

ORDINANCE NO 25-

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING SECTION 2-3-19-403, DIVISION 2-3-19 IN ARTICLE 2-3, CHAPTER 2, LAWTON CITY CODE, 2015, RELATING TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES BY AMENDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE HOMELESS ACTION COMMITTEE, MODIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRPERSON FOR THE HOMELESS ACTION COMMITTEE, 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. Section 2-3-19-403 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2-3-19-403 – Homeless Action Committee – Creation, membership, terms of office, duties.

A. There is hereby established a committee to be known as the Homeless Action Committee. This committee shall consist of seven (7) members, four (4) of whom shall be voting members and three (3) of whom shall be non-voting advisory members. All seven members will be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. The four (4) voting members shall be City Council members. The three (3) non-voting advisory members shall be members of the community, one (1) from the social services field, one (1) from the mental health field and one (1) from the faith-based community. Each individual nominated and confirmed to serve on the committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor for an indefinite term. The Mayor shall appoint a chairperson. Appointments to fill any vacancy on the committee shall, following a nomination by the Mayor, be confirmed by a majority vote of the City Council.

Three participating alternate members (non-Council) shall be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Alternate members shall attend all meetings, and if it appears the committee will not have enough members to achieve a quorum, the Chairperson may call on one, two or three alternate members to achieve a quorum. The City Manager (or designee) and Chief of Police (or designee) shall serve as ex-officio members of this committee.

B. The Homeless Action 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 three (3) 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 Homeless Action Committee is to reduce the community impact of homelessness through organization and empowerment of local groups who offer services and solutions to those impacted by homelessness.

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

1. Identify the scope of homelessness in Lawton-Fort Sill.
2. Identify services offered and refer homeless to servicing agencies.
3. Create a database of contacts, to include agencies and the homeless.
4. Inform the public about scope of homelessness and of opportunities to effectively provide assistance.
5. Collaborate with affected business owners.
6. Make recommendations to standardize the City's role, related to Police, Fire and Neighborhood Services in addressing homelessness issues.
7. Make recommendations of ordinances to address unauthorized or illegal behaviors.
8. Seek grant funding opportunities to support needed services.
9. Seek to assist with increasing the availability of affordable housing.
10. Offer assistance to those who utilize support services.

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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, that: SAID ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma this ____ day of _____ 2025.

STANLEY BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONALYNN BLAZEK-SCHERLER, CITY CLERK

APPROVED as to form and legality this _____ day of _____, 2025.

JOHN R. ANDREW
CITY ATTORNEY

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BRIEF GIST

This ordinance amends the composition of the Homeless Action Committee, reducing the number of voting members from seven (7) to four (4) and designating three (3) members as non-voting advisory members. Additionally, it revises the process for selecting the chairperson, assigning the appointment authority to the Mayor.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Council of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma this ____ day of _____, 2025.

STANLEY BOOKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONALYNN BLAZEK-SCHERLER, CITY CLERK

(Published in the Lawton Constitution this ____ day of _____, 2025.)