

LEGALS

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Advertisement to Contractors
November 20, 2025 – 10:30 A.M. Bid Opening

Plans and proposals for this bid opening will be available on October 23, 2025. No bidding proposals will be issued to any Contractor after November 19, 2025 10:30 A.M.. The cost for each bidding proposal is \$50.00 + tax. State Standard Specifications may be purchased by contacting ODOT Business Services Center Branch (405) 521-4509. No refunds will be made for bidding documents or specification books purchased.

Sample proposals, preliminary plans, long form and short form notices, order forms, bid tabs and awards, can be accessed on ODOT's Website: <https://oklahoma.gov/odot/business-center/contracts-and-proposals.html>

Bids must be prepared in accordance with the State Standard Specifications. Unless otherwise specified, bids for all projects must be submitted over the internet to Bid Express (<https://www.bidx.com>) using AASHTOWare Project Bids. Instructions for using Bid Express, Project Bids, and the electronic bidding process are available from the Office Engineer Division. When written bids are allowed, sealed proposals may be delivered directly to the Office Engineer Division prior to the scheduled bid opening. For written bids, do not disassemble the bidding proposal in any way.

Any firm bidding a project as a joint venture must complete the 'Request for Joint Venture' form, which is posted on the ODOT website, prior to the bid opening.

Unless otherwise specified in the proposal, all bids must be submitted with a proposal guaranty equal to 5% of the bid total.

Questions and comments regarding the November 20, 2025 bid opening will be accepted until October 31, 2025. Please submit your questions through the ODOT pre-bid email address: ODOT-PREbid.Question@odot.org. Responses will be posted to the "Pre-bid Questions and Answers" section of the ODOT Contracts & Proposals webpage as they are received. It is recommended that interested contractors visit the "Pre-Bid Questions and Answers" link regularly in order to stay informed of the latest information: <https://oklahoma.gov/odot/business-center/contracts-and-proposals.html>.

Unless otherwise noted in the proposal, upon award of the contract to the successful bidder, the contract will be completely and correctly executed by the contractor and returned to the Department within ten (10) working days from the date of award. The Department will have fourteen (14) working days from the date of award to complete its execution of the contract.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) ensures that no person or groups of persons shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, retaliation or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any and all programs, services, or activities administered by ODOT or OTA, their recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. To request an accommodation please contact the ADA Coordinator at (405) 521-4140 or the Oklahoma Relay Service at 1-800-722-0353. If you have any ADA or Title VI questions email ODOT-adatitlevi@odot.org.

Description of work and location of project:

STP-249C(068)PM SH-82 MAYES & CHEROKEE
GRADE, DRAIN, AND SURFACE
SH-82: FROM THE CHEROKEE COUNTY LINE, EXTEND NORTH NEAR LOCUST GROVE.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
- By: TIM J. GATZ, Director.

Call Order: 643
JP NO. 30370(04)

Call Order: 643
JP NO. 30370(04)

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.,
Plaintiff,

BY: /s/ Lisa Reed
LEA

v.

LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP
770 NE 63rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-6431
(405) 848-1819
Attorneys for Plaintiff
File No. 24-140419

(Published in the Grove Sun
October 24 and 31, 2025)
LPXLP

DISTRICT COURT
OF DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

TAMMY PHILLIPS, Plaintiff,

v.

THE HEIRS, EXECUTORS,
ADMINISTRATORS,
TRUSTEES, DEVISEES
AND ASSIGNS IMMEDIATE
AND REMOTE, WHETHER
KNOWN OR UNKNOWN OF
GAIL ADAMS, DECEASED,
Defendants.

No. CV-2025-144
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA
TO: The Successors, Heirs,
Executors, Administrators,
Trustees, Devisees and Assigns,
Immediate and Remote, Whether
Known or Unknown of Gail Adams,
deceased

You are hereby notified that
you have been sued in the District
Court of Delaware County, State of
Oklahoma, in Case No. CV-2025-
144 by the above-named Plaintiff,
wherein the Plaintiff is seeking
to quiet title to the interests of
Gail Adams, her Successors,
Heirs, Executors, Administrators,
Trustees, Devisees and Assigns,
Immediate and Remote, Whether
Known or Unknown in the
following-described real property
situated in Delaware County,
Oklahoma:

W/2 of Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 56,
Creekmore Addition to the Town
of Jay, a subdivision according
to the recorded plat thereof,
Delaware County, Oklahoma,
and 1970 Andove 12/60 Mobile
Home VIN 20083242108A, Title
#210808324009

(the "Real Property").

You are further notified that
unless you answer the Petition
of the Plaintiffs on or before
December 5, 2025, the allegations
of the Petition will be taken as
true and judgment rendered
determining that Plaintiffs are the
only persons who are entitled to
the above-described real property
upon the death of Gail Adams, and
a further judgment determining
that the unknown successors,
heirs, executors, administrators,
trustees, devisees and assigns
of Gail Adams, deceased, if any,
have no right, title or interest in and
to the above-described property.
You are referred to the Petition for
further details.

WITNESS MY HAND this 21st
day of October, 2025.

BY: /s/ Thurman R. Thomas
Sheriff

KARMA SAPP, Court Clerk
Delaware County, Oklahoma

By: /s/ R. Karleskint
Deputy

Presented by
Randall G. Vaughan,
OBA#11554
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
Mail P.O. Box 487;
Physical 314 S. Fifth St.
Jay, Oklahoma 74346
Phone (918) 801-4454;
Fax (918) 801-4493
rvaughan@davisandthompson.net
Attorneys for Plaintiff

(Published in the Grove Sun
October 17, 24, and 31, 2025)
LPXLP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

RONALD GENE JACKSON
AND LINDA CAROLE LUTON
JACKSON, TRUSTEES OF
THE JACKSON FAMILY TRUST,
DATED NOVEMBER 22, 2010,
Plaintiff,

v.

LEE HAMRICK, and his known
and unknown heirs, executors,
administrators, devisees,
trustees and assigns, immediate
and remote, if deceased, and
his unknown spouses and
successors; and TREASA
EARP, Delaware County
Treasurer; and the BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DELAWARE COUNTY,
OKLAHOMA, Defendant.

Case No. CV-2025-147
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, TO:
LEE HAMRICK, and his known
and unknown heirs, executors,
administrators, devisees, trustees
and assigns, immediate and
remote, if deceased, and his
unknown spouses and successors;
and TREASA EARP, Delaware
County Treasurer; and the BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DELAWARE COUNTY,
OKLAHOMA,

YOU AND EACH OF YOU
ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that
RONALD GENE JACKSON
AND LINDA CAROLE LUTON
JACKSON, TRUSTEES OF
THE JACKSON FAMILY TRUST,
DATED NOVEMBER 22, 2010, as
Plaintiffs, have filed in the District
Court of Delaware County, State
of Oklahoma, their Petition against
the above named Defendants,
alleging that Plaintiffs are the
owner of and are in the actual
peaceable possession of the
following described real estate
situated in Delaware County, State
of Oklahoma, to-wit:

Lots Eight (8) and Nine (9), Block
Four (4), Gran Tara Wildwood
Shores, Delaware County,
Oklahoma, according to the
recorded plat thereof,

and further alleging that
Defendants above named claim
some right, title or interest in and
to said real property adverse to the
Plaintiffs which constitutes a cloud
on the Plaintiffs' title; and praying
that the Plaintiffs have judgment
against the Defendants, and each
of them; that the above named
Defendants be required to show
what right, title or interest, if any,
that they now have in and to said
real property adverse to the right,
title and interest of the Plaintiffs;
that the above named Defendants
be adjudged to have no right, title,
interest or estate therein, and that
the title of the Plaintiffs in and
to said real property be quieted
against the said Defendants,
and each of them, and that the
Defendants and each of them be
perpetually barred and enjoined
from setting up or asserting any
right, title or interest in and to said
real property.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED
that should the Defendants above
named fail to answer a decree
quieting Plaintiff's title to the said
real property will be entered.

That the said Defendants,
and each of them, must answer
the Petition filed by the Plaintiffs
on or before the 11th day of
December, 2025, or said Petition
will be taken as true and
judgment rendered adjudging
and decreeing RONALD GENE
JACKSON AND LINDA CAROLE
LUTON JACKSON, TRUSTEES
OF THE JACKSON FAMILY
TRUST, DATED NOVEMBER
22, 2010 to be the owners of said
real property and entitled to the
possession thereof, and that the
Defendants above named have no
right, title or interest therein, and
quieting the title of the Plaintiffs
against all adverse claims of said
Defendants.

Given under my hand and seal
this 21st day of October, 2025.

KARMA SAPP
Delaware County Court Clerk
By: /s/ Natasha Isaac
Deputy

Travis Hartley, OBA #20238

THE HARTLEY LAW FIRM
PLLC
177 W. Delaware,
P. O. Box 553
Vinita, OK 74301
918/256-2100
FAX 918/256-2121
Attorneys for Plaintiff

(Published in the Grove Sun
October 24, 31, and November
7, 2025)
LPXLP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF MARY L. LACKEY,
DECEASED

Case No. PB-2025-77
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All creditors having claims
against Mary L. Lackey, deceased,
are required to present the same
with a description of all security
interests and other collateral (if
any) held by each creditor with
respect to such claim to Brandon
Lackey, Personal Representative
of the Estate, c/o Clayton M.
Baker, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box
487, Jay, OK 74346, on or before
the following presentment date:
December 19, 2025 or the same
will be forever barred.

DATED this 16th day of October
2025.

/s/ Clayton M. Baker
Clayton M. Baker, OBA #32347
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
P.O. Box 487;
Physical 314 S. Fifth Street
Jay, Oklahoma 74346
Phone (918) 801-4454;
Fax (918) 801-4493
clayton@davisandthompson.net
Attorneys for Personal
Representative

(Published in the Grove Sun
October 24 and 31, 2025)
LPXLP

DISTRICT COURT
OF DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF NELVA J.
RICHARD, DECEASED.

PB-2025-78
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All creditors having claims
against Nelva J. Richard,
deceased, are required to present
the same with a description of
all security interests and other
collateral (if any) held by each
creditor with respect to such claim
to Stephen W. Winder, Personal
Representative of the Estate, c/o
Randall G. Vaughan, Attorney
at Law, P.O. Box 487, Jay, OK
74346, on or before the following
presentment date: December 19,
2025 or the same will be forever
barred.

DATED this 8th day of October,
2025.

/s/ Randall G. Vaughan
Randall G. Vaughan,
OBA #11554
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
Mail P.O. Box 487;
Physical 314 S. Fifth Street
Jay, Oklahoma 74346
Phone (918) 801-4454;
Fax (918) 801-4493
rvaughan@davisandthompson.net
Attorneys for Personal
Representative

(Published in the Grove Sun
October 17 and 24, 2025)
LPXLP

DISTRICT COURT
OF DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF RICHARD FLOYD
ROSS, DECEASED.

No. PB-2025-81
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All persons having claims
against Richard Floyd Ross,
deceased, are required to present
the same with a description of
all security interests and other
collateral (if any) held by each
creditor with respect to such
claim to Michael Ross, Personal
Representative of the Estate,
c/o Randall G. Vaughan, Davis
& Thompson, PLLC, P.O. Box
487, Jay, OK 74346, on or before
the following presentment date:
December 19, 2025 or the same
will be forever barred.

DATED this 14th day of October,
2025.

/s/ Randall G. Vaughan
Randall G. Vaughan,
OBA #11554
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
Mail P.O. Box 487;
Physical 314 S. Fifth Street
Jay, Oklahoma 74346
Phone (918) 801-4454;
Fax (918) 801-4493

rvaughan@davisandthompson.net
Attorneys for Personal
Representative

(Published in the Grove Sun
October 17 and 24, 2025)
LPXLP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF: GAY MILDRED
DODD, a/k/a GAY MILDRED
HILL, Deceased.

Case No. PB-2025-83
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All creditors having claims
against Gay Mildred Dodd, a/k/a
Gay Mildred Hill, deceased, are
required to present the same
with a description of all security
interests and other collateral (if
any) held by each creditor with
respect to such claim, to: Schelby
L. Hill, now Welch, Personal
Representative of the estate, c/o
Phil K. Thompson, Attorney at
Law, P.O. Box 487, Jay, Oklahoma
74346, on or before the following
presentment date: DECEMBER
20, 2025, or the same will be
forever barred.

DATED this 14 day of October,
2025.

/s/ Phil K. Thompson
Phil K. Thompson, O.B.A.
#8979
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
314 S. 5th Street
P.O. Box 487
Jay, Oklahoma 74346-0487
Telephone: (918) 253-4220
Facsimile: (918) 801-4493
Attorney for Personal
Representative

(Published in the Grove Sun
October 17 and 24, 2025)
LPXLP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF MARY LOU
PETERS, DECEASED.

Case No. PB-2025-89
NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR LETTERS
OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to
all persons interested in the Estate
of Mary Lou Peters, Deceased,
that on this date, Irene Peters filed
in the District Court of Delaware
County, State of Oklahoma, a
Petition praying for Letters of
Administration to be issued to
Irene Peters upon the Estate of
Mary Lou Peters, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
that said Petition further prays
that the heirs-at-law of Mary Lou
Peters, Deceased be determined
at the hearing thereon, all for the
purpose of waiver procedures as
provided by the applicable statutes
of the State of Oklahoma.

Pursuant to an Order of
said Court, NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that the 18th day of
November, 2025, at the hour
of 1:30 o'clock P.M. has been
appointed as the time for hearing
said Petition in the Courtroom
of the undersigned Judge, or
the Judge to whom this cause
is assigned on said date, in the
County Courthouse in the City of
Jay, Delaware County, Oklahoma,
when and where all persons
interested may appear and
contest said Petition as provided
by law, or may assert rights to
the administration and pray that
Letters be issued.

DATED this 7th day of October,
2025.

/s/ David Crutchfield
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT
COURT

John C. Young, Attorney at
Law, PLLC
John C. Young, OBA #31889
111 North College Avenue
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464
Telephone: (918) 414-5177
john@chapmanyoun.com
Attorney for Petitioner

(Published in the Grove Sun
October 17 and 24, 2025)
LPXLP

IN AND FOR THE
DISTRICT COURT OF
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF KATHRYN LOUISE
PIERCE, Deceased

CASE NO. PB-2025-90
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
ss.
COUNTY OF DELAWARE

All creditors having claims
against Kathryn Louise Pierce,
Deceased, are required to present
the same with a description of
all security interests and other
collateral, if any, held by each
creditor with respect to such
claim, to the named Personal
Representative at the address
of the Attorney for the Personal
Representative, set forth below,
on or before the following
presentment date: December 21,
2025, or the same will be forever
barred. If the presentment date
stated is a Saturday, Sunday, or
legal holiday, the presentment
date shall be deemed to be the
next succeeding day which is not a
Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Dated: October 21, 2025

/s/ Michael Pierce
Michael Pierce
Personal Representative of the
Estate of Kathryn Louise Pierce,
Deceased

Grant A. Carpenter, OBA #1498
David A. Carpenter, OBA
#32368
Carpenter Law Office
1437 S. Boulder Avenue,
Suite 1200
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119-3636
(918) 298-1001
Attorneys for Personal
Representatives

(Published in the Grove Sun
October 24 and 31, 2025)
LPXLP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In the matter of the estate
of BARBARA ANN DEVITT,
deceased.

Case No. PB-2025-93
COMBINED NOTICE
FOR HEARING:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS,
PETITION FOR SUMMARY
ADMINISTRATION,
DETERMINATION OF
HEIRS, LEGATEES AND
DEVISEES, FINAL ACCOUNT
AND DISTRIBUTION AND
DISCHARGE OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE

To all creditors, heirs and
any others having interest in the
estate of BARBARAANN DEVITT
deceased, please take notice of
the following:

1. Barbara Ann Devitt, (the
"Decedent") age 83, departed this
life on March 9, 2025, and at the
time of her demise she resided at
2680 Taylor St., Grove, Delaware
County, OK 74344.

2. The petitioner, Ivan N. Devitt,
Jr., resides at 2680 Taylor St.,
Grove, Delaware County, OK
74344.

3. Decedent left a Will bearing the
date of the 4th day of January,
2016, which Petitioner believes
to the best of his knowledge to
have been validly executed, and
after the exercise of due diligence,
Petitioner is unaware of any
instrument revoking said Will, that
the original of said Will is attached
to the Petition on file herein and
is believed to be Decedent's Last
Will and Testament.

4. Pursuant to Decedent's Will,
Ivan N. Devitt, Jr., was nominated
and appointed as Personal
Representative of the estate,
and he consents to serve in that
capacity.

PLEASE SEE LEGALS
PG 8

HELP WANTED

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• Detail

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careeroppic@gmail.com

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM PG 7

capacity.	Ivan N. Devitt III/11435 N 153rd E Ave Owasso, OK 74055, Adult/ Son	Name/Address	or any interested party may file objections at any time before the final hearing and send a copy to Petitioner or that person will be deemed to have waived any objections to the petition.	the order admitting the petition and combined notice.	Jay, Oklahoma.
5. That the names, ages, and residences of the heirs at law of Decedent, so far as known to your Petitioner, are as follows:	Sherry Devitt Hilton/2680 Taylor St. Grove, OK 74344, Adult/ Daughter	The Devitt Family Trust dated January 4, 2016 c/o Ivan N. Devitt, Jr., Trustee/2680 Taylor St. Grove, OK 74344		10. The final hearing on the Petition for Summary Administration, Determination of Heirs, Legatees and Devisees, Final Account and Distribution and Discharge is set for the 2nd day of December 2025 at 1:30 o'clock p.m. before the undersigned Judge at the Delaware County Courthouse,	/s/ Dave Crutchfield Judge of the District Court
Name/Address, Age/Relationship					(Published in the Grove Sun October 24 and 31, 2025) LPXLP
Ivan N. Devitt, Jr./2680 Taylor St. Grove, OK 74344, Adult/Spouse	6. That the names, ages and residences of the legatees and devisees of Decedent are as follows:	7. The probable value of the Decedent's estate is less than \$200,000.00.	9. The claim of any creditor will be barred unless the claim is presented to the personal representative no more than thirty (30) days following the granting of		
		8. Any person receiving notice,			



Base Oklahoma Legislature pay held flat again, but leaders get stipend hikes

Tres Savage
NonDoc.com

For their third straight meeting, the biennial Oklahoma Board on Legislative Compensation voted to keep the base salary for state lawmakers at \$47,500 — for now — but Tuesday, Oct. 21’s lively and at times contentious discussion concluded after more than an hour with increases to the stipends given to eight leadership positions.

The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the State Senate — currently Rep. Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) and Sen. Lonnie Paxton (R-Tuttle) — will see their leadership stipends increase by \$4,921.40, or about 26 percent. Former legislator James Leewright moved to establish speaker and president pro tempore stipends at 50 percent of the base salary. His motion passed 6-3, with Robert DeNegri, Scott Douglas and Jeff Baumann voting against it. Leewright also moved to make the stipends for each chamber’s appropriations committee chairperson, majority floor leader and minority floor leader equal to 33 percent of base salary. Functionally, that increased those six positions’ stipends from \$12,982.20 to \$15,675, a \$2,692.80 increase (or about 20 percent). The motion passed by the same tally of 6-3, with Chairman Brian Jackson, Chip Carter, Jennifer Miller, Gary Unruh and Matt Tilly joining Leewright in favor.

But for the day’s first vote, Jackson, Miller, and Unruh joined Douglas and Baumann in supporting DeNegri’s motion “that the salary remain the same as it is now” for all legislators. Leewright, Carter, and Tilly voted against it. “Our task now is to determine if the compensation paid to a legislator in Oklahoma is fair, regardless of what increases other people have had or what state employees are paid,” said DeNegri, the longest-tenured member of the obscure board. “It’s, ‘Is it fair?’ That’s what our job is.”

Perhaps caught off guard by DeNegri’s motion to keep legislative pay flat for the third straight time, Leewright later encouraged Jackson to place language on the agenda for the board’s upcoming — and unusual — subsequent meeting to allow for reconsideration of the base salary question. While Bauman seemed open to that idea, it irritated DeNegri and Douglas.

“The business that has already been done here does not need to be evaluated,” DeNegri said. “We’re not going to revote here.”

Carter interjected: “But we can. That’s up to us.”

Ultimately, Jackson called a subsequent meeting of the Board on Legislative Compensation for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, owing to a peculiar logistical problem.

Earlier this year, lawmakers passed HB 2674 to create a new Statewide Official Compensation Commission, which

shall consist of the same members as Board on Legislative Compensation and “shall be authorized to meet only on the same date.” Since the new law and board take effect Nov. 1, Maria Maule — a senior assistant attorney general assigned to staff Tuesday’s meeting — recommended that the LCB meet a second time this year on Nov. 4, to enable the SOCC to meet.

“For this first year, there’s a little bit of tension between those statutes, because a board that is not in effect can’t meet,” she said.

Leewright, the president of the Oklahoma Restaurant Association who still works with lawmakers in pursuit of policy changes, said he hoped his fellow board members would be willing to reconsider the topic of base legislative pay at that meeting.

“In fairness, I think it’s our job in this position, I think it’s our job to fully vet, and that’s why I made the motion to put it on our next agenda,” Leewright said.

Douglas responded quickly.

“I believe we were fair,” he said. “Why are we here now? Why did we just vote?”

If it needed to meet again, Carter noted that the board should at least have the option to reconsider its position because “you might find information that changes your mind.”

Maule said she would try to research whether any law would prevent a board from revoting on an issue at a subsequent meeting, although she “would counsel against it.”

Minutes before the meeting unraveled over what it could consider at its next meeting, Leewright pitched his perspective as a former House and Senate member — albeit long after the board’s vote to maintain base salary levels.

“My efforts here are to try to offset some of the cost. They have not seen any increase while we know what inflation has done. Beef alone has gone up to 115 percent. Most of these legislators are having to keep their apartments year round, even though they are not compensated for that,” Leewright said. “As a former legislator myself, I know the financial detriment that it has, and my goal is that as we are seeing more of this Legislature is either uniquely retired or extremely wealthy or you need to be fresh out of college, it is very difficult to get those that are in their peak earning years — the ones with the knowledge, the ones that have the pulse on what their district is doing — to want to commit to 12 years to serve. I’m trying to help defray some of the cost. I almost personally take it as an insult that this is an increase in what they are taking home. This is trying to defer costs that they have already.”

Leewright had also attempted to create new stipends for additional leadership positions — like assistant floor leaders

and majority whips — but his motion was rebuffed by Maule owing to the “narrow” wording of Tuesday’s agenda.

About three hours after the board adjourned, Paxton issued a press release that “encouraged members of the Legislative Compensation Board to reconsider their recent vote on pay for members of the Oklahoma Legislature.”

“I appreciate the members of the Legislative Compensation Board for having these difficult discussions and for agreeing to revisit this issue next month,” Paxton said. “Leadership pay adjustments should not be separate from member pay adjustments. Every legislator, regardless of title, works tirelessly to represent their constituents, pass meaningful legislation and help move Oklahoma forward. This is not unlike the approach some agencies have taken with state employees, who have appropriately received pay raises in recent years to help their salaries remain competitive with the private sector. Legislators have not received a pay adjustment since 2019. The job of a lawmaker takes substantial time away from families and other career obligations outside of the Capitol. For these reasons and more, any decision to increase leadership compensation should also reflect the work and commitment of every member.”

Two of Paxton’s appointees to the board, Baumann and Unruh, cast votes in favor of keeping the legislative base salary flat.

Background on Oklahoma legislative pay

In 2023 and 2021, the Board on Legislative Compensation voted to make no change to lawmakers’ base pay. In 2023, however, the board approved a 5 percent increase to the additional stipends that the eight leadership positions receive.

With members appointed by the governor and both chambers of the Oklahoma Legislature, the Board on Legislative Compensation meets every October in odd-numbered years to consider adjustments to lawmaker pay. For the first time in three meetings, a woman — Miller — had been appointed to the board.

In 2019, the board approved a \$12,749 raise for legislator pay, the first hike of lawmaker pay in 20 years. That came two years after the board cut legislators’ pay by 8.8 percent in 2017, a largely punitive decision made after the Legislature failed to address a significant budget shortfall during regular session.

Historically, the board has struggled to contextualize compensation packages for the Oklahoma Legislature compared to surrounding states, such as New Mexico where lawmakers receive no pay. In Texas, on the other hand, salary levels are low, but retirement packages are higher, campaign accounts can be used to pay for a variety of expenses and district offices are robustly funded.

Complicating the “total compensation” metric in Oklahoma is that legislators who live 51 miles or more from the State Capitol can claim a \$196 per diem expense for up to 68 legislative days. About one-third of the Legislature, however, lives within that radius and cannot claim those funds, while those who live beyond it often keep OKC-area apartments year-round.

On Nov. 4, the Board on Legislative Compensation is set to meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 4S.9 of the State Capitol. The same members are set to convene for the initial meeting of the Statewide Official Compensation Commission at 10:30 a.m. in the same room.

Historically, the Legislature has set the pay levels for statewide-elected officials, a dynamic that created perceived conflicts of interest during annual budget negotiations, such as the 2023 session that ended with the Senate not hearing a House bill to hike pay for future statewide officials. As a result, lawmakers this session created the new compensation commission.

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D. R. PAYNE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

RESTRUCTURING, ADVISORY, VALUATION & FORENSICS

Re: Commercial SWD Acquisition Opportunity

David Payne was recently appointed receiver over three (3) SWD's, one located in McClain County and two in Blaine County. The Receiver has court authority to sell all three properties as a group or individually.

As an example, our McClain County property, the Dibble SWD generates between 7,000 and 11,000 BBL of daily injection volumes with both contracted pipe volume and hauled volumes.

Should your firm or a firm that assists in moving your production water have an interest in this opportunity, please respond and we can execute an NDA and grant access to our virtual data room.

Please Contact PAUL SNISKY
Practice Development Director
Office (405) 272-0511 • Mobile (503) 753-6854
for more information.