

LEGAL NOTICES

Commissioner seeks sales tax to fund new Ok County jail

Tres Savage and Matt Patterson
Nondoc.com

Oklahoma County voters could face an April 7 ballot question

IN THE DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THOMAS BLACKMON CURLEE, JR., A Partially Incapacitated Person

CASE NO. PG-2004-324
NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
(Private Sale — 58 O.S. § 423)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order Authorizing Sale of Real Property at Private Sale entered in the above-captioned proceeding on January 7, 2026, the undersigned Guardian will sell at private sale the following described real property (the "Property"): 606 W. 7th, Edmond, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma 73003;

Legal Description: TERRACE ADD Block 003 Lot 002, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

The sale of the Property will be made on or after January 30, 2026 (the "Sale Date"). The Sale Date is not less than ten (10) days from the first publication of this Notice, and the sale will not be made before the Sale Date. The sale must be made within one (1) year after the Sale Date.

Place where offers or bids will be received:

All bids or offers must be in writing and must be made any time after the first publication of notice, and before the making of the sale. Further, any bid must identify the purchaser(s) and his/her contact information. Written bids/offers may be made as follows:

1. Delivered personally to the Guardian's attorney, Christian M. Zeaman, P.C. at 16362 Muirfield Place, Edmond, Oklahoma 73013, (after first publication and before the making of the sale).

2. Electronically transmitted via email or facsimile to the following email: christian@zeamanlaw.com; fax 1-888-691-6906.

DATED this 7th day of January, 2026

/s/ Patricia Miller
Patricia Ann Miller, Guardian

/s/ Christian Zeaman
CHRISTIAN M. ZEAMAN, OBA # 18887
16362 Muirfield Place, Edmond, OK 73013
(405) 601-3000
fax (888) 691-6906
ATTORNEY FOR GUARDIAN

(Published in The Tribune January 16 and 23, 2026)
LPXLP

on whether to approve a sales tax of less than 1 percent to fund the construction and operation of the long-awaited new jail that faces a financing gap of at least \$400 million.

As proposed by District 1 Commissioner Jason Lowe and pitched by Lowe's staff to District 2 Commissioner Brian Maughan and District 3 Commissioner Myles Davidson, the proposition would ask voters to authorize a permanent 5/8-cent — or 0.625 percent — countywide sales tax to support the new jail and other "public safety operations and improvements."

The proposed ballot title states, in part: (...) the purpose of the sales tax shall be to fund public safety operations and improvements within the county, including, but not limited to, operation, maintenance, construction, renovation, equipping, staffing and improvement of adult detention, diversion, behavioral health, courtroom, sheriff, emergency management, emergency medical services, and public infrastructure and located within Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, and/or the payment of debt service and related financing costs on obligations issued for said purpose (...).

If two of the three commissioners approve a resolution sending the question to a vote of the people, Oklahoma County stakeholders will face a complicated political dynamic.

On the one hand, the tax could generate about \$120 million per year and ultimately solve a criminal justice crisis that has plagued the community for decades. On the other, metro voters have already created or extended several taxes in recent years, including a property tax for the jail

in 2022. In a packed election year, the ballot question would jump to the forefront of Oklahoma County conversations, with business, philanthropic and political leaders feeling pressure to line up for or against the county's first permanent sales tax.

Friday afternoon, Lowe formally asked District Attorney Vicki Behenna to review the ballot language in anticipation of voting as a commission Jan. 20.

"I have spoken many times about the need to allow the voters of this county to decide the future of Oklahoma County's jail crisis and the need to build, operate and maintain a new county jail," Lowe said. "In my time here, it has become very apparent to me that we are on an unsustainable path not only with the detention center, but also with other critical public safety issues within Oklahoma County."

Learning of Lowe's proposal Friday, Maughan declined to indicate whether he would vote with Lowe and send the question to the public, but he suggested he has been rebuffed by Oklahoma City business leaders when seeking support for similar ideas.

"I don't know who would run the campaign since the chamber has declined, and I understand they have yet to locate someone who will do it," Maughan said. "Someone's got to make those ads, so I don't know who is going to do that. I've yet to be able to find anybody to run the campaign or serve as the committee chair or the treasurer."

Lowe and Maughan both said they had met with Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce leaders recently to review the organization's polling data about the jail project. Lowe seemed to hold out hope that influential community leaders will eventually get behind the proposal.

"It's up to them," Lowe said of the chamber. "I think it's our responsibility as elected officials to bring these matters to the voters. I can't wait around for someone else to act, respectfully. It's my job to solve problems. That's why I was elected to this position."

Maughan feared the chamber's decision was already final.

"I was appealing to them to run the campaign, and they've declined to do it at this time," Maughan said. "I understand that you have to have the resources in order for a campaign to be successful, and I think the issue is the same that they haven't identified someone who was willing to lead that charge from the corporate philanthropy world that usually has been the figurehead types to raise the kind of money needed to run a campaign."

Cynthia Reid, the Greater OKC Chamber's senior vice president for communications, said Friday the organization was reviewing Lowe's proposal and would likely comment next week.

Maughan said he asked Lowe's chief deputy, John Pettis Jr., whether any significant financial backer had been identified for such a campaign.

"He said they had

not but still intended to move forward, and I recognize why. It's because they're at a deadline to get it on the ballot. But I just don't know how you run the campaign if you don't already have somebody identified to do that," Maughan said. "I believe this is going to be a very expensive campaign. It's been estimated about \$1.5 million, and that's just based on the amount spent in the most recent sheriff race and district attorney race — it's not a made-up figure, OK? And that's just not a type of campaign that can be raised through grassroots contributions. It would require major philanthropy."

Still, Lowe said voters deserve proposals for solutions.

"I'm not going to wait around for someone else to act on my behalf," Lowe said. "I think we just need to take it to the voters and let the voters decide on this issue."

Davidson did not seek a phone call seeking comment prior to the publication of this article, but Lowe seemed optimistic Davidson would support the vote.

"I anticipate Myles being on board with this," Lowe said.

Maughan said he asked Pettis whether Davidson had "signed off," but he called Pettis' response "elusive."

Like Lowe, Davidson faces at least two challengers for reelection in June. Unlike Lowe, Davidson has been under investigation by the Oklahoma City Police Department for allegations of sexual assault and harassment since September. His accuser, who filed for a protective order in

Cleveland County, has a scheduled hearing in the civil case next week, but an OKCPD spokesman said Jan. 5 that the allegation "is still being investigated," with results "presented to the AG's office when it's completed."

Maughan seemed disappointed that the matter remains unresolved five months later.

"It will just continue to, I'm sure, be an issue as the campaign goes forward," Maughan said. "I'm sure all the parties involved would like to have a resolution."

The new jail at 1901 E. Grand Boulevard in Oklahoma City has also faced its share of problems, most notably cost. Its ballooning price tag has led commissioners to consider an array of options instead of a sales tax, including raising property taxes and a tax on cannabis. Ultimately, Lowe settled on proposing a sales tax.

The jail's size has also been a subject of debate. District 1 Commissioner Jason Lowe favors a 1,800-bed facility, while District 3 Commissioner Myles Davidson wants a jail in excess of 2,200 beds. The current jail averaged about 1,600 detainees in 2025. While Davidson and others have preached planning for future population growth, Lowe said the proposed sales tax language would allow for funding of additional behavioral health and jail diversion resources.

The new jail project includes an attached 60-bed behavioral health center that is already supported by \$40 million of American Rescue Plan Act money.



Provided
(Above) A rendering shows the front of the new Oklahoma County Detention Center proposed for 1901 E. Grand Blvd. in southeast Oklahoma City. (Top) Construction crews work at the site of the new Oklahoma County Jail on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2025.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On February 5, 2026, and February 19, 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: Hold a discussion in accordance with the City of Bethany's Comprehensive Plan, regarding the potential rezoning of the North Rockwell corridor to Industrial.

The City is seeking input from property owners within a 300-foot radius of the subject area, as well as from other interested parties, to help inform this discussion. This meeting will serve as a public hearing for discussion purposes only; no vote or formal action will be taken at this time. Property owners and interested parties are encouraged to attend the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to provide input or obtain additional information. The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold two

public hearings, during which all interested citizens will have the opportunity to speak before the Commission regarding the proposed item.

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.

Hearing Schedule

Property owners from NW 50th Street to NW 55th Street:
February 5, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Property owners from NW 55th Street to NW 63rd Street:
February 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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