

OFFICIAL BALLOT TEXT ADDENDUM
GENERAL ELECTION
CITY OF LAWTON
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
COMANCHE COUNTY OKLAHOMA

PROPOSITION 1
CHARTER AMENDMENT

Shall the following amendment creating a new Article 11 and a new Section 11-1 in the Charter of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, as proposed by the Lawton City Council, be approved?

BRIEF GIST: This proposition adds a new Article 11 and Section 11-1 to the City Charter formally adopting the City of Lawton's "True North Culture Statement." The statement outlines the City's aspirational commitment to citizen-focused service, transparency, efficiency, public safety, world-class customer service, and being business-friendly. It establishes these principles as guiding values for city governance and operations, with the City Manager responsible for their implementation.

VERBATIM AMENDMENT:

Article 11 True North Culture Statement

Section 11-1 True North Culture Statement

The City of Lawton is committed to its Vision Statement: A Community of Choice Where Families Thrive. The following True North Culture Statement reflects the City's aspirational values. These are principles the City of Lawton continually strive toward as we serve our citizens and shape the future of our community.

1. True North Culture Statement: We exist solely to serve the citizen. We seek to efficiently provide the opportunity for our citizens and visitors to thrive. We will consistently act in the best interest of our citizens and foster a relationship built on trust. We are committed to being a safe community that is known for providing world class customer service and being open for business. Our destination is excellence.
 - a. The Citizen: Everything we do is for the Citizen. Everything.
 - b. Transparency and Trust: We commit to open communication, transparency in our actions, and accountable decision-making. We will continually earn and maintain the trust of our citizens.
 - c. Efficiency: We embrace the venture of benchmarking against our peer cities, with transparency. We will deliver all services with efficiency and address all matters with a sense of urgency.
 - d. Safe Community: We will be relentless in our efforts to provide a safe environment for our citizens to thrive.
 - e. World Class Customer Service: We will work to continuously improve the citizen experience in

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both doing business with the City of Lawton and the quality of life.

- f. Open for Business: We will build a culture that lets the world know that Lawton is business-friendly and business-progressive.
- g. Our Pursuit of Excellence: In our pursuit of excellence, we seek to set the standard for the state. We will not make excuses or “settle for” in our pursuit of excellence.

This section is incorporated into the City Charter to affirm that the principles outlined in the True North Statement represent guiding ideals for the governance and operations of the City of Lawton. The city manager shall be responsible for promoting and encouraging the continued pursuit of the True North Culture throughout the organization.

PROPOSITION 2

CHARTER AMENDMENT

Shall the following amendment to Section 8-5 of Article 8 of the Charter of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma, as proposed by the Lawton City Council, be approved?

BRIEF GIST: This proposition amends Section 8-5 of Article 8 of the City Charter to change the length of an employee’s probationary period from six months to twelve months.

VERBATIM AMENDMENT:

Section 8-5 - Removal, etc. - Hearing before the personnel board.

- a. The city manager or any other authority who lays off, suspends without pay for more than ten (10) days, demotes, or removes any employee in the classified service after a probationary period of ~~six~~ twelve months shall, at that time or within two days thereafter, deliver, or have delivered, or mail by registered, certified, or similar special mail, to the employee a written statement of the reason or reasons for the layoff, suspension, demotion, or removal.
- b. Such employee may appeal in writing to the personnel board. The appeal must be filed with the secretary of the board, or with the city clerk for transmittal to the board, within ten (10) days after receipt of notice of the layoff, suspension, demotion, or removal.
- c. As soon as practicable thereafter, the board shall hold a public hearing on the appeal, or give an adequate opportunity therefore, and shall report in writing its findings and recommendations, in cases of subordinates of the city manager, to the city manager, and in other cases to the respective authorities having power of removal. The city manager or other authority having power of removal shall then make a final decision in writing regarding the appellant's layoff, suspension, demotion, or removal, as the case may be; provided, that, if the board finds that the layoff, suspension, demotion, or removal was made for a political reason or reasons or for any other reason or reasons than the good of the service, it shall veto the layoff, suspension, demotion, or removal, and the action by the city manager or other authority shall be nullified thereby.