



## City Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date: May 5, 2026  
From: Randy Frazer, City Manager &  
Tiffany Parsons, City Clerk  
Item: 2026 Outstanding Student Award Recognitions

**Motion:** Recognize and honor Xavier Lawler, Cara Cales, and Dacey Morris as Arkansas City's Outstanding Student Award scholarship recipients for 2025-2026.

**Background:** The **Outstanding Student Award** program was started in 1984. The City Commission implemented the program to recognize students who are outstanding examples of academic and civic excellence in our community. Each year, staff ask teachers, staff, and administrators at the Arkansas City Middle School, Arkansas City High School, and Cowley College to nominate students they think are qualified for this honor.

The **Outstanding Student Award Committee**, appointed by the Mayor and City Commission, receives all nominations from the three schools. Short, informal interviews are conducted with each nominee, and the committee then chooses three finalists from each school to represent the nominees.

From the nine (9) finalists, a top student is chosen for each school. Of the three top students, one (1) is chosen as the Overall City of Arkansas City Outstanding Student for that year and awarded a **\$1,000** scholarship, the first runner-up receives a **\$500** scholarship, and the second runner-up receives a **\$250** scholarship from the City of Arkansas City.

This year's Overall Outstanding Student for Arkansas City is Cowley College student Dacey Morris. The first runner-up is Arkansas City Middle School student Cara Cales. The second runner-up is Arkansas City High School student Xavier Lawler. The top three students were announced at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Awards Banquet, where they were honored and received their certificates amongst family and friends.

**Commission Options:**

1. Introduce and award **Xavier Lawler** as second runner-up and formally present the \$250 scholarship.
2. Introduce and award **Cara Cales** as first runner-up and formally present the \$500 scholarship.
3. Introduce and award **Dacey Morris** as the 2025-2026 Overall Outstanding Student and formally present the \$1,000 scholarship.

**Fiscal Impact:** Amount: **\$1,700.00**

Fund: **01 - General** Department: **201 - Commission** Expense Code: **6217 - Contributions**

Included in budget       Grant       Bonds       Other Not Budgeted

**Approved for Agenda by:**

Randy Frazer, City Manager