

Remember to vote on Aug. 28!

\$210 million Build Our Future BA GO Bond package goes to voters

Polls will be open on Tuesday, Aug. 28 for Broken Arrow voters to decide on the 2018 Build Our Future BA General Obligation (GO) Bond package.

The \$210 million proposed package will keep the City of Broken Arrow's ad valorem rates level. The City of Broken Arrow, like all municipalities in Oklahoma, receives a portion of property taxes only to pay the interest and principle on GO bonds; none can be used for operational expenses. The City's current mill levy is 16.46 mills for GO bond debt. Maintaining that same rate through the retirement of existing debt, the City projects completing the Build Our Future BA program over 10-12 years. Before approving the package for voters, the City Council was committed to a bond package that will NOT raise taxes.

If voters approve the Build Our Future BA GO Bond package, it will be the largest municipal bond issue voters will have considered in the history of Broken Arrow. It includes millions of dollars for streets, stormwater, public facilities, public safety and quality of life projects.

Dozens of projects are included in the package, including:

- Widen Houston (81st) Street from Garnett Road to Aspen (145th) Avenue
- Widen 23rd Street (County Line) between Omaha (51st) to Albany (61st) Streets
- Improve intersections on 9th Street (Lynn Lane) near Highway 51
- Improve drainage in neighborhoods
- Construct Fire Station No. 7
- Construct meeting center for veterans
- Construct Senior Citizen Center annex facility
- Various Parks improvements throughout the City

The Build Our Future BA GO Bond is divided into six propositions:

- Transportation: \$142.6 million
- Public Safety: \$20.4 million
- Quality of Life: \$17.8 million
- Public Facilities: \$16.8 million



- Stormwater: \$7.5 million
- Drainage: \$5.5 million

“Without question, Broken Arrow is one of the best cities in America to live in, work and raise a family. The investments made by the public into the City's infrastructure will have a long-lasting and positive effect on the economy and quality of life in our community,” said City Manager Michael Spurgeon. “This has been a long process and we actively sought residents' input at several points along the way, beginning with the citizens survey last fall to several public meetings in the winter and another in the spring. Thanks to all the feedback we received, we believe this bond package includes a wide variety of projects that are a major priority for the people that live in Broken Arrow.”

The City of Broken Arrow has a long history of promises kept and being good stewards of funding for projects. Approving the Broken Arrow GO bond means citizens will benefit from these new projects such as streets, public safety, and parks – with no tax increase.

Broken Arrow continues to grow in both population and commerce. As the City continues to add families and employers, it is critical to aggressively

Build Our Future
BA GO BOND
Aug 28

pursue long-term projects to ensure the City's infrastructure is able to meet the needs of both.

View important documents regarding the GO bond package at BuildOurFutureBA.com.

Polling stations will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on Aug. 28. The last day to register for the election is Friday, Aug. 3. To find your polling station, visit the State Election Board's Online Voter Tool at services.okelections.us/voterSearch.aspx, or contact your election board:

- Tulsa County: 918-596-5780
- Wagoner County: 918-485-2142

Early voting will be available on Thursday, Aug. 23, Friday, Aug. 24 and Saturday, Aug. 25. Early voting locations for Tulsa County residents are the Tulsa County Election Board, 555 N. Denver Ave., and Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St. Both are in Tulsa. Wagoner County residents can vote early at Heritage United Methodist Church, 5300 E. Kenosha St. in Broken Arrow.

Youth City Council seeks applicants

The City of Broken Arrow is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 Youth City Council program, which will run from September until early May.

Youth City Council provides a great opportunity for high school students to learn how municipal government works, obtain an understanding of local policy-making and help serve their community. Participants will meet with City Councilors and other City officials, tour public facilities, attend public meetings and demonstrate knowledge gained by preparing an agenda and minutes for presentation to City Council.

To be eligible, participants must:

- Reside within Broken Arrow fence line
- Be a junior in high school in the fall
- Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA
- Set a proper example for the youth of Broken Arrow

Details and applications are available at www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/YouthCityCouncil. The deadline is Sept. 4.

Download the Action Center BA App

You can report potholes and other issues to the City from your smartphone! Take photos of the problem and get updates when the item has been logged, assigned to a staff member and completed. The application can be accessed online via a mobile device or a computer.

Report non-emergency issues today by downloading the mobile app for Android and iOS devices.

Available at ActionCenterBA.com.



BAPD holds annual Night Out, Back to School Bash

The Broken Arrow Police Department encourages you and your neighborhood to join other communities across the nation to celebrate America's Night Out Against Crime. National Night Out is a cohesive effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

This year, National Night Out will be 6-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 7.

To register your neighborhood, contact Lisa Ford, BAPD Crime Prevention Specialist, at 918-451-8213 or email lford@brokenarrowok.gov.

brokenarrowok.gov.

BAPD, The Assembly at Broken Arrow and St. John Broken Arrow are also proud to sponsor the 12th annual Back to School Bash on Aug. 4 free of charge.

The Bash runs 9 a.m.-noon at The Assembly, 3500 W. New Orleans St.

There will be free school supplies, haircuts, immunizations, vision screening and more! Other organizations in attendance will include: Camp Bandage, Family and Children's Services, Tulsa City-County Library, Vince and Larry the Crash Test Dummies and McGruff the Crime Dog.

Annual Water Quality Report now available

The City of Broken Arrow 2017 Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) is now available online at www.BrokenArrowOK.gov/2017waterreport. Those who prefer a paper copy may pick up the report at City Hall, 220 S. First St.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing through August 11 — "Imprinting the West: Manifest Destiny, Real And Imagined" The Museum Broken Arrow, 400 S. Main St.

Ongoing through October — Rose District Farmer's Market 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, Rose District Plaza, 418 S. Main St.

August 4 — Back to School Bash 9 a.m.-noon. See related story.

August 7 — National Night Out 6-8:30 p.m. See related story.

August 7 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

August 9 — Planning Commission 5

p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

August 11 — SandDazzle/Back-to-School Bash 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Nienhuis Park, 3201 N. 9th St.

August 11 — Astronomy Night sunset-2 a.m. Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St. Visit Astrotulsa.com for details.

August 18 — Pooch Plunge 8 a.m.-Small dogs (less than 40 lbs), 9:30 a.m.-medium dogs, 11 a.m.-large dogs (over 70 lbs), Family Aquatic Center, 1400 S. Main St. \$5 per dog. Pre-registration required.

August 21 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

August 23 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

August 28 — Build Our Future BA GO Bond vote

September 3 — Labor Day City Offices closed. No Trash service.

September 4 — Broken Arrow City Council 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

September 13 — Planning Commission 5 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 220 S. First St.

September 14-16 — SCOTFEST Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St. Visit okscotfest.com for details.

FOCUS on the Finance Department

918-259-2400 EXT. 5326

BROKENARROWOK.GOV/FINANCE



DIRECTOR PROFILE Cynthia S. Arnold

Cynthia Arnold joined the City of Broken Arrow Finance Department in April 2018. Prior to joining the City she was the Finance Director in Shawnee, Okla., for eight years. Raised in Florida, Cynthia's career in government began in 1999. She has been a Finance Director since 2002 but has held various positions from staff accountant to Interim City Manager during her career.

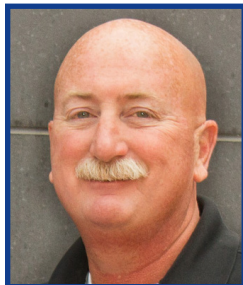
She is a member of the Oklahoma Government Finance Officers Association as well as the National Government Finance Officers Association.

She holds a Bachelor's degree from Florida State University.

Cynthia is married and has three children and four grandchildren.

About the department

The Finance Department accounts for expenditures, assets and liabilities, prepares and administers the annual budget, manages the City's investments, processes invoices, monitors the annual capital plan and works with auditors on preparing and presenting the annual audit and administers the City's Utilities collection program.



Tom Cook, Jr.,
Controller

The department is located on the south end of City Hall and also includes the utility customer service division. The Finance Department has 22 employees: 11 in the accounting, 10 in utility customer service and one in payroll.

The department provides multiple services to citizens, from managing utility billing and customer service to maintaining the numbers on the



The Finance Department is thoughtful about the community of Broken Arrow and often takes part in local and national drives, such as Red Nose Day in May which aims to end child poverty in the world.

City's OpenGov online financial accountability tool. The finance department ensures the rest of the City operates in a fiscally-responsible manner and that all departments are

good stewards of the public's tax dollars and how they are spent. The prime examples of this stewardship are the annual budget and financial plan and auditing process.

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget highlights and the budget process

The 2019 Fiscal Year (FY2019) began July 1, 2018 and will end June 30, 2019. The Adopted FY2019 Budget and Fiscal Year Financial Plan was \$254.1 million and consists of 27 funds.

The main operating fund is the General Fund which pays for the following areas: Parks, Administration (City Manager, Finance, Human Resources and Legal etc.), Development Services and Streets/Stormwater.

The City has three Enterprise Funds, meaning they are business-like funds that help provide services to the public for a fee. These are:

- Broken Arrow Municipal Authority (BAMA), which operates the City's Utilities (water, sewer, stormwater

and sanitation).

- Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority (BAEDA), which is a Public Trust created to promote and encourage development of industry, commerce and other activities in the City.
- Battle Creek Golf Course, which funds operations of the City's public golf course and its facilities.

Every year, the Finance Department helps the Administration prepare the annual Budget for the City Council to review and adopt. This process begins around November each year and is submitted to the City Council for consideration in May and adopted in June.

The annual budget includes plans of

work for the organization, challenges and opportunities the administration sees for the coming year and the Capital Improvement Program, which makes up large ticket items, maintenance of streets and other infrastructure, parks & recreation facilities and utility department infrastructure.

Did you know that Oklahoma is the last state in the United States that relies solely on sales tax to fund the General Fund operational expenses?

With that in mind, sales tax can be an unreliable source of income and is often difficult to predict. So the FY2019 budget was prepared using only a conservative 1 percent growth rate on sales tax predictions.

Utility billing information

eBilling Notification Available

In an effort to be more sustainable, the City of Broken Arrow offers a program to notify customers their bill is available for viewing online by email.

The eBilling service increases the City's conservation efforts and saves money. To sign up, log on to your Utilities account at BrokenArrowOK.gov/PayMyBill and select "Manage eBilling" under the "Account Information" tab.

In addition to viewing your bills, you can also make a payment utilizing your debit/credit card or bank account.

When you sign up for eBilling, you can still view the monthly Focus newsletter online at BrokenArrowOK.gov/Focus.

Automatic Bill Payment Available

The City of Broken Arrow now invites Utility customers to sign up for Auto Pay.

With Auto Pay, your monthly payment will be automatically deducted from the bank account or credit/debit card you provide.

Customers can enroll online by logging into their Utilities account at BrokenArrowOK.gov/PayMyBill and selecting the "Auto Pay" option.



If you are unable to log in, a plan authorization form is available at BrokenArrowOK.gov/Utilities. Simply return the completed form with a voided check attached to enroll. The Auto Pay will take effect within 30-60 days after the form is received.

Once on Auto Pay, your monthly utility statement will reflect auto draft with the amount due and the date the amount will be deducted from your checking account.

New Phone System in Utilities

Recently enhancements have been

made to the automated phone system for Utility customers. Now, when opting to speak with someone and there are other customers already on hold, the system notifies callers how many customers are ahead of them and gives the option to enter a number to be called back instead of waiting on hold.

Utility payment drop box

Did you know there is a drop box for Utility payments outside City Hall? It was moved this spring and is now in the parking lot across Dallas Street from the Utility Customer Service entrance of City Hall.

OpenGov online tool offers transparency on City finances

The City of Broken Arrow is committed to honest budgeting, responsible spending, and financial transparency. In this spirit, the City partnered with OpenGov to provide its citizens and stakeholders with an interactive online financial accountability tool.

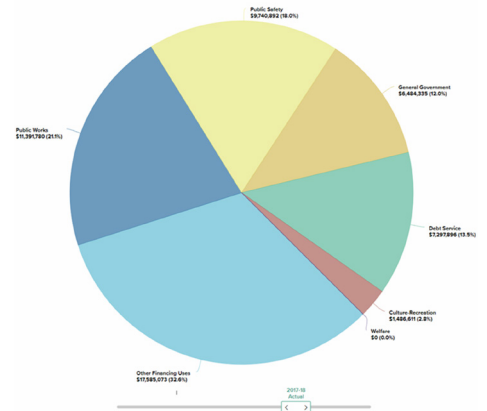
The City's financial data are automatically uploaded to OpenGov nightly. Currently, three reports are available:

- The Budget vs. Actuals report shows how the City is actually

doing based on what was budgeted for the year.

- The Year-to-Date Expenses and Revenues report shows the City's actual expenses or revenues for the current fiscal year.
- The Budgeted Street Projects for Fiscal Year 2018 report shows a map of the City with locations where street projects have been budgeted.

View the financial transparency tool online at BrokenArrowOK.OpenGov.com.



Ambulance savings through your utility bill

LifeRide is an emergency medical services (EMS) program that provides valuable cost savings on emergency medical response and transportation in Broken Arrow.

The program is administered through a subscription service payable through your City of Broken Arrow utility bill.

LifeRide costs only \$5.45 monthly per household for those inside the City limits and \$7.50 per month for those outside City limits but within the fence line.

The program's annual enrollment/de-enrollment period is scheduled from Aug. 1-31 each year.



The average emergency response and ambulance transport costs up to \$1,500 or more. Insurance may cover a portion of this charge, but subscribers to LifeRide will pay nothing after a claim is submitted to your health insurance provider.

All members of the household who claim the address registered with LifeRide as their primary residence will be covered.

For more information about the program, visit www.LifeRideBA.org.