



City of Lawton, Oklahoma
State of the City Address
2010

My fellow citizens, good evening:

First, let me thank you for your confidence in allowing me to serve as your Mayor. Since having lived here for over sixty years and being a Lawton businessman for over forty years it makes me extremely proud of our community and consider it an honor and privilege to represent each and every one of you.

As we continue to work hard and have a clear vision for the future of our community, I want to visit areas of accomplishment this past year and talk about future plans for the betterment of Lawton-Ft. Sill Citizens. We need to have vision in regards to growing the tax base not just increasing taxes. Vision for expanding the work climate for Lawton and expanding City Services for increased construction needs that will benefit the Lawton Public Schools thru Ad valorem tax. We are fortunate to have the staff and associates in place to make this happen.

INTRODUCTION

In 2010, as in prior years, the City continued to enjoy stable sales tax collections and strong construction activity. The shifting political dynamic in both the Federal and State mid-term elections and the financial pressures placed on municipalities throughout the country has captured everyone's attention as we move into 2011.

KEY EVENTS OF 2010

The City of Lawton continues to make significant progress in improving the service provided to the citizens of the Lawton-Fort Sill community. The following are highlights from the City of Lawton for 2010.

PURCHASE OF REMAINING WATER STORAGE AT WAURIKA LAKE

The Waurika Water Conservation District has worked for at least three years to secure the remaining water storage rights at Waurika Lake by purchasing that interest from the US Army Corps of Engineers. The City of Lawton was the first of six members to approve the required financial agreement that authorized the District proceed with a capital bond issue of \$25,000,000. The City of Lawton's share of the remaining water storage of 60% will be paid through a \$2.50 monthly charge on the City's utility bill. The financial commitment from the six member cities (Lawton, Duncan, Comanche, Waurika, Temple, and Walters) means that this region of Southwest Oklahoma will have a reliable water source and reserve to support future growth and development for the next 70 – 80 years. There are very few committees in Oklahoma or Texas that can make this claim. Obviously there are many in the OKC metro that would love to trade places.

WINTER ICE STORM

The Ice Storm of the Century moved into Southwest Oklahoma on January 28th dropping over an inch of ice on power lines, and area roadways. Many neighborhoods in Lawton were left without electricity and others were impassible due to the extensive tree damage. City crews worked night and day to clear major streets while trying to restore power to critical services, businesses, and homes.

A major challenge occurred during the storm recovery when the Medicine Park Water Treatment Plant lost power and the emergency back-up generator failed. With the able assistance of Republic Paper, Goodyear, and Fort Sill the City was successful in by-passing the plant's electrical panel and managed to restore emergency power just in time to lift a mandatory water rationing order. The City's water supply was critically dependent upon the newly constructed Southeast Water Treatment facility that feed the area water towers and supplied adequate line pressure. The new Southeast Water Treatment Plant saved the day!

POLICE CRIME STATS REPORT – NEW OFFICERS

The Lawton Police Department recently released the 2010 Crime Stats for violent and non-violent offenses. Violent crimes (Homicides, Rapes, Robberies, and assaults) declined by 21.60% as compared to 2009. The biggest change in violent crime (Homicides) declined by 66.7% followed by Rapes with a decline of 37.7% and Robberies with a decline of 38.3%.

For non-violent crimes, (Burglaries, Larcenies, and Auto Thefts) rose by 8.47% over the rate for 2009. The increase in non-violent crime, Burglaries, increased by 20.9% and can be addressed in part by the fact that several individuals were arrested for multiple offenses. Motor vehicle thefts were actually down by 10.2% as compared to 2009.

Secondly, the City & Police Department were notified in September that Lawton would be receiving a COPS Grant to hire eight (8) additional police officers. The federal grant will pay the officers wages and benefits for three years. Over the past five years, the City had added twenty (20) new officers. The next CLEET class will be the largest class ever with 22 candidates.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor Fitch officially appointed the nine member Charter Review Committee in May, 2010 from nominations submitted by each of the eight City Council Members. During the summer, the Charter Review Committee meets on a dozen occasions to receive suggestions from the Council, community, and staff regarding specific areas of the City Charter that needed their attention and possible revision.

The Charter Review concluded their review in October and Chairman John Purcell presented the Committees recommendations to the City Council in early November. Generally speaking, the Committee suggested that the Charter be amended or revised as follows; establish term limits, move City Council Municipal Elections from December to November, move the swearing in date of new Council members to January rather than March, require a comprehensive planning effort led by the Mayor, grant the Mayor the right to vote on the Municipal Budget, and to urge the City Council to establish a "rainy day"/emergency reserve fund. The entire list of recommendations offered by the Charter Review Committee were adopted by the City Council in December, 2010.

CITY WINS OML INNOVATION AWARD

The City of Lawton won the OML Large City Innovations Award for the Regional Public Safety Facility that opened on the Great Plains Technology Campus in March. The OML Award recognizes cities around the State for innovations that coordinate and consolidate public services, increase value to local communities, and create best practices that can be replicated in other cities and towns. It is the first time that Lawton has won the OML Innovations Award since its inception nearly 20 years ago.

The Regional Public Safety Facility has proven to be a huge success in its first nine months of operation. The Facility got its first major test during the February Ice Storm and provided the City/County Emergency Management team with a central location for coordinating response operations. The Facility is also home for the City's CLEET Training Program for both Police and Fire employees. The first class of officers (12) graduated this year and the 2011 class of (22) candidates will begin in May.

DOWNTOWN TIF PROJECT – SECOND STREET

The Lawton Economic Development Authority, Lawton Urban Renewal Authority, and the City of Lawton took several steps during the course of the year to bring the Phase IA Redevelopment Project closer to reality. Despite the doom and gloom of the national economic picture, LEDA was successful in structuring a strong financial package for the construction of a new hotel and conference center that will be located at First & Arlington. This \$30,000,000 meeting facility will be the center piece of the Phase IA Redevelopment Project. Ruhl & Ruhl, project manager Steve Scott, also announced in late September that Kohl's would become the first major retailer for the project.

The first section of Second Street, Gore to Columbia, was re-opened to traffic in late May. The street project is a cornerstone of the Downtown Redevelopment effort and received 90% of its construction funding from a federal Sec. 108 loan and an ODOT grant. LURA previously paid \$525,000 for the engineering and design work that covers the entire stretch of Second Street from Ferris to C Avenue. The City's share of the street project, 600,000, came from the 2005 CIP program.

PHASE III & IV CITY HALL RESTORATION PROJECT

The construction of the west and east parking lots at the CJHS is a critical improvement that will enable the City to finally utilize the historic school building. On June 8, 2010 the City Council awarded a construction contract to H.C. Jenkins for the east parking lot and the south ½ of the west parking lot. Upon completion, the two parking lots will provide 30 spaces for employee parking and 81 public spaces and 30 on street parking bays

In early July, the City Council awarded a construction contract to G.W. Hastings for Phase IV of the City Hall Restoration Project which included; a first floor conference facility, and the ground floor of the north wing. The construction work is scheduled to finish on or before September 1, 2011 and will provide office space for revenue services, license & permits and planning. The completion of Phase IV will allow the City to host in-service training workshops and one-day conferences, as well as accommodate all City Council and Planning Commission Meetings. The new meeting spaces will also be available for use by the general public and the Lawton Public Schools.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOR WARDS 3, 4, 5

In October 2010, three Council seats were open in wards 3, 4 and 5. During the filing period, we learned that Councilman Jay Burk would not draw an opponent, Janice Drewry (Bell) would not seek re-election, and that Councilman Bob Shanklin would draw three opponents. Dr. Rosemary Bellino ran and easily won the ward 3 post and will be sworn in and seated in March, 2011. The Ward 5, race, however, was heavily contested when Rex Givens, formally a Councilman from Ward 2, challenged the long-standing incumbent Bob Shanklin. On December 14th, Rex Givens successfully defeated the Ward 5 incumbent and won re-election to the Lawton City Council.

PASSAGE OF HB1786 – MILITARY GROWTH

For the past four years, the City of Lawton has worked closely with our area legislators, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Oklahoma Municipal League to win passage of HB1786. The original intent of the bill was to secure State grants/loans to help pay for the capital infrastructure needed to support the BRAC growth at Fort Sill. The latest version of the economic development legislation requires a City to submit an extensive grant application to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce showing actual growth in new jobs and payroll, commitments made by the local government entity, and the connection of the project to regional tourism.

Finally, the approval of the military growth impact application will allow the City to capture State sales tax revenue generated by a development project. The legislation limits the collection of State sales tax to five years and must be related to actual project costs. HB1786 is the first bill in State history that allows cities to capture State sales tax and Lawton will be the first applicant.

MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR FY 2010-2011

The National and State economy certainly played a significant role in framing the City's budgeting approach for the new fiscal year. The City Council agreed very early with staff's conclusion that sales tax revenues would remain flat for FY 2010-2011 and determined that utility rates would not be raised for a second consecutive year. In addition, the City Council took a major step in establishing an emergency reserve fund by passing an ordinance that set forth well defined limitations regarding the use of all State recovery monies.

On the expenditure side of the ledger, the City continued its' commitment to fund street repair and maintenance, purchase critical capital equipment, and fund new staff positions at the WWTP. Finally, the City Council adopted the FY-2010-2011 without a cost of living salary adjustment for City employees, as well as, any of the City's three labor unions budget (Fire, Police, AFSCME).

PUBLIC WORKS

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Engineering Division's major CIP projects completed during 2010 were:

The Numu Creek Bridge Replacement Project #2008-15 provided the construction of a multi-cell (4-20'x10') reinforced concrete box (RCB) bridge at South Railroad Street on Numu Creek with approach roadway of approximately 1100 feet. Total cost approximately \$980,980.

The NW 67 Street Reconstruction (Cache/Rogers Ln) Project #2003-7 provided the reconstruction of NW 67th Street from Cache Road to Rogers Lane. ODOT furnished 80% of the construction cost up to a maximum of \$3.3 million, with the City of Lawton furnishing engineering, utility relocation, right-of-way costs, non-participating construction items and the remainder of the construction cost. Total construction cost approximately \$5,700,000.

The Abandoned WWTP Demolition Phase 1 Sludge Removal Project #2009-3 consisted of removal and proper disposition of standing water and any residual sludge in the clarifiers and other structures including the chlorine contact bed, on-site digesters, drying beds and other incidental items. Total cost approximately \$169,850.

SEWER REHABILITATION DIVISION

Like many communities in the early 1990's the City of Lawton received an administrative order from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September 1994 because the City was in noncompliance with its NPDES Discharge Permit. The noncompliance issue was a result of a number of unauthorized sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) in the wastewater collection system. During the early 1990's the City was experiencing 240 to 255 sanitary sewer overflows every year.

Council approved an in-house construction program in September 1998. Phase I was completed in June, 2005. Phase II is currently in its fifth year and progressing with 23rd/26th Street Upgrade, SW 24th Street Upgrade, SW Arlington Avenue Upgrade, Sub-Basin 316 and 315, Sub-Basin 314/312, North Wolf Creek Upgrade, Sub-Basin 313A, Sub-Basin 304, 305, 313B completed. NW 62nd Street Upgrade, Sub-Basin 310, 311, 303 and 75th Street Part 3 projects are in progress. Just over 142,000 feet of pipe has been installed in Phase II Projects.

In addition to the Phase II projects, there were several emergency projects completed in 2010. The City experienced line collapses and overflows adjacent to the Lawton Municipal Airport and on Sheridan Road.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Stormwater Management Division is responsible for implementing and coordinating the National Flood Insurance Program and the Phase II Stormwater Management Plan for the City of Lawton. During 2010, this division issued 39 earth change permits, 4 fill site permits and 24 special flood hazard permits for various types of construction projects. 1,944 stormwater inspections were conducted throughout the year to monitor compliance on these projects.

STREET & TRAFFIC CONTROL DIVISIONS

The Street and Traffic Control Divisions are two financially separate divisions, consolidated under one superintendent, utilizing staff in an effective and efficient manner, optimizing production and resource management.

Along with a group of highly motivated and dedicated personnel, these divisions stepped up to the challenges it faced during the January 26 ice storm, providing crucial support to the community, ensuring safe passage along city roads. Constructing and staffing 4 disposal sites and assisting in the collection and disposal of 109,527 cubic yards of debris.

The Street Division has completed 332 projects, including Overlays, Utility Cut repairs, Reconstruction of 2,500 feet of SW 67th street, and numerous safety repairs throughout the city. 5,925 tons of Asphalt has been used, along with 2,366 Cubic Yards of Concrete in those repairs. 4,105 curb miles have been swept, and 122 single lane blocks have been crack sealed, extending the lifespan of the roads, protecting a valuable resource, and the great investment that they represent. The 2008 Capital Improvement Overlay Program is on schedule, utilizing 6,334 tons of Asphalt.

The Traffic Control Division has painted 1,632,520 linear feet of road surface, repaired 5,200 traffic signs, repaired 1,900 feet of traffic and pedestrian barriers, and completed 200 road closures conforming to MUTCD guidelines. Ongoing projects such as traffic light maintenance are ahead of schedule.

Although there are many challenges yet to come, these Divisions have successfully maintained and enhanced the streets, providing a safe transportation network in our community. Utilizing trained, dedicated, and professional personnel, with an emphasis on exceptional customer service.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION DIVISION

The Wastewater Collection Division is responsible for maintaining the wastewater collection system (approximately 500 miles) to include (6) wastewater lift stations in Lawton and (5) at area lakes along with two sewer lagoons. This division constructs, repairs, replaces and performs preventive maintenance to the wastewater collection system. Services are available on a twenty-four (24) hour basis. Our "Can the Grease" program has been a great success on controlling grease problems. Our city web site has educated the citizens on the "Can the Grease" program. This division has an average of 175 point repairs per year and responded to 2,132 calls this past year which is up 972 from the previous year.

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. The Wastewater Maintenance Program includes a system-wide cleaning of the wastewater collection system on a basin-by-basin basis in an attempt to eliminate unauthorized discharges resulting from temporary blockages such as grease and roots. The cleaning and maintenance program utilizes standard cleaning equipment such as Vactor flush truck units, water jets, roots cutters, easement rodders, closed circuit TV, etc. This division is also working with the TV unit to inspect problem lines and getting reports to the Assistant Director of Sewer Rehabilitation and Collection for scheduling pipe replacement. With the teamwork of Sewer Rehab and this division, our damage claims and sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) has dropped compared to the previous years. Using chemicals to treat grease has helped control the problems.

MPWTP (Medicine Park Water Treatment Plant)

The plant has met all of the regulatory requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Clean Water Act (CWA). The plant treated 4,984,514,000 gallons of water (approximately 13.66 mgd) and conducted 72,589 analyses including bacteriological testing for the City of Lawton and the surrounding communities during the time period. The Ellsworth and Lawtonka gates were operated during the months of February, March, April, and July in accordance with the Gate Policy. The Medicine Park Water Treatment Plant has 14 professional licensed staff members who are committed to provide Lawton and its surrounding communities with a safe, pleasant, and continuous drinking water supply.

SEWTP (Southeast Water Treatment Plant)

The SEWTP has been online for 2 years and has consistently been able to treat water at higher efficiency of the design criteria. The plant has met all of the regulatory requirements of SDWA and CWA. The plant treated 1,816,475,000 gallons of water (approximately 4.98 mgd) and has conducted over 56,000 lab analysis by a staff of 9 professional licensed operators who are committed to provide Lawton and its surrounding communities with a safe, pleasant, and continuous drinking water supply.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is responsible for the operation of an 18 million gallon per day tertiary treatment facility designed to treat both domestic and industrial wastewater in accordance with standards established by the Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency. The WWTP employees treat wastewater, dispose of biosolids, repair and maintain plant equipment, monitor microbiological activity and perform analytical testing. It is staffed, monitored and operated 365 days per year treating over 3.2 trillion gallons of water and 4.5 million pounds of sludge. The staff performed more than 33,000 wastewater analysis and 1100 non-residential inspections. The number of Sewer System Overflows caused by non-residential activities was reduced by 38%. The biological process optimization has improved the compliance track record of the plant substantially.

The Black and Veatch Corporation and Archer Western were awarded a contract for engineering services and construction of Work Package I at a cost of \$5.3 million. The City applied and received stimulus money (20% of the construction cost of the Package I) to fund the necessary improvements. The improvement project is underway and should be completed in 2011.

ELECTRONIC MAINTENANCE

In 2010 Electronic Maintenance finished constructing the traffic signal light at 52nd St. and Cache road. We rebuilt the storm siren at 50th St. and Cache Road. We moved the electronic equipment from the old communications center to the new communication center and resolved a multitude of issues in bringing the new facility online and ready to operate. We installed electronic equipment in 20 new police cars. We performed 272 repairs on traffic signal lights and 534 repairs on Police and Fire Electronic Equipment. We performed 245 repairs on municipal government electronic equipment and 57 repairs to the storm siren system.

WATER DISTRIBUTION DIVISION

During 2010, the Water Distribution responded to 10,675 calls from the residents of the City of Lawton.

Major main line replacements were at SW 26th Place to include Evans & Tulane, the 1600 Block of NW 25th St, and the 6300 Block of NW Euclid, as well as finishing the project on the Unit and 100 Blocks of SW I Ave.

On Fort Sill, several 24” valves were replaced and the bypass from the 30” to the 24” transmission line at Pump Station Two was replaced.

Several upgrades were performed in the down town areas in order to provide more reliable supply.

There were a total of 522 main line repairs, many of which involved replacing 100 feet of pipe or more. More than 4,000 feet of 6” and 3,600 feet of 8” pipe were installed in 2010. Water Distribution also replaced 43 fire hydrants and repaired over 550 service lines.

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION DIVISION

Many changes have taken place in 2010 in the Solid Waste Collection Division. The remainder of the residential addresses transitioned to the new poly cart system and three (3) more automated collection trucks have been added.

With the continuation of a hook hoist truck to be used for quarterly cleanups has enabled the division to assist the Street Division in transporting asphalt machinery to and from the job sites (for the overlay projects); and also aid them in the relining of the Medicine Park sludge lagoons which shows the versatility of this new unit. With the use of the new Grapple trucks we were able to pick up the majority of the tree limbs that fell during the ice storm in January.

Changes to the “bulk cleanup” program, have enabled the division to streamline the collection process of those items and reduce the time frame of the collection process to one week per area and with minimal amount of personal as opposed to the previous 2 to 4 week process.

We look forward to this next year as we continue to integrate more automated trucks to the residential areas with carts.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

The long awaited construction of new landfill cells 4 & 5 was completed with city council approval on December 15th, 2009. ODEQ approval of the financial assurance plan allowing the cells to receive waste was accepted in late fall of 2010. We are proud to be placing waste in new cell 5 as of Dec, 2010. The expansion project will add approximately 8 years of life to the City of Lawton Landfill.

The Landfill recycling efforts have continued to be very beneficial to the life of the landfill as well as the environment. Various materials that Lawton residents bring to be recycled are: tires, batteries, used motor oil, paint, appliances (including refrigerators and air conditioners), metal, grass, leaves and small limbs.

A welcome addition to the Landfill fleet has been a new Al-Jon 120,000 lb compactor, which greatly increases the amount of airspace available for receiving waste verses compacting with the older 82,000lb machine.

DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Drainage Maintenance cleaned over 668,214 linear feet of drainage ditches through the City of Lawton which equated to approximately 13,364 tons of debris removal. The division also checks and cleans 48 bridges throughout the city before and during rain events. They also mowed the equivalent of 2,750 acres of drainage ditches and dams areas.

ANIMAL WELFARE DIVISION

The City of Lawton, Animal Welfare Division is continuing to reduce the number of animals it must euthanize, having cut the number of adoptable animals euthanized by half. The expanding of the Outreach Education Program is underway with the development of the outdoor education area. Once completed, the facility will afford area schools and other learning establishments the experience of conducting outdoor classrooms focusing on subjects such as animal behavior, environmental issues, science, math, history, reading, plant and animal identification to name a few. We are making strides in our in-house veterinarian program, which since its inception, has reduced the number of animals being returned for health reasons and has increased the number of sterilized animals offered to the public through the adoption program.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

PLANNING DIVISION

This past year the Planning Division processed only 6 rezoning applications and 2 Land Use Plan amendments, but at the same time reviewed and processed 6 construction plats totaling 401 lots, 8 record plats totaling 265 residential and 2 industrial lots, and 8 plans for offsite public improvements. The newly constructed public improvements associated with these developments totaled \$2.2 million. These numbers are up from last year, showing that the Lawton/Fort Sill economy continues to grow even during a struggling national economy.

In the fall of 2009, the City received a Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant to complete the first four or five of the priorities identified in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, comprising more than 14 miles of new bicycle routes. Since that time we performed a feasibility study of those routes, obtained approvals for necessary adjustments, and hired a consultant to prepare the construction plans. The project should be ready to start construction this summer. This past year the Planning Division also prepared two new applications for Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grants from ODOT; one for landscaping improvements and enhancement of the Tri-level interchange on Interstate 44, and one for implementation of the Phase III prioritized projects in the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The landscaping and beautification of the tri-level interchange is a great “front door” project with two life size bronze sculpted buffalo, a gateway entry sign, and landscaping using native materials that will typify the plains and Wichita Mountains concepts.

In continuation with our partnership with Lawton Public Schools, the Planning Division continued to assist with implementation of the current Safe Routes to School grant and also began work on a Walkability Study in preparation for this year’s grant application cycle. These efforts represent a part of the City’s commitment to the health of our residents by helping to make Lawton a more walkable and bikeable community.

Transit

In 2010 fixed route transit ridership for the Lawton Area Transit System (LATS) grew by 0.9%. Paratransit ridership grew by 5.7%. In mid 2009 LATS was awarded a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment act of 2009 for \$1,466,299. This grant did not require any local match money and a majority of this grant was spent during 2010 on much-needed capital equipment. Four 30-foot Gillig transit buses were delivered in late summer 2010 and are in service now. Three of these buses were funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act while the fourth was funded primarily by FTA 5309 capital funds. RouteMatch paratransit scheduling software was installed and implemented in July 2010 and two ARBOC paratransit vehicles were ordered in December 2010 with an expected delivery timeframe of late March 2011. Two additional 30-foot Gillig transit buses were ordered during 2010 using funding from a FTA 5309 capital grant and a Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grant with local match funding provided by the Transit Trust. Additionally, security equipment upgrades were completed during the year that included remote video access to all LATS revenue vehicles and a 32-camera facility security system that provides 24/7 surveillance of the LATS Administrative and Maintenance buildings and their surroundings. In late September LATS held its first annual “Try Transit” week where passengers and potential passengers could use coupons that were published in the Lawton Constitution, Cameron Collegian, and Fort Sill Cannoneer to “try transit” for free during the week. In addition to the free ride coupons, information about the benefits of public transportation was published during the week. In October a LATS bus operator participated in the Oklahoma Transit Association Bus Roadeo in Oklahoma City where he competed against operators from all over the state in events including a driving obstacle course, wheelchair securement, pre-trip inspection and a classroom test. The LATS operator came in 3rd place in the state. Finally, LATS held its annual canned food drive in November and donated over 60 boxes of canned food and non-perishable food items to the Lawton Food Bank.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DIVISION

Neighborhood Services, the City's code enforcement arm, continued its proactive approach to addressing properties with violations to the Lawton City Code. In 2010 officers addressed 10,309 complaints. A total of 401 citations were issued with fines paid totaling \$27,530.00. Neighborhood Services also identified 146 dilapidated structures within the city limit of which over 120 were torn down or brought up to City Building Codes.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

There were many projects completed by the Housing and Community Development office. Two (2) low-income housing tax credit projects proposed by Cornerstone Associates, a 48-unit senior housing project and a 48-unit family housing project, which, if final approval is granted, will provide \$14,500 to leverage these \$7.1 and \$7.3 million senior and family projects.

In the area of housing, the City continued a popular First-Time Homebuyers Program (FTHB) and three (3) new homeowners were assisted and moved into their homes. Our Community Housing Development Organizations assisted two (2) new homeowners using our funds and began construction on the first of four new low-income rental units being developed by Great Plains Improvement Foundation. In addition, Habitat for Humanity recently signed an agreement to construct five (5) new single family homes. In addition 94 homeowners were assisted to varying degrees with the rehabilitation, exterior improvement or emergency repair of their homes using both Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds.

Congress approved the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009, which then trickled down to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) as Neighborhood Stabilization (NSP) funds, resulting in the City's receipt of over one million dollars to revitalize housing in depressed neighborhoods. The City purchased nine (9) foreclosed upon houses and two (2) vacant lots. The housing units are undergoing rehabilitation for sale to low-income homeowners and two new rental houses are under construction on the vacant properties.

Overall, CDBG Program expended \$491,243 on 101 completed projects while the HOME Program expended \$520,144 on twenty (20) housing projects.

In June 2006, on behalf of the city, HCD submitted a competitive Brownfield's Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) Grant and a Section 108 Loan Guarantee application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The initial phase of that project has been completed, with the exception of some minor repairs recently approved by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). These funds have literally paved the way for the construction of a new hotel and convention center as well as a large retail development along the 2nd Street corridor.

Finally, a group from Lawton View has requested a portion of the neighborhood's set aside funds from a previous year for asbestos removal on the Douglas School. Renovations for the building will finally begin after the completion of the asbestos clean-up. Allowing this excellent opportunity for the refurbishment of a center designed to provide services for the low- and moderate-income members of the community, while saving a treasured historical site, is yet another excellent use of the City's entitlement.

POLICE

The Lawton Police Department has seen a good year. The violent crime rate is down this year from last year by 21.6 percent. Non-violent crime was up by 8.47 percent. The reason for this increase was a rash of burglaries that have occurred this year. Several people were arrested for these burglaries and a lot of property was recovered. A combination of good police work and citizen involvement played a role in helping recover some of the property and in arresting the suspects. The U. S. Attorney's office assisted in filing several charges on repeat offenders using weapons when committing crimes. We think this is one of the reasons our drive by shooting and shots fired call have been reduced.

The gang unit has done an outstanding job again on gang activity and it appears with the arrest of gang members and the strict enforcement we have been able to cut down on the number of gang incidents.

The Lawton Police Department had another academy and graduated 10 more officers who are on the streets.

Our new training facility is up and running and our training division has moved in and training has started in the building. Great Plains Technical Center has worked closely with us to see this reality. The dispatch center was brought on line at the new building in 2010 and with its state of the art equipment has become the envy of the state.

The Lawton Police Department received a large grant in 2010 and has been able to buy a lot of new equipment to include a new tactical team response vehicle and a new mobile command center. Another grant we received is helping with getting a new boat for the dive team and some other equipment needed by the dive team.

2010 was a good year for the department with everything that has occurred. We look forward to more progress in the future.

FIRE

LAWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT 2010

In 2010, the Lawton Fire Department experienced another record year in the number of emergency responses by responding to over 9,000 calls for service for the first time in department history. This equates to more than a 12% increase in total emergency responses over the previous two years. Assisting with this increasing demand, in 2010 the department was able to fully implement the Federal SAFER Grant (awarded in 2009) and have now incorporated into the department the additional 12 firefighter positions provided by the grant, as well as the two additional positions added in last year's budget. The Lawton Fire Department's Training Division conducted the fire academy associated with this group of young firefighters and it was the largest academy in recent fire department history. These firefighters responded to 171 structure fires in 2010 and, although this is about the same number of structure fires as in 2009, there was a substantial decrease in two important types of fires. There was a 30% *decrease* in the number of vehicle fires and an almost 70% *decrease* in the number of brush/wildland fires over that same period. Despite decreases in those two categories of fires, the Fire Marshal's Office opened and conducted 68 fire investigations in 2010. In addition, they conducted over 200 code compliance inspections of local businesses and approximately 100 final building inspections in our city as well.

Together with firefighters from the Operation's Division, fire prevention programs were provided to thousands of citizens and school children within our community. None of this comes without a cost, and although the annual investment into the Lawton Fire Department is substantial, the return on investment continues to prove its worth. *In 2010 the Fire Department showed an incredible return of investment of better than 80 to 1!* While operating on a total budget of \$10.9 million dollars and with more than \$923 million dollars in property saved from fires the department responded to in 2010, the citizens can rest assured that their investment is reaping substantial benefits to our community.

Lawton Fire Department 2010 Emergency Response data:

Total # of Emergency Calls for Service	9,078
Emergency Medical Responses (EMR)	4,717
Rescue & Service Calls	1,136
Actual Fire Calls*	*349
False Alarms	765
Good Intent Calls	1,427
Hazardous Condition/other	684
Structure Fires*	*171
Brush/Wildland Fires*	* 77
Vehicle Fires*	* 45
Other Fires*	* 57

PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATION:

Public Patronage Report for Park Usage and Special Events For 2010

For the reporting period of January through December 2010, the Parks and Recreation Department issued 316 combined total of Assembly Permits (261) and Sound Permits (55).

Of that number 272 permits were issued for the use of park and/or City of Lawton facilities or services provided by the Parks and Recreation Administration, Recreation Services Division and the Park and Grounds Division.

126 permits were processed for the use and rental of park pavilions.

146 permits were given out for support of Special Events and/or services provided at our city parks/facilities (Special event permits are determined by patronage of 100 or more attending the event).

The other 44 permits were approved and issued either for Assembly or Sound Permits in support of other events or services that did not involve the use of City facilities but were supported by City services or equipment.

The number of patrons participating in the permitted events held at the for the City of Lawton Parks areas and park facilities for 2010 were 68,966.

ARTS & HUMANITIES DIVISION:

Children's Programming:

Children's Art Studio: Provided an art experience to 120 students in grades 3rd – 6th attended classes on Saturday morning in both the fall and spring. Approximately 250 friends and family members attended each "Young Artists Exhibit & Reception".

Musical Theatre for Children: Presentation of "Max & Ruby" presented by Theatreworks USA - national touring company from New York City. Approximately 3,000 students in grades K-3rd experienced live theatre at its best at the McMahon Memorial Auditorium.

Lawton/Ft. Sill 109th Birthday Celebration: Entertainment included Comanche Flutist, Tim Tate Nevaquaya (back by popular demand) and Ali Harter, OK's own international touring and award-winning singer/songwriter/musician with the SW OK Premiere of "Barking Water", an award-winning film by OK filmmaker, Sterlin Harjo at Elmer Thomas Park celebrating Lawton's 109th Birthday!

International Festival: An estimated 43,000 visitors attended the 31st Annual International Festival in Elmer Thomas Park.

Co-Sponsorship Grants: COL and Lawton Arts & Humanities Council provided funding, with assistance from the Oklahoma Arts Council's Local Government Challenge Grant, to local arts and humanities organizations to co-sponsor 11 cultural programs throughout the year for the citizens of our community.

Film Production Assistance: Division continues to provide assistance to local film makers and the Oklahoma Film & Music Office with location scouting as requested.

MCMAHON MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM:

The McMahon Auditorium Authority along with the COL was honored to be co-sponsors of "The President's Own Marine Band" from Washington, DC, who performed to a full house receiving standing ovations.

Fort Sill held many of their Basic Training Graduations at the auditorium filling the house with families and friends of young soldiers from all over the country.

A wide variety of events with something for everyone's taste was presented in the auditorium throughout the year with outstanding performers such as Gospel Artist Marvin Sapp, country legend Lynn Anderson, performances for children, Comedy, Dance Recitals, Hip Hop concerts, Beatles and Elvis Tributes, Miss Lawton & Miss Outstanding Teen Lawton, Lawton Pro Musica and 77th Army Band's outstanding Holiday Concert, the presentation of Handel's Messiah, Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra completed their 2009-10 season with two spectacular concerts in The Musical Planet series, "Land" which included a Children's art exhibit in the lobby; and "Sky"; and opened their 2010-11 season with "March!" to name only a few.

YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION

Children's Art Fair – April of 2010 the First Annual Children's Art Fair was held in Bridge Park. Ninety-six pieces of original artwork created by children ages 5-12 were on display. The Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra participated to help expose children to various musical instruments.

Mural Project – City of Lawton Youth Services Division partnered with University of Oklahoma OK-TEEM to create a mural at the Owens Multipurpose Center. The mural was not only to enhance the center, but to also empower the youth who participated in the project.

Fitness in the Park – Fitness in the Park is a non-profit initiative that was formed by Comanche County Health Department and MWR in partnership with City of Lawton Parks and Recreation. The initiative is to support health and fitness in the community.

Support of Goodwill Goodguides – In the spring of 2010, Youth Services Division of Parks and Recreation joined in a Memorandum of Understanding with the Goodwill Goodguides Mentoring Program.

Music and Movies in the Park – Youth Services and Recreation Services Division partnered with community sponsors to provide Music and Movies in the Park.

Focus on the Future – City of Lawton Youth Services partnered with Great Plains Improvement Foundation to provide a series of job skills training workshops to qualifying youth in the community. Eight youth successfully completed the program by attending workshops, camp and completing an

internship. For successful completion of the program, each youth was given a total of \$2,000 for their participation.

Back 2 School Bash – The Back 2 School Bash is a collaboration project of City of Lawton Youth Services and Recreational Services along with several community partners. Haircuts were a new addition to the 2010 Back 2 School Bash. Over 1,000 families were reached as a result of the bash.

Fishing for the Food Bank – In November of 2010, Parks and Recreation Department supported the efforts of City Councilman Michael Tennis to host “Fishing for the Food Bank.” The event provided a day of fun for the family and also collected canned goods to donate to the Lawton Food Bank. Approximately 530 participants came to Lake Helen to trout fish and over 2000 canned goods were donated to the food bank.

Volunteer Opportunities – Youth Services Division works with various organization of Lawton Ft. Sill to provide community wide volunteer opportunity.

MLK Day of Service – In February of 2010, Cameron University took the lead on organizing the MLK Day of Service. Youth Services Division helped in organizing the “day on” rather than a “day off.”

Day of Caring- In September of 2010, the second community wide volunteer opportunity was led by United Way. Again, Youth Services Division helped to organize the day.

Make A Difference Day – In October of 2010, volunteers were again given the opportunity to give to the community for National Make a Difference Day. On this day, over 200 volunteers met in Elmer Thomas Park to help light the park for the Christmas Season.

RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION:

Recreation Services and Athletic Maintenance staff received the Amateur Softball Association’s (ASA) James Farrell Award of Excellence for the 2010 Women’s Class D Southern National Championship Tournament. The award was awarded for hosting one of the highest rated ASA National Championship tournaments with a rating of 99 out of 100.

The 16th Annual Frost Ya Fanny 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run was the largest race in the past 7 years with 382 participants. In 2008 the race moved to the Elmer Thomas Park Festival Site Pad and continues to grow for runners of all ages.

The 2nd Annual Back to School Bash provided back packs and school supplies to students; and provided families with information from community service organizations and faith based institutions to help prepare and promote a positive attitude in students for the upcoming school year. In addition to back packs and information, the Bash also provides food, clothing and a day of fun for the family.

Rose Hill Church of Christ and the Owens Multipurpose Center hosted the 8th Annual Health Fair. Over 300 participants received free medical advice and health screenings from medical professionals and organizations in the Lawton/Fort Sill community.

Recreation Community Centers provided activities, programs, and events that enhanced the quality of life for over 57,000 Lawtonians.

SPORTS DIVISION

Registered 361 teams and 4,922 players and coordinated a total of 2388 total games for the City's Sports program.

ASA Men's Class B National Tournament - 14 teams from around the Nation gather in Lawton to play for the right to be called the Men's Class B Western National Champion. The tournament was co-sponsored by the City of Lawton and the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber. The James Farrell ASA Award of Excellence was awarded to the Parks & Recreation Department for conducting one of the Highest Rated ASA National Championships Tournaments in 2009

While attending the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) 79th Annual Council meeting, the City of Lawton was awarded the 2011 Women's Class C Southern National Tournament, the 2011 Women's Class D Southern National Tournament, and the 2012 12U Class B Girls Fast Pitch Southern National Tournament.

Dare to Care Dodge Ball Tournament - The 1st Annual Dare to Care Dodge Ball Scramble. Players donated can goods to help the Lawton Food Bank during the holiday season. This 1st Annual Dare to Care Dodge Ball Scramble was a tremendous success. The attendance was approximately 150.

PARKS, GROUNDS & LAKE DIVISION:

Built 60' x 325' asphalt parking lot at Elmer Thomas Park.

Totally renovated Field #1 at McMahon Sports Complex to include: sprinklers, new in-field, dugouts, covered seating, foul poles and safety fence covers.

Built the first "Natural Playground" in front of the Museum of the Great Plains.

Installed a new multi-use play unit at Fred Bentley Park.

Completed the total renovation of the old store and adjacent area at Robinson's landing making it into a rental facility for groups of up to 50-60 people. This project included an indoor pavilion with HVAC, a full kitchen, large covered fenced patio with BBQ grill and fire pit, a boathouse with wet stall for a boat or other watercraft.

Installed an underground drainage system at Highland Cemetery which created 60 new burial sites.

Initialized the ground breaking & dirt work at the nearly completed "Miracle Field" in Elmer Thomas Park.

Building Maintenance took over maintenance and janitorial responsibilities of the New City Hall starting in 2010.

Building Maintenance did over 60 vacant house securing's in 2010.

Highland Cemetery sold 67 burial spaces & performed 130 Interments generating \$97,250 in revenue for 2010.

There were 272 permits issued for the use of park and/or City of Lawton facilities/services of which 146 permits were for “special events &/or services” at our City Parks which involved Park & Grounds staff & equipment.

The Lakes Division issued 6961 permits for 2010 generating \$169,189.00 in revenue for 2010. (see attached list) Built Lawton’s first Dog Park, located on Lee Blvd adjacent to McMahon Sports Complex. Parks & Grounds along with the Lakes Division worked from January 28th thru the month of April clearing debris and cleaning up the City parks, right-of-ways, lake areas and campsites damaged by the Ice Storm of 2010.

Replaced 13 Park Benches in the Veteran’s Square at the Library Plaza.

LAKES DIVISION:

Break down for each type of permit:

Number of fishing permits - 168	dollar amount \$847.00
Number of hunting permits - 42	dollar amount \$412.00
Number of boating permits - 105	dollar amount \$1,243.00
Number of golf cart permits - 39	dollar amount \$860.00
Number of camping permits - 2543	dollar amount \$140,312.00
Number of day use permits – 3925	dollar amount \$ 11,775.00
Number of wet stalls permits - 10	dollar amount \$ 1,500.00
Number of dry stalls permits – 49	dollar amount \$ 10,000.00
Number of group use permits – 63	dollar amount \$ 1,600.00
Number of duck blinds permits – 17	dollar amount \$ 640.00
Total of permits issued for 2010 6961	Total dollar amount \$ 169,189.00

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)

- 330 RSVP volunteers served 50,216 hours in 2010.
- Volunteer dollar worth amounts to \$856,187.00 donated to the Lawton/Fort Sill community.
- Volunteers serve in 50 sites within Lawton/Fort Sill and Comanche County.
- Volunteers serve at the Lawton Food Bank, Oklahoma Blood Institute, both Hospitals, Lawton Public Library, American Red Cross, and many Veteran Organizations are sites.
- Many volunteers serve on boards, or as members Civic organizations, or volunteer in their Churches.
- RSVP veteran volunteers are at every departure and homecoming at Fort Sill.
- RSVP volunteer chairs the Holiday in the Park Committee.

- Many RSVP volunteers worked tirelessly to assure the Holiday in the Park Parade and the Christmas season was a success.
- Volunteers do not take the place of paid staff, they augment them.
- Without volunteers, many important services would have a difficult time accomplishing their mission.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources department works incessantly to provide a full range of services to potential and existing employees; including recruiting and selection, compensation and benefits, health and safety, and policy administration.

After handling over 3000 applications and providing testing for 476 applicants, a total of 146 employees were hired with 84% of those from Comanche County. Of those hired, the diversity breakdown is as follows: 108 Caucasian, 16 African-American, 10 Native American, 6 Hispanics, 5 combined races, and 1 Asian. Included in those hired are 11 new Police Officers and 7 new Firefighters. We attended 12 job fairs across the county with recruiters from both the Police Department and the Fire Department attending with partnership.

Calculations for the 2010 Workers' Compensation reports show that a total of \$1,767,467.00 was paid for 155 injury claims, of which 127 became recordable. This figure includes all medical payments as well as temporary disability, permanent total and permanent partial disability and death payments. This was an increase of \$200,468.00 in payments.

Safety awards amounting to \$32,212.50, along with time off vouchers were presented to reward and encourage employees to work safe. Sixty-four safety classes were scheduled and provided by the Great Plains Technology Center, providing safety training on various safety topics pertaining to the type of work performed by City personnel. Educational assistance benefits paid approximately \$8,662.73 to employees.

Open enrollment for Health and Dental insurance was moved to June in order to coincide with the health insurance policy dates of July 1st through June 30th. Voluntary benefit open enrollment remained in December and will continue to do so for future planning. Both open enrollment periods were successful. In addition, the health plan accepted dependant age 26 participants, effective October 1, 2010.

The Human Resources department continued to provide support for various employee committees and boards to include scheduling and attending meetings, agenda preparation and taking and transcribing minutes. We are proud to report that we have taken our place as a vital part of the operations of the City.

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The duties of the City Attorney's office are multifaceted. Our DEPARTMENTAL GOAL is: To provide the highest quality, ethical legal advice and representation for the City of Lawton. We accomplish this by providing the City Council and the employees of the City of Lawton with full legal representation in order that they may lawfully attain the City Council's objectives and accomplish other City programs without undue risk of liability to the City of Lawton.

The PRIMARY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY is to protect the public's interest by providing comprehensive, professional, cost-efficient legal advice, representing the City of Lawton's legal interests in civil cases before many different judicial and administrative agencies, and effectively and efficiently prosecuting all misdemeanor criminal offenses and violations of the Lawton City Code. At this time, the Office of the City Attorney is made up of the City Attorney, an Acting Deputy City Attorney, four Assistant City Attorneys, the Department Administrator/Legal Assistant IV, four Legal Assistant II's, and one Legal Assistant I - for a total of 12 employees.

During this past year, representation by the City Attorney's Office was provided on many significant issues affecting the City and several of its Trusts. The personnel of the City Attorney's Office provided representation on numerous issues involving the City's three labor unions (AFSCME, IAFF, and IUPA), to include successful negotiation of a four-year contract with IAFF and a contract with AFSME that addressed the City's unfunded liability issues with the employee retirement system. Office personnel also obtained favorable rulings in several grievance arbitrations and represented the City in 73 civil cases filed in state court, the Oklahoma Supreme Court, federal court, federal bankruptcy court, and the federal circuit court of appeals. The City's prosecutor reviewed and approved for prosecution over 28,000 citations for violations of the City Code and processed over 600 citizen complaints. The prosecutor also continued to work closely with the Police Department's "Too Much to Lose" program while the civil division successfully negotiated settlement agreements with a number of retail merchants to curtail the sale of beer to minors. Other staff members reviewed, investigated, and prepared legal memoranda on 61 tort claims filed against the City and reviewed, administratively settled, or filed lawsuits on 12 structures that the Council declared dilapidated. Our office also worked closely with Neighborhood Services to streamline the legal process as it relates to dilapidated structures. In addition, the City Attorney's Office reviewed 187 contracts, to include the successful negotiation, drafting, and implementation of a new 25 year Franchise Agreement with Public Service Company of Oklahoma. Staff members also prepared or reviewed 45 ordinances and 133 resolutions for Council consideration. The Office also assisted other Departments with the collection of debts owed to the City, provided legal instruction at the Police Department's CLEET Academy and annual legal update, and upon request, provided legal direction and advice to the numerous departments across the City on a daily basis. Attached is a breakdown of the type and number of cases and other assignments completed or processed.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2010

Citations processed	28,445
Complaints processed	622
Prosecutor citations issued	202
Lawsuits initiated and defended	73
Damage Claims processed	61
Friendly Suits initiated	42
Worker's Compensation Judgments	26
Fire Grievances processed	6
Police Grievances processes	2
AFSCME Grievances processed	8
Unfair Labor Practice Charges	1
Contracts/Agreements	187
Collections	55
Settlement Agreements	8
Ordinances	45
Resolutions	133
Legal opinions	Countless

LIBRARY

The Lawton Public Library has had a great year. We started the year with a Scrabble Tournament on Saturday's in January & February with 12 games and a total of over 200 individuals that participated. During February the Big Read Project on "To Kill a Mockingbird" had 2,309 adults and 1,878 children attend. From February to April 15 AARP prepared 1,081 tax returns. We followed that with 2,245 children and teens registered for the Summer Reading Club with 6,186 attending the Summer Programs. Also, in June we conducted the third annual Chautauqua Program with the theme of "The Wounds of War: A Tale of Two Americas" with an attendance of 1,097. This event was funded by the Oklahoma Humanities Council, Friends of the Lawton Public Library, City of Lawton, Lawton Chamber of Commerce, The Lawton Arts & Humanities Council, Fort Sill MWR, and many individuals. During Teen Read Month in October, we had the top reader in a public library and 7 of Oklahoma's top ten readers were from Lawton. We continued our Golden Girls and Guys Day Out Program for senior adults celebrating its 7th anniversary in November. The Children's section continued two Teen book discussion groups, continued the weekly story time that averages 98 children and adults each week, continued a game night each month, and started a monthly film night.

In conclusion, I want to take a moment to thank the Lawton City Council for their commitment and the hours devoted to various responsibilities and obligations. The Lawton City Council Members have always been dedicated individuals who work many hours to ensure our city is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I know first hand that all too often our Council Members receive very little acknowledgement and recognition for everything they do. Without Council's support, most of the things discussed in tonight's State of the City Address would not be achievable. I also want to thank the City of Lawton's employees. They too are commonly taken for granted even though the services that are provided are indispensable to our City. With their dedication the City of Lawton continues to run efficiently, and each employee is appreciated by Council, other staff members, and most of all the residents of Lawton.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who serve on City boards, commissions, authorities and committees. These giving people altruistically provide services and time; each contribution improves the value of our lives.

Let me reiterate; the State of the City of Lawton is exceptional.

Finally, as I close my first State of the City Address, I would like encourage our City Council Members to continue their quest to improve our City. The decisions made by this Council greatly impact every individual who lives in Lawton and the surrounding communities, including those who are here for a short time. It is my hope that those whom we serve will stay in the forefront of each and every decision deliberated and finalized by this Council and Councils that are to follow in years to come.

I am proud to live in Lawton and proud to be your Mayor.

May God bless the City of Lawton, the Lawton-Fort Sill community, and the United States of America.