



City of Broken Arrow

Minutes

City Council Special Meeting

City Hall
220 S 1st Street
Broken Arrow OK
74012

Mayor Debra Wimpee
Vice Mayor Johnnie Parks
Council Member Lisa Ford
Council Member Justin Green
Council Member David Pickel

Wednesday, June 18, 2025	Time 8:30 a.m.	Council Chambers
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1. Call to Order

Mayor Debra Wimpee called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 5 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks, Debra Wimpee

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge was led by Mayor Debra Wimpee.

4. Public Hearings, Appeals, Presentations, Recognitions, Awards

A. 25-888 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - BAYS Football and Lacrosse

Natalie Hernandez from the Broken Arrow Youth Football Association (BAYFA) presented a request for facility upgrades at the city-owned sports complex. The complex hosts over 1,200 games annually and draws around 350,000 visitors for football, flag football, girls flag, lacrosse, and cheer. BAYFA is asking for shaded areas, upgraded fencing, walkway repairs, improved lighting, and expanded restrooms to enhance safety, usability, and competitiveness for hosting regional events. Additional requests include digital scoreboards, hydration stations, a modern press box, equipment storage, divider fencing, safety netting, and expanded electrical access. These improvements aim to better serve youth athletes, local schools, and visitors. City Council members expressed appreciation but emphasized the need to prioritize items that directly benefit Broken Arrow families and requested a follow-up with cost estimates and ranked priorities.

B. 25-890 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Girls Softball

Robert Shafer, a long-time volunteer and representative of Broken Arrow Girls Softball, presented a funding request for improvements to Arrowhead Park. He emphasized the group's deep involvement in the park's maintenance and development since 1995. Schafer outlined five key improvement priorities totaling about \$8 million:
Turfing all 12 infields – to reduce rainouts and improve playability.
Improved drainage – necessary due to turf runoff.
Upgraded lighting – replacing outdated fixtures with efficient LED lighting.
Parking lot repairs – addressing age-related wear and safety issues.
Enhanced front entrance – to create a more welcoming and visually appealing entryway.
Schafer highlighted the park's economic impact, noting that rainouts hurt local businesses and tourism. He argued that upgrading to turf would help attract more tournaments and visitors. The park serves about 1,500 kids annually, many from Broken Arrow, and runs primarily on volunteer efforts. He closed by stressing community pride, the park's value to the city, and his hope that the improvements are funded.

C. 25-891 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Youth Soccer

Austin Burgess, President of the Broken Arrow Soccer Club, provided an overview of the organization, which has been operating for 51 years and currently serves approximately 2,200 youth participants per season, ranging in age from two to eighteen. The club offers programs from beginner to competitive levels and maintains a partnership with Major League Soccer. Barbara Wilson, the Executive Director, outlined key facility needs, including the installation of a French drain to address chronic drainage issues, additional picnic tables to accommodate

families, improved paved walkways for enhanced accessibility, and the conversion of several fields to turf to facilitate play during inclement weather. Recent turf upgrades, funded through a bond issue, have positively impacted league operations. The club hosts tournaments that draw hundreds of teams and thousands of visitors, contributing an estimated \$2 million to the local economy. Challenges related to traffic and parking during events have been mitigated through coordination with law enforcement and volunteer support. The organization also collaborates with local vendors and food trucks to promote a family-friendly environment. Burgess and Wilson emphasized the importance of continued infrastructure improvements—including parking, drainage, fencing, and lighting—to support the club’s growth, ensure safety, and uphold the quality of the Indian Springs Soccer Complex. They advocated for community backing of the proposed bond measure to secure necessary funding for these enhancements.

D. 25-892 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Adult Softball

Brad Gordon, president of Broken Arrow Adult Softball since 2003, expressed gratitude for the development of the Challenger Sports Complex and highlighted the growth of adult softball leagues, which now run year-round with over 150 teams. He emphasized the critical need for improvements at both the Challenger Complex and Indian Springs fields, including turf infield conversions to improve drainage and playability, replacement of aging dugout covers, upgraded LED lighting to reduce costs, additional shade structures, and enhanced parking and traffic management.

Gordon also requested the addition of two new softball fields at Challenger to meet tournament requirements, a decorative entrance to improve aesthetics, playground facilities for children, batting cages, and a decorative fence along the pond to manage trash and provide a better experience for visitors. He stressed the importance of maintaining and improving these facilities to support the growing sports community in Broken Arrow and invited city officials to consider these priorities in upcoming bond proposals.

E. 25-893 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Youth Baseball

Tiffany Kelly presented this item stating that the local baseball and volleyball programs are essential to the community, engaging hundreds of children each season and offering a safe, supportive space that promotes positive growth. The requested improvements focus on upgrading existing facilities—such as installing sod or turf, adding shade structures, updating restrooms, enhancing safety netting, replacing worn bleachers, and improving signage—to make the ballpark more comfortable and functional for players and families. These enhancements aim to improve the overall experience without the need for costly new developments. Beyond sports, the programs contribute to the community’s economy by attracting tournaments and visitors, making these facility upgrades a valuable investment in both youth development and local growth.

The City Council recessed at 10:00 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

F. 25-894 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Arts@302

Jennifer Deal presented on the needs and future plans for Arts@302, emphasizing the critical need to expand the pottery studio due to overwhelming demand and long waitlists. She explained that pottery requires special equipment and space, making expansion essential to accommodate more students and allow extra practice time. Another major goal is to create a versatile event space with a small stage and larger catering kitchen, which could also support a new culinary arts program. The Kristin Chenoweth’s Artists of Promise (K@P) program, which supports special needs youth and adults, needs its own dedicated area to help it grow and free up other classrooms. Administrative offices are currently cramped, so more office and meeting spaces are necessary. Additional ideas include a makerspace, media art studio, artist-in-residence program, and public art installations to enrich the community. Jennifer also mentioned improvements like retractable awnings and soundproofing to enhance current facilities. Overall, the plan focuses on smart expansion and flexible, multi-use spaces to better serve the community’s growing arts and event needs.

G. 25-895 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Veteran’s Center

In March, Bryan Bandy, the new chairman of the Veterans Center board shared a vision for expansion to meet growing needs. The center currently hosts five organizations and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA), assisting over 2,000 veterans last year and supporting active-duty military. Due to increasing demand, especially from younger veterans, the center urgently needs more space, offices, and parking (currently only 24 spaces, two handicapped). A proposed expansion would enlarge the banquet hall (to seat 120), add offices, and increase parking to 40 spaces with more handicapped access. This would improve service efficiency, outreach, safety, and support for under-served veterans. The chairman and others also envision the area developing into a “veterans tourism” hub, combining the park,

memorials, museum, and center into a unified space that honors and serves veterans of all eras.

H. 25-896 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests – Genealogy

Jae Jaeger provides an overview of the genealogy library located within the museum’s headquarters, currently occupying a limited space of 612 square feet. They propose several enhancements, including the installation of a glass front door to enable direct public access, which is currently restricted by museum hours. To optimize the space, they recommend replacing some west-facing windows with floor-to-ceiling shelving to increase storage capacity, and removing built-in desks that hinder computer use due to lighting conditions. The library intends to retain its existing wooden perimeter shelves and introduce study cubicles to facilitate individual research. Additionally, they emphasize the need for improved electrical infrastructure and the preservation of meeting room facilities and workstations essential for collection management. These improvements aim to enhance the functionality and accessibility of the library for both patrons and staff.

I. 25-897 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - BA History Museum

Gary Gerber and Mickel Yantz with The Broken Arrow History Museum are proposing a comprehensive expansion to better preserve and share the city’s history and serve the community for the next 50 years. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Broken Arrow Historical Society, the museum seeks to expand its existing facility across three floors, totaling approximately 16,000 square feet. The proposed upgrades include expanded office space, a dedicated artifact preservation room, a larger genealogy department, and enhanced gift shop and gallery areas to support local artists and businesses. A new exhibit gallery on the second floor will allow for greater storytelling of Broken Arrow’s 122-year history, with special focus on Main Street, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and the public school system. The third floor, currently limited to 50-person events, will be expanded to accommodate up to 150 guests, with flexible spaces to host city meetings, community events, and rentals. The museum currently stores many artifacts offsite due to space limitations, incurring significant rental costs, and the expansion would provide necessary on-site archival storage. With strong community support, including from City Council members and local partners, the museum’s leadership emphasizes the importance of building a facility that is both functional and lasting, and they are prepared to adjust plans based on available funding while maintaining their mission to preserve and promote the rich history of Broken Arrow.

J. 25-898 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Community Playhouse

Janet Brister with The Broken Arrow Community Playhouse is requesting funding to improve the safety and functionality of its facility by installing four hand-crank lighting trusses at an estimated cost of \$23,000. Due to the theater’s arched ceiling and elevated lighting fixtures, current maintenance requires the use of rented lifts or scaffolding, creating significant safety concerns for both Playhouse staff and city employees who assist with lighting issues. The proposed trusses would allow lighting equipment to be safely lowered for maintenance, addressing urgent issues such as inaccessibility during performances. The Playhouse produces five mainstage shows per season, along with additional events such as a shorts festival, children's camp, and rental productions, drawing an average attendance of over 200 per show across six performances each weekend. Despite challenges in regional media coverage, the Playhouse actively promotes its events through social media, community calendars, and local outreach. With an increasing number of participants and a strong focus on community engagement, the requested improvement would enhance safety and support the continued growth and success of this important cultural venue.

K. 25-900 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Senior Center

Kim Crenshaw, Executive Director for The Broken Arrow Senior Center is requesting support for its expansion plan, which would consolidate all operations at the annex on the east side of Main Street. The current setup—split between two buildings—presents safety risks for seniors crossing a busy street and increases operational costs due to duplicated services. With over 3,200 active members and daily attendance often exceeding 600, the center has outgrown its space and is turning away new programs. A single, expanded facility would improve safety, streamline operations, and accommodate continued growth. This investment supports the health, engagement, and well-being of a rapidly growing senior population, reinforcing Broken Arrow’s reputation as a top city for livability and retirement.

L. 25-901 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Keep Broken Arrow Beautiful

Sharon Atcheson reviewed the progress and future vision for Phase Two of the Central Park gardens project, thanking volunteers, the city, and citizens for their support since the 2018 bond approval. They highlighted key planned features including a gazebo, pollinator and sensory

gardens, a woodlands area, picnic and rest areas, and exercise equipment designed for seniors and veterans, emphasizing accessibility and health benefits. Funding will rely primarily on the upcoming bond issue, but outside grants and private donations are being pursued to ease taxpayer burden. Collaboration with the Muskogee Nation to honor Native American heritage was also mentioned. The speaker stressed the importance of updated landscape design for precise planning and invited council feedback on balancing bond funding with potential external contributions. They concluded by acknowledging the project’s significance as a community asset and its potential to be the “crown jewel” of the Rose District.

M. 25-902 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Military History Museum

General Thomas Mancino proposes expanding its current building to better accommodate growing exhibits and storage needs, which has been revised to a more affordable \$11 million. While some suggest relocating near Veterans Park to unify veterans’ services, the museum team argues that its current downtown Rose District location draws more visitors and supports local businesses. Parking concerns and visitor accessibility were also discussed. The museum is a key cultural and tourism asset for Broken Arrow, and officials emphasized the importance of public input before deciding on the best option to honor veterans and serve the community.

**The City Council recessed at 12:33 p.m. and reconvened at 1:08 p.m.
The Mayor left at lunch time**

N. 25-906 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests - Propositions 1- 6 Project Recommendations

Proposition 1 – Transportation

Charlie Bright, Director of Engineering and Construction, is proposing a comprehensive bond package that prioritizes road widening, infrastructure upgrades, and pedestrian improvements across key areas, with a focus on long-term growth and safety. While none of the major proposed street projects are located in current primary flood zones, several include drainage components to address undersized culverts and flash flooding risks, particularly where county roads have been incorporated into city jurisdiction. Notable projects include improvements in the Rose District—such as alleyway and street beautification, drainage corrections, and enhancements to support new residential and commercial development—as well as construction of a bridge connecting to the Arrow Forge Innovation District, fulfilling a prior development agreement. Additionally, the bond allocates \$30 million for residential street maintenance, \$5 million for trail connectivity through TAP grant matching, and flexible funding for sidewalks, future signalized intersections, and unforeseen infrastructure needs. Public engagement through forums will be used to help refine priorities and ensure alignment with community expectations.

Proposition 2 – Public Safety

The current plan encompasses both immediate priorities, such as replacing aging equipment and upgrading communication systems, and future growth needs, including the relocation and replacement of Fire Station One and the potential addition of Fire Station Nine on the city’s east side. Facility enhancements like vehicle storage and headquarters remodeling aim to improve space utilization and operational efficiency. Despite challenges posed by soil conditions at the training center site, thorough analysis concluded that investing in improvements on the existing property is more cost-effective than relocating. This comprehensive approach reflects ongoing collaboration among city leaders, department chiefs, and project partners to ensure the city’s public safety infrastructure meets both current demands and long-term growth.

The City Council recessed at 2:30 p.m. and reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

Proposition 3 – Quality of Life

The comprehensive review of Broken Arrow’s parks and recreation master plan delineates a strategic framework aimed at enhancing community engagement, recreational opportunities, and facility modernization. The plan advocates for the development of inclusive, non-regulation recreational areas designed to foster family participation and social interaction, exemplified by the proposed park adjacent to the tree orchard. Efforts to implement natural and constructed green buffers seek to mitigate visual impact on surrounding residential properties. Athletic facility improvements focus on optimizing field usability through advanced drainage solutions, including the consideration of synthetic turf versus natural grass with engineered subsurface drainage, while carefully balancing associated costs and maintenance requirements. The

transition to energy-efficient LED lighting across facilities is prioritized to reduce operational expenses and improve safety. Infrastructure enhancements, notably expanded and strategically designed parking to accommodate high-capacity venues such as the amphitheater, are integral to the plan's success. The involvement of user groups in cost-sharing is proposed to ensure equitable funding of upgrades that primarily benefit organized sports activities. Further, there is recognition of emerging community interests in revitalizing Battle Creek amenities, including modernization of the driving range and dining facilities. Collectively, the plan embodies a judicious approach to elevating the quality of life, advancing economic development through sports tourism, and addressing essential infrastructure needs within realistic fiscal parameters.

Proposition 4 – Public Facilities

The City of Broken Arrow is progressing with strategic upgrades to its public infrastructure and facilities to better serve the community and improve operational efficiency. Central to these efforts is the implementation of a new fiber optic ring to enhance connectivity, reduce monthly communication costs, and support critical functions such as traffic management and public safety. Facility improvements include exploring expansion options for the senior center along the south Main Street corridor and evaluating the future of the community Playhouse amid potential redevelopment opportunities. Coordination between the historical museum and farmer's market master plan is underway, while the Veterans Center is revising its project scope under new leadership, particularly regarding storage needs and parking in alignment with downtown zoning requirements. These projects collectively demonstrate the city's commitment to fostering growth, upgrading public amenities, and strengthening service delivery.

Proposition 5 – Stormwater

The City of Broken Arrow is pursuing several stormwater and drainage improvement projects to address persistent flooding and infrastructure issues. Among them is the enhancement of the NEEDA (Northeast Economic Development Area) dry detention pond, which, although not part of any current development agreement, is being upgraded to improve stormwater storage and operational efficiency. In addition, funds are being allocated to address historical drainage inadequacies in the Rose District, originally platted in 1902 without modern stormwater standards. These improvements aim to alleviate recurring flooding complaints and modernize infrastructure in aging neighborhoods. The city is also evaluating stormwater infrastructure along major corridors such as Ninth Street, Tucson Street, and Aspen Avenue, especially where water routinely impacts roadways and nearby properties. Notably, a particularly challenging project in southeast Broken Arrow involves mitigating flooding that regularly isolates several homes due to undersized culverts, though full remediation could cost upwards of \$13 million. Options range from minor upgrades to full-scale solutions, depending on cost-benefit analysis and funding availability. Additionally, the city is working within legal frameworks to address public stormwater needs even on or near private properties, such as in the case of leaking private ponds, while balancing zoning, historical annexations, and funding sources like Propositions Five and Six.

Proposition 6 - Drainage

In this discussion, Engineering and Construction Director, Charlie Bright, proposed continuing the Prop 6 funding model from the 2018 General Obligation Bond by allocating flexible pots of money for stormwater and drainage issues on private property, provided there is a demonstrable public benefit. This approach allows property owners to apply through the Drainage Advisory Committee (DAC) for erosion and flooding mitigation assistance. Based on past experience—particularly with the Haikey Creek basin, where funds were rapidly exhausted, the proposal suggests possibly skewing future allocations toward basins with higher application demand. The current recommendation includes \$8.5 million for Prop 6, though this amount may be adjusted. Staff also emphasized the importance of writing the bond language with enough flexibility to reallocate unused funds if certain areas see limited participation. Overall, this Prop 6 funding represents a small portion of the total bond package but remains a critical tool for addressing persistent drainage concerns. Council members expressed appreciation for the collaborative format of the bond discussions, noting its efficiency and effectiveness in addressing community needs.

O. 25-903 Presentation of 2026 GO Bond Requests – South Broken Arrow Library

Kim Johnson and Sarah Gould presented the South Broken Arrow Library, originally built in 1993 and last renovated in 2007, is one of the most heavily used but smallest branches in the county's library system. Due to growing community demand, particularly from families, homeschoolers, and high circulation of children's materials, a new, larger facility is proposed across the street from the current site. The planned \$12 million project includes expanded amenities such as a 75-person community room, multiple huddle and homeschool classrooms, makerspace, outdoor patios, an amphitheater, and enhanced technology access. To date, approximately \$5.7 million has been secured through the library's internal funds and private

donations, leaving a \$6.3 million funding gap. The City Council is considering including this as a separate proposition in the 2026 bond package, recognizing the difficulty of raising the remaining funds privately and the library’s critical role in serving a rapidly growing population.

5. **Remarks and Inquiries by Governing Body Members**

Vice Mayor Johnnie Parks emphasized the importance of investing in the library system, particularly to support youth in South Broken Arrow, suggesting an additional \$6 million over a ten-year period to enhance services. They also highlighted the need to continue developing the military museum, noting promising locations in the southern part of the city. The presentations provided valuable insight into the overall bond package and its components, which will help council members make informed decisions despite the many competing needs and limited funding. Councilor Justin Green strongly encouraged community members—especially those involved in boards, clubs, and sports—to attend upcoming meetings and share their views directly, stressing that input via social media is insufficient. The goal is to ensure broad participation so the council can prioritize projects that best serve the community as a whole. Outreach efforts will intensify over the next two months, with specific projects being shared to engage and inform residents more effectively.

6. **Remarks and updates by City Manager, including Recognition of Recent Accomplishments by Employees and Elected Officials**

City Manager Michael Spurgeon stated that key next steps include reprioritizing projects based on Council input particularly related to road improvements and community user groups and refining cost estimates. Public engagement efforts will begin with three scheduled forums: one in late August and two in September. These events will feature informational stations for each proposition, including the South Broken Arrow Library, and invite participation from library staff, sports organizations, and other stakeholders to gather community feedback. Additionally, a second informational letter will be sent to residents via utility bills to support public awareness. Council feedback from this session will help shape the final proposal ahead of the public forums.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m.

MOTION: A motion was made by Justin Green, seconded by Lisa Ford
Move to Adjourn

The motion carried by the following vote:
Aye: 4 - David Pickel, Justin Green, Lisa Ford, Johnnie Parks

Mayor

City Clerk