



STATE OF OKLAHOMA

August 10, 2026

*Via Email and Regular Mail*

Chief Ron C. Bacy  
Oklahoma City Police Department

Re: State Expenditures for Homeless-Encampment Cleanup

Dear Chief Bacy:

The State of Oklahoma has expended \$375,701.21 in state funds cleaning up homeless encampments within Oklahoma City.

These expenditures were necessary because the Oklahoma City Police Department failed to take action to enforce the law and address these encampments - whether that failure resulted from directives informally or formally issued by the City of Oklahoma City's leadership or from a policy or practice adopted within the Police Department itself.

Whatever the source of that failure, the result is unacceptable. Oklahoma City cannot decline to enforce the law and then leave state taxpayers responsible for cleaning up the consequences. State government is not Oklahoma City's cleanup crew, and state taxpayers should not be required to subsidize a municipal policy of non-enforcement.

The State has repeatedly stepped in to remove dangerous and unsanitary encampments, dispose of abandoned property and waste, restore public areas, and address conditions that Oklahoma City has allowed to persist. Each time the City refuses to act, the financial burden is shifted from Oklahoma City to taxpayers across all 77 counties. That arrangement cannot continue.

During the next legislative session, the State will seek legislation authorizing the recovery of the entire cost of any past, present, or future cleanup measures undertaken by the State when those measures become necessary because of an Oklahoma City policy, directive, or practice.

This letter places the Oklahoma City Police Department on notice that the State expects the Department to enforce the law and address unlawful encampments within its jurisdiction. If Oklahoma City chooses not to fulfill these responsibilities, the State will pursue every available avenue to ensure that Oklahoma City bears the resulting costs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ostrowe".

David Ostrowe  
State Chief Operating Officer