LEGAL NOTICES

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

THE APPLICATION OF Lori Buesing

**Case No. CV-26-1579
2nd NOTICE OF HEARING**

Please take notice, that the undersigned will bring the above Application for hearing before Judge Bonner in room 304, Oklahoma County Courthouse, City of Oklahoma City, on the 15th day of October, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock a.m.

/s/ Lori Buesing

(Published in The Tribune September 25, 2026)
LPXLP

**DISTRICT COURT OF
OKLAHOMA COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

In Re: The Name of: Jessica Marie Annaomi Carpenter

**CV-2026-2212
NOTICE OF HEARING ON
PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

TO: All interested parties.

Take notice that Jessica Marie Annaomi Carpenter has petitioned to change his/her name to Hunter Marie Annaomi Carpenter.

A Hearing on said petition is set for 11:00 o'clock a.m. on the 20th day of October, 2026, before Judge Palumbo at 11:00 o'clock in courtroom 809 at the Oklahoma County Courthouse. Should you know of some reason why this change of name should not be allowed you must file a written protest in the above styled and numbered cause prior to the above date with the Clerk of this Court. Should you fail to do so, the petition for change of name will be granted as prayed.

**RICK WARREN, Court Clerk
BY DEPUTY
(SEAL)**

APPROVED:
/s/ Jessica Carpenter

(Published in The Tribune September 25, 2026)
LPXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On October 13th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. the Bethany Planning and Zoning Commission will during its regular session hold a public hearing at Bethany City Hall, 6700 N.W. 36th St., Bethany, OK 73008 for the following: Consideration of a Dumpster Screening Ordinance in the Commercial, Industrial, and Multifamily Residential Zoning Districts.

Following the public hearing the Bethany Planning & Zoning Commission will vote on the request and forward a recommendation to the Bethany City Council, which in turn will hear this case on November 3rd, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. At that meeting a second public hearing will be held and following the hearing the Council will vote to approve or deny the request.

The City of Bethany encourages participation from all its citizens. If participation at any public meeting is not possible due to a disability, notification to the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. The City may waive the 48-hour rule if signing is not the necessary accommodation.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On October 13th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. the Bethany Planning and Zoning Commission will during its regular session hold a public hearing at Bethany City Hall, 6700 N.W. 36th St., Bethany, OK 73008 for the following: Consideration of action on current PUD moratorium.

Following the public hearing the Bethany Planning & Zoning Commission will vote on the request and forward a recommendation to the Bethany City Council, which in turn will hear this case on November 3rd, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. At that meeting a second public hearing will be held and following the hearing the Council will vote to approve or deny the request.

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ORDINANCE NO. 2099

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 TO THE CITY OF BETHANY, OKLAHOMA CODE OF ORDINANCES GOVERNING HOTEL/MOTEL TAX REMOVING DISCOUNT PROVIDED TO OPERATOR FOR REMITTING TAXES ON TIME; AND INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR UNPAID TAXES FROM 2% TO 3%.

The foregoing ordinance was introduced before the Bethany City Council on the 15th day of September, 2026, and was duly adopted and approved by the Mayor and City Council on the 15th day of September, 2026, and after compliance with notice requirements of the Open Meeting Law (25 OSA, Sections 301, et seq.)

**MAYOR
/s/ Amanda Sandoval**

ATTEST:
**/s/ Michael Vaughn
CITY CLERK**
(SEAL)

(Published in The Tribune September 25, 2026)
LPXLP

Oklahoma U.S. attorneys join $245 Million COVID-era Fraud probe

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma last week announced charges against five defendants as part of a nationwide enforcement action led by the Justice Department's National Fraud Enforcement Division, the Small Business Administration, and the SBA Office of Inspector General targeting fraud in the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The Western District of Oklahoma was a key participant in this surge effort.

From June 12 to September 1, federal prosecutors across the country facilitated fraud enforcement actions spanning over 160 criminal defendants, including approximately 80 newly charged defendants, reaching approximately $245 million dollars in intended loss to American taxpayers.

"Those who exploited pandemic relief programs stole resources intended for legitimate businesses struggling to keep their doors open," said U.S. Attorney Robert J. Troester. "The cases brought in the Western District of Oklahoma demonstrate that fraud committed years ago will not simply be forgotten. Our office will continue to follow the evidence, pursue those who abused these programs, and seek justice on behalf of the American taxpayers who funded them."

"Pandemic loan relief was meant to keep American small businesses alive during government lockdowns—not line the pockets of fraudsters," said Attorney General Todd Blanche. "The defendants charged during our summer surge allegedly fabricated businesses, submitted false payroll and revenue claims, stole identities, and concealed foreign ties on their applications— but they will now be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

"This summer surge shows what is possible when dedicated public servants across the country work together with a single purpose," said Assistant Attorney General Colin M. McDonald of the National Fraud Enforcement Division. "Our mission is clear: protect taxpayer funds, safeguard the integrity of federal relief programs, and deliver justice to those who exploited them. We will remain steadfast every day—standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our partners—to identify fraud, pursue those responsible, and restore confidence in the programs meant to help American small businesses thrive."

Oklahoma County confusion:

Accounting errors, embezzlement inquiry spurs audit calls

Matt Patterson
Nondoc.com

Provided

Republican Maressa Treat and her husband, Greg, pose while casting their ballots in her race for Oklahoma County clerk Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the Oklahoma County Election Board.

The Oklahoma County Board of Commissioners voted 3-0 during a special meeting Friday, Sept. 18, to request a limited audit of the county's Fiscal Year 2025 budget. District Attorney Vicki Behenna told commissioners she had spoken with personnel at the State Auditor and Inspector's Office who believe problems with that year's budget are the primary cause of accounting errors. Owing to time constraints, Behenna told commissioners she does not favor a more comprehensive forensic audit dating back to 2023 at this time because she has seen no criminal wrongdoing in the accounting errors from the clerk's office. The county is expected to finalize its supplemental budget next month. The following article remains in its original form.)

The Oklahoma County Board of Commissioners is expected to decide Friday whether to make a formal request for the state to audit the county's ledger after a series of errors and an embezzlement scandal have stirred controversy over Clerk Maressa Treat's performance.

During Monday's meeting, interim District 3 Commissioner Paul Foster advocated for a forensic audit to be conducted by the State Auditor and Inspector's Office. Days earlier, District Attorney Vicki Behenna urged commissioners to call for a forensic audit into county budget blunders that have repeatedly drawn confusion over the past year.

That decision is poised to be made in a special meeting Friday morning. After Wednesday's regular meeting, District 2 Commissioner Brian Maughan said the board needed to wait two days to take a vote owing to several procedural hurdles that need to be cleared.

"What we came out and discussed on the horseshoe was that we will call for a special meeting this Friday where we'll have agenda items that will allow for us to discuss these things specifically," Maughan said following Wednesday's meeting. "We needed to know what we wanted to talk about so that we know how to draft which agenda items, and to enlist the services of the state auditor will require an agenda item specific for that. We'll need an engagement letter from her that will go over the cost of her services to perform that audit, and we're going to get more information back as to the timeline of what she thinks it will take to turn around and get us a result."

State Auditor Cindy Byrd, who is likely to be sworn in as state treasurer in January if she defeats Libertarian Kiefer Perry in November, has long noted a backlog of audit requests at her agency. Melissa Capps is set to become state auditor in 2027, and audit requests routinely take at least a full year to complete.

During Wednesday's county meeting, Foster told Maughan and District 1 Commissioner Jason Lowe that it is time to take a look under the hood of the county's financial accounting at the clerk's office. Foster referenced prior problems identified in annual county audits, which were outlined in a draft letter to Byrd's office requesting a forensic review.

In the Fiscal Year 2023 "single audit" of Oklahoma County, state officials identified a "lack of internal controls over the financial statements and disclosures." Treat had taken office in April 2023 following a special election to replace former Clerk David B. Hooten, who resigned during an investigation into alleged sexual harassment and bizarre statements to staff where he claimed to have been "genetically altered" to be impervious to alcohol.

The draft letter dated Wednesday noted that the state auditor again highlighted a lack of internal financial controls in the FY 2024 audit, which "fell entirely within [Treat's] tenure." According to the letter:

Repeat Finding 2024-001 identified $1,975,137 in omitted infrastructure additions, a $1,180,507 understatement of custodial-fund cash and investments, $14,892,110 incorrectly reported as unearned General Fund revenue, and $7,000,000 in General Fund transfers that should not have appeared on the basic financial statements. Those errors also required correction during the audit.

"I think given prior audit findings with respect to previous actors that we've had, the ongoing investigation regarding possible embezzlement involving an employee of the clerk's office, as well as continued budget errors and fund balance corrections, that we owe it to the other elected officials, we owe it to county employees, and we owe it to the citizens of Oklahoma County to have an accurate accounting and reconciliation of all county funding," Foster said Wednesday.

The Oklahoma County Clerk's Office has had a tumultuous year. As noted by Foster, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation has opened a criminal probe into a former employee of Treat's office who was terminated for embezzlement in July.

In April, the clerk's office heralded the discovery of $14 million in its reserve fund following the supposed identification of a bookkeeping error, but that development proved to be a mirage as employees further worked through the books. During a Budget Evaluation Team meeting Sept. 11, District 1 Deputy Commissioner Joe Blaugh said the reserve fund actually holds about $3 million, roughly $11 million less than the $14 million figure that made headlines in the spring.

Treat: 'I welcome an audit'

In a press release distributed Tuesday, Treat said she supports the proposed audit of her office.

"I welcome an audit, and my staff and I are fully committed to assisting auditors in every way possible," Treat said. "Oklahoma County taxpayers deserve complete confidence in the financial information their government provides. When errors occur, our responsibility is to identify them, correct them and determine what changes are necessary to keep them from happening again."

In her press release, Treat said the issues with errors are a result of inefficient practices that predated her arrival in the clerk's office. She said the county's current system invites potential problems with accounting.

"This isn't a case of millions of dollars disappearing," Treat said. "The money isn't missing. What we have identified are errors in how information was entered and reported. But taxpayers should expect systems to be in place that catch those mistakes. Right now, Oklahoma County has multiple offices operating through different financial systems and processes, and that makes effective countywide checks and balances nearly impossible."

But on Wednesday, Foster pushed back on Treat's press release, saying the task of accurately accounting for county finances is challenging but not impossible.

"In the clerk's press release yesterday, she advocated for a uniform financial system across departments," Foster told fellow commissioners. "Although I agree with that completely, I disagree with her statement that said, 'Oklahoma County has multiple offices operating through different financial systems and processes, and that makes effective countywide checks and balances nearly impossible.' Does it make it more difficult and inefficient? Absolutely, but it is by no means nearly impossible. Different people have been able to balance and reconcile yearly budgets in the past, despite not having a uniform system in which to do so."

Treat is also under fire from other county officials. In a Wednesday press release, Oklahoma County Assessor Larry Stein said that he not only supports a forensic audit, but he suggested that Treat potentially be suspended or placed on leave while it is in progress.

"While the audit is underway, I also encourage the Board of County Commissioners to consider whether temporarily having the county clerk step aside would help ensure the full cooperation of county employees and allow the audit to proceed as efficiently and objectively as possible," Stein wrote.

Audit has 'nothing to do' with jail sales tax vote

The calls for an audit come at a time when some county officials are urging voters to support a sales tax proposal on the ballot Nov. 3 that would help fund the construction and operating of a new Oklahoma County Jail. The county's struggles to fund a new jail amid problems with the current facility have made headlines for years.

But Maughan said there is little connection to be drawn between the accounting errors at hand and the jail sales tax vote.

"This has nothing to do with the proposed sales tax that's coming up," Maughan said after Wednesday's meeting. "This is an accounting error for where we don't believe there's any money missing, but that the number might be just incorrect in terms of where we got here, but never at any point was money absconded and things of that nature. For the public to feel confident that they can go ahead and trust us with the jail tax that we're asking for in November I think is extremely important, because it's a separate and unrelated matter, and what we need is to have those funds in order to finish the construction of the jail and to be able to successfully operate it from there going forward. So, to me, I can understand why there's public concern, but they're totally separate issues."