

# VELOCITY

JUNE 2022 • OKCCHAMBER.COM

GREATER  
OKLAHOMA CITY  
CHAMBER

## CHAMBER PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2022 Regular Session of the Oklahoma Legislature has officially ended, and officials with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber indicated state lawmakers did an outstanding job looking out for the business community.

Going into the session, the Chamber was concerned about several issues that could have negatively impacted economic development. One of the most important priorities for the Chamber was to protect critical economic development incentive programs from being repealed or scaled-back. During the previous two years, there was an effort to repeal the five-year ad valorem exemption for new or expanding manufacturing facilities, as well as an attempt to make it more difficult to qualify projects in the state's metro areas for the Quality Jobs Act – an important program the Chamber uses to recruit new companies to locate in the OKC area.

“We support efforts to expand economic development in rural parts of the state and worked with legislative leadership and Governor Stitt to help them understand the best way to accomplish that is not to make it more difficult in the state's metro areas, but to enact legislation to spur development in the rural areas. And that's what they did,” said Mark VanLandingham, the Chamber's senior vice president of government relations and policy.

The Chamber supported House Bill 4464 which appropriated \$250 million to the Progressing Rural



Economic Prosperity Fund, or PREP, which was created under HB 4456. The appropriation was designated to develop/upgrade industrial parks throughout rural Oklahoma to attract large-scale investment.

Another major piece of legislation supported by the Chamber, even though it was not related to a specific project in the Oklahoma City area, was HB 4455, more commonly known as the “mega-projects” bill. This measure provided a new \$700 million state incentive, on top of other state and local incentives, to help lure a major battery manufacturer, believed to be Panasonic, to Pryor, Okla. If the company chooses to locate to Oklahoma, it will have a multibillion-dollar impact in the state and create 4,000 to 6,000 new jobs.

“Economic development in every part of the state is important. We've had our fair share over the last 10 to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

**VOTE YES ON JUNE 28 TO FIX THE JAIL!**



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## LEADERSHIP NOTES

### JUNE 28 AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY

Though the circumstances that have led us to this moment in our history as a community are somewhat complex, my message this month is pretty simple. If you are a resident of Oklahoma County, I ask you to vote “yes” on June 28 to build a new county jail. A “yes” vote will enable construction of a new detention facility without raising taxes from current rates.

The problems with the current Oklahoma County Detention Center are well known and well documented. While we have made remarkable progress in addressing a number of problems and inefficiencies in our local criminal justice system, resulting in a lower daily inmate population, we simply haven't had the ability to do what's needed most to make our system one that functions efficiently and that isn't a huge economic drain. Quite frankly, it's a notable exception in the story of our success as a metro over the last 30 years.

Now, we have a rare opportunity to address the greatest remaining issue in our local criminal justice system – the jail itself – without raising taxes. A new building is expected to save an estimated \$5.2 million per year in staffing and operational costs, allowing the county to better maintain and operate the facility. Rather than a barrier to transforming people into productive citizens, a new facility will enable greater efficiency, proper space for more of the diversion programs that have been successful in getting people out of the jail who don't need to be there, as well as new job training and other programs that will benefit our community and help make us safer, and much better off economically in the long term.

Please go to [fixthejail.com](http://fixthejail.com) to see how you can help remove a stain from the fabric that holds us together as a city and a county by voting yes on June 28. It's a simple action that can have a multifaceted positive impact.



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
Chamber President & CEO



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
President & CEO

VELOCITY  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CALENDAR

(Events are subject to change. Consult [okcchamber.com/events](https://okcchamber.com/events) for the most recent updates.)

#### JUNE 14

Inclusion at Work  
3:30 to 5 p.m.  
Zoom  
[okcchamber.com/inclusionatwork](https://okcchamber.com/inclusionatwork)

#### JUNE 15

Chamber Forum  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Vast  
333 W Sheridan Ave.  
[okcchamber.com/juneforum](https://okcchamber.com/juneforum)

#### JULY 14

State of the City  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Oklahoma City Convention Center  
100 Mick Cornett Dr.  
[okcchamber.com/soc](https://okcchamber.com/soc)

#### JULY 20

Chamber Forum  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Vast  
333 W Sheridan Ave.  
[okcchamber.com/julyforum](https://okcchamber.com/julyforum)

#### AUGUST 10

State of the Schools  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
National Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Museum  
1700 NE 63rd St.  
[okcchamber.com/schools](https://okcchamber.com/schools)

# CHAMBER FORUM

## Panel to discuss June 28 vote for new county jail during upcoming Chamber Forum

On Tuesday, June 28, Oklahoma County voters will go to the poll to vote on a \$260 million bond issue to fund the construction of a new jail and detention center. The bonds would take the place of retiring bonds, which would mean no tax increase for Oklahoma County residents.

Those attending the next Chamber Forum June 15 at Vast will hear from a panel comprised of county officials who will discuss how the new county jail would ensure public safety, provide for job training, mental health treatment and more. Participants in the panel will include:

- Commissioner Carrie Blumert, District 1, Oklahoma County
- Jim Couch, Jail Trust Chairman, Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority
- Sheriff Tommie Johnson III, Oklahoma County

In addition to the June Forum, people are encouraged to sign up early for the July Chamber Forum, which is scheduled for July 20. A topic and speaker lineup have yet to be determined for the July Forum; however, you can rest assured the topic and speakers will be both timely and top-notch.

The cost to attend the June and July Chamber Forums is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for nonmembers. Chamber Forum half-season ticket packages are also still available, which are good for five Chamber forums at a discounted rate of \$175.

To register for the June Forum, please visit [okcchamber.com/juneforum](https://okcchamber.com/juneforum). Anyone who wants to register for the July Forum can do so at [okcchamber.com/julyforum](https://okcchamber.com/julyforum). To purchase a half-season ticket package, email [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com) or call 405-297-8921.

The Chamber Forum series brings thought leaders together to discuss major initiatives, programs and current issues that impact Oklahoma City's business climate, economy and community.

Special thanks to our Series Presenting Sponsor Cox Business and Series Corporate Sponsor ADG.

## State of the City event will inform and inspire

Oklahoma City continues trending upwards as one of the top-performing cities in the nation. And the accolades keep pouring in, espousing Oklahoma City as one of America's best cities in which to live and work.

On Thursday, July 14, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt will join business and community leaders at the Oklahoma City Convention Center for a unique opportunity to learn about Oklahoma City's key projects and initiatives, and be inspired about our future development and opportunities.

Tickets for this annual event are \$75 for Chamber members and \$100 for nonmembers. To register or learn more, visit [okcchamber.com/soc](https://okcchamber.com/soc). Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,500. Please contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com) for table sponsor inquiries.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor The Professional Basketball Club, LLC - Oklahoma City Thunder and Host Sponsor Express Employment Professionals.

## Chancellor Garrett, OKCPS Superintendent McDaniel highlight State of the Schools event August 10

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber will present the 2022 State of the Schools, with featured guests Chancellor Allison Garrett and Oklahoma City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Sean McDaniel, on Wednesday, August 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Garrett, CEO for the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, will provide an overview of higher education including recent budget and legislative issues, the impact and recovery from COVID-19, and the vision for encouraging more graduates with in-demand degrees in STEM, health care and education.

McDaniel will deliver an update on the district including the progress on Pathway to Greatness and EmbraceOKC, share highlights from the past year and discuss the impact the upcoming bond issue will have on the district's future.



The event will also feature a panel with McDaniel and other area superintendents, including Dr. Rick Cobb from Mid-Del Public Schools and Dr. Angela Grunewald from Edmond Public Schools, as they discuss what is needed to help all students reach their potential, how Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds will be utilized, and how area districts are working to improve the mental health of their students, teachers and staff.

Individual tickets are \$60 for Chamber members and \$85 for nonmembers. To register or learn more, visit [okcchamber.com/schools](https://okcchamber.com/schools). Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,500. Contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com) for table sponsor inquiries.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, School Supply/Centerpiece Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company and Host Sponsor Cox Communications..



## LEGISLATIVE RECAP (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

15 years,” VanLandingham said. “Although OKC does not have any projects in our current recruiting pipeline meeting the criteria for the “mega-projects” incentive, we likely will sometime in the future. Getting that incentive on the books to enable OKC to be more competitive for major economic development projects overall is a plus.”

VanLandingham said heading into the session, there was extensive discussion about vaccine legislation as the COVID-19 virus continued to pose a substantial health threat to the public. There was widespread opposition in much of Oklahoma to the federal government’s mandate that companies with more than 100 employees must require their employees to get vaccinated, tested weekly or face substantial fines. This resulted in more than 50 vaccination bills at the start of session, many of which would have interfered with a company’s right to determine/implement its own vaccine policy. However, through the Chamber’s advocacy and the efforts of others, none of those bills advanced.

“The Chamber made it a priority to protect the right of employers to determine and implement their own vaccination policies. And, at the end of session, not one bad vaccine bill was enacted into law,” VanLandingham said. “We are extremely appreciative of what the Legislature did to manage all those vaccination bills.”

Oklahoma’s economy has seemingly been humming right along in recent years, despite the challenges and obstacles presented by the pandemic. Oklahoma City has fared better than most large cities across the U.S., but that does not necessarily mean all is well. Workforce needs still exist as did prior to the pandemic. Shortages in critical in-demand fields, such as teaching and engineering, continue to plague the state. And now a

shortage of nurses, due in part to the pandemic, has expanded the list of in-demand degrees even further.

To help address those concerns, the Chamber supported increased funding to expand the number of teachers, nurses and engineers in the state. When the final budget was enacted, K-12, CareerTech and higher education all saw funding increases averaging almost 5%, with higher education receiving the largest increase of 7.45% to \$873 million. To address the teacher shortage, legislation was enacted to fund scholarships for students as they are pursuing a teaching degree and then afterward when they are in the classroom.

In addition to teacher scholarships, the Legislature also approved additional funding for colleges and universities through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) to help expand nursing programs. Lawmakers also provided additional funding targeted to produce more engineers and other STEM-related graduates.

“This isn’t a problem unique to Oklahoma. There are significant workforce shortages of teachers, nurses and engineers in most other states,” VanLandingham remarked. “We understand Tinker could hire 1,000 engineers right now if they were available. What we have is not necessarily a shortage of college graduates, but a shortage of graduates and other workers with the degrees and skill sets that are in demand to grow the economy to its highest potential.”

It was another successful year protecting the rights of business owners and event hosts to prohibit firearms if they choose to do so, VanLandingham said. Out of the more than 50 gun-rights expansion bills introduced during the session, two were of major concern – legislation to allow firearms on college campuses, and into the Oklahoma State Fair and Tulsa State Fair. Those bills were stopped, however, and the session

ended successfully without passage of any harmful gun legislation.

“The Second Amendment needs to be balanced with the property rights of business owners and event hosts. We support allowing companies and event hosts (concerts, sporting events, horse shows) to determine their own policies on whether to allow firearms,” VanLandingham said.

Other Chamber successes for the 2022 legislative session included working with the City of Oklahoma City and other entities, along with state lawmakers and executive branch personnel, to navigate the state’s ARPA process in pursuit of several multimillion-dollar funding requests in central Oklahoma, including water-line relocation at Tinker AFB, additional infrastructure at the State Fairgrounds and infrastructure to assist in recruiting new businesses to the OKC area.

Fully funding the Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s eight-year plan and the Heartland Flyer passenger rail service were also among the Chamber’s efforts this session. Senate Bill 1488 by Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow) would have eliminated \$2.85

million from the state’s passenger rail revolving fund, thereby ending the Heartland Flyer’s daily service to Dallas-Ft. Worth. With SB 1488 defeated, stakeholders, including the Chamber, will continue to pursue funds to extend Amtrak service north to Newton, Kan., using funds from the federal infrastructure bill to expand passenger rail. This extension would link OKC with Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and other points across the country. The Chamber is working with other Oklahoma chambers from the Texas border to the Kansas border along the Heartland Flyer Route, as well as the U.S. Department of Transportation and Amtrak, in support of this effort.

Additional successes during the 2022 session included uniting with Chamber members to oppose legislation regarding Pharmacy Benefit Managers, stopping data privacy legislation and supporting legislation to improve student mental health statewide.

For additional details on these and other legislative efforts, please visit the latest issue of the Chamber publication “The Business Advocate” at [okcbusinessadvocate.com](http://okcbusinessadvocate.com).

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[www.okcps.org/JoinOKCPS](http://www.okcps.org/JoinOKCPS)

## Q&A WITH OKC THUNDER CHAIRMAN CLAY BENNETT ABOUT JUNE 28 VOTE FOR NEW COUNTY JAIL

*Clay Bennett, chairman of the Oklahoma City Thunder and president of Dorchester Capital, recently voiced his support for a new county jail ahead of the June 28 vote. The new jail will be more effective, more cost efficient and will help keep us safer.*



On June 28, Oklahoma County voters will have an opportunity to approve the construction of a new county jail without having to raise taxes to do it. The new jail will replace the current jail that is overcrowded, outdated and poorly designed. This new facility will be more effective, more cost efficient and will help keep us safer.

VeloCity's editorial staff recently sat down with Oklahoma City Thunder Chairman and Dorchester Capital President Clay Bennett for a Q&A session to discuss the importance and benefits of building a new jail for Oklahoma County.

**You have been involved in criminal justice reform for some time. Why is now the right time to move forward with replacing our jail?**

**CLAY BENNETT:** For six years, we have been working to really understand our system. We found that we were keeping too many people in the jail for the wrong reasons. We also found the system was not functioning efficiently, so many times people were kept longer than needed. We have reduced the daily population by about 1,000 people. At the same time, we now have a better understanding of the programs necessary to serve the population better, and to continue to reduce incarceration. We now know what type of jail, and size of jail, our community needs. I also think this process has given our community a better understanding of the need for a different approach to criminal justice, which we can implement more effectively with this new facility. Fortunately, we also have a situation where an expiring tax allows us to make this move without raising taxes.

**Why do you feel inclined to step out and lead this effort?**

**CLAY BENNETT:** Replacing the jail is a crucial step in continuing our criminal justice reform efforts. This new facility will give us a chance to stop the cycle of incarceration for many people, which will improve the safety of our community and provide opportunities for rehabilitation and restorative justice. This is a

generational problem that we have an opportunity to solve, and we should take advantage of that.

**As the June 28 vote to fix the jail quickly approaches, what feedback have you had from the community concerning the construction of a new jail?**

**CLAY BENNETT:** Overwhelmingly, I hear people say let's just fix it. I think everyone understands that the current situation is not sustainable and that we must start over and do something very different than what we've been doing.

**Oklahoma City grew by more than 100,000 people over the last decade – one of just 14 cities across the nation to do so – making it the 20th largest city in the U.S. How will that growth impact the need for a new jail?**

**CLAY BENNETT:** Population growth is something we considered when proposing a size for this new facility. We are currently averaging around 1,600 inmates, and we expect that number will continue to decline as we implement additional reforms in the system. At the same time, we know we have a growing population. We want to build a facility that will be sized correctly for the next 20 to 30 years, so we are planning to build a facility that can be expanded if necessary. We think this is the right size to prevent overcrowding, but it isn't so large that the system can become lax about keeping the numbers as low as possible.

**How will this new facility differ from the current one?**

**CLAY BENNETT:** The current facility is incredibly inefficient. The new facility will be designed by architects with a depth of experience designing jails. The first significant difference is going from a high-rise building to a single floor which will allow for easier

movement of people in and out. Another big change will be purpose-built medical and mental health facilities that will serve the needs of the population, where the current medical facility is on the 13th floor in a converted cell block and doesn't have easy access. We also have room to place diversion programs on site to keep people from ever being booked into the jail at all.

**What do you say to those naysayers out there, who say that instead of a new jail, we should invest in more treatment facilities or accountability programs?**

**CLAY BENNETT:** First, we need more treatment facilities – they aren't wrong about that. But the reality is that we have dangerous people in our community that need to be incarcerated. The vast majority of the people in our jail are not convicted and are awaiting trial. We want that to be a safe, humane, efficient environment. There isn't really a choice. We need a new jail. And we need that jail to have better options that allow our community to address addiction and mental illness.

**There were so many problems with the construction of the current jail. How will this process be different?**

**CLAY BENNETT:** This process couldn't be more different. The recommendation for the new jail started with the Criminal Justice Advisory Council – so all the players in the system have had input into the process to get to this recommendation. The consultants who are supporting the process are experienced in jail construction, and the county commissioners recognize that the county needs professional support and oversight – just like what the city has been successful using in MAPS. There will be citizen oversight of the process and an owners' rep will help to plan the project. The entire process will be transparent, and accountability measures will be in place. We will not let the mistakes of the past be repeated.

*(NOTE: If you are a registered voter living in Oklahoma County, no matter what city or jurisdiction, you will be able to vote in the June 28 election. If you are not a registered voter, there is still a very small window when you can register. Per state law, you need to register 25 days prior to the election. To vote on June 28, that means you will need to be registered by June 3.)*

## Fight Hunger This Summer



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## STUDENT INTERNS WILL GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHT AND TRAINING DURING CHAMBER'S ANNUAL INTERNOKC PROGRAM

InternOKC, a program created by the Chamber to recruit and retain young talent in Oklahoma City, is less than two weeks away, but there is still time for employers to sign up their interns for this dynamic, annual event.

InternOKC will help interns discover the benefits of living and working in Greater Oklahoma City, while fostering peer networking and providing resources to help them transition from college student to young professional.

All sessions will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. every other week at three different OKC locations. (Programming listed below is subject to change.)

To register your interns for InternOKC, visit [internokc.com](http://internokc.com). The registration fee per intern is \$150 for Chamber members or \$250 for nonmembers. Deadline to register is Tuesday, June 7.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc.

### SESSION 1, JUNE 14

**Learn how adopting the right habits and practices will have a significant impact on your career development.**

Location: Oklahoma City Convention Center | Painted Sky Ballroom | 4th floor | 100 Mick Cornett Drive

Session Emcee - Perrin Duncan, Special Projects Manager, Arnall Family Foundation

**"The Rise of OKC and Developing the Habits of Growth"**

Speaker: David Holt, Mayor, City of Oklahoma City

**"What I've Learned So Far in My Personal Journey: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly"**

Young Professionals Panel

- Fahad Hameed, Mechanical & Structural Functional Sr. Manager & Digital Engineering Leader, The Boeing Company
- Emily Rothrock-Tate, Community Affairs Manager, OG&E

- Roderick Wright, Program Manager, Public Strategies
- Liz Zaleski, Customer Service Manager, Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc.

### SESSION 2, JUNE 28

**How to navigate and form relationships that build your career and make a positive difference in those around you.**

Location: Champion Convention Center | Champion Ballroom | 803 S. Meridian Avenue

Session Emcee - Lacey Lett, Director of Communications, Goodwill Industries of Central Oklahoma

**"How to Navigate Professional Relationships in the Workplace, Cultivate Influence and Create Opportunity"**

Speaker: J.D. Baker, Platform Manager, Cortado Ventures

**"Understanding the Value of Relationships to Propel Your Career, Find Wisdom and Make a Difference"**

Speaker: Jessica Martinez-Brooks, Senior Director of Strategic Communications and Transformation, Metro Technology Centers

### SESSION 3, JULY 12

**Build a mindset and perspective that builds resiliency, solves problems and makes a positive impact on your career and on others.**

Location: First Americans Museum | Hall of The People | 659 First Americans Boulevard

Session Emcee - Angie Doss, Chief Development & Marketing Officer, Sunbeam Family Services, Inc.

**"Embracing a Growth Perspective That Creates Resiliency and the Ability to Overcome"**

Speaker: Ashleigh Robinson, Miss Oklahoma, The Miss America Organization

**"Develop a Mindset and Perspective That Helps You Learn from Your Journey, Embraces Failure and Opportunities and Sets You Up to Make a Positive Impact"**

Speaker: Ariel Moore, Senior Director at Center for Social Innovation, Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City

## VISITOKC.COM REDESIGN PROMISES EASIER NAVIGATION AND ACCESS TO MORE USEFUL CONTENT

Oklahoma City continues to be recognized nationally as one of the best places to live in and visit. More quality attractions, events, restaurants, retail shops and other amenities keep popping up across the metro, reinforcing OKC's growing reputation for being a fun and cool place to hang out.

With so much to do and see in OKC for residents and leisure travelers alike, the OKC Convention and Visitors Bureau's (Visit OKC) recently redesigned its website, VisitOKC.com, to help them find just the right spots and attractions for whatever plans they may have on their respective itineraries.

VisitOKC.com went live March 28, taking approximately 10 months to complete, said Lindsay Vidrine, the Visit OKC's vice president of destination marketing. So far, users have indicated they like the fresh look and feel of the redesigned website. But as far as what users love most of all about the site...that all depends on your perspective, she said.

"If you're a manager of one of the 14 neighborhood or entertainment districts, you like something different than if you are a leisure visitor," Vidrine stated. "The districts also really love that we can highlight more content for their neighborhoods and the things that make our city unique. Our industry partners have had a positive response to it, as well."

Since the redesign is barely two months old, more time is needed to gather data in order to correlate user trends; however, there is enough available data to show which pages draw the most traffic. That distinction belongs to the Events calendar as well as the Things To Do section, which are both found at the top of the webpage in an easy-to-find format.

"With summer travel getting ready to kick into high gear, we expect June to be a big month for website traffic," Vidrine said.

The need to redesign Visit OKC's old website was a long time coming, especially when you consider the last redesign occurred in 2014. Eight years between redesigns is like an eternity for today's web standards.



"Our website was really old and built for a desktop experience," Vidrine said. "About 70% of our current users are coming on a tablet or a mobile device, so we wanted to simplify the user experience and update the look and feel for how we display destination information."

How quickly and efficiently users can navigate through the website is one of the most obvious improvements of the redesign. Simplifying the navigation was a top priority for the Visit OKC team, especially after fully understanding just how outdated their old website truly was. There is even better accessibility built into the new design.

"Now users aren't frustrated with the site, and it's easy to click through with your finger on a smaller screen," Vidrine said.

Veteran users of VisitOKC.com will notice the new colors and fonts as well as more video capability, especially as they relate to incorporating OKC's The Modern Frontier branding throughout the site. Downloading the video content is also much faster.

But one important distinction between the new version of VisitOKC.com and its predecessor is how various microsites are prominently displayed and accessed, namely MeetInOKC.com and OKCsports.org.

MeetInOKC.com is described as a one-stop shop for convention planners where they can access all sorts of information that they can use to plan their next regional or annual event, including updated information about available hotels and attractions, along with details on the new Oklahoma City Convention Center. Elevating Oklahoma City as a sports destination with its many championship-caliber facilities is a more-focused strategy of Visit OKC, and the OKCsports.org site should help in that regard.

## RECENT EDA VISIT A CHANCE TO SHOWCASE OKC'S BIOSCIENCE CLUSTER FOR POTENTIAL GRANT

Oklahoma City recently got a quick visit from a high-ranking EDA official on a mission to find out more about a regional plan to expand the region's bioscience industry.

The visit was made in response to a \$500,000 planning grant the EDA awarded last fall as part of its Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant competition. OKC was one of just 60 applicants out of 529 in phase 1 to receive the \$500,000 planning grant and an opportunity to compete for a much larger grant in phase 2. The EDA was allocated \$1 billion in supplemental funding under the American Rescue Plan to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to rebuild their local economies resulting from the impact of the pandemic.

OKC's application is for \$55 million covering eight separate bioscience-related projects. That application was submitted this past March by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, who took a hands-on role to convene the multiple players involved in the phase 2 application.

"We essentially served as the project manager and the convener behind the scenes [for the phase 2 application] to make sure each of the projects was well vetted and considered, and then the operational and budget components were put together," said Jeff Seymour, the Chamber's executive vice president of economic development.

Although the Chamber served as the project manager, Seymour said multiple partners provided leadership to drive and submit the eight projects, including the University of Oklahoma; the Stephenson Cancer Center; Tom Love Innovation Hub; Oklahoma State University, in collaboration with Oklahoma Pandemic Center for Innovation and Excellence; the Oklahoma City Innovation District; and the Norman Economic Development Coalition. Other partners included Echo Investment Capital; i2E; OCAST; Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF); Chickasaw Nation; Oklahoma City Black Chamber; Cytovance Biologics; Latino Community Development Agency; and many others who combined to support the grant process.



The Chamber's Jeff Seymour, left, visits with EDA Assistant Deputy Secretary Dennis Alvord, right, and OU's Benjamin Ikard during a recent tour of the Stephenson Cancer Center.

"These projects looked at a couple different segments of works. One is how can we support new entrepreneurship and innovation within the bioscience industry? How can we create more lanes of commercialization and more support for entrepreneurs that have a good idea to bring those things to market? Second, how can we scale what is already here and be successful, particularly around translational research, clinical trials and also supporting bio-manufacturing, and how can we use that to support a domestic need in the U.S. to scale more production verses traditional offshore markets," Seymour said.

Other work involves being able to produce a workforce for bio-manufacturing and building collaboratives to support the industry statewide.

As part of EDA Assistant Deputy Secretary Dennis Alvord's tour, he learned more about each of the bioscience projects during a visit to the Stephenson Cancer Center in the Oklahoma City Innovation District, where he saw first hand some of the research occurring at the facility to cure and treat various forms of cancer. He next met with various city, university, bioscience, and business and industry officials, including OKC Mayor David Holt and Chamber President Roy Williams, for a roundtable discussion at OMRF to discuss the coalition's implementation plan and to glean more information about the strong collaboration among the many partners from the region's bioscience cluster.

Seymour stressed that EDA's visit was not necessarily an indication that OKC is in line to win a phase 2 grant, but it was a good experience nonetheless, he said.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE FORMED TO FIND NEW CHAMBER PRESIDENT/CEO

Chamber Chairman Sean Trauschke announced that a search committee has been formed to identify a replacement for Roy Williams, who announced his retirement in February as Chamber president and CEO.

The committee is chaired by Larry Nichols, Devon Energy, and members include Brad Krieger, Arvest Bank; Tom McDaniel, American Fidelity; Teresa Rose, JD, Communities Foundation of Oklahoma; and Trauschke.

The committee has secured the services of Waverly Partners, an industry-leading executive search firm, to conduct a national search for Williams' replacement. The committee has requested that all inquiries, expressions of interest, or confidential nominations/referrals go through the team at Waverly Partners, and not directly to any member of the staff or through volunteer leadership.

The ideal candidate for the position will demonstrate a proven track record of accomplishment and success in an executive position with significant staff leadership,

financial and strategic responsibility. This executive may come from any of a variety of backgrounds (e.g., the top executive with an outstanding record of management and achievement with a highly respected economic development organization, chamber of commerce, municipal government, convention and visitors bureau, state or federal government, or industrial corporation recognized for civic responsibility and regional economic development activities; and experience as a top lieutenant or other senior-level executive at an enterprise, as noted above). Significant board interaction and experience leading large numbers of volunteers is strongly desired.

A bachelor's degree is required, and an advanced degree in business, law or related field is considered a plus. If a candidate's professional experience includes chamber, economic development or association leadership background, then a graduate of the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Organization Management, Certified Chamber Executive, Certified Economic Developer or Certified Association Executive designation is desirable.

To view the position profile, visit the Chamber website at [okcchamber.com/presidentsearch](http://okcchamber.com/presidentsearch) or email Waverly Partners directly at [oklahomacity@waverly-partners.com](mailto:oklahomacity@waverly-partners.com).

## GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! To see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit [okcchamber.com/grandopenings](http://okcchamber.com/grandopenings).

**YMCA Military Welcome Center**  
Will Rogers World Airport

**Liberty Dental Plan of Oklahoma, Inc.**  
5600 N. May Ave., Suite 245  
OKC OK 73112

**Gateway First Bank**  
6303 Waterford Blvd.  
Suite 100  
OKC OK 73118

**Principle Choice Solutions, LLC**  
7919 Mid America Blvd.,  
Suite 240  
OKC, OK 73135-6618



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Businesses who join the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber are part of the largest coalition of businesses in the state and make the Chamber's work in the community possible. Each member level is identified on the listing below.

## ADVISOR

**Aviation Training Consulting, LLC**  
*Aviation Services*  
 Ms. Carly McDavid.....(580) 477-1767  
 3540 S. Boulevard, Suite 350  
 Edmond, OK 73013  
 www.atc-hq.com

## ADVISOR

**COalign Group**  
*Consultants*  
 Ms. Cathy O'Connor.....(405) 590-7161  
 204 N. Robinson Ave., Suite 2400  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73102-7001  
 www.coaligngroup.com

## ADVISOR

**JINYA Ramen Bar - OKC**  
*Restaurants*  
 Mr. Dave Sopark.....(918) 645-4999  
 6800 N. Western Ave.  
 1804 N. 1st St.  
 Broken Arrow, OK 74012-8477  
 www.jinyaramenbar.com/locations/nicholshills

## ADVISOR

**Magellan Executive Partners**  
*Career Development*  
 Mr. Mark Burson.....(405) 513-5300  
 123 Market Drive, Suite B  
 P.O. Box 6611  
 Edmond, OK 73083-6611  
 www.magellanexecutivepartners.com

## EMERGING LEADER

**PAM Specialty Hospital**  
*Hospitals*  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson.....(405) 232-8000  
 1407 N. Robinson Ave.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73103-4823  
 www.pamhealth.com

## EMERGING LEADER

**Raising Cane's**  
*Restaurants*  
 Mr. Jeremy Black.....(405) 949-5549  
 200 S. MacArthur Blvd.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73128  
 www.raisingcanes.com

## ASSOCIATE

**Primary Health Partners**  
*Health Services*  
 Ms. Sharon Hodnett.....(405) 494-9638  
 3809 NW 166th St., Suite 5  
 Edmond, OK 73012  
 www.primary-healthpartners.com

## CORE

**B-Sew Inn LLC**  
*Retail*  
 Ms. Jan Kinsey.....(918) 687-5762  
 6926 N.W. Expressway  
 2530 Chandler Road  
 Muskogee, OK 74403-5003  
 www.bsewinn.com

## CORE

**Boom Town Creamery**  
*Restaurants*  
 Ms. Angela Muir.....(405) 423-5419  
 605 NW 23rd St.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73103-1415  
 www.boomtowncreamery.com

## CORE

**Cabinets to Go**  
*Construction Companies*  
 Mr. Byran Melton.....(405) 504-6006  
 1401 S. Meridian Ave.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73108-1709  
 www.cabinetstogo.com

## CORE

**Cheapest Auto Insurance**  
*Insurance*  
 Mr. Rick Redieck.....(405) 703-4077  
 7410 S. Walker Ave.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73139

## CORE

**CogTech, LLC**  
*Life Coach*  
 Mr. Robert Pleasant.....(405) 588-2835  
 2041 East St PMB 85  
 Concord, CA 94520

## CORE

**DoubleTree by Hilton Oklahoma City Airport**  
*Hotels & Motels*  
 Ms. Hannah McAdow.....(405) 688-3300  
 4410 SW 19th St.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73108-1771

## CORE

**New York Life**  
*Insurance*  
 Mr. Charles Villarreal.....(210) 445-4390  
 3030 NW Expressway, Suite 1800  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73112-5440

## CORE

**ORO Development Corporation**  
*Training Programs*  
 Mr. James M. Lamey.....(405) 840-7077  
 909 S. Meridian Ave., Suite 350  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73108-1619  
 www.oro-devcorp.com

## CORE

**Oklahoma Envelope Printing & Fulfillment**  
*Printing Supplies*  
 Ms. Joyce Ouverson.....(405) 946-2169  
 5621 W. Reno Ave., Suite A  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73127-6632  
 www.okenvelope.com

## CORE

**Spin City Laundry Company**  
*Laundromat*  
 Ms. Evan Jordan.....(405) 862-7746  
 3005 N. Classen Blvd.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73106-5423  
 spincityok.com

## CORE

**Zoom Mobile Med**  
*Health Services*  
 Ms. Barbie Barnett.....(866) 652-9633  
 6816 NW 63rd St.  
 Bethany, OK 73008-1929  
 www.zoommobilemed.com

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## OKLAHOMA RANKS NO. 6 FOR THE STATE WITH THE LOWEST VEHICLE PRICE INFLATION

AVERAGE USED CAR PRICE INCREASES BY STATE (APRIL 2022)

STATE	RANK	YEAR-OVER-YEAR % PRICE CHANGE
WYOMING	1	14.80%
IDAHO	2	17.60%
RHODE ISLAND	3	17.70%
UTAH	4	17.80%
SOUTH DAKOTA	5	18.40%
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18.70%</b>
NEW MEXICO	7	18.80%
MICHIGAN	8	18.80%
OREGON	9	18.90%
MONTANA	10	19.40%
ALASKA	11	19.90%
ARKANSAS	12	20.40%

- iSeeCars ranked Oklahoma in the Top 10 States for lowest used vehicle price inflation for April 2022.
- iSeeCars analyzed over 1.5 million 1-5-year-old used car sales in April 2021 and 2022. The average listing prices of each car model were compared between the two time periods, and the differences were expressed as both a percentage difference from the price as well as a dollar difference.
- The average 1-to-5-year-old car in the United States in April 2022 was \$34,392. The average price in Oklahoma was slightly lower at \$33,547.

Source: iSeeCars, April 2022.

## MEMBER UPGRADES

The following member companies increased their investment in the Chamber, demonstrating strong support of the Chamber's efforts to drive the region's economy. To increase your investment, contact the Membership Division of the Chamber at 405-297-8949 or membership@okcchamber.com.

## ADVISOR

**LIBERTY Dental Plan of Oklahoma, Inc.**  
*Dental Service Plans*  
 Ms. Lisa Gifford.....(405) 219-8444  
 5600 N. May Ave., Suite 245  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
 www.libertydentalplan.com

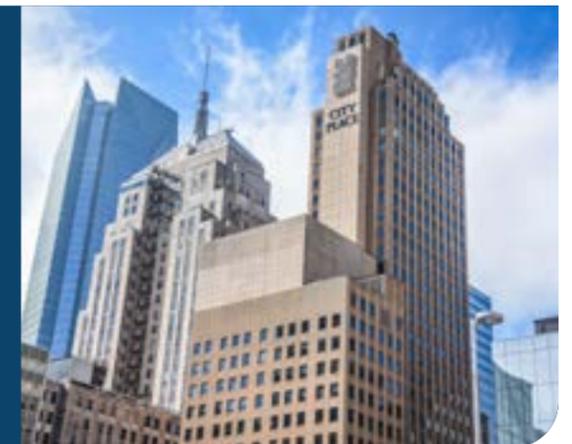
## ADVISOR

**Moore Norman Technology Center / Franklin Road Campus**  
*Training Programs*  
 Mr. Brian K. Ruttman.....(405) 364-5763  
 4701 12th Ave. NW  
 P.O. Box 4701  
 Norman, OK 73070  
 www.mntc.edu

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and regional data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at [greateroklahomacity.com](http://greateroklahomacity.com) or contact Eric Long, Research Economist at 405-297-8976 or email him at [elong@okcchamber.com](mailto:elong@okcchamber.com).

### DID YOU KNOW?

Get regional demographic data, consumer expenditure information, labor force data for the Greater Oklahoma City Region and more at [greateroklahomacity.com](http://greateroklahomacity.com).



# → V E L O C I T Y ←

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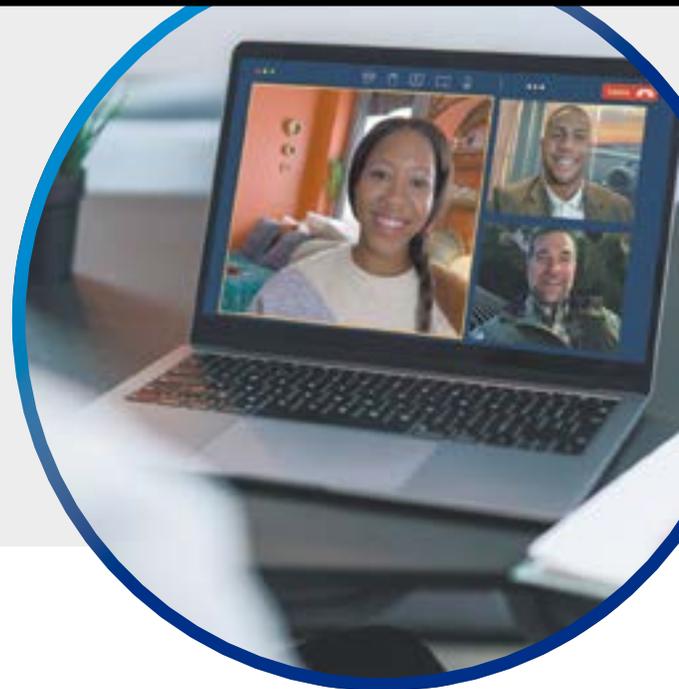
- 4** June Forum to focus on importance of new county jail
- 8** Q&A with Clay Bennett to discuss June 28 new jail vote
- 11** VisitOKC.com redesign promises easier access and more content
- 12** Recent EDA visit a chance to showcase OKC's bioscience cluster

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