LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The City of Grove is soliciting bids for janitorial services for city owned properties. The bids shall be a monthly flat rate for certain city owned properties and per clean for the Wolf Creek Expo. All SEALED BIDS shall be marked "Janitorial Services" and must be received in the office of the City Clerk on or before Tuesday, September 29, 2026 by 9:00AM. Mail or hand deliver bids to City of Grove – 1201 NEO Loop – Grove, OK 74344 - Attention City Clerk, Karyn Pesich. No electronic bids will be accepted.

A site visit is required. Contact Steven Blood, Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, 918-314-6562 to obtain Bid Specifications and schedule a site visit of locations to be cleaned. Anticipate approximately 1.5 hours for the site visit. The City of Grove reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Karyn Pesich
City Clerk

(Published in the Grove Sun August 25 and 28, 2026)
LPXLP

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

MAXWELL CONSTRUCTION, LLC
Plaintiff,

vs.

RICKY L. WOLVERTON and SPOUSE, if any, MICHAEL OLEN CRUSE and SPOUSE, if any; GAIL GALLO, GERALDINE K. CASPER, and MISTY CRUSE, all if living, and if any of them be deceased, the Unknown Successors of such Deceased Defendant or Defendants. Defendants.

Case No. CV-2026-112
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO: RICKY L. WOLVERTON and SPOUSE, if any, MICHAEL OLEN CRUSE and SPOUSE, if any, GAIL GALLO and GERALDINE K. CASPER; all if living, and if any of them be deceased, the Unknown Successors of such Deceased Defendant or Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 23rd day of July, 2026, Plaintiff, Maxwell Construction, LLC, filed a Petition in the above-entitled action wherein they seek the judgment of said Court quieting their title to all the following described real property:

A tract of land in the NE¼ NE¼ of Section 15, Township 25 North, Range 23 East in Delaware County, Oklahoma and being more fully described as follows:

Commencing at the NE corner of said Section 15; thence S 89º 58' West along the North line of Section 15, 1000.00 feet; thence S 00º 02' West, 435.6 feet to the point of beginning; thence S 10º 01' 34" West, 98.69 feet; thence S 28º 17' 01" West 215.47 feet to a point on the North right of way line of Highway "59"; thence S 62º 19' East along said right of way, 147.88 feet; thence N 27º 54' East, 402.53 feet;
thence S 89º 58' West 200.03 feet to the point of beginning, subject to any and all easements, Less all that part taken for Highway.

and for further judgment adjudging Plaintiff's title to said real property to be legal and valid and forever quieting said title in Plaintiffs as against the claims of the Defendants, or anyone claiming by, through or under them; for perpetual injunction against the Defendants named in Plaintiff's Petition and all persons claiming by, through or under them, from hereafter claiming or asserting any right, title or interest in and to said real property, and for equitable relief, and unless you, said Defendants, answer Plaintiffs' Petition herein on or before the 28th day of September, 2026 Plaintiff will take judgment against you in accordance with the prayer of its Petition as above set forth.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this 11th day of August, 2026.

Karma Sapp, Court Clerk
By: /s/ Nikitia Smoke
Deputy

John W. Thomas,
OBA #22445
DAVIS AND THOMPSON, PLLC
207 East Central
Miami, Oklahoma 74354
(918) 542-5524

(Published in the Grove Sun August 14, 21, and 28, 2026)
LPXLP

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: BILLY G. McCUTCHIN, AND the unknown heirs, successors and assigns, known and unknown, of BILLY G. McCUTCHIN, if Deceased, AND BEDA SHARON McCUTCHIN, AND the unknown heirs, successors and assigns, known and unknown, of BEDA SHARON McCUTCHIN

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the District Court of Delaware County, Oklahoma, in Case No. CV-2026-127 wherein JAY GOEKE AND KELLY MOORE are the Plaintiffs, and unless you answer the Petition that the Plaintiff filed against you on or before the 15th day of October, 2626, the allegations of the Petition of the Plaintiffs will be taken as true and judgment rendered as prayed for, and the above named Defendants' interest in and to the following described real property located in Delaware County, Oklahoma:

A tract of land in the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (N/2 NW/4 SE/4) of Section Thirty-five (35), Township Twenty-four (24) North, Range Twenty-two (22) East, Delaware County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point 945' West of the NE corner of said N/2 NW/4 SE/4, thence West 360' to a point of the easterly boundary of existing road known as Dogwood Drive, said point being 15' East of the center of said Section 35, thence Southeasterly (approx. S. 14°00' E.) along Easterly boundary of said road a distance of 230', more or less to a point in the centerline of the existing county road (Green Country Drive), as described in easement recorded in Book 356 Page 389, thence Easterly on and along said centerline approximately 330' to a point due South of the Point of Beginning, thence North approx. 152' to the Point of Beginning

Witness my hand and seal this 14th day of August, 2026.

COURT CLERK OF
DELAWARE COUNTY
By: /s/ R Karleskint
Deputy Court Clerk

Kristina E. Bennett,
OBA #18339
3510 South 79 East Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145
918.794.5712
918.512.4350 - facsimile
kbennett@apex-closings.com

(Published in the Grove Sun August 21, 28, and September 4, 2026)
LPXLP

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: GERALD LOUIS SMITH; THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF GERALD LOUIS SMITH; THE SPOUSE OF GERALD LOUIS SMITH, IF ANY; ANGELA JUNE SMITH; THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF ANGELA JUNE SMITH; AND THE SPOUSE OF ANGELA JUNE SMITH, IF ANY.

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in the District Court of Delaware County, Oklahoma, in Case No. CV-2026-128, wherein BRYANT Z. BENNETT and MELISSA BENNETT, are the Plaintiffs, and GERALD LOUIS SMITH; THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF GERALD LOUIS SMITH; THE SPOUSE OF GERALD LOUIS SMITH, IF ANY; ANGELA JUNE SMITH; THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF ANGELA JUNE SMITH; AND THE SPOUSE OF ANGELA JUNE SMITH, IF ANY, are the Defendants, and unless you answer the Petition of the Plaintiffs filed against you on or before the 15th day of October, 2026, the allegations of the Petition of the Plaintiffs will be taken as true and judgment rendered as prayed for, and the above named Defendant's interest in and to the following described real property located in Delaware County, Oklahoma, will be foreclosed:

Lots One (1), Two (2), and Three (3), Block "G", AND Lots Seven (7), Eight (8), and Nine (9), Block "M", ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF LAKOMA PARK, Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 14 day of August, 2026.

COURT CLERK OF
DELAWARE COUNTY
By: /s/ R Karleskint
Deputy Court Clerk

Kristina E. Bennett,
OBA #18339
3510 South 79 East Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145
918.794.5712
918.512.4350 - facsimile
kbennett@apex-closings.com

(Published in the Grove Sun August 21, 28, and September 4, 2026)
LPXLP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

JEFFERY RIGGS, as Trustee of the RIGGS LAKEHOUSE FAMILY TRUST, Plaintiff,

v.

LESTER HALE and ALICE HALE, if living, and if deceased, their unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, successors, and assigns; and all other persons or entities claiming any interest in the property described herein, Defendants.

Case No: CV-26-129
Judge: Crutchfield
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Lester Hale and Alice Hale, if living, and if deceased, their unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, successors, and assigns; and all other persons or entities unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real property described herein:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Jeffery Riggs, as Trustee of the Riggs Lakehouse Family Trust, Plaintiff, has filed a Petition to Quiet Title in the above-captioned action in the District Court of Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, against you and each of you, as Defendants.

The subject matter of said action involves the following described real property situated in Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

TRACT 1

A part of the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 03, Township 23 North, Range 22 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, in Delaware County, Oklahoma, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the NW Corner of Lot 15 Dripping Springs Addition to Delaware County, State of Oklahoma; Thence N 63°50'33" W a distance of 17.04'; Thence S 35°33'47" W 22.37' to the Centerline of the Existing Boat Ramp; Thence along said Boat Ramp N 07°46'02" W 40.50' to a point; Thence leaving said Boat Ramp N 39°07'00" E a distance of 68.69' to a point on the GRDA Taking Line; Thence S 43°51'46" E 88.91'; Thence leaving said Taking Line S 05°19'45" W 51.47' to a found 3/8" iron rebar being the NE Corner of Lot 15; Thence N 63°50'33" W a distance of 73.96' to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.15 acres, more or less. Subject to any easements and/or rights-of-way of record.

TRACT 2

A part of the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 03, Township 23 North, Range 22 East of the Indian Base and Meridian, in Delaware County, Oklahoma, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the NW Corner of Lot 15 Dripping Springs Addition to Delaware County, State of Oklahoma; Thence S 02°45'31" W a distance of 85.94' to a point; Thence N 66°38'11" W a distance of 18.86' to a point; Thence N 04°38'54" W a distance of 41.35' to a point; Thence N 67°46'02" W a distance of 24.86' to a point; Thence N 35°33'47" E a distance of 22.37' to a point; Thence S 63°50'33" E a distance of 17.04' to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.04 acres, more or less. Subject to any easements and/or rights-of-way of record.

Plaintiff seeks a decree of this Court quieting title to the above-described real property in Plaintiff, Jeffery Riggs, as Trustee of the Riggs Lakehouse Family Trust, by virtue of adverse possession pursuant to 60 O.S. § 333 and 12 O.S. § 93, and forever barring and enjoining Defendants, and each of them, from asserting any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in said property adverse to Plaintiff.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that you must answer the Petition filed herein on or before the 15th day of October, 2026, which date is not less than forty-one (41) days from the date of first publication of this Notice. If you fail to answer, judgment will be rendered against you as prayed for in the Petition.

This Notice shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in Delaware County, Oklahoma, as required by 12 O.S. § 2004(C).

Karma Sapp
Court Clerk, Delaware County, Oklahoma
By: /s/ Ashlynn Roberson
Deputy Court Clerk

Submitted by:

/s/ Sandra Frazier
Sandra Frazier, OBA #18276
WIRTH LAW OFFICE
2615 E. 15th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135
Telephone: (918) 932-2800
Facsimile: (918) 932-2900
sandra@wirthlawoffice.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

(Published in the Grove Sun August 28, September 4 and 11, 2026)
LPXLP

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES LEON WICKLIFFE, Deceased.

Case No. PB-2020-60
NOTICE OF HEARING
RETURN OF SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Tom Wickliffe, Personal Representative of the Estate of Charles Leon Wickliffe, Deceased, has presented for confirmation, and filed in this Court his Return of Sale of Real Property wherein the Personal Representative states as follows:

That the Personal Representative sold to Ruby Rodriguez Espinosa for the total sum of $161,000.00 the following-described real property, to-wit:

A tract of land in the NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4 of Section 19, Township 21 North, Range 23 East, Delaware County, Oklahoma, described as follows:

Beginning at the NE corner of the NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4 of Section 19; thence South 210 feet; thence West 150 feet; thence North 210 feet; thence East 150 feet to the point of beginning, Delaware County, Oklahoma,

A tract of land in the NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4, Section 19, Township 21 North, Range 23 East, Delaware County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as:

Beginning at a point 1320 feet South and 150 feet West of the NE corner of the NW1/4 of said Section 19; thence 210 feet South along a line parallel to the East line of NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4; thence 247.60 feet West along a line parallel to North line of NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4 to centerline of a County Road; thence 231.93 feet Northeasterly along the centerline of the County Road to a point on the North line of the NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4, thence 149.80 feet East along the North line of the NE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4, to the point of beginning, subject to any and all easements.

The Hearing on the Return of Sale has been scheduled for the 15th day of September 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the District Court Room in the Courthouse in the City of Jay, Delaware County, before the undersigned Judge at which time any person interested in said estate may appear and contest the same.

Reference is made to the Return of Sale of Property on file herein for further particulars.

Witness My Hand this 26th day of August 2026.

/s/ Nicholas Lelecas
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

/s/ Clayton M. Baker
Clayton M. Baker,
O.B.A. #32347
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
P.O. Box 487
Jay, Oklahoma 74346
(918) 253-4220
(918) 253-8110 facsimile
Attorney for Personal Representative

(Published in the Grove Sun August 28, 2026)
LPXLP

DISTRICT COURT OF
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FERREL D. JOHNSTON, DECEASED.

No. PB-2025-2
ORDER AND NOTICE FOR
HEARING PETITION TO SELL
PROPERTY

NOW on this 24th day of August, 2026, there having been filed in this Court the Petition of Personal Representative Mary Bowman to Sell Real and Personal Property of Ferrel D. Johnston, deceased ("Decedent"). It appears to the satisfaction of the Court from the Verified Petition of the Personal Representative that it is in the best interests of the Decedent's Estate to sell the real and personal property belonging to the Estate as described in the Petition.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Court that all persons interested in the Estate of Decedent appear before the District Court of Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, in the City of Jay the 22nd day of September, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. to show cause, if any they have, why an Order as prayed for in the Petition should not be granted to the Personal Representative to sell the real and personal property of Decedent at public auction or private sale as the Personal Representative deems most beneficial to the Estate for the reasons and purposes set forth in the Petition.

IT IS THEREFORE FURTHER ORDERED that copies of this Order and Notice be mailed to all heirs, legatees, devisees or guardians thereof, with postage thereon prepaid, at their last known addresses; and that a copy of this Order and Notice be published once in some newspaper published in this county, the first publication of which shall not be less than ten (10) days before the time fixed for the hearing.

/s/ David Crutchfield
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Presented by:
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 August 28, 2026)
LPXLP

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

In the Matter of the Estate of DOROTHY M. GOERTZ, deceased.

Case No. PB-2026-64
NOTICE OF PRIVATE SALE
OF REAL PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that, in pursuance of an Order of the District Court of Delaware County, State of Oklahoma, made and entered in the above-entitled estate on the 25th day of August, 2026, the undersigned Personal Representative of the estate of DOROTHY M. GOERTZ, deceased, will sell at private sale to the highest and best bidder, subject to confirmation by said Court, on or after the 8th day of September, 2026, at 1:00 o'clock p.m., at The Hartley Law Firm, PLLC, all the right, title, interest, and estate of DOROTHY M. GOERTZ, deceased, at the time of her death, and all the right, title, and interest that the estate has, by operation of law or otherwise, acquired in and to the following described real property situated in Delaware County, Oklahoma:

Undivided one-half interest in Lot Seven (7), Block Two (2), OAKRIDGE ESTATES II, a subdivision, Delaware County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded Plat thereof, and

Undivided one-half interest in Lot Nine (9), Block Two (2), OAKRIDGE ESTATES II, a subdivision, Delaware County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded Plat thereof.

Bids must be in writing and may be left at the place designated above or delivered to the Personal Representative or her attorneys any time after the first publication of this Notice and before the making of the sale. The terms and conditions of the sale are as follows: cash. The sale is subject to confirmation by the District Court of Delaware County, Oklahoma.

DATED this 25th day of August, 2026.

THE HARTLEY LAW FIRM, PLLC
By: /s/ Travis Hartley
Travis Hartley, OBA #20238
177 W. Delaware, P.O. Box 553
Vinita, Oklahoma 74301-0553
918/256-2100 FAX 918/256-2121
Attorneys for Petitioner

(Published in the Grove Sun August 28 and September 4, 2026)
LPXLP

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KIT LANCE COUGHRAN, Deceased

CASE NO. PB-2026-67

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All creditors having claims against KIT LANCE COUGHRAN, 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 Administrator, ISABELLA M. COUGHRAN, c/o her attorney, Susan A. Muscari, Muscari Law, PLLC, P. O. Box 452409, Grove, OK 74345, on or before the following presentment date: the 26th day of October, 2026, or the same will be forever barred.

/s/ Isabella M Coughran
ISABELLA M. COUGHRAN,
Administrator

Produced by:
Susan A. Muscari,
OBA #16521
MUSCARI LAW, PLLC
P. O. Box 452409
Grove, OK 74345
PH: (918)791-3150
s.muscari@muscarilaw.com
Attorney for Administrator

(Published in the Grove Sun August 28 and September 4, 2026)
LPXLP

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHNNY M. STONECIPHER, Deceased

CASE NO. PB-2026-82

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All creditors having claims against JOHNNY M. STONECIPHER, 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 Administrator, JOHNITA LEA STONECIPHER, c/o her attorney, Susan A. Muscari, Muscari Law, PLLC, P. O. Box 452409, Grove, OK 74345, on or before the following presentment date: the 26th day of October, 2026, or the same will be forever barred.

/s/ Johnita Lea Stonecipher
JOHNITA LEA STONECIPHER,
Administrator

Produced by:
Susan A. Muscari,
OBA #16521
MUSCARI LAW, PLLC
P. O. Box 452409
Grove, OK 74345
PH: (918)791-3150
s.muscari@muscarilaw.com
Attorney for Administrator

(Published in the Grove Sun August 28 and September 4, 2026)
LPXLP

DISTRICT COURT OF
DELAWARE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE ROSS, DECEASED.

PB-2026-84
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All creditors having claims against Charlotte 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, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 487, Jay, OK 74346, on or before the following presentment date: October 23, 2026 or the same will be forever barred.

DATED this 17th day of August, 2026.

/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 August 21 and 28, 2026)
LPXLP

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM JAMES MARLAR JR, Deceased

CASE NO. PB-2026-86

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PLEASE SEE
LEGALS *PG 7*

Governor Stitt establishes Oklahoma Beef Industry Advisory Council

Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt signed an executive order Tuesday, Aug. 25, creating the Oklahoma Beef Industry Advisory Council to prepare for President Donald Trump's announced executive order to increase imported beef that must be sold below U.S. market rates.

Chaired by Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur, the council will meet and deliver public recommendations to protect and grow Oklahoma's beef industry following the federal government's announced plans to increase imported beef.

"If Washington wants lower prices for Americans, it should focus on free market solutions that remove barriers that drive up cost, not undercut the American ranchers who feed our country," said Stitt. "When the government tries to put its thumb on the scale, it ultimately drives up costs for everyone. We will stand with Oklahomans who produce our food and protect our state's position as a leader in the beef industry."

Prior to filing the executive order, Governor Stitt held a roundtable discussion with Sec. Arthur and Oklahoma cattle producers. The governor heard directly from producers about challenges facing the industry and asked for ideas to strengthen Oklahoma's beef market and support the families who raise cattle.

Stitt said the council will include leaders with experience in cattle production, beef processing, agricultural economics, and market development. Its members, according to the governor, will "work quickly to identify practical, Oklahoma-led solutions that support the state's beef industry."

"I can't stress enough how thankful I am to have Governor Stitt's continued dedication to Oklahoma farmers and ranchers," said Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Blayne Arthur. "Agriculture is a key driver of the Oklahoma economy, and this council will do everything we can to collaborate with and support current and future generations of the hardworking members of the Oklahoma beef industry."

Oklahoma is home to 4.65 million cattle and calves, including nearly 2 million beef cows, making it one of the nation's leading cattle-producing states.



Governor Kevin Stitt speaks to Oklahoma cattle producers about his new advisory council created by executive order in response to President Trump's plan to increase imported beef to be sold below U.S. market rates.

New AG opinion from Drummond:

Farmers don't need highway escort to haul equipment



Gentner Drummond

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond issued an opinion Monday, Aug. 24, protecting farmers from being cited for not having a highway escort when they haul equipment between fields. The opinion, A.G. 2026-11, clarifies state law concerning oversized vehicles.

Oklahoma law generally requires a vehicle wider than 12 feet to be accompanied by an escort vehicle while traveling on state highways. The rule is meant to keep large loads like construction equipment, oversized machinery, and manufactured homes safely visible to other drivers.

Drummond's opinion concludes that requirement does not apply to farm equipment. Oklahoma law defines equipment used exclusively for farming, such as swathers and balers, as an "implement of husbandry" rather than a "vehicle," and specifically excludes implements of husbandry and the trailers used to haul them from the state's definition of "vehicle." Because the escort law only applies to vehicles, it does not apply to farm equipment or the trailers hauling it.

The opinion was requested by state Rep. Dick Lowe after an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper cited a driver for hauling a swather on a trailer without an escort.

"Oklahoma farm families move equipment between fields every day of the growing season, and our laws should reflect that reality," Drummond said. "This opinion provides clarity for both farmers and law enforcement and makes clear that hauling a piece of farm equipment down a country road is exactly the kind of common-sense activity our laws were never meant to restrict."

Farmers hauling equipment must still use proper lighting and take reasonable steps to reduce the equipment's width for the road, as required under separate state safety laws, and drivers remain responsible for operating with regard for the safety of others on the road.

Federal audit exposes recurring problems in state agencies

Oklahoma State Auditor & Inspector (SA&I) Cindy Byrd released the Federal Single Audit for FY 2024. This annual audit is a federally-mandated examination of whether the State of Oklahoma spent federal grant money in compliance with federal regulations.

The audit report covers roughly $14 billion of expenditures which are audited based upon a formula provided by the federal government.

"This is the fourth Single Audit in a row in which we have warned lawmakers and agency directors about the consequences of mishandling federal money," Byrd said. "While the amount in questioned costs has decreased from the previous year, Oklahoma still has improvements to make to ensure good financial management. The debt is piling up and Oklahoma taxpayers could be forced to refund millions of dollars to the federal government."

This year's audit found questioned costs totaling almost $25 million. Questioned costs are any expenditures that do not comply with the law, cannot be documented, and/or appear unreasonable or unethical. The combined questioned costs from the last five Federal Single Audits stands at more than $200 million.

"The federal government has the authority to demand all of that money back from the State of Oklahoma," Byrd said.

The latest audit reveals particular problems at the Department of Human Services (DHS) the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES), and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS).

According to Byrd, DHS failed to provide proper oversight of its Child Care Desert Grant Program (CCD), its Low-Income Heat and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

CCD: DHS failed to monitor attendance records. As a result, 23% of the facilities tested by SA&I were claiming children attendance that significantly exceeded each facility's licensed capacity. Approximately 95% of all CCD dollars tested for this year's report, $12.6 million, are labeled as questioned costs. Total questioned costs for all DHS daycare programs is $14.5 million. The risk of fraud remains extremely high as DHS does not have adequate controls to identify fraudulent activities at child care centers.

LIHEAP & LIHWAP: DHS failed to provide oversight which allowed a former employee to misappropriate almost $2 million from LIHEAP and LIHWAP. That employee was the primary administrator with final approval authority over LIHEAP applications. This employee appears to have accessed expired applications and approved payments under the names of former LIHEAP recipients. He also had the ability to modify banking information.

SNAP: Starting in October of 2027, the federal government will slash SNAP benefits for states with an error rate of 6% or higher. Oklahoma's error rate is currently 11%. If DHS fails to rectify this problem, Oklahoma taxpayers stand to lose more than $236 million in federal funding each year.

OMES has $3.8 million in questioned costs for the Emergency Rental Assistance program (ERA). This is in addition to the $15.8 million in questioned costs identified previously in the ERA program.

ODMHSAS spent $6.2 million on designs and planning for the proposed Donahue Behavioral Health Campus. ODMHSAS failed to evaluate the feasibility or long-term funding requirements for the facility. The project was later abandoned and taxpayers got nothing in return for their $6.2 million.

"Stopping fraud, waste, and abuse should be a non-partisan issue," Byrd said. "Taxpayers work too hard for their money – money that the government takes from their paychecks – to tolerate this level of irresponsible spending. A poorly-managed state government does incredible harm to its own citizens. Mismanagement scares away outside investment and capital. Mismanagement loses federal funding. Oklahoma must get its act together."

The full FY 2024 Federal Single Audit is now posted on the Oklahoma State Auditor & Inspector's official website.

LEGALS

CONTINUED FROM **PG 6**

All creditors having claims against WILLIAM JAMES MARLAR JR, 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 Administrator, KAITLYN NICOLE MARLAR, c/o her attorney, Susan A. Muscari, Muscari Law, PLLC, P. O. Box 452409, Grove, OK 74345, on or before the following presentment date: the 17 day of October, 2026, or the same will be forever barred.

/s/ Kaitlyn Nicole Marlar
KAITLYN NICOLE MARLAR,
Administrator

Produced by:
Susan A. Muscari,
OBA #16521
MUSCARI LAW, PLLC
P. O. Box 452409
Grove, OK 74345
PH: (918)791-3150
s.muscari@muscarilaw.com
Attorney for Administrator

(Published in the Grove Sun August 21 and 28, 2026)
LPXLP

