

## PROPEL 2040 – NOTABLE PROJECTS

### **Central Fire Station:**

Central Fire Station, located at 623 SW D Avenue, was built in 1930 to accommodate to a growing population of 9,000 at the time. In 1940, as the World War II years approached, the Fort Sill Military personnel increased, thus, the population increased to about 20,000, which prompted the expansion of the Lawton Fire Department. Fire Stations #2 & #3 were built and opened for service in 1942.

Fast forward to 2017 when the Public Safety Center was built & began housing the crews that had been stationed at Central Fire Station. Though crews were no longer running out of the D Avenue location, the LFD Command Staff still officed out of the building and does to this day.

The proposed CIP extension would help fund renovations to the 94-year-old downtown treasure. Lawton Fire Chief Jared Williams says LFD is needing room for storage and reserve apparatuses. Funding for Central Fire Station would also help modernize the building, while maintaining its historical integrity, to better support the functions of the Fire Department.

### **Carnegie Library:**

Carnegie Library, located at 425 SW B Avenue, was built in 1922, paid for with a \$25,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie and \$17,000 in City funds. In 1972, the library moved to the current Lawton Public Library at 110 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street, but the Carnegie Library remains.

While much of the building is no longer in use, the basement is home to Lawton Arts for All, Inc. Rhonda Norrell, a current Board Member with Arts for All, said the basement has undergone renovation and is currently an art center, in addition to the Arts for All office.

The first floor of the building however, needs a complete facelift. From plumbing to electrical, flooring and ceiling work, Carnegie Library can stand to see some tender love and care. Norrell hopes to see it one day become a larger art center to bring in artists and hold outreach events for at-risk citizens to enrich their lives and continue the rich history of the Carnegie Library.

The McMahon Auditorium Authority seeking funding to upgrade to the Carnegie Library to install new floors in the main lobby, expand and renovate the bathrooms for ADA compliance and capacity, upgrade the HVAC system, address erosion concerns of main entry stairs and landscaping, and other structural and cosmetic concerns needed to reopen the entire building.

### **Lawton Municipal Golf Course:**

The Lawton Municipal Golf Course is located at Terminal, 3401, SW 11th St, and is designed to cater to golfers of all skills. However, improvements are needed to the course. Those might include enhancements to the course layout, clubhouse renovations, and the introduction of modern amenities and technologies. Mayor Stan Booker has also mentioned the need for sprinkler systems to help maintain the fairways and greens to enhance play.

**Lawton Animal Welfare:** Lawton Animal Welfare is located at 2104 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street & provides shelter, care, and adoption services for animals, as well as enforces animal control laws within Lawton. Over the years, the number of animals has grown exponentially, prompting the need for upgrades to the facility. The proposed CIP would allocate funds for improvements to the Animal Welfare Division. Though specifications have not been provided, there are plans underway to identify how to best renovate and improve Animal Welfare services.

**McMahon Memorial Auditorium:**

Another crown jewel in our City, the McMahon Memorial Auditorium opened to the public in 1955. Over the years, the auditorium has undergone several renovations and upgrades to maintain its status as a premier cultural venue.

The 2019 CIP is helping fund much-needed renovations this fall, to include adding an additional stairwell, putting in a new HVAC system, and an elevator for ADA compliance. The McMahon Auditorium Authority has bigger and better ideas for the Auditorium to continue the legacy of the McMahon Family.

The MAA would request funding for a second phase of renovations. Upgrades would include:

- Complete fire safety construction adding additional staircase for egress from 2nd floor balcony.
- Renovate and expand men's bathrooms to bring them up to current construction codes.
- Create ADA accessible Hallway from stage to westside lobby
- Add family bathrooms on westside of building.
- Add elevator on westside of building.
- Create a board room for promoter and performer meetings
- Make other structural and aesthetic renovations as appropriate to Phase I renovation scheduled to be completed by mid-2025.
- Complete upgrades/updates to auditorium seating area

**Lawton Youth Sports Complex:**

The Lawton Youth Sports Authority is in the process of building a new Youth Sports Complex. The project is currently focused on acquiring land for the facility. LYSA has a promising site at the intersection of East Gore Boulevard and SE 45<sup>th</sup> Street under contract, with anticipated closing in June.

The indoor complex will feature indoor turf fields, basketball courts that can convert for other sports, and additional amenities like concession stands. The estimated budget for the project is \$31 million. Approximately \$8 million has been allocated from the 2019 CIP and LYSA has raised approximately \$3.5 million of private funding, but additional requests for funding would come from the proposed PROPEL 2040 CIP extension.

**Crime Fighting Technology:**

While the 2019 CIP brought forth new technology for the Lawton Police Department, there are always new and improved systems available to better serve communities. LPD is requesting

funding for a new camera system from Flock. Flock is a tech company that focuses on collecting evidence, free from human bias to prevent, deter and solve crime.

LPD would utilize a Flock camera system that would be able to identify vehicles on Lawton streets that could be involved in any type of crime. It's as simple as inputting a vehicle description. With cameras mounted on traffic lights throughout town, detectives could input the smallest details of a vehicle, and the technology would generate a report to show vehicles that match the description, where it was, and the direction it is headed.

LPD is also requesting funding to update body cams and dash cams. The new body cams would streamline how officers take reports and help expedite Open Records Requests with its auto-redaction capabilities. There is also the live stream feature and GPS tracking so LPD could track their officers in real-time.

This system will also come with a software suite that will streamline police efforts. It will enable LPD to keep all digital evidence in one system. The software will allow officers to do their jobs much quicker and get them back on the street sooner to provide more services to the community. This software and cameras will also be used by the Lawton Fire Department, Neighborhood Services, Legal, and Animal Welfare.

#### **Upgraded Alerting System for Lawton Fire Department:**

Alerting our fire stations of an emergency is fundamental when it comes to responding to our citizens. Currently, the Lawton Fire Department utilizes two-tone 1970 technology for their alerting system. If the system fails, our dispatchers are unaware until they call for an engine company and receive no response. When seconds count on any emergency call, having an out-of-date system with no redundancy creates problems within our community.

The fire department is requesting funding for a new automated system, where when they receive a call for help, the computer system will take over, sends alarms automatically, and a computer monitored voice will sound through the requested fire station notifying crews the location of the emergency call.

The goal with the new system is to reduce response times. It would be more efficient for the fire department and the dispatchers, in turn benefiting our citizens.

#### **National Guard Armory:**

The National Guard Armory in Lawton, Oklahoma, has a notable history as a key facility for the Oklahoma National Guard. Built in 1936 as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects, it played a crucial role during World War II and in subsequent military operations.

Now under the purview of the McMahon Auditorium Authority, the future of the Armory is to support arts in Lawton. The MAA is requesting funding to address structural concerns of the building, complete a roof replacement, and install a new HVAC system for the office portion of the Armory.

If funded, the renovation of the National Guard Armory will create a shared space that will be conducive to inspiring and promoting additional collaboration and conducting more family fun entertainment for our Citizens of Lawton.



**Building the Future**