

City of Lawton

List of Mayors

Colonel Leslie P. Ross	1901 – 1903
Dr. William M. Turner	1903 – 1905
Richard A. Jones	1905 – 1909
Henry Boyle	1909 – 1911
G. H. Block	1911 – 1911

The City switched from Mayor to Commission Chairman Government.

George Short	1911 – 1913
R. Henry Warren	1913 – 1915
Henry Boyle	1915 – 1917
R. Henry Warren	1917 – 1918
Sim Sheppard	1918 – 1919
George Short	1919 – 1921
F. A. Parkinson	1921 – 1922
J. A. Johnson	1922 – 1923

The City switched from Commission Chairman to Mayor/Alderman Government.

John D. Kennard	1923 - 1924
G. S. Holman (Acting Mayor)	1924 - 1925
Charles S. Powell	1925 - 1929
Fred Larrance	1929 - 1931
Dr. Jackson Broshears	1931 - 1933
Walter Fuller	1933 - 1935
Richard A. Jones	1935 - 1941
R. Everett Glenn	1941 - 1947
George Hutchins	1947 - 1949
R. Everett Glenn	1949 - 1953
Joe McCain	1953 - 1955
C. R. Ellsworth	1955 - 1961
Wayne Gilley	1961 - 1971
Don Whitaker	1971 - 1975
Wayne Gilley	1975 - 1989
Robert L. Shanklin	1989 - 1991
Colonel John T. Ted Marley	1991 - 1998
Cecil E. Powell	1998 - 2004
John P. Purcell Jr.	2004 - 2010
Fred L. Fitch	2010 - 2019
Stan Booker	2019 – current

Having sprung up almost overnight with little prior planning, Lawton had no form of municipal government at its outset. Townspeople, living in tents for many months, were busy building homes and businesses, and setting up a government was not a high priority. Since Lawton was established as the county seat of Comanche County, it was first ruled, then, by the county government appointed by the governor of the Oklahoma Territory. In late October of 1901, an election was held, and the Lawton city government was formed. The first officers elected were mayor, city clerk, judge, treasurer, city attorney, street commissioner, city marshal, eight city councilmen, a school board treasurer, and eight school board members. This mayor-council system lasted until 1911, when Lawtonians voted in a charter-commission form of government with three commissioners. In 1921, Lawton again switched governments, to one of five commissioners and a city manager. Then a year later, voters repealed the charter and returned to the politically aligned mayor-council form of government. This form lasted for 50 years, when in 1972, voters adopted a charter and the council-manager system, which is still in place today.

City of Lawton List of City Managers

The position of City Manager for City of Lawton was created in 1972.

Larry Fountain	October 1972 – January 1975
John R. Thomson	February 1975 – July 1976
Robert Metzinger	January 1977 – October 1986
Melissa B. Vossmer	February 1987 – August 1989
Robert Hopkins	January 1990 – June 1994
Gilbert Schumpert	December 1994 – September 1998
Bill Baker	November 1998 – February 2003
Larry Mitchell	March 2003 – October 2012
Bryan Long	February 2013 – May 2015
Jerry Ihler	June 2015 – January 2019
Michael Cleghorn	February 2019 – March 2023
John Ratliff	October 2023 – current

For more information:

The Lawton Centennial Book Committee. *Lawton: A Centennial History*,
Rich Hill, Mo.: Bell Books, 2001.

Vertical Files in the Family & Local History Room. By surname or Lawton drawer.

*Compiled by the Family & Local History Staff at the Lawton Public Library.
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