

ORDINANCE NO 24-

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ADMINISTRATION, CREATING SECTION 2-3-20-404 AND DIVISION 2-3-20 IN ARTICLE 2-3, CHAPTER 2, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, RELATING TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES BY ESTABLISHING THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SETTING FORTH MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES AND PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAWTON, OKLAHOMA THAT:

Section 1. Division 2-3-20 is hereby created in Chapter 2 of the Lawton City Code to read as follows:

2-3-20 – Veterans Affairs Committee.

Section 2. Section 2-3-20-404 is hereby created as part of Division 2-3-20 to read as follows:

2-3-20-404 – Veterans Affairs Committee – Creation, membership, terms of office, duties.

A. There is hereby established a committee to be known as the Veterans Affairs Committee. This committee shall consist of nine (9) voting members. Each of the eight (8) Councilmembers shall nominate a representative from their respective ward to be on the committee. The Mayor shall nominate one (1) City Councilmember to serve on the committee. All nominees shall be confirmed by the City Council. Each individual confirmed shall serve at the pleasure of the Council for an indefinite term. The committee shall appoint a chairperson. Appointments to fill any vacancy on the committee shall, following a nomination by the respective Councilmember or Mayor, be confirmed by a majority vote of the City Council.

B. The Veterans Affairs Committee shall meet on a regular basis, being no less than quarterly, at a predetermined location, date, and time. No meeting shall be called, unless five (5) of the voting committee members are present. The committee shall comply with the Open Meetings Act. Roberts Rules of Order will control unless bylaws are established that state otherwise. The City Clerk (or designee) will attend meetings and publish the minutes.

C. The mission of the Veterans Affairs Committee is to enhance coordination, collaboration, and responsiveness to specific needs of the local veteran population.

D. It shall be the duty of this Committee to:

1. Coordinate and conduct needs assessments to identify veteran needs.
2. Facilitate collaboration between existing local veterans' organizations and agencies.
3. Ensure efficient and effective delivery of services to veterans.
4. Advocate for the rights and well-being of veterans at local and state levels.
5. Research and propose policies to address gaps in veterans' services.
6. Organize events and initiatives to raise awareness related to veterans' issues.
7. Foster community support and celebrate the contributions of local veterans.

Section 3. Codification. Division 2-3-20 and Section 2-3-20-404 shall be codified in Article 2-3, Chapter 2, Lawton City Code, 2015.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court or 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 5. Effective Date. The provisions of this ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after the date of passage of the ordinance.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma this ____ day of _____ 2024.

STANLEY BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONALYNN BLAZEK-SCHERLER, CITY CLERK

APPROVED as to form and legality this ____ day of _____, 2024.

TIMOTHY WILSON,
INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

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BRIEF GIST

This ordinance establishes the Veterans Affairs Committee and sets forth members, purpose and duties of the committee.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma this ____ day of _____, 2024.

STANLEY BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONALYNN BLAZEK-SCHERLER, CITY CLERK

(Published in the Lawton Constitution this ____ day of _____, 2024.)