

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Covid-19 Response, City of Lawton & City of Lawton community entities*

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA COVID-19 RESPONSE:** <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/>  
**CDC CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

**CORONAVIRUS CALL CENTER: 877.215.8336**

## CITY OF LAWTON RESPONSE

### **What has been the City's response to the COVID-19 outbreak?**

City of Lawton Mayor Stan Booker issued a proclamation declaring a civil emergency on March 17, 2020. One amendment has been made. The situation is rapidly changing and any additional changes will be communicated as quickly as possible to the community. Follow the link below to view the proclamation, proclamation highlights or amendments, or to find out more information about what this means for the Lawton community:

<https://www.lawtonok.gov/news/covid-19-information-preparedness>

### **How do I keep up with the latest updates?**

Please follow the link below for the latest updates on the COVID-19 situation:

<https://www.lawtonok.gov/news/covid-19-information-preparedness>

### **How have City of Lawton first responders dealt with this outbreak?**

*First Responders stand ready to answer calls for service to the Lawton community at any time and will assist our community through this pandemic.*

#### **Lawton Police Department**

With regards to police-related incidents, additional questioning has been added to dispatcher protocols while processing calls where a physical response from the Lawton Police Department is requested. Additionally, low priority calls for service will be handled by phone or online reporting if an officer's presence is not required. This change will not affect the dispatching of officers to high priority, emergency incidents.

The below links may be used for online reporting for non-emergency incidents or for traffic collisions:

<https://www.lawtonok.gov/services/file-police-report-online>

<https://www.lawtonok.gov/services/file-collision-police-report>

#### **Lawton Fire Department**

Concerning medical-related calls, the Lawton Fire Department is responding to calls for request with an additional unit that contains additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The department is following the guidance that the Oklahoma State Health

Department EMS Division has recommended for PPE and Patient Screening. The Standard Response for Fires has not changed.

### **Emergency Communications**

The City of Lawton/Comanche County Emergency Communications Department is taking precautions to ensure the health and safety of citizens and first responders during this time. Dispatchers have implemented the use of the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) Emerging Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) tool for enhanced screening of emergency medical callers and faster recognition of COVID-19 associated symptoms. Notifying first responders early of symptomatic patients will ensure that proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used by all providers with close patient contact, along with isolation and special transport procedures, when necessary. Emergency Communications will continue working closely with the local medical authority and health department to ensure the highest standard of care and operations.

### **What about paying my utility bill?**

Until the Civil Emergency Proclamation is expired, the City Manager has suspended the disconnection of water service to customers due to non-payment. Customers should still understand that they are responsible for their bill and need to keep their account in good standing by paying their bill or by making a payment agreement with the Utility Services Division. To make a payment online or to contact Utility Services division follow the link below:

<https://www.lawtonok.gov/services/pay-your-water-bill>

Learn about measures taken by other utility companies in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic here: <https://www.psoklahoma.com/info/CoronaVirus/> (PSO/Electric); <https://www.psoklahoma.com/info/CoronaVirus/> (CenterPoint Energy/Gas).

### **What about paying my court fines?**

The City of Lawton Municipal Court is closed to most visitors during this time but staff can be reached for questions, concerns and details of potential reschedulings at 580.581.3265.

Certain citations issued by the Lawton Police Department can now be paid by card or by phone. This service is available 24 hours a day, every day, including weekends and holidays, by a third party payment system. Both online payments and telephone payments are provided as an option to our customers by nCourt Government Payments. nCourt charges a convenience fee to those electing to use one of these payment options. The City of Lawton does not receive any revenue from this service fee. To make a payment, follow the link below:

<https://www.lawtonok.gov/services/court-payments-online>

### **Can I still enter City facilities?**

The City of Lawton is encouraging communication by phone, email or online submission during this time. With the exception of certain offices, all City facilities shall be closed and all programming or events scheduled at City facilities are postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of the emergency proclamation.

### **DETAILS on EXCEPTIONS**

- **Emergency Services** – Due to the nature of business and services provided to citizens, the Lawton Police Department and Lawton Fire Department will remain open to the public.

Visitors should enter in the case of an emergency or for official business that has been made by appointment only. Find contact information to make appointments here:

<https://www.lawtonok.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/COL%20PHONE%20NUMBERS%202020.pdf>

- **City Hall** – City Hall shall be closed to citizens except:
  - **Citizens needing to set up a new water account.** Although this can be done via email or fax, time or resources may prevent citizens from being able to gain access to needed utilities if in-person visitation is not also afforded. Those needing to set up a new water account may visit Utility Services with needed materials on the first floor of City Hall. Please call 580.581.3308 for details on needed materials.
  - **Citizens/Contractors dropping of building/construction plans.** Those dropping off building/construction plans that are too large to be transferred digitally may drop them in a labeled box at the front desk of City Hall, 212 SW Ninth Street. Call 580.581.3375 with questions or concerns.
  - Those with special appointments for extenuating circumstances. View contact information for any department here:  
<https://www.lawtonok.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/COL%20PHONE%20NUMBERS%202020.pdf>

**Citizens are greatly encouraged to watch City Council meetings broadcast through Cable or on the “Lawton Oklahoma, City Government” Facebook page during this time. Those who attend, due to social distancing requirements, may be requested to observe or listen to the meeting in another part of the facility. If a citizen wishes to speak on a given item, please relay your request to City staff.**

#### **Can I get permits at this time?**

The License & Permits Center is closed to the public during this time. Certain permits may be granted digitally. Please call 580.581.3360 for additional questions or concerns regarding license or permits from the City of Lawton.

#### **What about bus passes/public transportation?**

The Lawton Area Transit System (LATS) is a partner and affiliate of the City of Lawton. Public transportation in Lawton will continue to run but with limited routes and social distancing practices in place. See details on their operations here: <https://ridelats.com/>

Bus passes from City of Lawton locations will not be granted during this time. When the current bus pass of a ride runs out, a rider will then need to pay while boarding. This will be effect until the expiration of the proclamation or until otherwise communicated.

## **COMMUNITY ENTITIES**

#### **What about Cameron University?**

Cameron University is cooperating with the City of Lawton concerning the emergency declaration. The University Theatre, Aggie Rec Center, Aggie Gym, Terry Bell Golf Center and all exterior athletic venues are closed during this time. For a list of instructions on how to handle the

situation as a student, staff, or faculty member of the university, please follow the link below:  
<https://www.cameron.edu/wellnesscenter/coronavirus-information>

### **What about Fort Sill?**

Fort Sill is adhering to Center for Disease Control guidelines on social gathering. The recommendation is to avoid crowds in excess of 10 people limiting large social interactions. Guest attendance of military graduations has been suspended until further notice and Fort Sill is requesting that Soldiers to communicate with their chain of command for individual concerns. Visit the following the link for additional information concerning Fort Sill's COVID-19 response:  
<https://sill-www.army.mil/covid-19/>

### **What about Lawton Public Schools and Great Plains Technology Center?**

The Oklahoma State Board of Education approved a mandatory statewide cessation of operation for the public schools of the State of Oklahoma due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For additional information and frequently asked questions concerning Lawton Public Schools, please follow the link below:

<https://www.lawtonps.org/o/District/page/coronavirus-updates--5>

For additional information concerning the response of Great Plains Technology Center please visit: <https://greatplains.edu/covid-19/>

### **What are local hospitals doing?**

*Area health officials are working diligently to adhere to guidelines disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Comanche County Health Department.*

***If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 – fever, cough or shortness of breath – call your healthcare provider FIRST unless it is an emergency.***

#### **Comanche County Memorial Hospital**

Comanche County Memorial Hospital and the Lawton Community Health Center began an assessment drive-through center in Lawton on March 19, 2020. Visit the following link for information on this center and to view other updates specific to the CCMH Covid-19 response: <https://www.ccmhhealth.com/coronavirus-announcement/>.

#### **Southwestern Medical Center**

Precautionary steps are being taken to help ensure the safety of patients, employees and visitors. Limited entry points to the facility and mandatory screening is in place during this time. Visit the following link to learn more: <https://swmconline.com/coronavirus-preparedness-information/>.

#### **Lawton Indian Hospital**

The Indian Health Service and partners across the Department of Health and Human Services are coordinating a comprehensive public health response. Visit [ihs.gov/newsroom/announcements/2020-announcements/covid-19-update-as-of-march-16-2020/](https://ihs.gov/newsroom/announcements/2020-announcements/covid-19-update-as-of-march-16-2020/) to learn more.

### **What about the airport?**

Visit the following link to learn about the measures taken by the Lawton-Ft. Sill Regional Airport: <https://www.lawtonok.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/Lawton%20Ft%20Sill%20Regional%20Airport%20COVID19%20response.pdf>

### **What about casinos/tribal action?**

*The Kiowa Tribe, Apache Tribe, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, and Comanche Nation signed a “Cooperative Declaration of Preventative Measure” to cancel all events within the City of Lawton due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which can be found here:*

<https://www.lawtonok.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/Declaration%20Preventative%20Measure.pdf>

#### **Apache Casino & Comanche Nation Casino**

Both local casinos have temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Apache Casino/Hotel Information: [apachecasinohotel.com](http://apachecasinohotel.com)
- Comanche Nation Casino Information: [comanchenationcasino.com](http://comanchenationcasino.com)

## **COMMUNITY LIVING**

*“All in-person gatherings of more than 10 persons for social, spiritual and recreational purposes, including but not limited to community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based or sporting events, parades, concerts, festivals, conventions, fundraisers and similar activities” will be prohibited. Such gatherings of up to 10 persons shall require social distancing (6 feet or more).*

### **What businesses are affected in Lawton?**

Bars, taverns, clubs, restaurants, coffee shops, some convenient stores, gyms, churches, civic groups and recreational establishments may be impacted. View the proclamation and amendment(s) here: <https://www.lawtonok.gov/news/covid-19-information-preparedness>

Learn about potential relief/aid for small business here: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

### **Can I still go out to eat?**

All restaurants, buffet style, or self-serve style food is prohibited. Food can be ordered by delivery and via “take out.” If picked up, food shall be taken off premises before consumption. Food truck operations are acceptable during this time.

### **Can I go to the gym?**

The City of Lawton has temporarily closed all gyms, workout facilities, athletic venues, theatres, etc. during this time. For more information, please follow the link below: <https://www.lawtonok.gov/news/covid-19-information-preparedness>

**Can I still go grocery shopping or pick up my prescription?**

There are no restrictions on grocery stores or pharmacies. The City of Lawton is currently working with grocery store owners by encouraging the use of social distancing, posted signage, in-store PSAs and general wellness practices.

A copy of social distancing signage may be downloaded, printed and hung from this link:

**What about daycares?**

Meeting the childcare needs of families who play an important public health role (hospital personnel, first responders) has become a priority in our community and nation. The City of Lawton has not imposed any restrictions on childcare facilities at this time, but the CDC has recommended guidelines that we continue to share:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

**Can I leave the state?**

There are no government-mandated restrictions in place at this time for the general public but travelers are advised to adhere to CDC guidelines and recommendations, which can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

## **COVID-19 FACTS AND INFORMATION**

**How can I learn more about COVID-19?**

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fsteps-when-sick.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fsteps-when-sick.html)