

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAWTON, OKLAHOMA DECLARING A CIVIL EMERGENCY

Whereas, Section 8-1-118 of the Code of the City of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma authorizes the Mayor to proclaim a civil emergency when a natural disaster, as defined in Section 8-1-102 of the Lawton City Code, exists; and

Whereas, Section 8-1-119 of the Lawton City Code authorizes the Mayor in such proclamation to issue such orders as are imminently necessary for the protection of life and property;

Whereas, a respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus ("COVID-19") has been detected in more than 100 locations internationally, including throughout the United States; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

Whereas, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has identified thousands of confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout the United States, including Oklahoma, and mounting numbers of deaths as a result of the COVID-19 virus in the United States; and

Whereas, of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, a large percentage have been identified as not being travel-related, meaning community transmission is responsible for much of the spread of the COVID-19 in the United States; and

Whereas, health professionals and researchers have determined that COVID-19 is spread by human contact and interaction; and

Whereas, the minimizing of human contact through methods such as social distancing is believed to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

Whereas, because of the potential for spreading rapidly in the community, immediate attention is required to protect public health, reduce further exposure, insure public safety and render emergency relief; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared COVID-19 a national emergency and ordered each state to set up emergency operations centers and ordered hospitals to activate their emergency preparedness plans; and

Whereas, the above-described pandemic conditions constitute a substantial threat to the safety and welfare of the City of Lawton and its inhabitants, and create a civil emergency within the meaning of Section 8-1-102 of the Lawton City Code in addition to

constituting an emergency under the Emergency Management Act of 2003 (Title 63, Okla. Stat., Section 683.3)

NOW, THEREFORE I, STANLEY BOOKER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAWTON, OKLAHOMA, ACTING UNDER THE POWER VESTED IN ME UNDER SECTION 8-1-118 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAWTON, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- A. A civil emergency, created by the spread of COVID-19 at a pandemic level throughout the world, including the United States, exists in the City of Lawton, Oklahoma.
- B. The following City of Lawton facilities shall be closed and all programming and/or events scheduled at said locations shall be postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of this emergency proclamation:

Lawton Public Library
Owens Multipurpose Recreational Center
H.C. King Center
Patterson Community Center
McMahon Memorial Auditorium
Lawton City Hall Annex/ Municipal Court
Public Works/Engineering Administration
Public Works Yard
Public Utilities Administration

- C. The following City of Lawton facilities will remain open for individual access provided, however, all public and private gatherings, meetings and events are hereby postponed and/or cancelled and no permits for gatherings, meetings and events at said locations shall be issued until the expiration of this emergency proclamation:

Lawton City Hall
Lawton Police Department
Lawton Fire Department
Lawton Animal Welfare

- D. The City Manager shall revoke any pending permit and not issue any new permit for any public or private event on any City street, sidewalk, facility, park or property until the expiration of this emergency proclamation.
- E. Unless authorization is otherwise granted by the Mayor, meetings of all City of Lawton authorities, boards, commissions, committees, and trusts are hereby postponed and/or cancelled until the expiration of this emergency proclamation. All meetings of the Lawton City Council, Lawton Water Authority and Lawton Transit Trust are exempt from this postponement/cancellation requirement. These meetings will remain open to the public, but steps will be

- taken to ensure no close contact between attendees. In lieu of attendance, watching these meetings on live television is encouraged.
- F. The Lawton Municipal Court may conduct limited dockets subject to constitutional limitations. The Municipal Judge shall prescribe and implement procedures and rules to provide scheduling of dockets that will accommodate concerns for public health, safety and welfare. Measures may include but are not limited to closing general public access to the courthouse and processing cases remotely.
 - G. All in-person gatherings of fifty (50) or more 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 are prohibited until the expiration of this emergency declaration. Such gatherings of up to fifty (50) persons shall require “social distancing” of attendees to the extent reasonable and practical under the circumstances.
 - H. The maximum capacity under the City of Lawton’s Fire Code in restaurants, bars and other privately-owned gathering places is reduced to one-half capacity until the expiration of this emergency declaration. Such facilities are further encouraged to transition to “take-out” or “delivery” options.
 - I. Local gyms and exercise facilities are strongly encouraged to discontinue all group activities and to increase and enhance facility cleaning requirements.
 - J. A space of at least two (2) empty seats between all users of the Lawton Area Transit System shall be maintained by the System Operator.

AND I DO FURTHER HEREBY PROCLAIM, THAT THIS PROCLAMATION MAY BE AMENDED TO ADJUST TO CHANGING EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE PUBLICATION OF AN EXHIBIT “A” HERETO CONTAINING ADDITIONAL AND/OR MODIFIED ORDERS UNDER MY AUTHORITY OF LAWTON CITY CODE SECTION 8-1-119.

AND I DO FURTHER HEREBY PROCLAIM, THAT THIS PROCLAMATION SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL THE 16TH DAY OF APRIL, 2020, UNLESS EXTENDED BY THE ISSUANCE OF A SUBSEQUENT PROCLAMATION, AND THAT PUBLIC NOTICE OF THIS PROCLAMATION AND STATE OF EMERGENCY, INCLUDING ANY AMENDMENTS IN EXHIBIT “A”, SHALL BE GIVEN TO AND FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF LAWTON, OKLAHOMA AND POSTED ON CITY MEDIA.

ADOPTED and SIGNED this 16th day of March, 2020.

MAYOR STANLEY BOOKER

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK TRACI HUSHBECK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY TIM WILSON