



Office of the City Manager

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1 July 2021

Team Lawton,

As we approach our nation's birthday, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the blessing bestowed upon us from living in such a great country. A lot has occurred since my last correspondence. Since April 2020, we as a nation have endured one of the most challenging times in recent history as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lasting and the continued effects of the prolonged isolation and reduced social interaction may not be seen for years. To that end, I am incredibly proud of your resilience, as demonstrated by your capacity to overcome adversity. I am enormously impressed with our employees and the measures you took to protect our community. For all you have done this past year, I thank you.

In my last letter, I spoke about the COVID-19 pandemic, The PROPEL CIP, and the Tyler implementation happening across the organization. Since that last correspondence, most if not all of the COVID-19 pandemic protocols have been lifted. As of yesterday, June 30, 2021, the incentive implemented by the City Council has expired. Even though the incentive has expired, please consider getting vaccinated; the life you save maybe a family member, a friend, or even your own.

The Tyler software implementation is still underway. This has been a time-consuming and challenging implementation. Still, I want to encourage you to remain steadfast and continue pushing through the barriers that come with any undertaking of this magnitude. I know we can do this, and like the true professionals that I know you are, we will get Tyler fully implemented. I am sure that most, if not all, of you, have been affected by the implementation. As we implement these software solutions across the City, we are discovering processes and procedures that need adjusting, refining, and sometimes replacing. The Tyler implementation has shown us the areas we are strong in and the areas that need work. All of this work is to ensure the citizens of this great community that we are safeguarding the precious resources they have given us. I cannot emphasize enough the need to remain diligent and continue to push through the completion of the rollout of this much-needed software. The more we focus on how hard something is to do, the more difficult it will get. Remember, we will never be defeated by what they say about us, but we will be defeated by what we say about us.

Your hard work and dedication continue to make Lawton the "Pride of the Southwest" and moves us closer to that goal. Our desire to become a "Home of Choice For Young Families" in Oklahoma is beginning to take root. Recent success in our Tax Increment Financing districts has brought more employers to Lawton. It was recently announced that Carter Wind Turbines would make its home in our Westside Industrial park, bringing 300 high-paying jobs with it. Even more exciting are the

prospects being worked on by staff and the Lawton Economic Development Corporation to continue to make Lawton a destination choice for both industry and families. In addition, the Fires Innovation and Science Technology Accelerator (FISTA) now has a home where defense contractors can perform critical work in aiding our nation's defense by supporting Fort Sill's FIRES Center of Excellence, its two Cross-Functional Teams, Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF), and Air & Missile Defense innovations.

Lastly, as we go about our daily business, please take time to interact with our citizens. As employees, you are the ambassadors to City government. Your behavior can send a positive or negative message to those with whom you interact. Remember, we are in the people business, and we should never be too busy to listen to each other and those for whom we work. The culture and technology changes support our primary objective to become the most efficient, responsive, transparent, and accountable City in Oklahoma. We are well underway in achieving that goal, but we still have much to accomplish. I am confident we will be a destination of choice for both families and industry in the coming years. So keep up the great work, stay focused and let's make Lawton the best it can be!

V/R,

Michael Cleghorn
City Manager