**LAWTON METROPOLITAN AREA AIRPORT AUTHORITY**
**AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**
**June 23, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the Chair, Allan Hampton. The agenda along with the time and place of the meeting was posted in accordance with State Law.

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Allan Hampton
George Gill
Clarence Fortney
Clay Zelbst
Mark Henry
Nate Slate
Matt Tranquill

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Dustin Hilliary
Jennifer Ellis

**The roll call confirmed that a quorum was present.**

**OTHERS ALSO PRESENT:**

Barbara McNally, Airport Director
Blake Dutcher, Airport Attorney
Wayne Pliss, 5B Aviation
Pat Hurley, Executive Asst.
Krista Ratliff, FISTA
Brad Burgess, Attorney

Allan Hampton thanked the Authority members for their service, courage, and commitment. He noted that the Authority has addressed several complex and difficult issues over the past twelve months, and he expressed that the airport is in a better position today because of the group's dedication.

Hampton stated that clarification has now been received regarding the conflict-of-interest question. Blake Dutcher explained that in smaller communities, it is common for board memberships to overlap. He said the City Attorney has determined that there is no conflict preventing Hampton or Fortney from voting. However, there may be a conflict for Nate Slate because his employer is directly involved in the matter under consideration.

**1. REPORTS FROM AIRPORT BUSINESSES**

A. American Eagle (Michelle Ward, GM) – No report given.
B. Fort Sill Transportation (Mr. Sprague) - No report given.
C. Ft. Sill ARAC - (Chris Palacio) - No report given.

**2.** CONSENT **AGENDA ITEMS**: Members may request items be removed from the consent agenda for separate action:

A. Minutes - Approval of the minutes of May 26, 2026, regular meeting and June 12, special meeting.
B. Financial Report - Director Financial Report, Purchase Orders, Accountant's Financial Statement and Bank Statements.

**MOTION BY Fortney, SECOND By Henry, to approve the consent agenda as presented.**
**AYES: Hampton, Gill, Zelbst, Fortney, Henry, Slate, Tranquill.**
**NAYES: None.**
**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 3. FINANCE COMMITTEE (Mark Henry, Committee Chair)

A. **FY 2027 BUDGET -** Henry reported that the committee reviewed the FY 2027 budget and is recommending approval. He directed the members' attention to the budget document, noting that while the budget is tight, this is typical for an airport of Lawton's size. Henry explained that the most significant change is a reduction in the purchase and sale of jet fuel, which is directly tied to the decline in military traffic.

**MOTION BY Gill, SECOND By Fortney, to approve the FY 2027 budget.**
**AYES: Hampton, Gill, Zelbst, Fortney, Henry, Slate, Tranquill.**
**NAYES: None.**
**MOTION CARRIED.**

B. **Loan for Operations/Maintenance Vehicle** – Henry said that the director has requested a loan for a new vehicle in the amount of $ 47,356.00 for a 2026 Silverado 2500HD Crew cab, purchased at the Oklahoma State Contract bid. The term is 60-months at 4.24% interest rate.

Dutcher noted that the City of Lawton will also be required to approve the loan, as the City is the beneficiary of the airport. McNally reported that Classic Chevrolet was unable to match the state contract bid price. As a result, the vehicle will be purchased from the state contract bid holder, John Vance, in Guthrie.

**MOTION BY Henry, SECOND By Fortney, to approve the purchase of a vehicle as stated above, with the loan terms as stated above.**
**AYES: Hampton, Gill, Zelbst, Fortney, Henry, Slate, Tranquill.**
**NAYES: None.**
**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 4. LEASING COMMITTEE (Clarence Fortney, Committee Chair)

A. **DISCUSS REASSIGNMENT OF LAND TO FISTA** – Fortney said that FISTA has a shovel ready project for the 80 acres that was leased from the Oklahoma School Land Commission by the Airport Authority in 2007.

Fortney noted that several members were unable to participate in the last special meeting due to potential conflicts of interest, and as a result, no action was taken at that time. He emphasized that this is an important project that will help move the community forward and increase use of the airport.

Dutcher stated that he has drafted an agreement outlining the terms between the Airport Authority and FISTA. Under the agreement, the Airport Authority will assign the lease to FISTA, and FISTA will pay the Authority $20,000 per year for the duration of the agreement with the Commissioners of the Land Office, with payment due at the beginning of each year. He added that the agreement also grants the Authority first right of refusal for 30 acres of the 80-acre tract should the military require the land for a heavy aircraft apron.

Gill asked the Authority to consider reducing the annual fee, noting that this is a major project for the community. He suggested setting the fee at the value of the land plus one dollar, or alternatively $10,000 annually. Dutcher responded that the amount must reflect fair market value over the term of the agreement. Henry added that discussions with FISTA have taken place and all parties agree that the proposed amount is fair and reasonable.

Dutcher further clarified that under the agreement, even if FISTA were to purchase the land in the future, the Authority would continue to receive the annual revenue.

Zelbst expressed concern that the Authority does not currently know the fair market value of the land.

McNally reminded the members that there is an existing tenant on the property. Mitch John currently holds a grazing and mowing lease and pays the Authority $2,000 annually. Ratliff noted that the proposed development would initially utilize approximately 10 acres, and the remaining acreage could continue to be mowed. Ratliff also requested a copy of the current mowing lease.

**MOTION by Henry, SECOND by Fortney, to approve the lease assignment of the 80 acres owned by the Commissioners of the Land Office to FISTA, with an annual payment of $20,000 to be paid to the Authority each January 1, and to assign the current mowing lease to FISTA.**
**AYES: Hampton, Gill, Fortney, Henry, Tranquill**
**NAYES: Zelbst**
**ABSTAIN: Slate**
**MOTION CARRIED**

**B. 5 B AVIATION FLIGHT SCHOOL -** Fortney said that Lawton has not had a flight instructor in almost a year and Lawton Public Schools are driving to Duncan for instruction.

Wayne Pliss, of 5B Aviation Flight School, has proposed opening an annex flight school in Lawton. McNally recommended entering into a 90-day operating agreement at no cost, allowing time to build a client base here.

Pliss said that he has been operating in Duncan for four months and has hired flight instructors and has aircraft available, during that time he has tripled the number of students. He said his mission is to bring in new students with the hope that they will go on to be corporate and airline pilots.

**MOTION BY Henry, SECOND By Fortney, to approve entering into a 90-day operating agreement with 5B Aviation.**
**AYES: Hampton, Gill, Zelbst, Fortney, Henry, Slate, Tranquill.**
**NAYES: None.**
**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 6. DIRECTOR REPORT (Barbara McNally)

Waiver of Conflict – Hampton reported that Brad Burgess has requested that the Authority sign a waiver of conflict. Dutcher noted that it is generally considered a compliment when an opposing party seeks to hire you for representation. He explained that Steve Rich and Jake Sharp have asked Burgess to represent them in a matter unrelated to the airport settlement, and Burgess is therefore requesting a conflict waiver from the Authority. Dutcher stated that there is no legal conflict, but signing the waiver is the appropriate and ethical course of action.

**MOTION BY Gill, SECOND By Slate, to approve the executing a waiver of conflict for Brad Burgess, concerning Steve Rich and Jake Sharp.**
**AYES: Hampton, Gill, Zelbst, Fortney, Henry, Slate, Tranquill.**
**NAYES: None.**
**MOTION CARRIED.**

7. **NEW BUSINESS (Allan Hampton, Chairperson)**

   A. **New Business** (defined in 25 O.S. § 311(A)(10) as "Any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of the posting".)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Allan Hampton, Chairman**