates in the background for the benefit of the employees. Overseeing employee benefits is a major component of what we do.

In the last fiscal year, a focus has been to improve the overall wellness of the employees...mentally and physically. We recently started a 12 month wellness program with a focus on four areas: physical wellness, emotional wellness, nutritional wellness and financial wellness.

A healthier workforce leads to reduced health insurance claims, less absenteeism, and more productivity.

Listed below are successes that were implemented to address these areas:

WELLNESS: The City of Lawton placed a strategic focus on employee wellness. Rebranding the wellness program to "City In Motion", we held a health and wellness fair for all employees, with over 400 attending.

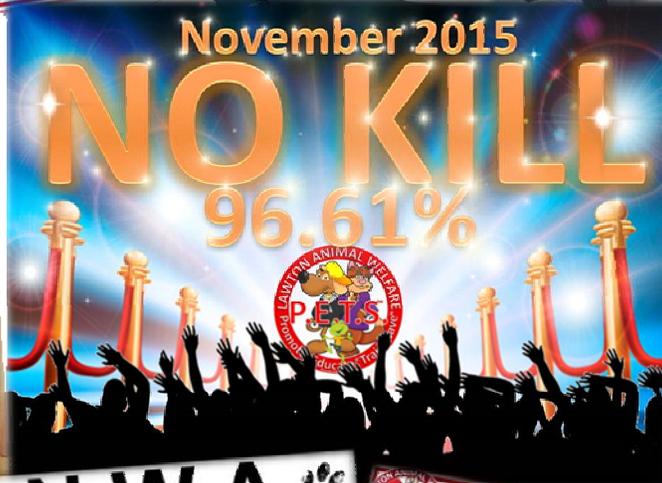
Working with the City's Health Insurance company and the City's Insurance Broker (both have wellness experts to assist us), we were able to offer classes/education on healthy eating, a biochemical screening, blood pressure and blood sugar testing, dental education and stress management.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: The City of Lawton held their first Service Awards and Retirement Recognition Banquet, honoring those employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service as well as those employees who retired during FY 15-16.

INCREASED SALARIES: In FY 15-16 the City of Lawton was able to provide a Cost of Living Adjustment of 3% for all general employees. In addition, the City created a new pay scale for a majority of general employees. This new pay scale resulted in an additional increases in pay for many employees.



Lawton Animal Welfare



Lawton Animal Welfare



During Fiscal year 2015 / 2016 we continued to see significant changes / improvements in the Lawton Animal Welfare Division, in our operations, building, and services provided to the public as well as to the animals within our care.

With the goal of reducing our Euthanization Rate and increasing our Success Rate, as well as increasing our overall Adoption Rate(s), the focus was fine-tuned to find permanent homes for most of the animals that we take care of and to ensure that they left the shelter healthy.

The community came together to partner in, and around, this monumental task through our volunteers, staff, and rescue organizations fostering / placing / pulling animals which keeps animals flowing from the back door and out the front, Alive. They also arranged for medical treatment of the more severely sick / injured animals. Working with the rescues and incorporating new programs, we resulted in saving 1,061 lives (305 Dogs and 593 Cats, and our very successful Barn Cat Program, which saved 163 Feral Cats), by transferring them out to these organizations / individuals, our Cat euthanasia numbers dropped drastically from 2014 / 2015's total of 1,080 Cats, down to 561, a 50% decrease.

Several 501c3 organizations and private donors also stepped in donating items that ranged from a commercial sized washer and dryer; to staining and sealing concrete floors and pens; to providing beds to get the animals off the floor to lay / sleep on, making a significant impact on the health and welfare of each animal.

Coming from a historical "High Kill" shelter and creating new partnerships, we were able to set our sights on not only attaining a "Low Kill" success rate (60%-89% success rate), but sustaining it and officially becoming designated as such by maintaining it for a full year, proving it wasn't just a fluke.

Our 2015 / 2016 Success Rate for the year is 80.7138%, which puts us High in the nationally recognized standards of 'Low Kill', and for the first time in LAW's history, even reaching that coveted "No Kill" success rate (90%+ lives saved) twice, once in November 2015 (96.61%) and again in January 2016 (90.135%)!

The shelter took in 4,501 animals during FY 15 / 16 (an increase of 763 more than FY 14/15), while still striving and achieving an increase in the overall success rate which was no small feat. We adopted out 907 animals during this period (685 Dogs, 208 Cats, 14 Other), up from last year's 657 adoptions, bringing our grand total up to 1,968 Dogs and Cats (wildlife is not included in the grand total) which equals 'Lives Saved'.

Lawton Animal Welfare 2015-16 Fiscal Success Rate

July	August	September	October
71.295%	70.47%	78.04%	84.975%
November No Kill 96.61%	December 80.43 %	January 2016 No Kill 90.135%	February 74.555%
March 85.47%	April 82.263%	May 82.0875%	June 72.2355%

72.285 % 2014-2015 Fiscal Success Rate
76.2858 % 2015 Calendar Success Rate
80.7138 % 2015-2016 Fiscal Success Rate

Arts and Humanities



Arts and Humanities

The benefits of the "Arts" are numerous...impacts our economy, enriches our quality-of-life, attracts a creative workforce, preserves our history, promotes community development and inspires academic excellence. The arts are alive and thriving in our community thanks to your commitment and support of cultural programs and activities.

The **Lawton Arts & Humanities Council** was awarded two grants for the International Festival and Student Performance for a total of \$19,200 by the Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC). OAC's mission is to lead in the development and support of a thriving arts environment in our state. Their efforts continue to sustain and develop Oklahoma's non-profits arts and cultural industry - a \$314.8 million industry supporting over 10,000 jobs and generating \$29 million in state and local taxes. In addition, the LAHC and COL partnered with Cameron University for the annual Sharing the Spirit program. These three programs served over 32,000 individuals during FY15-16, and we learned from patron feedback that in conjunction with attending these programs they purchased gas, paid admission to museums, shopped, purchased art supplies, art education books and software, and dined out! **Not only are the 'arts' fun, it's an industry that is vital to our city!**

Program Highlights:

2015 International Festival (IF) --- 36th year for this annual multicultural/family orientated 3-day event. Promotes greater awareness and appreciation of Lawton's diverse heritage. Estimated attendance 30,000 with 60 vendors and 264 volunteer performers and 257 volunteer workers, for a documented 1,201 volunteer hours.

Student Performance --- Annual program that presents live theatre to families and elementary school aged students at the McMahon Memorial Auditorium. The 2015 production of "Seussical" presented by TheatreworksUSA served approximately 2,000 patrons.

Native American Program (NAP) --- 2015 Sharing the Spirit program was a partnership between LAHC, COL and Cameron University and is an arts endeavor designed to create awareness of Oklahoma's Native American arts, artists and culture. This year's program featured "The Oklahoma Fancy Dancers". The troupe shared songs and dances from the plains people of Oklahoma.

McMahon Memorial Auditorium:

The **McMahon Auditorium Authority** continues to make enhancements to the Auditorium and provide a wonderful performing arts venue for our citizens and out of town visitors. We celebrated our 60th Anniversary in December in conjunction with the 77th Army Band's Annual Holiday Concert. In addition the McMahon Auditorium hosted 55 events serving over 66,000 individuals. Over the past three years a video projection system has been installed which allows smooth integration of video into performances and productions, enhancements have been made to the stage and house lighting system, acquisition of a genie lift, installation of a hydraulic dock lift at the stage loading dock, and completion of Phase I of the HVAC replacement project. The Board continues to research other projects that will improve the facility to be accomplished as funding allows.

Information Technology (IT)

The Informational Technology division is one that works quietly in the background to ensure the City is functioning efficiently and consistently. Often overlooked in the grand scheme of operations, without them the City simply could not function.

As technology expands daily, keeping up with the needs of the City as well as ensuring we aren't left in the dust of technology's trail, provides many opportunities for projects and new programs to be developed. A few of the major accomplishments over the last year that fulfills these needs are:

Wireless communication to remote locations

Upgrade city wireless communication for all Fire Department stations, Water Treatment Plants, McMahon Auditorium, and the Owens Multi-Purpose Center, enabling high speed point-to-point wireless data communications.

On-line Police Citizen Offense Reporting

Analyze requirements, implementation, testing and security components to provide Lawton's first on-line police citizen offense reporting. This simple addition of access will save valuable police resources.

City of Lawton Recycling Program Implementation Study

Study/initiative regarding citizen interest for implementation of extensive recycling program.

Network Server virtualization

Began working with a consultant to accomplish a Program Development Analysis (PDA) to Optimize and consolidate IT servers by utilizing current iCloud technology, eliminating the need for an entire physical server for every server-based application and role.

Upgrade Data Network/VOIP analysis

Began working with a consultant to accomplish a Program Development Analysis (PDA) to Upgrade Data Network with a data network solution which fully supports IP voice traffic, as well as provide a reliable, redundant transport for City's non-VOIP applications.

Implementation for both the Network Server virtualization and the Upgrade Data Network/VOIP is expected to begin Fall 2016, pending City Council approval.

**COMING THIS FALL!
NEW AND IMPROVED
CITY OF LAWTON WEB PAGE**

Neighborhood Services

Everyone wants their neighborhoods to be clean and beautiful, and to also be free from pests and rodents to preserve and maintain the livability, values and integrity of our homes.

The Neighborhood Services Division attempts to help with this by proactively identifying violations from tall grass and weeds, to dangerous and dilapidated structures on a consistent basis. We also enforce ordinances that prohibit junk and debris as well as other eyesores for neighbors such as junk vehicles. Over the last year, 12,342 complaints were addressed, resulting in 502 citations being issued. A total of 65 structures were beyond repair and were torn down.

Neighborhood Services also plans and coordinates the annual "Trash Off" event which resulted in over 20 tons of liquid hazardous waste being removed from the city, the only city in Oklahoma to offer such a service at zero cost to the Citizens, along with nearly 90 tons of other debris related materials being cleaned up across the City of Lawton in 2016. Couple that with the "Fresh Paint Days" where volunteers are coordinated and assigned to various homes of elderly citizens that can't afford to keep up the outside appearance of their houses. These valued citizens are the recipients of a fresh coat of paint and a certain amount of "sprucing up" the outside which creates a more desirable curb-appeal and enhances the neighborhood. These two events allow Neighborhood Services to not only enforce the ordinances but actually assist in beautifying the City as well.



LATS (Lawton Area Transit System)

In FY 15-16, fixed route ridership for the Lawton Area Transit System (LATS) decreased by 11.2%. Total fixed route ridership in FY 15-16 was 389,390 passengers. Paratransit ridership decreased by 12.4%. Paratransit ridership in FY 15-16 was 17,875.

Paratransit is LATS's curb-to-curb service for Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities. The cost associated with providing this service is considerably higher than the cost to operate the fixed route service. A decrease in paratransit ridership typically means that those customers are choosing to utilize the fixed route service which are much more cost effective for LATS to operate.

We attribute the decrease in ridership to lower fuel prices (more people driving their personal vehicles) and a large number of inclement weather days. It should be noted that the decrease in paratransit ridership results in a cost savings to the program as these are curb-to-curb trips.



Lawton Public Library

EXPANDING SERVICES

The Lawton Public Library continues to expand services to meet the needs of our community. The library added a Professional Development Center (PDC), a legal forms database, more e-books, e-comics, kilowatt monitoring meters to checkout, Playaway Launchpads, online meeting room reservation software, and so much more.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER (PDC) **Now OPEN**

PDC is a place where ideas become reality. It is a maker's space, a business resource center, & an area of dream fulfillment. PDC is a work in progress. More resources will be added as money is available. This section of the library is made possible through the generosity of The Friends of the Library & innovative librarians!

Friends of the Lawton Public Library

PARTNERSHIPS

The library has partnered with several organizations for community programming including Lions Club International, United Way Success by Six, Comanche County Health Department, OU Extension Office, and more. Summer Reading Program, Chautauqua, Soulful Story, Money Smart Week, AARP Free Tax Preparation, weekly story times, adult book clubs, and computer classes are well attended.



Soulful Story Scholar Wallace C. Moore, Sr.

CHILDREN'S AREA

With the passing of Children's Librarian Heather Everett in May 2015, the children's memorial funded a pirate ship and children's entrance dedicated in memory of Heather.

PARTNERSHIPS

Strong libraries are a key to strong communities. The Lawton Public Library Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library continue to be vital stakeholders to the library. Healthy funding of the Lawton Public Library is an investment in our community. Be sure to read the monthly newsletter to see what is happening at your library.



Community Services

Keeping a community growing strong is never an easy task. But those divisions dedicated to doing just that, do their jobs and do them well.

Planning a community...

Planning a community is a never ending task. Our City Planning Division continually works to engage citizens in an ongoing dialogue about Lawton's future and plays a central role in balancing the long-term development of our community and preserving both our historic and natural environment.

This past year, we have done that by processing 2 rezoning applications, 1 construction plat with 29 single-family residential lots (Wyatt Acres, Part 16), and 1 record plat with 3 commercial lots (Pappy's Corner, Part 2).

We launched the bicycle safety education campaign to coincide with the opening of the bike routes.

We are in the process of a major study to realign our bus routes; adding two additional transfer centers. In addition, we have ordered 3 new transit buses and applied for 2 additional buses through the FTA Section 5339b competitive grant to replace our aging fleet.

To make travel easier for the semis to get through town (and lesson the wear and tear on our city streets) we are in the process of studying a freight route from I-44 to the West Industrial Park.

Building a community...

Building a community takes organization and processes to ensure that it is developed safely, consistently, and efficiently. All new buildings and major remodeling must begin with a permit obtained through the License and Permits Division. Last year saw 353 commercial and 617 residential permits granted at a total of over \$71 million in construction cost.

To ensure that all this building takes place in accordance with Federal, State, and Local building codes, our Inspection Services Division works alongside all of our the construction trades. Last year, our inspectors conducted 5,091 inspections, ensuring your home-life and shopping experiences are safe.

Maintaining a community...

Once the City is planned and built, it must be continually maintained. Everyone wants their neighborhoods to be clean and beautiful, and to also be free from pests and rodents. This affects not only our peace of mind, but also our property values.

Summer Intern Program

The City of Lawton welcomed a new initiative this year thanks to the 2015 Sales Tax Extension and the foresight of former Councilman Stanley Haywood. Councilman Haywood had a vision of providing meaningful work for under-privileged high school students. Thanks to the citizens of Lawton passing the 2015 Sales Tax Extension, that vision became a reality.

The goal of the Summer Intern Program was to provide a real-life work experience for High School Juniors and Seniors that encompassed everything from filling out an application, building a resume, sitting through an interview, and ultimately, being hired.

Those selected filled intern positions within the City of Lawton that included Graphic Artist/Public Information Officer, Lab Tech, Diesel Mechanic, Legal Assistant, Animal Welfare Officer, Art History Researcher, Library Assistant, Building Maintenance Worker and Recreational Aid.

The interns gained valuable experience in career fields that will guide them in determining future decisions about college and trade schools. It was a positive experience for everyone involved and we can't wait to do it again next year!



CITY OF LAWTON
OKLAHOMA

City of Lawton Summer Intern Program

High school Juniors & Seniors

The City of Lawton Summer Intern Program will provide experience in an area students may choose as a career path.

Art Archiving/History	Legal
Recreation Aid	Diesel Auto Mechanic
Building Maintenance	Library
Graphic Designer	Chemistry Lab
Animal Welfare	

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S OFFICE

The poster features a collage of images showing interns in various roles: a Recreation/Mouth Sports Assistant, a Library Assistant, a Lab Assistant, a Building Maintenance worker, an Art Archiving/History Assistant, an Auto Mechanic Assistant, and an Animal Welfare Assistant. It also includes a graphic design question: "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR GRAPHIC DESIGN?" with options: FAST, CHEAP, and GREAT.



Sewer Divisions

SEWER REHABILITATION DIVISION

Phase III of the Sewer Rehabilitation Program began January, 2014. Four Phase III projects have been completed and six projects are under construction. A total of 52,854 feet of sewer line has been installed for Phase III projects of which 18,266.60 was installed since July, 2015.

Severe flooding occurred in Lawton starting on May 5, 2015 and continued through June 7, 2015. This Federal and State declared disaster caused the reassignment of construction crews to work on collapsed sewer main lines. This disaster caused 19,000 feet of sewer main lines that were not identified in Phase III of the Consent Order to collapse to the point that total replacement is required. Due to these damages, fifty three locations were identified for repair &/or replacement, these projects are 71% complete. The City is working with FEMA on reimbursement for the expenses due to the flood.

SEWER SYSTEM TECHNICAL DIVISION

In preparation of the projects to be constructed in Phase III of the Sewer Rehabilitation Program, the design of three projects are complete and ready to begin construction and two projects are currently in the design phase. Design of the 2015 Flood Disaster Replacement Project (15-4 SSES) is 100% complete and is currently under construction.

DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Reviewed 3 subdivision and managed 1 sub-division construction. The city has funded and installed or facilitated \$1.3 million worth of sidewalk and curb ramp projects in year 15-16. Review and managed 12 offsite infrastructure dedication projects during year 15-16.



Wastewater Divisions

Did you know there's a lot of work that goes on to keep water flowing from your tap and down the drain? All of that work is done on pipes underground...things you don't think about and we often take for granted.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION DIVISION

The Wastewater Collection Division is responsible for maintaining the wastewater collection system (approximately 500 miles) to include five wastewater lift stations in Lawton and five at area lakes along with two sewer lagoons. Services are available on a twenty-four hour basis.

This division responded to 1,612 calls this past year and performed preventative maintenance at 693 locations.

WASTEWATER MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Wastewater Maintenance Division is supplemented by a charge on utility bills based on water consumption in excess of 8,000 gallons and less than 13,000 gallons per month. This division is also working with the TV unit to inspect problem lines and getting reports to the Development and Construction Manager for scheduling pipe replacement. Using chemicals to treat grease in the line has helped control the problems.

This division constructs, repairs and replaces sewer lines in the wastewater collection system. The Wastewater Maintenance Division performed 106 point repairs for a total of 1,398 feet of sewer line.

Severe flooding occurred in Lawton starting on May 5, 2015 and continued through June 7, 2015. Due to the flooding Wastewater Collection/Maintenance made 13 spot repairs with a total of 169'. Sewer Rehabilitation Division replaced sections of pipe in the more severely damaged areas.

LOOK AT WHAT PUBLIC WORKS HAS DONE THIS YEAR!

Stormwater Management issued 41 earth change permits, 5 fill site permits, 19 special flood hazard permits, and conducted 500 inspections...why? To keep potential flooding from occurring in Lawton.

Traffic Control used 1,235 gallons of paint and 6,803 pounds of reflective striping plastic to update road markings as well as installed 667 new signs and repaired 3,867 existing signs!

Streets completed 466 work orders, including laying 6,266 tons of asphalt, 2,260 cubic yards of concrete, and sweeping 3,725 curb miles of streets.

Drainage Maintenance has poured 296 cubic yards of concrete to repair deteriorating drainage structures, cleaned approximately 86,354 feet of drainage ditches, mowed 3,653 acres around drainage areas, hand cut 1,930 acres of grass and weeds with weed eaters, sprayed 35,296 feet of creek banks to control excess vegetation, and treated over 325 acres for mosquito control this includes fogging with insecticide for adult mosquitoes, and larvicide dunket's for the larva in standing water.

The Landfill took in 200,728 tons of refuse, recycling approximately 211 tons of metal, 62 tons of tires, and 2,976 tons of trees and yard debris.

Solid Waste Collection had a routine year of refuse collection by hauling 7,925 loads to the landfill with a total tonnage of 41,626 tons which is up from the 7617 loads and 41,447 tons hauled in the previous fiscal year.

Engineering

Ever wonder how many projects the City completed last year? Or why is there so much construction going on? How about when is that project I voted for (and increased taxes to pay for it) going to get started? It all starts and ends with the Engineering Department

Let's look at the projects that were completed last year...

1. Mill and Overlay Ft Sill Blvd from Gore to Ferris
2. Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
3. City Hall Annex ReRoofing
4. McMahon Auditorium ReRoofing
5. Museum of the Great Plains ReRoofing
6. NW Arlington and NW35th Street Drainage
7. Water Line Replacement Phase 1
8. Animal Welfare Kennel Ventilation
9. Animal Welfare Kennel ReRoofing
10. McMahon Auditorium HVAC System Phase 1 and 2

How about an answer to why there is so much construction going on?

1. Bicycle Paths Phase 2
2. US 62 and I-44 Waterline Relocation
3. 2012 CIP Local Streets Improvement Phase 1
4. 2012 CIP Local Streets Improvement Phase 2
5. SE 45th Street Utility Relocation
6. Landfill Maintenance Building
7. Fire Station 8 on Bishop Road
8. NW 2nd Street from Columbia to Ferris
9. Nine Mile Creek Sanitary Sewer Line
10. Water Tower Painting (East Tower and Industrial Tower)

But what about the taxes I voted to raise for a specific project? What projects are in the design phase?

1. Bicycle Paths Phase 3
2. West Gore from 67th Street to 82nd Street
3. Rogers Lane from I-44 to Village Drive
4. SE 40th and 41st Street Replacement
5. SW 52nd Street from Gore to the Railroad
6. City of Lawton Public Safety Facility (Fire, Police, Courts and Jail)
7. SW Bishop Road from SW 52nd Street to SW 67th Street to include ½ Mile of SW 67th St North of Bishop Road
8. Splash Pad at Elmer Thomas Park
9. ARRF Fire Station No. 2 in conjunction with the Airport Authority

Capital Improvement Projects Update

2005 CIP PROJECTS



US 62 & I-44 Interchange Waterline Relocation
Construction cost is \$460,678.00
Entails relocating 3,000 linear feet of waterline for preparation of ODOT's US62 & I-44 Interchange project
Project is 90% complete

2008 CIP PROJECTS

2014 Waterline Replacement—Phase 1
Construction cost is \$4.8 Million
Project replaces 4.8 miles of waterline from Gore Blvd to Lee Blvd and from SW13th Street to SW 3rd Street
Project is complete



Capital Improvement Projects Update

2008 CIP PROJECTS—CONTINUED



NW 67th Street Chlorine Injection Pump Station
Construction cost is \$800,000
Project is substantially complete



2012 CIP PROJECTS



Phase 3 Sewer Rehabilitation Program
\$10 Million funded by the 2012 CIP Sales Tax, with a total expected cost of \$45 Million. Phase 3 is 35% complete
Large Line Crew is working west of 38th Street to North of Coombs Rd
Small Line Crew is working on the Cache Creek Basin in Sungate Addition
Due to the flooding events, crews are also working on collapsed lines, completed at a cost of \$2.1 Million to date
Estimated 5-6 months left to replace collapsed lines

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Package
Construction Cost \$7,157,389
Construction Complete



Capital Improvement Projects Update

2012 CIP PROJECTS—CONTINUED



Local Street Reconstruction Phase 1

Construction cost \$1,568,525

5 Street Reconstruction locations city-wide

Streets identified are:

NW Sante Fe (38th St—40th St)

NW Lindy (40th St—46th St)

NW 27th (Denver—Cheyenne)
(under construction)

NW Denver (23rd St—24th St)

NW 24th St (Denver—Cheyenne)
(under construction)

Local Street Reconstruction Phase 2

Construction cost \$1,996,408

6 Street Reconstruction locations city-wide

Streets identified are:

NW 36th St (Knob Hill to Kinyon)
(under construction)

NW 35th St (Ferris to 34th St)
(under construction)

SW 10th St (B Ave—C Ave)
(project complete)

SW 27th St (Lee Blvd—J Ave)
(project complete)

SW Summit (6th St—8th St)
(project complete)

SW K Ave (45th St to K Cir)
(under construction)



Capital Improvement Projects Update

2012 CIP PROJECTS—CONTINUED

Ft Sill Blvd Street Mill and Overlay
Construction cost \$1,565,742
Widens and provides new overlay from
Ft Sill Blvd from Gore to Ferris
Project completed



NW 2nd Street Enhancement Phase 1
Construction cost \$3,332,751
Completes 2nd Street enhancement
from Ferris Ave to C Ave
Construction on-going by T&G
Construction

SW 52nd Street (Gore Blvd to RR tracks)
Design cost \$442,000
Construction will be 3 Lanes with 10' Bike Path behind curb
Project on-going (Right of Way acquisition on-going with LPS)



Capital Improvement Projects Update

2012 CIP PROJECTS—CONTINUED



NW 35th St Drainage and Street Construction
Construction cost \$3,028,298
Project complete



Fire Station #8 (Bishop Rd between 52nd/67th)
Construction cost \$5,597,000
Project under construction



Landfill Equipment Maintenance Building
Construction cost \$2,991,800
Project under construction



Capital Improvement Projects Update

2015 SALES TAX EXTENSION PROJECTS

Public Safety Facility (Police and Jail Station, Municipal Court, Fire Station)

Design cost \$2,872,642

Design on-going

Site selected near Gore Blvd and Railroad Street



Police Station and Jail



Fire Station



Municipal Court



West Gore Blvd Project

Design cost \$427,100

Construct 5 lane road from 67th Street to 82nd Street

Joint ODOT project

Capital Improvement Projects Update

2015 SALES TAX EXTENSION—CONTINUED



McMahon Auditorium Chiller and Boiler Replacement Phase 1
Construction cost \$530,000
Phase I project complete



McMahon Auditorium & Great Plains Museum Roofing Project
Construction cost \$545,350
Projects Completed



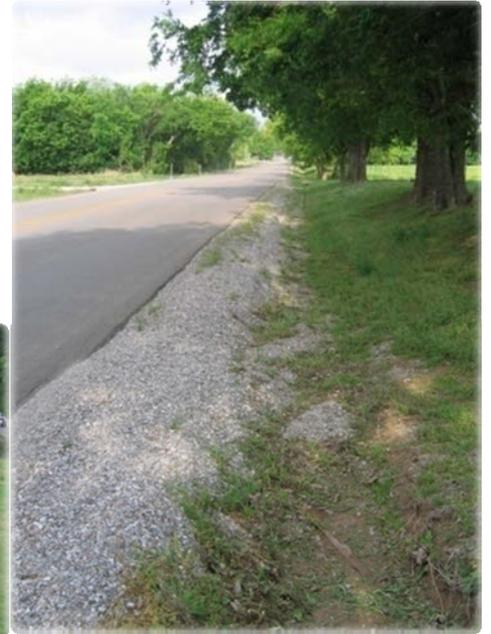
Water Tower Repainting Project
Construction cost \$793,700
Sandblasting and repainting East Zone Tower and West Industrial Tower

Capital Improvement Projects Update

2016 CIP PROJECTS

Rogers Lane Roadway Project (Phase I)

Phase I Construction cost is \$7.75 Million (75% payable by ODOT and 25% payable by City of Lawton CIP)
Design calls for a 5-lane Roadway to connect Flower Mound to I-44
Phase I construction is from I-44 to Garden Village Drive
Design and Environmental Clearance are on-going

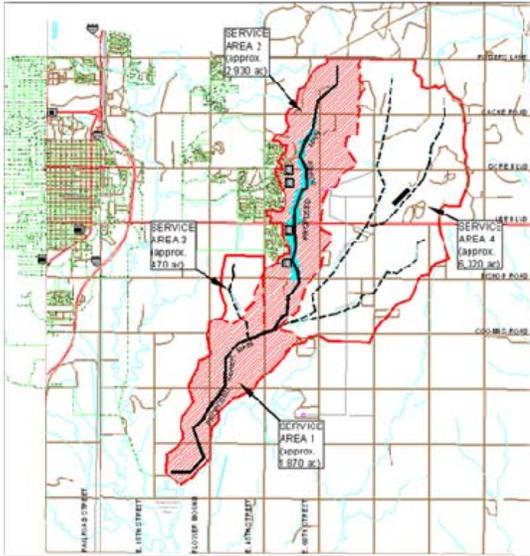


SE 45th Street (Lee Blvd to Bell Ave)

Construction Cost is \$8.0 Million
(80% payable by ODOT/20% Payable by City of Lawton)
Council awarded \$2,540,000 contract for water and sewer relocation
All utility relocations are on-going
Bid letting anticipated Spring of 2017 by ODOT

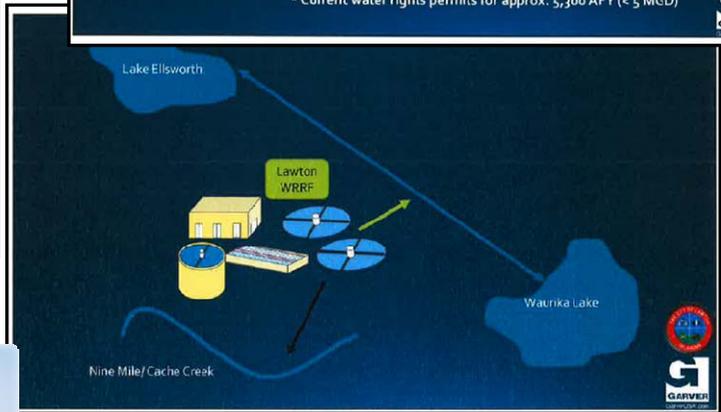
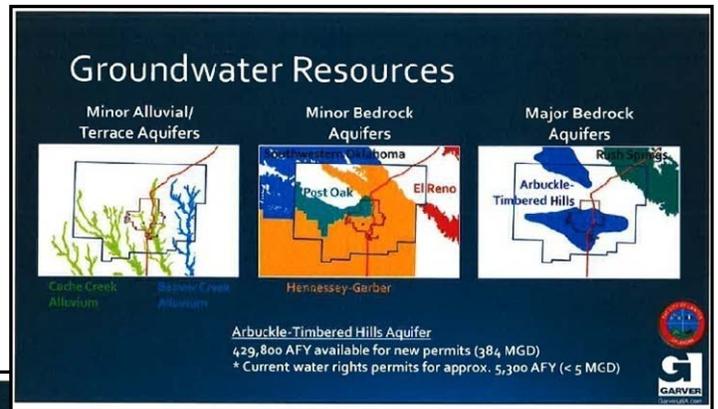
Capital Improvement Projects Update

2016 CIP PROJECTS—CONTINUED



Nine-Mile Creek Sewer Line Project
 Construction cost is \$11,022,967
 Contract for construction awarded February 2016
 Construction on-going

Alternative Water Source Feasibility Study
 Feasibility Study cost \$812,000
 Draft Study submitted
 Hydrological and Geophysical Exploration
 and drilling of test holes in Arbuckle
 Timbered Hills Aquifer ~ cost \$1,512,400
 4 of 10 test holes drilled



Purchase of seven (7) new buses for LATS
 Specification created
 3 buses being manufactured
 4 buses awaiting Grant Funding Assistance