

Nov. 10, 2026

City Marks 12 Years of Financial Reporting Excellence

The City of McAlester has earned national recognition for excellence in financial reporting for the 12th consecutive year, receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The award recognizes the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, extending a streak of national recognition dating back to 2014. McAlester's report received proficient ratings in all 17 categories evaluated by GFOA's Special Review Committee, including financial statements, independent auditor reporting, management's discussion and analysis, financial disclosures and statistical information.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Established in 1945, the program encourages state and local governments to exceed minimum accounting requirements and provide comprehensive, transparent information about their financial operations.

"Maintaining national recognition for 12 consecutive years is an accomplishment our community can be proud of," Mayor Justin Few said. "It reflects a lasting commitment to excellence in financial reporting and the professionalism of the employees responsible for that work."

The City's Finance Department, led by Chief Financial Officer Sherri Swift, oversees preparation of the annual financial report, which provides a comprehensive accounting of the City's financial position, revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities.

The GFOA's Certificate of Achievement program recognizes governments whose financial reports demonstrate a commitment to full disclosure and clearly communicate their financial information to residents, elected officials and other stakeholders.

The Government Finance Officers Association serves more than 28,000 members and the communities they represent throughout the United States and Canada.

Upcoming events

Nov. 12
The Cookie Tour
— 4-7 p.m.
— Downtown

Nov. 21
Choctaw Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair
— 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
— McAlester Choctaw Community Center

Nov. 21
Pittsburg County Farmers Market 4th Annual Holiday Market
— 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
— Pittsburg County Farmers Market

Nov. 24
2026 Festival of Trees & Lights on at Arvest Park
— 6:30-8 p.m.
— Arvest Park

Nov. 28
The Great McAlester Snowball Fight
— 10-11 a.m.
— Choctaw Avenue

Check out more events at travelmcalester.com!

Council Report details elements in the latest McAlester City Council meeting as part of the city's efforts to broaden communication with the public. City council meetings are open to the public, with agendas, minutes, packets and more information available at www.cityofmcalester.com and www.mcalesterok.portal.civicclerk.com. Action reported in these updates is tentative until the Council approves the meeting minutes at the next meeting.

More info

Anyone can view the full agenda, the agenda packet, or the livestream of each meeting online in our new portal through CivicPlus. Check it out at https://mcalesterok.portal.civicclerk.com/.

Actions reported here are tentative until the council approves the meeting minutes.

Did you know...

Citizens can sign up to receive alerts from the City of McAlester and to submit service requests to the City.

The City's app, McAlester Connect, is available in the app store for citizens to receive notifications, submit service requests, and more.

Anyone can download the app by searching for "McAlester Connect" in your app store on your phone.

Then create an account to start submitting requests for City services and to stay updated on everything going on in the City of McAlester.

Consent agenda

Council members voted on the following under the consent agenda:

- Approval of minutes from the Oct. 27, 2026, workshop;
- Approval of minutes from the Oct. 27, 2026, regular meeting;
- Approval of claims for Oct. 21-Nov. 3, 2026;
- Concur with the Mayor's reappointment of Heath Stanfield to the McAlester Community Tree Board, for a term to expire Sept. 30, 2028;
- Concur with the Mayor's reappointment of Lacey Sudderth to the McAlester Community Tree Board, for a term to expire Sept. 30, 2028;
- Concur with the Mayor's reappointment of Aaron Alsip to the McAlester Community Tree Board, for a term to expire Sept. 30, 2028;
- Concur with the Mayor's reappointment of Robert Glenn to the McAlester Community Tree Board, for a term to expire May 31, 2027;
- Indefinitely postpone Tort Claim No. 219501-1-LN, filed by Clark & Sally Long.

More council action

• Councilors voted to approve the purchase of an MTS Power Load, a 6507 Power Pro ambulance cot and four KN Gatch Bolster mattresses from Stryker for $69,486.68, funded through the City of McAlester's Emergency Medical Services program, known as McAlester Care. The loading system will help reduce manual lifting and the risk of back injuries among emergency personnel. The spare powered cot will provide backup during equipment repairs and can equip a reserve ambulance, while replacement mattresses will keep equipment available during cleaning and decontamination.

• Councilors voted to approve the installation of a Power Load system in the 2023 Braun ambulance for $1,500, funded through the City of McAlester's Emergency Medical Services program, known as McAlester Care. The ambulance was selected because it already has the mounting plate and electrical connections needed for installation. The system will assist crews with loading and unloading the powered cot, reducing manual lifting and the risk of employee injuries.

• Councilors discussed expanding the geographic eligibility area for appointments to the McAlester Regional Health Center Board of Directors, with Pittsburg County considered as a potential boundary. Mayor Justin Few said broader eligibility could allow participation by people who work, shop and maintain community ties in McAlester but live outside city limits. The discussion sought to provide direction for the hospital board's consideration before any proposed changes return to the council. No formal vote was taken.

More info

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Did you know...

The City of McAlester Senior Center offers a daily lunch program, plus tons of activities each week and month, like bingo, dominoes, bunco, a monthly jamboree, various card games, board games, low-impact senior fitness, and more.

Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. at the J.I. Stipe Center and the suggested donation is $2 per meal. Lunch schedules are posted weekly on the City's Facebook page.

Anyone at least 60 years old is eligible to register, or to be registered by a loved one, by calling 918-715-3442.

More council action

• Councilors directed the City Attorney to prepare proposed ballot language increasing McAlester's lodging tax from 6% to 10% and expanding its permitted uses to include tourism promotion, economic development, and road construction and maintenance. Councilors favored allowing funding allocations through the annual budget process rather than setting fixed percentages in the ballot language and discussed additional public education opportunities. The proposal will return for consideration Nov. 24, with Feb. 9, 2027, discussed as a potential election date. No formal vote was taken to approve ballot language or call an election.

City council

The McAlester City Council is comprised of six Council members and Mayor elected by the citizens of the city.

The Council is responsible for setting the goals, policies, and laws (ordinances) of the City, and hires and supervises the City Manager, who acts as CEO of the City in managing the day-to-day operations.

The McAlester City Council meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers on the first floor of City Hall at 28 E. Washington Ave., McAlester, OK 74501.

Council meetings are open to the public and available on the City of McAlester's YouTube Channel.

Citizens can check in which ward they reside on the city wards map, check out how to contact a council member, and view meetings dates and information online at www.cityofmcalester.com by clicking on Government tab and then clicking the City Council page.

Council Members



Justin Few
Mayor



Levi Gilmore
1st Ward



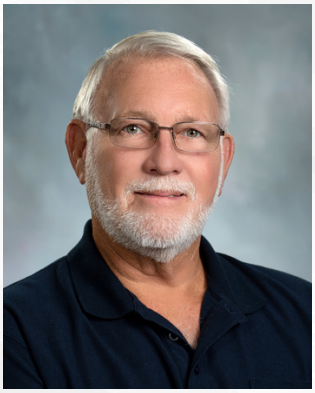
Robin Woodley
2nd Ward



Chris Stone
3rd Ward



Janet Wansick
4th Ward



Billy Jack Boatright
5th Ward



Kevin Beaty
6th Ward
Vice Mayor