



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
Development Center, Room B, 225 N. Webster Ave., Norman, OK 73069
Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

The Public Safety Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in Conference Room B at the Development Center, on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 4:00 PM and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, at the Development Center at 225 N. Webster, and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Linda Price
Committee Member Kenny Orr
Committee Member Kyle Hurley
Committee Member Lea Greenleaf
Committee Member Mark Emerson
Committee Member Russell Rice
Committee Member Gregory Gilkey
Committee Member Brittany Elliott

ABSENT

Committee Member Ann Gallagher

OTHERS

Major Chad Vincent, NPD
Asst. Chief Chad Roney, NFD
Kim Coffman, Budget Manager
Dannielle Risenhoover, Admin. Tech. IV
Bill Scanlon, Citizen
Joshua Hinkle, Ward 6 Council Member
David Gandesbery, Ward 1 Council Member

MINUTES

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, POSTPONEMENT, AND/OR DISCUSSION OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 12, 2025

Member Hurley moved to approve the June 12, 2025, Public Safety Oversight Committee minutes which were duly seconded by Member Emerson. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee Minutes from June 12, 2025.

REPORTS

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, POSTPONEMENT AND/OR DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Kim Coffman gave the report. Coffman stated that revenues were 6.5% below the budget target and the School Resource Officer (SRO) reimbursement was approximately 30% below the budget for fiscal year 2025. Coffman stated that everything on the expenditure side was below budget. “We did have some overages in the areas of overtime in the SRO Division and the Fire Suppression Division, but otherwise Police was about 7% below budget overall and Fire was 26% below budget, year-to-date. The 26% was due, in large part, to the fire apparatus program. We’re still waiting on, I think, three trucks to be completed at this point; so, we haven’t had the final payouts.”

Coffman detailed some of the major purchases for the month of June.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the Cleveland County SRO contract with Norman Public Schools vs. the City of Norman’s SRO contract with Norman Public Schools, the Board determined, in a unanimous vote, that a letter to the Mayor and City Council Members was pertinent and should include the following:

1. The City of Norman’s (CON) School Resource Officer Program was established in Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) 2017 pursuant to voter approval of the permanent Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST II) on April 1, 2014. In addition to continuously funding the 71 police and fire positions under PSST I, PSST II created the SRO Program, mandating the addition of 13 SROs over four years, or as otherwise feasible, with joint funding by the school district. The program began with six SROs in FYE 2017, expanded to nine SROs in FYE 2018, and reached the full complement of thirteen SROs in FYE 2025. The PSST II ordinance and the corresponding SRO contract with Norman Public Schools (NPS) specified a “cost share,” although no fixed reimbursement percentage or amount was delineated. From FYE 2017 through FYE 2023, NPS contributed a total of \$4,407,247 to the city, representing approximately 50% of the total program costs of \$9,026,753 over that period, as estimated. The average annual payment from NPS during these years was \$629,464.
2. Due to budgetary constraints, NPS reduced its reimbursement in FYE 2024 to \$500,000, while total SRO program costs amounted to \$1,773,115 that year.
3. A new contract for FYE 2025 and subsequent years was approved, requiring NPS to contribute \$531,232 in FYE 25 and required 2% increases each year after. This amount was derived from one-half of the salaries and benefits of thirteen entry-level CON police officers, prorated over 182 workdays (corresponding to the standard nine-month school year), in addition to up to \$165,000 for overtime expenses requested by NPS.
4. The total program cost for FYE 2025 was \$2,452,230, which included \$289,705 in overtime related to after-hours school functions.
5. For FYE 2026, the SRO program is projected to cost \$2,307,899 in total. Under the current agreement, NPS is obligated to reimburse \$541,856, or approximately 23.4% of this amount, including up to \$165,000 in overtime.

6. The Public Safety Sales Tax will fund the remaining estimated \$1,766,043, or 76.5%, of the program for FYE 2026.
7. In view of these considerations, the Committee respectfully recommends that the Council direct the City Manager to re-negotiate the SRO contract with NPS to provide for a more equitable cost share of total program expenses, including overtime. The Committee further notes that, as of June 30, 2025, NPS and Cleveland County executed a contract providing reimbursement to the County in the amount of \$630,000 annually for seven Sheriff's Deputies—equating to approximately \$90,000 per deputy per year—while the City's agreement provides reimbursement of only \$41,681 per SRO for the same period.

Member Greenleaf made the motion which was duly seconded by Member Rice.

Council Member Hinkle raised the question as to if Council should look at creating a Student Resource Trust to support the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund. Coffman stated that she would get with the Finance Director to see about putting this topic on the next City Council Finance Committee agenda.

Items submitted for the record:
Financial Reports

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. MONTHLY UPDATES

a) FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Assistant Chief Chad Roney gave the update. For fiscal year 2026, the Fire Fighter Union is continuing with the same contract they had in fiscal year 2025. The active paramedic protocols for Stations 5 and 6 will also continue, as-is, under this contract.

The Fire Department is currently taking applications to fill eight vacant positions. They have approval to hire up to 15 people if there is a vacancy to fill. The Public Safety Study recommended 90 out of 121 recommended positions be filled within the next five years. According to Roney, the lack of filled positions with the Fire Department isn't due to a shortage of applications, but a shortage of funding.

Recent community events that the Fire Department participated in were parades, Safety Town, and Fourth of July celebrations.

Fire suppression units will start going out with Fire Inspectors to get a better understanding of some of the City's more complex structures. Roney stated that this is to aid in better pre-planning for better fire department responses.

Replacement fire apparatuses include: a super single brush unit that is scheduled to be received in fall 2025, Engine Three that is scheduled to be received in December 2025 and Ladder One that is scheduled to be received in May 2026.

b) POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Major Chad Vincent gave the update. The Norman Police Department (NPD) partnered with Oklahoma City Police to provide policing services for some of the Oklahoma City Thunder

basketball games and the Champion Parade. Vicent referred to this as “a great time and a great way to build partnerships.”

The Police Department is still looking at the Public Safety Study to identify what elements should be prioritized. “We are ranking what we can do now without funding. We’re also trying to “stage up” for long-term strategic planning,” Vincent said.

There will likely be a police academy starting in late spring. The Department is down five commissioned officers with approximately 200 applicants.

Vincent touched on the Oklahoma Highway Patrol’s decision to move their troopers out of the metro and into the rural areas, releasing all urban jurisdiction and operation to the metro police departments. “We are navigating this with our other metro law enforcement agency partners. We’re not sure what this looks like, honestly,” Vincent said. “For us, our stretch of I-35 doesn’t seem like a lot, but it was at least 400 car crashes, two fatalities, multiple motor assists...it’s just different out there. For safety, I would prefer not to have any of our officers out there. We broke it down into manpower and we would need probably four to five officers to adequately add this into what we are doing.”

c) DISPATCH UPDATES

Major Chad Vincent gave the update. The Dispatch Department is down two employees with a new academy starting soon. Since moving into the Emergency Communications Operations Center, the Department is seeing more applications come through for employment. “Everybody wants to work in that new space,” Vincent said.

d) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS CENTER (ECOC) UPDATES

Major Chad Vincent gave the update. The final construction pieces of the ECOC continue to proceed with no reported issues.

4. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC SAFETY STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION

A) CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, POSTPONEMENT, AND/OR DISCUSSION OF A RECOMMENDATION LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THE APPOINTMENT OF A SUBCOMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MATRIX PUBLIC SAFETY STUDY

Member Hurley recommended that the Council establish an ad hoc committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the Matrix Public Safety Study presented on February 4, 2025, and to develop a strategic plan for its implementation which was duly seconded by Member Rice. The motion passed unanimously. Member Hurley expressed his willingness to serve as chair of such a committee, and several other members of the PSST Oversight Committee showed interested in participating as well. This information and recommendation is also to be comprised in a letter to the Mayor and City Council Members.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

5. ESTABLISH TOPICS FOR THE AUGUST 14, 2025 MEETING

The Annual Report for fiscal year 2025 will be added as a topic to the August 14, 2025 meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Rice made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was duly seconded by Member Hurley. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Price, Chair
Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee