

**VILLAGE *of* LAWTON**  
**VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**125 S. MAIN STREET, LAWTON, MI 49065**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.**

*please silence cell phones*

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Approval of the October 8, 2024 Council Agenda
  - B. Approval of the September 10, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes
  - C. Approval of August 2024 Disbursements in the amount of \$341,080.96
  - D. Approval of Revised Contract for Village Manager Hackenberg
- V. COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE / PRESENTATIONS**
- VI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS** – (Please keep comments to 3 minutes)
- VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS / APPOINTMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS**
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS**
- IX. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Establish Trick or Treat Hours for Thursday, October 31, 2024 from 5:30PM to 7:30PM.....Staff Recommends Approval
  - B. Police Wages.....Discussion
  - C. Planning Commission 2023 Annual Report.....Planning Commission Recommends Approval
  - D. Reappointment of Michael Dudek and PJ Chmiel to Planning Commission for a new 3-year term.....Planning Commission Recommends Approval
  - E. Proclaim November as Family Court Awareness Month.....Staff Recommends Approval
  - F. Elect Directors of MML.....Discussion

**X. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS**

- A.** Village Manager – Todd Hackenberg
- B.** Department of Public Works – Todd Hackenberg
- C.** Village Clerk – Brittany Rathbun
- D.** Police Department – Gregory Cordes
- E.** Planning Commission – Judy Peterson
- F.** Downtown Development Authority – Gail Dudek
- G.** Lawton Fire Board – Eric Dudek
- H.** Lawton Library Board – Brittany Rathbun

**XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT - NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE – *October 22, 2024 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers.***

The Village of Lawton follows the Americans w/ Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities planning to attend this meeting and require accommodations, or those who have questions regarding the accessibility of this meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact the Village Clerk, at (269) 624-6407 or [brathbun@lawtonmi.org](mailto:brathbun@lawtonmi.org) to allow the Village to make reasonable accommodations. If you have questions or comments, and you are unable to make the meeting, forward to the Village Manager at [thackenberg@lawtonmi.org](mailto:thackenberg@lawtonmi.org) Posted September 6, 2024, for the VILLAGE OF LAWTON in VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN [www.lawtonmi.org](http://www.lawtonmi.org) 269.624.6407



**Village of Lawton**  
**VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407**  
**Tuesday September 10, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order:** President Appleby called the September 10, 2024, meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** *Present:* Appleby, E. Dudek, Peterson, Turner, Smith, Tanis, G. Dudek *Absent:* None. *Others Present:* Village Manager Hackenberg, Clerk Rathbun, Police Chief Cordes, and four guests.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the September 10 Council Agenda, the August 13, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes, and approval of the September 2024 disbursements in the amount of \$312,081.33. Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of New Business Item E. A discussion of Burn Pile at Lawton Evangelical Church on 09/28/2024. Motion supported by trustee Turner. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- V. **Communications, Correspondence, and Presentations:**
- VI. **Citizen Comments:**
  - A. John LeFrancois, a resident from Morrill, wanted to make the Police Chief and the council aware of numerous speeding issues within the Village. He stated one issue has been on the People of Lawton with numerous complaints of a grey F150 going fast. He stated it has almost hit a school bus. He stated that there have also been two different incidents of mopeds or minibikes going through the Village. They are loud and are going through late into the evening. Another resident, who did not provide a name, agreed with Mr. LeFrancois on this. He stated he brought some information from a neighbor to provide the chief. Another issue brought up was motorcycles coming off of railroad and racing each other through the Village. LeFrancois stated it seems we have a growing problem. Police Chief Cordes stated that he is aware of a few of these issues and they are investigating, but he welcomes residents calling the police department, as many times the incidents reported on the People of Lawton Page go unreported for the department to look into, which makes it more difficult for them to monitor. The police have a non-emergency phone line and can be reached at 269-624-2382. There is also a voicemail box set up if anyone has information, and there is not an officer available to speak with at the time of the call.

**VII. Public Hearings/Appointments/Proclamations: None.**

**VIII. Old Business:**

- A.** Village Manager Hackenberg reported that they have spoken to Village attorneys on what exactly is wanted. We are working with Bloom and Sluggett, who was recommended by our regular attorney to work with on ordinances. Hackenberg reported that in the discussion with the attorney, they stated we are one step ahead on a rental inspection ordinance, since we have already adopted the IMPC maintenance code. Hackenberg reported that land contracts could be included on this ordinance, and we would have a couple of options. Council agreed that they would like to see this happen, and a second meeting would be a good place to bring this for review with a public hearing. Hackenberg stated the Village would reach out to the attorney at Bloom and Sluggett to have this drafted for an upcoming meeting.

**VII: New Business:**

- A.** President Appleby brought a Quote from Kent County Curbing to create a water deterrent in the amount of \$5881.20 to the floor. Village Manager Hackenberg stated this will actually cover more than just Concord Hills. It will also cover a portion of Fourth Street as well. This asphalt project will help with the flooding in several areas of the Village that have been an issue this year. Hackenberg stated with us getting bigger rains than we have in the past, there isn't a system currently in place that can handle it. There are several locations in the Village that are natural low spots, in some areas, even curbing, guttering, and storm sewer hasn't been enough to keep up with these rains. He stated while we cannot fix the entire issue, this will at least help us try to keep up with the flooding, and issues that have been happening with the heavier rains. Tanis brought up issues with the snow plowing, Hackenberg stated we will place markers at the asphalt curbing to try to keep it from degrading with the snowplows. E. Dudek made a motion to accept the quote from Kent County Curbing to place Water Deterrent for the amount of \$5881.20, seconded by Tanis. A unanimous roll call vote approved the motion.
- B.** Appleby brought Resolution 09-2024: A Resolution naming Trustee and Alternate Trustee for West Michigan Health Insurance Pool to the floor. Clerk Rathbun stated that per renewal documents that have been received, Priority Health will no longer consider Bronson a Tier One provider. Since Bronson is one of the only provider's around Lawton, this would place a burden on our employees. The current renewal was also slated to go up 30%, so it would be a dramatic increase. After some research, The Village would like to switch over to Michigan Pool with a Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO insurance option for employees. While it will still be an increase overall, this was the cheapest option quoted, and will provide employees better coverage than they currently receive. The one drawback being that the Village will have a one-time deductible reset in January because Michigan Pool requires everyone to go through the open enrollment period together. This resolution in particular would make Clerk Rathbun, and Village Manager Hackenberg the signatories for everything that is needed for Michigan Pool to go into effect. Trustee Peterson made a motion to adopt Resolution 09-2024, naming Clerk Rathbun, and Village Manager Hackenberg

trustees for the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. Motion carried.

- C. Appleby brought Resolution 10-2024: A Resolution to Authorize MDOT Contract 24-5276 with the Village of Lawton and authorize signatories for the contract to the floor. Village Manager Hackenberg stated that this would cover the MDOT contract for the White Oak Project, and allow him to be the signatory for all documents in regards to this contract. E. Dudek made a motion to adopt Resolution 10-2024 in order to Authorize MDOT Contract 24-5276 for the White Oak Project, and make Village Manager Hackenberg the authorized signatory. Turner seconded the motion, followed by a roll call vote with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

- D. Appleby brought Police Department Updates to the floor for discussion. Hackenberg stated he and Cordes have been doing some research, and the Village of Lawton is at the lowest paid positions for police in Van Buren County. Hackenberg stated in order to keep part-timers on, which is helping keep overtime down, we have recently done a large raise for that position. Hackenberg stated that he wanted to bring this to the floor to consider a millage. He stated with the budget already being tight, unless we cut things from the current budget, in order to afford increases to the officers, it will have to come to a millage increase for public safety. Council person Smith asked if there is any way we can do a survey to see what the public would like to do. Cordes stated that there are only two agencies in Van Buren County besides us that do not have a mill. Village Manager Hackenberg stated that council can do up to a 4 mill increase without a vote for next year, but it would require a public hearing. Hackenberg stated 2 mills for the Village would average approximately \$100 per year for our tax payers. E. Dudek and Smith both stated that this will need to be broken down to the public if we go that route, because mills are not understandable for many people. Smith stated without explaining the tax increase to people, she does not believe it will be well received. Council agreed whether we look at things to cut from the budget, or they do a millage increase, we do need to find a way to fund our police department. Cordes stated what we have is not feasible. There are multiple full-time officers seeking other positions at this point, because of how low our police pay is, and that would hurt our police department severely. Smith asked if we have the ability to bump the pay in order to deter officers who are currently employed from leaving. Council discussed not hiring a fourth officer in order to bump up rates for current full-time officers, and keep them here until we can look at a millage. Appleby suggested we work toward higher wages looking into budget and input from the Police committee how to put together what is going on for the public to see the need for the Police Department. Smith agreed a meeting to present the need to the community for the mill would be very helpful. Appleby stated growing the tax base overall would be helpful in the long run, and it is the goal of council. Council agreed something needs to be done to maintain our police department, and made the unanimous decision that the Police Committee needs to meet to come up with a solution.

- E. Appleby brought the second meeting to the floor for discussion for September. Several council members will be out of town. Appleby stated the biggest pressing issue for the second meeting is for the police committee to meet and bring results back. The police committee members who were present agreed that they could meet prior to the October meeting and bring findings to the rest of council at that point. Council will not meet a second time in the month of September.

- F. Village Manager Hackenberg stated that the Evangelical Church on Nursery Street has a large burn pile they are requesting permission to burn. They have requested to burn that on September 28 in the evening. The fire department has already stated they have trucks willing to be on standby. E. Dudek made a motion to provide Village Manager Hackenberg permission to authorize a controlled burn behind the Evangelical Church, at his discretion with weather conditions. Smith seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all in favor, and none opposed. The ayes have it, and the motion is adopted.

**VIII: Board, Committee, and Staff Reports:**

- A. Village Manager Hackenberg reported the DPW has been patching potholes and fixing up the public parking lots. Hackenberg stated the public parking lots are getting bad, and we need to look into repairing or replacing them. They are getting extremely brittle. Hackenberg stated there were 3 internments at the cemetery. Hackenberg stated that the project is making progress, and traffic has been shifted. He stated they are finishing up running storm sewer down the side of the post office, and two more tie ins in the next few days. The contractor is pouring sidewalks north of the tracks, and a few concerned citizens have mentioned that it is too close to their homes, however, MDOT stated that these are still within their right of way. The sidewalks will go all the way to Dollar General. Hackenberg stated all of the sidewalks will be completed before they place the final layer of asphalt due to the striping being inset into the road. Hackenberg stated their new goal end date is September 20<sup>th</sup>, and he isn't sure where they will be on the 20<sup>th</sup>, but he has voiced concerns about the intersection being open for grape season to Welch's. Hackenberg stated that Reid's Corner is slated to begin on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month. Hackenberg stated that after the Main Street downtown portion is done, they should be able to complete the remaining portions with lane closures. Council stated there are concerns with the current business owners that the project has taken this long. Hackenberg agreed that there were some unfortunate setbacks, and he would like to see this done as soon as possible as well. Hackenberg stated he has started to drive around looking at things for Zoning Solutions and he has a partial list. Hackenberg stated he had a meeting with an executive at Welch's due to concerns brought to him about them wanting to build a new wastewater treatment plant or shut down. He stated in meeting with Welch's the concerns were unfounded, and they were able to go over many communication issues between the Village and Welch's in the past. Welch's is going to be in better communications with the Village going forward. Hackenberg has another meeting with Welch's tomorrow. Hackenberg stated he has signed up for a Citizen Planner Course this fall, and he is going to be taking the class every week from 6-9PM for six weeks on Thursday nights, which will make him eligible to take a Zoning Administration Class. Hackenberg stated that we received the CEM grant for \$100,000, so once that has been officially released, we can move forward with several building updates that have needed to be done for a long time. He will be out of town for two weeks in October.
- B. Clerk Rathbun reported that she did not have anything to add outside of the insurance.
- C. Chief Cordes reported that for the last month they took several calls including an increase in traffic stops, and increase in special events. Cordes stated that they are rotating the officers they have, and everything else has been pretty status quo. Cordes stated they are still trying to stay within the boundaries of the detour, and he has had some complaints about people going the wrong way on the detour, and people driving

on the new asphalt before it's cured. Cordes stated they have done several county assists over the past month. He stated they have signed up for several trainings, and those are going well. He stated we have hired Chris Orr from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department as a part-timer, he is going to assist with electronic investigations, as this is his specialty with the state and the county along with weekend hours, and other areas our department needs help with. Cordes stated school is back in, and the police department has picked up an alternative crossing guard person to help when the current crossing guards call off this year. He stated this is extremely helpful, because it frees up the officers to help more with calls to the school for issues they receive. Cordes stated the home on the corner of Liberty has been tagged and mowed. It will be the first home that will go onto the tax roll after the new ordinance blight ordinance was passed this summer.

- D. Peterson Reported the Planning Commission did not meet. Peterson stated she is thinking it is time for the annual report of the planning commission to be completed. It is a requirement for the RRC. Peterson stated she would like to see this for the October Planning Commission Meeting.
- E. G. Dudek reported that the DDA did not meet.
- F. E. Dudek reported that the fireboard met, and had a routine month, which new QR equipment on the way.
- G. B. Rathbun reported that the library board met, and the library would like to do a meet the artist night with Jackie Hackenberg who painted the walls for us. The library would like this to take place after construction ends, sometime in the middle or end of October in the evening, and they would like to utilize the community room for this. They will do refreshments and are looking at 5-7PM for the timeline. Council stated they saw no issue with this and thought it would be great to show Jackie appreciation.

**IX: Council Comments:**

- A. Trustee N. Smith reported that the Vacant lot in Concord Hills has brush into the road and she would like Village staff to look into the owners. The property should be being maintained 6ft. back. Hackenberg stated we will look into it.

**X. Adjournment:** Turner moved, with support E. Dudek from to adjourn the Village Council Meeting at 8:28p.m. Next council meeting to take place on October 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brittany Rathbun  
Village Clerk

**THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON**  
**VILLAGE MANAGER**  
**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

**THE AGREEMENT**, made and entered into on \_\_\_\_\_, by and between the Village of Lawton, State of Michigan, a municipal corporation, hereinafter called "Employer," as party of the first part, and Todd Hackenberg, hereinafter called "Employee," as of the second part, both of whom understand as follows:

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS** Employer desires to employ Employee to serve as Village Manager of the Village of Lawton and the Employee desires to accept that employment, and

**WHEREAS** the parties intend by this Agreement to set forth their entire understanding regarding the employment of the Employee as Village Manager.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the promises and agreements hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows:

**Section 1: EMPLOYMENT AND DUTIES**

The Employee shall faithfully and timely perform all duties of the Village Manager as set forth in the General Law Village Act which serves as the Village's Charter, its Ordinances, and Statutes of the State of Michigan and such other duties and functions as may be assigned to him by the President and Village Council from time to time.

The Employee shall work exclusively for the Employer and shall diligently utilize his best efforts in the performance of the services hereunder. He shall devote his entire business time, attention, and energies to the performance of the services hereunder and shall not, without the prior written consent of the Employer, actively engage in any income or profit generating activities.

**Section 2: TERM**

**Evergreen.** At the expiration of the initial term, this Agreement shall continue from year to year under its then existing conditions unless and until a party hereto gives the other no less than ninety (90) days written notice of termination prior to expiration of the initial term or of the one-year extension then in effect.

The Employee serves at the pleasure of the President and Village Council. Nothing in his Agreement shall prevent, limit or otherwise interfere with the rights of the President and Village Council to terminate the employment of the Employee at any time subject only to the provisions set forth herein.

Nothing in his Agreement shall prevent, limit or otherwise interfere with the right of the Employee to resign at any time from his position as Village Manager, subject only to the provisions set forth herein.



### **Section 3: SALARY**

Beginning the first pay period in October 2024 The Employer agrees to pay Employee for his services rendered pursuant hereto an annual base salary of Eighty Five Thousand Eight Hundred (\$85,800) in the same manner as other full time, exempt management employees are paid. All employment related fringe benefits may be modified, altered, or discontinued in the discretion of the Village Council consistent with the benefits available to all exempt management employees of the Village.

### **Section 4: VACATION**

The Employee shall be entitled to Four Weeks annual vacation leave under the Agreement. The Employee shall be entitled to carryover from one year to the next a maximum of two (2) weeks of vacation leave.

### **Section 5: CELL PHONE AND OTHER BENEFITS**

The Employer agrees to provide the Employee with a cell phone to be used for business use. Upon separation the phone number will belong to the village of Lawton and may be terminated or reassigned.

### **Section 6: DISABILITY**

If the Employee is permanently disabled or is otherwise unable to perform the essential functions of his job, with or without accommodation by reason of physical or mental illness or accident for a period of more than ninety (90) consecutive days during any twelve-month period beyond any accrued sick leave, the Employer shall have the option to terminate this Agreement, subject to the severance pay requirements in Section 11. However, the Employee shall be compensated for any accrued sick leave, vacation, holidays, personal days, and other accrued benefits.

### **Section 7: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Employer agrees to pay for the reasonable professional dues and subscription costs of the Employee for his participation in national, state, and regional associations and organizations necessary for his continued professional development and the benefit of the Employer.

The Employer further agrees to pay the travel, registration, and subsistence expenses of the Employee for attendance at meetings, seminars or conferences approved in advance by the Village Council which are deemed to be necessary to continue Employee's professional development and for the benefit of the Village, subject to Employer's reimbursement policy.

### **Section 8: INDEMNIFICATION**

Employer shall defend, save harmless and indemnify Employee against any claim or action for any action or failure to act in his official capacity, demand, or other legal action, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of an alleged act or omission occurring within the scope of, his employment as Village Manager.

## **Section 9: BONDING**

Employer shall bear the full cost of any fidelity or other bonds required of the Employee under any law or ordinance.

## **Section 10: PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

The Village Council shall review and evaluate the performance of the Employee annually in conjunction with the preparation of the budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The review and evaluation shall be in accordance with specific criteria which shall be established by the Village Council and may be modified from time to time, in consultation with the Employee. The President shall provide the Employee with a written summary of the findings of the Council and provide an adequate opportunity for the Employee to discuss his evaluation with the Council.

## **Section 11: TERMINATION AND SEVERANCE PAY**

In the event Employee is terminated without cause, as "cause" is defined herein, by a five sevenths (5/7s) majority vote of the Village Council during such time Employee is willing and able to perform his duties under her Agreement, Employer agrees to pay Employee wages and benefits until Employee is able to obtain full time employment, not to exceed three months.

In the event Employee is terminated for cause which shall be defined as the conviction of any illegal act involving personal gain to the Employee, conviction of a felony, or failure to perform the duties of Village Manager, Employer shall have no obligation to pay the severance pay described in this Section.

In the event Employee voluntarily resigns his position with Employer before expiration of the term of his employment, Employee shall give thirty (30) calendar days' notice in advance, unless the parties otherwise agree. In the event Employee voluntarily resigns his position with the Employer, Employer shall have no obligation to pay the severance pay designated in this Section.

Upon his termination or resignation, Employee shall be paid for accrued and unused vacation and personal time.

## **Section 12: OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**

All provisions of the Village Charter and policies and regulations and rules of the Employer relating to vacation and sick leave, retirement, insurance and other fringe benefits and working conditions as they now exist or hereafter may be amended, shall also apply to the Employee as they would to other employees of Employer, and shall be subject to change by the Village Council in its discretion provided that said changes shall not reduce the benefits provided solely to the Employee herein.

### Section 13: GENERAL PROVISIONS

This is the entire agreement between the parties. Any and all prior discussions, statements and representations which are not contained herein are void and of no force and effect. No waiver of any provision or modification of this Agreement shall be valid unless such modification is in writing and signed by the President and Employee.

The agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs at law and executors of Employee. If any provision, or any portion thereof, contained in his Agreement shall be held unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of his Agreement, or portion thereof, shall be deemed severable, shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect. The Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Michigan.

### Section 14: NOTICES

Any notice required under this Agreement shall be deemed given when deposited in the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

<b>EMPLOYER:</b>	President, Village of Lawton	<b>EMPLOYEE:</b>	Todd Hackenberg
	Village Hall		82716 28 <sup>th</sup> Street
	125 S. Main, P.O. Box 367		Lawton MI 49065
	Lawton, MI 49065		

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Employer has caused this Agreement to be signed and executed in its behalf by its President and duly attested by its Village Clerk, and the Employee has signed and executed this Agreement, both in duplicate, the day and year first above written.

**EMPLOYER**

**VILLAGE OF LAWTON**  
**A Municipal Corporation**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Josh Appleby**  
**ITS: President**

**EMPLOYEE**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Todd Hackenberg**

# **POLICE BUDGET**

## **Wage Increases**

**2024-2025**

## **Police Committee**

### **Meeting: 9-17-2024**

In attendance: Nicole Smith, Ren Turner, Greg Cordes (PD) and Ryan Tanis

#### **Discussion:**

We discussed steps moving forward to retain the officers that we have and to be able to hire qualified officers moving forward. The first step is to retain the officers that we have through increases in wages to compete with surrounds agencies. Currently the officer's wages have been taken to the 2025 contract max wage pay of \$28.09 per hour. That took effect on 9-16-2024. This wage still does not compete with the Paw Paw PD, VCSD and Mattawan. Currently the average wages for police officers in the 6 departments that were researched is \$32.71, and that will be increased to \$33.89 starting January of 2025. Because of this, it was decided that the target wage should be \$32.00 per hour just to retain the staff that we currently have.

The second discussion was possibly passing a millage to increase funding for the Lawton Police Department. We had discussion possibly looking at passing a millage of 2 mills or 3 mills. This was thought it would be the correct amount of funding to support the PD

The 3<sup>rd</sup> discussion was to contact Porter Township to the south of the Village to see if they would be interested in contracting with Lawton PD for police coverage. Lawton often responds to Porter Township for calls currently and they do not have a designated patrol car patrolling Porter Township when there are no calls. Currently the Van Buren County Sheriffs Office and the Michigan State Police are responsible for calls for service in Porter Township. By contracting with Porter Township, this would add funding to Lawton PD and would assist Porter Township in having a patrol officer. Both things make Lawton PD for viable moving forward.

### **9-18-2024:**

I was tasked with attempting to see how much money was left in the 2024 budget until February of 2025 to give officers additional wages increases to the targeted \$32 per hour. Only the full-time officers would receive the \$32 per hour and it would only effect full-time wages and overtime. Part-time officers will stay at the \$26 per hour for now. The following is a break down.

#### **Bi-weekly cost to Lawton PD (wages only)**

Chief.....	\$2557.60
Full-time officer 1.....	\$2359.56
Full-time officer 2.....	\$2359.56
Full-time officer 3.....	\$2359.56
Crossing Guard 1.....	\$271.20
Crossing Guard 2.....	\$271.20
Projected LPD Part-time pay.....	\$832.00
Projected LPD Overt-time.....	\$1011.24

**Total.....\$12021.92 (Cost per two weeks/wages only)**

Currently there is 12 pay periods left in this fiscal year starting 9-27-2024 ending 2-28-2025:

$12 \times 12021.92 = \$144,263.04$

Current budget totals left in wages (Officers + OT + cross guard) as of 9-30-2024 = \$158,430.00

$\$158,430.00 - \$144,263.04 = \$14,166.96$  (surplus)

### **NEW WAGE INCREASE (\$32 per hour):**

Officer's wages.....\$3,941.28 additional money will be needed to meet the \$32 per hour wage increase

Overtime wages.....\$1689.12 additional money will be needed to meet the \$32 per hour wage increase

Total additional money needed to meet the \$32 per hour wage increase is \$5,630.40. This not include any increases for the Chief position.

\$5,630.40 (additional wages needed to meet \$32 per hour) - \$14,166.96 surplus = **\$8,536.60 left over from 2024 budget**

**Prepared by Chief Greg Cordes 9-18-2024**

# PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT



2023

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MICHIGAN ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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## 1. Introduction

The Planning Commission is an administrative body of seven residents comprised of six appointed officials and one elected official. The Planning Commission (PC) holds regular monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm and is tasked with reviewing applications for site plan review, special land uses, planned unit developments, and rezoning's. The PC also is required to hold the necessary public hearings for zoning text amendments and is entrusted to incorporate the application of policies initiated in the Zoning Ordinance while reviewing development decisions.

## 2. Purpose of Annual Report

- The Michigan Planning Enabling Act contains language of the requirement of the Planning Commission to prepare an annual report to the Village Council: "A planning commission shall make an annual written report to the legislative body concerning its operations and the status of planning activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the legislative body related to planning and development."
- Increases information-sharing between staff, boards, commissions, and the governing body.
- Allows for anticipation of upcoming issues and priorities, in order to prepare and budget.
- The Village staff would like to thank all members of the Planning Commission for their hard work and dedication to the Village.

## 3. Membership

Planning commission member	Term expiration
Judith Peterson, Chairperson	Runs with council term
Paul Rathbun, Vice Chairperson	November 2025
Mike Dudek	November 2024
Philip J Chmiel	November 2024
Connie Knapp	November 2025
Kevin Hellman	November 2025
Blain Allen	November 2025

## 4. Meetings

The Village of Lawton Planning Commission met 10 times in 2023. This meets the requirements of the MPEA to hold a minimum of four meetings per year.

## 5. Master Plan Review

A Master Plan is a document that is used as a policy guide to help communities create a vision of what they want to look like in the future. Master Plans help guide communities in their decisions on land use development and preservation. Master Plans are written and adopted by the Planning



Commission and Village Council. Master Plans are not laws on their own, but must have a zoning ordinance which creates the laws related to land use for the community.

During September 2021, the Village Council and Planning Commission jointly issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to undertake the creation of a Master Plan and a Zoning Ordinance revision for the Village of Lawton. 12 firms submitted proposals and 3 were interviewed in October. Ultimately the firm chosen to undertake the Master Plan was Progressive A|E of Grand Rapids, MI. The Village was awarded a \$30,000 Technical Assistance Grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) program. Without this assistance, the Village would not have been able to undertake both the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance Revision.

The Master Plan process was adopted in 2023. The goal for the Master is to incorporate the recently adopted Downtown "Roadmap", the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for infrastructure (streets, sewer, water, sidewalk, facilities, parks, and vehicles).as components of the Master Plan.

## 6. Zoning Ordinance Amendments

- Blight continues to be a concern for the Village, Ordinances continue to be reviewed, highlighting contradictory regulations. Considering an outside contract for zoning enforcement and blight regulation.
- The parking regulations in the zoning ordinance were reviewed and items needing revisions were noted, especially pertaining to blight enforcement and storage of vehicles/trailers in front yards.
- The Zoning ordinance will be reviewed and rewritten after the Master Plan is complete. Expected timeline to begin is November 2023.

## 7. Development Reviews

Project type	Location	Description	Status	Recommendation to legislative body	Date of action
Re zoning	350 Main St.	Rezone property from residential to CBD	Passed	Planning commission recommends approval of change.	

## 8. Variances

Variance type	Location	Description	Status	Recommendation to legislative body	Date of action
NA					

## 9. Actions by Village Council

- Council passed ordinance 01-2023 amending the zoning ordinance to modify the zoning map from R-3 to CBD zoning.
- Council passed ordinance 02-2023 to amend ordinance #130 to allow open storage in the CBD by special use permit.
- Council passed resolution 12-2023 to approve the Village of Lawton Master Plan
- Council passed ordinance 5 of 2023 to amend section 70.03 parking of vehicles and trailers during winter hours

## 10. Trainings Attended

Topic /description	Date
Citizen Planner Program	Sept. 2023

Topic /description - Potential training topics in the upcoming year, based on goals and priorities
Master Plan Development / Zoning Ordinances
Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities

## 11. Joint meetings

- The Planning Commission and Village Council held Several joint meetings to review new zoning ordinances
- 

## 12. Notable Items

- Planning commission held public hearing June 6<sup>th</sup> for a zoning text amendment to allow outdoor storage in CBD via special use permit.
- Planning commission held a public Hearing Sept 5<sup>th</sup> for the Village of Lawton Master Plan the planning commission recommended approval to the Village council.
- The planning commission held a public hearing on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> to approve the site plan for safe and easy storage located at 726 N. Main St. after public comment planning commission made motion to approve site plan with contingent upon modifications set by the planning commission.
- The planning commission held a public hearing for the property at 325 Walker to rezone from light industrial to single family residential.

Wendy Pursley	134 N Main	Electrical - Residential	\$ 171.00
Kenneth & Emily Victorson	1111 Niagara Dr	Building - Residential	\$ 300.00
Scott & Cheryl Ewing	209 S Fremont Street	Plumbing Residential	\$ 155.00
Jeffery & Annie Burgett	619 E 3rd Street	Mechanical Residential	\$ 155.00
Verizon Wireless	535 N Main Street	Building Commercial	\$ 225.00
Marshall Sanderson	305 E Bitely Street	Electrical - Residential	\$ 140.00
Kenneth & Emily Victorson	1111 Niagara Dr	Electrical - Residential	\$ 243.00
Kenneth & Emily Victorson	1111 Niagara Dr	Plumbing Residential	\$ 235.00
Riachard Roberts	116 E 2nd St	Mechanical Residential	\$ 180.00
D Coy LLC	201 N Main St	Building Commercial	\$ 200.00
Marshall Sanderson	305 E Bitely Street	Building Residential	\$ 372.00
Bruce Marks	326 S Main St	Mechanical Residential	\$ 190.00
Peter Arnett & Katherine Miller	223 South Adams St	Building Residential	\$ 200.00
Gwen Wills	422 East 2nd Street	Building Residential	\$ 200.00
Kevin Charles Raber	518 Durkee St	Plumbing Residential	\$ 208.00
Brian and Nicole Smith	776 Niagara Ct	Roof Redeck Reshingle	\$ 300.00
Brian and Alexandria Peters	511 Liberty Street	Mechanical Residential	\$ 180.00
Marshall Sanderson	305 E Bitely Street	Safety Inspection	\$ 100.00
NC Golf Management INC	1020 N Main St	Electrical-Commercial	\$ 160.00
Bruce Marks	326 S Main St	Roof Redeck Reshingle	\$ 300.00
Richard Roberts	116 E 2nd St	Heat Pumps Mechanical	\$ 180.00
Bruce Marks	326 S Main St	Mechanical Residential	\$ 190.00
Susan K Woodruff	103 West Street	Electrical-Residential	\$176.00
Lawton Lions Heritage LLC	646 N Nursery St	Building-Commercial	\$ 425.00
Marshall Sanderson	305 E Bitely Street	Building- Residential	\$ 372.00
Jerry Cassell	716 Delaware Ct	Building-Residential	\$ 135.00
Mark Owsiany	813 72nd Ave	Building-Residential	\$ 300.00
Zackary Northrup	523 Durkee St	Electrical-Residential	\$ 160.00
Carole Schaefer	205 S Nursery St	Plumbing-Residential	\$ 155.00
Sanderson Marshall	305 E Bitely Street	Electrical-Residential	\$ 281.00
Margaret Cornish	518 E 4th Street	Building-Residential	\$ 213.00
Pin High Golf	1020 N Main St	Electrical-Commercial	\$ 160.00
Zackary Northrup	523 Durkee St	Electrical - Residential	\$ 75.00
Rodney Penning	103 W Street	Electrical-Residential	\$ 176.00
Marshall Sanderson	305 E Bitely Street	Electrical-Residential	\$ 281.00
Brand Fawley	600 Ewing Road	Mechanical-Residential	\$ 155.00
Gary and Diane Fields	808 Niagara Court	Building-Residential	\$ 300.00
Caron Ventures LLC	229 Union Street	Building-Residential	\$ 200.00
Albert & Tabatha Hampton	940 Concord Drive	Building-Residential	\$ 500.00
Michael & Holly Brightwell	1003 East 3rd St	Building-Residential	\$ 300.00
J&P Investments	114 N Main St	Electrical-Residential	\$ 181.00
Caron Ventures LLC	229 Union Street	Building-Residential	\$ 100.00
Elmore John & Karen	614 N Nursery St	Building-Residential	\$ 213.00
Donald and Pamela Paterala	203 S Main ST	Building-Residential	\$ 200.00
Randall and Ramona Nickrent	607 S Main St	Building-Residential	\$ 115.00
Mark and Jennifer Hollandsworth	132 S Franklin	Building-Residential	\$ 200.00

Earl and Taylor Spencer	980 Concord Drive	Building-Residential	\$ 300.00
Richard and Vicki Brooks	418 S Nursery Street	Mechanical-Residential	\$ 210.00
Marshall Sanderson	305 W Bitely Drive	Plumbing-Residential	\$ 285.00
Marshall Sanderson	305 W Bitely Drive	Mechanical-Residential	\$ 260.00
Gale Edwin Bergeson	122 W Second ST	Building-Residential	\$ 200.00
Bonnie J. Arney	219 N Hamilton ST	Electrical-Residential	\$ 246.00
Patricia Price	417 S Main Street	Building- Residential	\$ 200.00
Nathaniel & Wendy Pursley	134 N Main Street	Building-Electrical	\$ 170.00
Village of Lawton	125 S Main ST	Building-Commercial	\$ 300.00
Patricia A Price	417 S Main Street	Building-Residential	\$200.00
Bonnie J. Arney	219 North Hamilton St	Electrical-Residential	\$ 246.00
Nathaniel & Wendy Pursley	134 N Main Street	Mechanical-Commercial	\$ 170.00
Marshall Sanderson	305 E Bitely Street	Mechanical-Residential	\$ 75.00
J&P Investments	115 N Main Street	Mechanical-Commercial	\$ 165.00
J&P Investments	115 N Main Street	Mechanical-Commercial	\$ 75.00
Gary and Diane Fields	808 Niagara Court	Mechanical-Residential	\$ 185.00
Kathaleen Yancey	203 S Railroad ST	Mechanical-Residential	\$ 10.00
Kathaleen Yancey	203 S Railroad ST	Mechanical-Residential	\$ 215.00
Valerie Jeanne Newnum	224 E 2nd Street	Mechanical-Residential	\$ 180.00
Gale Edwin Bergeson	122 West 2nd Street	Building-Residential	\$ 200.00
J & P Investments LLC	114 N Main Street	Building- Commercial	\$ 100.00
Village of Lawton	Kids Dream	Electrical-Commercial	\$ 251.00
Geraldine R Abbott	116 S Nursery St	Mechanical-Residential	\$ 210.00

**November marks Family Court Awareness Month, a time for us to focus on the critical importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and the best interests of children.** We respectfully request that Lawton, MI officially recognizes this month by proclaiming November as Family Court Awareness Month.

Our goal this year is to highlight the pressing need for proper training among family court professionals. Every day, these professionals make crucial decisions about cases involving domestic violence, child sexual abuse, physical and emotional abuse, trauma, and coercive control. Unfortunately, many judges and court officials across the country lack mandatory training in these areas, which can lead to misguided rulings that put children at risk. Shockingly, in some states, barbers and beauticians are required to undergo more domestic violence training than the judges who preside over family court cases.

Organizations such as One Mom's Battle, the California Protective Parents Association, and The National Family Violence Law Center, among others, are committed to raising awareness about the estimated 58,000 children each year who are placed in unsupervised contact with abusive parents. This oversight has resulted in countless tragedies, including the deaths of children. **In Michigan alone, 39 children have been killed during custody or divorce disputes since 2008. These statistics and the recent death of 6-year-old Rowan Morey from Caledonia, Michigan, who was murdered during his father's parenting time, highlight the urgent need for reform. Rowan's mother had previously reported the father's abusive behavior to both family court and Child Protective Services, but the court failed to recommend a safe parenting plan. This case underscores the systemic failures that leave children vulnerable to preventable harm and the immediate need for stronger protections.**

In our own community, many families are enduring the silent struggle of navigating a court system that does not always prioritize child safety. As a member of Protective Parents Michigan, I have seen firsthand how children suffer when they are compelled to spend time with abusive parents due to court orders. It is our hope that through education and awareness during Family Court Awareness Month, we can prevent further tragedies and honor the memory of those who have been lost.

Thank you for considering this proclamation. Your support would send a powerful message that Lawton, MI stands with families and children in advocating for a safer, more informed family court system.

Below is the proposed wording for the proclamation.

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Family Court Awareness Month (FCAM) is to raise awareness about the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interests of children. FCAM also aims to improve recognition among court professionals, legislators, and the public that family court decisions have profound and lasting impacts on the lives of children and families, making it essential that these decisions are informed by the latest research and best practices in child safety;

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 58,000 children in the U.S. are ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents each year, resulting in hundreds of child murders during visitation with a dangerous parent. In Michigan, 39 children have been killed by a parent since 2008 during divorce or custody disputes;

**WHEREAS**, in August 2024, 6-year-old Rowan Morey of Caledonia, Michigan, was not returned to his mother after his father's parenting time. A search led police to discover that Rowan had been shot and killed by his father, who then took his own life. Rowan's mother had previously reported the father's abusive behavior to both family court and Child Protective Services;

**WHEREAS**, in August 2022, 16-month-old Chaos Demilo McCarthy was murdered by his father in Genesee County. A Genesee County judge had awarded the father temporary custody just weeks before the boy's death, despite the father's prior felony conviction;

**WHEREAS**, in September 2021, 3-year-old Dylan Thebo was fatally shot by his father in a murder-suicide during court-ordered visitation in Kent County. Dylan's mother had made repeated efforts to report her ex-husband's abuse and threats to six different entities;

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, the Tsimhoni children's abuse claims were dismissed by the Oakland County Family Court, and the children were sent to juvenile hall for resisting visitation with their father. Controversial reunification therapy was ordered, which mandates reconciliation with alleged abusers. This therapy, which is not evidence-based, has been shown to be detrimental and despite findings of judicial misconduct in the case, reunification therapy is still frequently ordered by family courts;

**WHEREAS**, Kent County, Michigan, following six domestic violence-related homicides within three months in 2021, recognized the need for a specialized Domestic Violence Court. This court, staffed by individuals knowledgeable about the intricacies of domestic violence, aims to support victims and families, hold offenders accountable, and prevent further homicides;

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Family Court Awareness Month (FCAM) is to promote judicial education and awareness about the necessity of using scientifically validated, evidence-based treatment programs that are proven to be safe and effective. This education should include training on domestic violence, child abuse (emotional, psychological, physical, and sexual), childhood trauma, coercive control, and post-separation abuse for judges and all professionals involved in family court cases;

**WHEREAS**, FCAM is dedicated to educating judges and family court professionals on the importance of incorporating evidence-based, peer-reviewed research into their decision-making. This includes the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study (Vincent Felitti, Kaiser Permanente-CDC), Child Custody Evaluators' Beliefs About Domestic Abuse Allegations (Daniel Saunders, University of Michigan), and Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Parental Alienation and Abuse Allegations (Joan S. Meier, GW Law School). This research reveals a prevalent gender bias against mothers who report abuse in family courts, despite false allegations being rare, and emphasizes the need for impartial decision-making to protect children's well-being;

**WHEREAS**, Family Court Awareness Month aims to encourage collaboration among legislators, advocates, professionals, and the community to improve family court practices, ensuring they are guided by evidence-based research and prioritize the safety and best interests of children;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby declare the Month of NOVEMBER to be FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or respond to this email. I will follow up with your office on this request in the next few days. As always, we appreciate your support. Thank you for considering this very important request.

Sincerely,

Geralyn Morris  
Protective Parents Michigan  
734-863-5242

**To:** Members of the MML Liability & Property Pool  
**From:** Michael J. Forster, Fund Administrator  
**Date:** September 9, 2024  
**Subject:** Pool Director Election

Dear Pool Member:

Enclosed is your ballot for this year's Board of Directors election. Two (2) incumbent Directors have agreed to seek re-election. You may also write in one or more candidates if you wish.

A brief biographical sketch of each candidate is provided for your review.

I hope you will affirm the work of the Nominating Committee by returning your completed ballot in the enclosed return envelope, no later than November 8<sup>th</sup>. Alternately, you may complete your ballot online:

Go to [www.mml.org](http://www.mml.org). At the top of the page, hover over *Programs & Services* and select *Risk Management* from the drop-down list. Next, look for the *Jump To* panel and select *Liability & Property Pool*. The ballot link is on the next page, in the *Jump To* panel, under *Online Forms*.

The MML Liability & Property Pool is owned and controlled by its members. Your comments and suggestions on how we can serve you better are very much appreciated. Thank you again for your membership in the Pool, and for participating in the election of your governing board.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Forster  
Pool Administrator  
[mforster@mml.org](mailto:mforster@mml.org)



## THE CANDIDATES

Three-year terms beginning January 1, 2025

### ***Thad Beard, Manager, City of Rockford***



Thad has over 23 years' experience in municipal government and has been the city manager of Rockford since 2017. He previously served as the City of Otsego's manager for 17 years and as the City of Wayland's assistant manager for three years before that. He is a member of the Michigan Municipal Executives and former member of its Board of Directors. Thad grew up in Kalamazoo, received an undergraduate degree from Great Lakes Christian College and a master's degree from Western Michigan University. Thad is seeking election to his second term.

### ***Dan Swallow, Manager, City of Tecumseh***



Dan has more than 18 years' experience as a municipal official and has been the City Manager of Tecumseh since 2015. Previously, his government career included tenures with the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, Van Buren Township, and as the Economic & Community Development Director for the City of Monroe. He has credentials from the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and actively participates in the Michigan Association of Planning and Michigan Municipal Executives. Dan grew up in the small northeastern Michigan community of Alpena. Dan is seeking election to his second term.

# **Village of Lawton Department of Public Works Monthly Report**

**Month: September 2024**

## **.Road Maintenance and Repairs**

Crews performed hot mix patching on all streets and we had pavement restoration come in and do a couple big road patches along with parking lot patching in both parking lots

Asphalt restoration came in and placed Kent county curbing on a few spots where we had severe washouts.

**Maj road Hrs. 33    Local road Hrs. 54    streets and trees hrs. 143**

## **Sidewalks**

**No activity was performed on side walks in the month of August.**

## **Water and Sewer Operations**

### **Water System Maintenance**

We pumped 18,143,000 gallons of water for the month of August with a daily average of 604,766 we pumped 13,966,000 gallons in September of 2023.

**We had 80 hours in Water Maintenance**

### **Sewer System & WWTP Maintenance**

- In September a total of 1.87 million gallons of treated wastewater was discharged into the tributary to the South Branch of the Paw Paw River. The daily effluent flows averaged 62,000 gallons per day, which is approximately 25% of the hydraulic capacity of the plant.

500 gallons of activated sludge was pumped over to the sludge storage tank.

We rented a hydro vac trailer and the guys cleaned and checked all storm drains and catch basins along with water valve boxes.

**We had a total of 206 hrs. in sewer Maintenance.**

## **Park Maintenance**

**Mowing and Landscaping:** Regular mowing and landscaping activities were conducted in all village parks, including Chauncy Lewis Park and Cannon Park.

**Playground Equipment:** Monthly inspections were performed on equipment

- **We had a total of 16.5 hrs. in park maintenance**

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

**Routine Maintenance:** Performed routine maintenance on all DPW vehicles, including oil changes, tire rotations, and brake inspections.

Leaf vac has been gone through and is almost ready for leaf pickup the box will be put on the truck and ready to go

**We had a total of 94 hrs. in Motor pool.**

## **Cemetery Maintenance.**

We had 1 interment in the month of September,

We performed general Maintenance and mowing

We have a large amount of foundations to do so we have been up putting those in

**Cemetery Hrs. 164 Hrs.**

**Vacation Hrs, 48   Sick Hrs, 8   Holiday 40**

**Submitted by:** Todd Hackenberg

**Date:** OCT 8<sup>th</sup> , 2024



Lawton Police Department  
P.O. Box 117  
125 S. Main St.  
Lawton MI, 49065  
(269) 624-2382  
Fax (269) 624-1911



**LAWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT – COUNCIL REPORT**  
**September 2024**  
*Prepared by Chief Greg Cordes*

Complaints/reports written by LPD.....68

Calls for service in Lawton by LPD.....

Call for service in Lawton by other agencies.....

Ordinance complaints.....0

Blight.....1

Zone.....0

Traffic stops citations issued.....5

Traffic stops verbal warning.....20

Arrests.....4

Parking citations.....0

Special events/school/etc.....360 mins

Business contacts.....8

Citizen contacts.....61

Officer Foot Patrol time.....90 mins

Assist other departments calls .....4

Officer training..... 2065 mins

Follow-up investigations.....15

Vehicle accidents.....1

**LPD HOURS WORKED: Police: Scheduled (Full-time)....650.5 hrs.**

Scheduled (Part-time).....22.5 hrs.

Overtime hours.....5 hrs.

Vacation hours.....48 hrs.

Sick leave hours.....0 hrs.

School cross guard hours.....80 hrs.

**NOTABLE INCIDENTS:**

Lawton PD is investigating a fleeing and eluding incident that occurred on 9-11-2024. A patrol officer from LPD attempted to stop a dirt bike motorcycle in the village and the driver fled. The pursuit was eventually terminated when the bike went through the construction zone. The driver was not identified. It was later learned that the driver used a Go-pro system to video the chase and post it to Instagram and has done this before with other agencies in the area. LPD is seeking the assistance of the public to help identify the driver of the dirt bike.

Currently this case has been turned over to our part-time officer Orr who is trained in computer forensics and he will be attempting to identify the driver for future prosecution.

### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:

For the month of September, Lawton officers again spent hours on directed traffic patrol, specifically targeting speed violations and aggressive driving throughout the Village. The following are the streets that were targeted in September. We are hoping the continued police presence on these streets will deter aggressive driving and speeding. LPD will be spend time as time permits on the M40 detour specifically targeting Nursery St. and Walker St.

10 mins.....2<sup>nd</sup> St. and Nursery St.  
55 mins.....2<sup>nd</sup> St. and Cemetery  
50 mins..... Nursery St. and Orchard  
110 mins.....3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Nursery St.  
0 mins.....Main St. and 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
0 mins.....Main St. and 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
0 mins..... Main St. and 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
0 mins..... Main St. and 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
0 mins..... Ewing St. and Walker St.

78 mins.....72<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Nursery St.  
 105 mins..... Blue Pride Drive  
 30 mins..... White Oak St. and Walker St.  
 0 mins..... Main St. and White Oak St.  
 170 mins.....Nursery and Tracks  
 0 mins.....Main St. and Tracks  
 0 mins.....3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Quincy  
 0 mins.....White Oak St. and 32<sup>nd</sup> St.  
 0 mins.....3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Nursery St.  
 0 mins.....Kids Dream  
 166 mins.....66<sup>th</sup> and Nursery St.  
 0 mins.....Main St. and James  
 25 mins.....Nursery and North St.  
 0 mins.....Walker and 4<sup>th</sup>  
 75 mins.....Nursery and Durkee  
 0 mins.....Durkee St.  
 0 mins.....Main and Orchard St.  
 0 mins.....W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
 0 mins.....Nursery and 4<sup>th</sup>  
 0 mins.....Main and 66<sup>th</sup>  
 0 mins.....Main and Durkee  
 35 mins.....32<sup>nd</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup>  
 0 mins.....66<sup>th</sup>/M40  
 150 mins.....Nursery/Bitley  
  
 Total radar time hours.....1059 mins

### ASSIST LAWTON FIRE/EMS:

Lawton PD assist medical/fire calls .....6

### TRAINING:

Officers from Lawton Police Department have started using the on-line training portal “When Then Project” to complete our State of Michigan licensing requirement for CPE for 2024. In 2024, as part of a pilot program, the State of Michigan has required all licensed officers in the State of Michigan to complete 12 credit hours of continuing credits in certain fields to maintain licensing. Starting in 2025, all officers will need 24. So far, the officers have given positive feed back about the training program LPD is using.

All full-time officers from LPD attended update search and seizure through the West Michigan Consortium hosted at Ottawa County on 9-23-2024. This also counts towards our CPE required licensing hours.

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

Lawton PD has been present at Lawton football games through the month of September. This has been for community relations and to provide security for the game and the visitors.

Lawton PD is active in the schools with police presence and responding to numerous calls for service and questions by staff, students and parents.

### LAWTON SCHOOLS:

Lawton Schools are back in session starting August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### THE PD MOVING FORWARD:

Garage/evidence area:



This project is moving forward and it appears we will have dates soon when construction will start.

#### **New Officer:**

Officer Orr started working in the month of September at LPD and is working part-time on the weekends to fill in where we are short.

#### **Van Buren SWAT:**

Starting in the month of September Lawton PD has placed an officer on the Van Buren County Wide SWAT team. Officer Hitchcock tried out/passed and was placed on the SWAT team. This will provide further resources for LPD moving forward.

#### **BULLET PROOF GRANT/REINBURSEMENT:**

Earlier in 2024 I submitted a request to the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership to receive money back from bullet proof vests for the PD. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) advised Lawton PD in September that our jurisdiction will receive an award under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) solicitation. The amount is \$1402.45 for this year, which reimburses the PD ½ for the vests purchased this year.

#### **PERSONAL NOTE:**

Lawton PD and the Village of Lawton is currently researching ways to retain and hire new officers. Some of the ways that we are doing this is through wage increases. For us to accomplish this we are also researching new ways to bring in additional revenue to the PD through budget changes, a public safety millage and reaching out to surrounding

jurisdictions to offer contracting police services. This progression is going to make Lawton PD viable moving into the future which will insure the safety of our residents, schools, businesses and visitors. It is a must that we provide a safe community for people to raise their families, thrive in their business and visit our town. Lawton PD has done well up to this point, but the current state of law enforcement is unpredictable and the short term future does not appear to be changing. Officers are more difficult to find and hire now than every and retention is another challenge. We as a PD need to retain the officers we have and be able to be competitive in hiring the best officers that we can moving forward.

Respectfully,

Chief Greg Cordes  
Lawton PD

"Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid" President Ronald Reagan

**Village of Lawton**  
**REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407**  
**Tuesday, October 01, 2024 - 7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

- 1. Call to Order:** J. Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call:** Present: J. Peterson, P. Chmiel, C. Knapp and M. Dudek. Absent: B. Allen, P. Rathbun, and K. Hellman. Also Present: T. Hackenberg and M. Leonard.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** C. Knapp, supported by M. Dudek, made a motion to approve the Planning Commission Agenda for, as presented. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.
- 4. Approval of Minutes:** P. Chmiel, supported by C. Knapp, made a motion to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of July, 02, 2024. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.
- 5. Public Comment / Communications:** T. Hackenberg encouraged the planning commission to participate in the MSU Extension Citizen Planning Program, a four-week online course that covers the fundamentals of roles, responsibilities, and best practices for planning and zoning in Michigan.
- 6. New Business:**

**A. Planning Commission Annual Report**

The Planning Commission's annual report is a requirement for the Rural Readiness program. By continuing to produce these reports, we can maintain our eligibility for future grant funding. T. Hackenberg reviewed the report with the Planning Commission, and there were no questions raised. P. Chmiel, supported by M. Dudek, moved to approve the annual report and recommend it to the council, contingent upon correcting the grammatical errors identified during the review. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

- 7. Unfinished Business:** None.
- 8. Public Comment / Hear from the Audience:** None.
- 9. Planning Commissioner Comments:**

J. Peterson expressed concerns about the absence of a site plan for the old pharmacy building at 350 N Main St. T. Hackenberg addressed her concerns by stating that Susan from Progressive assured them that no changes would be made to the building's exterior, so a site plan is not necessary. However, if they decide to add parking, install windows, change the facade, or make other modifications, a site plan will be required.

- 10. Adjournment:** P. Chmiel, supported by M. Dudek, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm. Motion approved by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melina Leonard

**Village of Lawton Downtown Development Authority**  
**September 18, 2024**  
**Regular Meeting**

Chairperson Osborne called the September 18, 2024 meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Present:** L Dudek, G Dudek, Lawson, Osborne, Shinabargar, McComis, Dlugie

**Absent:** Drew, L Dudek, Kozik

**Visitors:** None.

**Agenda:** Motion G Dudek; Support L Dudek, to approve September agenda. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** Motion G. Dudek; Support L. Dudek, to approve the July 17, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurers Report:** Osborne Read the treasurer's report.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

After discussion, the DDA decided to cancel the Golf Cart Parade, as well as fall decorations this year due to construction.

Discussed Reid's Corner. The DDA will set up a committee to address usage of the facility, and rules to govern usage.

**DDA Board Comments:**

There being no further business Motion G Dudek; seconded by Dlugie to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 7:26 pm.

Our next scheduled meeting is October 16, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Lawson, Secretary

## Circulation Report for August 2024

We had **745** visitors and checked out a total of in **1,961** materials.

Adult Fiction	430
Adult Non-Fiction	88
Audio Books	8
Children Easy Books	815
Junior Fiction	199
Junior Non-Fiction	26
Large Print	244
Periodicals	24
Videos	63
Young Adult fiction	61
VOX Books	<u>3</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,961</b>
Computer Usage	26 uses
Michigan Overdrive Total Checkouts	25,476
Michigan Overdrive Total Holds	10,639
Michigan Overdrive Total Users	6,398
New Items Processed	133
Our Mel Items Received	125
Our Mel Items Sent	128
Lawton Overdrive Downloads	302
Lawton Overdrive Holds	183
Lawton Overdrive Users	572
New Library Members	16
Total Library Members	1,259
Hoopla Users	29
Hoopla Downloads	122

**Lawton Website visited 2,898 last 30 days**

**Facebook visited 2,695 last 30 days**

Book club: 10  
Craft night: 0  
Evening Story Time: 0  
Knitters: 29  
Mystery Club: 6  
Story time: 0  
White Oaks: 12  
Blueberry Hill: 8

### **Summer Programs:**

Brad Lancaster - 39  
Curious Kids - 28

### **GOOGLE-Library Profile Visits**

#### **111 Interactions for August**

26 Calls, 42 People asked for Directions,  
43 website visits, 328 Profile views, 135  
Searches.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lyn Tone, Director

# LAWTON VILLAGE LIBRARY BOARD

Regularly scheduled monthly meeting

Date: 9/23/24

## I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Cornish at: 6:25 PM

Members present: Cornish, Kison, Rathbun, McArthur, Troxell

Members excused: Reid

Staff Present: Tone

Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker): None

## II. Secretary's Report: The 8/26/24 minutes were accepted as presented.

Rathbun Moved to accept the 8/26/24 meeting minutes. Second by - Troxell. Motion carried
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## III. Library Director's Report – Usage Statistics

- A. Visitors: 745
- B. Materials checked out: 1961
- C. Adult Fiction: 430
- D. Adult non-fiction: 88
- E. Audio Books: 8
- F. Children Easy Books: 815
- G. Junior Fiction: 199
- H. Junior Non-fiction: 26
- I. Large Print: 244
- J. Periodicals: 24
- K. Videos: 63
- L. Young Adult fiction: 61
- M. VOX books: 3

Total: 1961

- N. Computer usage: 26
- O. Michigan Overdrive total checkouts: 25476
- P. Michigan Overdrive total holds: 10639
- Q. Michigan Overdrive total users: 6398
- R. New Items Processed: 133
- S. Our MEL items received: 125

- T. Our MEL items sent: 128
- U. Lawton Overdrive downloads: 302
- V. Lawton Overdrive holds: 183
- W. Lawton Overdrive Users: 572
- X. New Library Members: 16
- Y. Total Library Members: 1259
- Z. Hoopla users: 29
- AA. Hoopla downloads: 122
- BB. Lawton Website visited: 2898 last 30 days
- CC. Facebook visited: 2695 last 30 days
- DD. Special Programs: Book Club: 10; Craft night: 0; Evening Story Time: 0; Knitters: 29; Mystery Club- 6; Story time: 0; White Oaks: 12; Blueberry Hill: 8; Summer programs: Brad L. 39; Curious kids: 28.

#### IV. Financial Report

- A. The financial report was presented.

McArthur moved to accept the financial report. Second by: Rathbun. With questions that Tone will ask Village about. Motion carried.

- B. The receipts and expenses were presented by Tone as follows:

Receipts: \$16,509.12

Expenses: \$ 12,628.45

McArthur moved to pay the bills. Second by : Rathbun. Motion carried.

#### V. Committee Reports

- A. None

#### VI. Communications: None

#### VII: Old Business:

1. Meet the Artist Night (waiting on Jackie to confirm a date)

#### VIII. New Business:

1. Cleaning Quote: The owner dropped it to \$20.00, but it is still too much money.
2. Halloween passing out Candy: Hours will follow.

3. Tone news: Tone took a HR class. Tammy and Anna are doing well. SOM has been approved for minimum wage at \$10.48. COVID is still in effect.

X. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at

Moved to adjourn the meeting; second by 6:49

Next Meeting: 10/28/24 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne McArthur, Board Secretary