



OKLAHOMA Aerospace & Aeronautics

**OKLAHOMA AEROSPACE AND AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024, AT 10 AM
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FIRST FLOOR COMMISSION ROOM
200 NE 21ST STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**

NOTE: The Oklahoma Aerospace and Aeronautics Commission may discuss, vote to approve, vote to disapprove, vote to table, decide not to discuss, or change the order of any item on the agenda. Any conflicts of interest must be disclosed prior to discussion, and the conflicted Commissioner must recuse from all discussion and votes pertaining to that item.”

MINUTES

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING ACT, FILING OF MEETING NOTICE, AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA — Chairman Charles Ortega and Chris Wadsworth, Chief of Staff

Pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, this meeting shall be held at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) First Floor Commission Room, 200 NE 21st Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Aerospace and Aeronautics Commission Meeting is open to the general public, but it is also available to watch through the link listed below:

To watch:

Public access meeting link: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/CKEfwftDGHz>

Make sure the volume on your PC (or other device) and the Ustream volume are turned up.

The meeting will be electronically recorded and audio livestreamed from 200 NE 21st St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105.

Public Access to complete Commission Packet: <https://oklahoma.gov/aerospace>

2. CALL TO ORDER AND RECORDING OF MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT — Chairman Ortega and Michelle Bouziden, Senior Project and Grants Manager

Michelle Bouziden called roll and recorded the following Commissioners present and absent:

Present	Kevin Potter	Secretary (District 2)
	Charles Ortega	Chairman (District 3)
	Lindy Ritz	Commissioner (District 4)
	Blake Raney	Vice Chair (District 5)
	Jerry Hunter	Commissioner (At-Large)

Absent	Jim Putnam	Commissioner (At-Large)
	Seth Phillips	Commissioner (District 1)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with 5 of 7 Commissioners present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OKLAHOMA AEROSPACE AND AERONAUTICS COMMISSION MEETING ON DECEMBER 13, 2023 — Chairman Ortega
(Action Required)

Commissioner Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Ritz seconded the motion. Chairman Ortega called for the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Ayes - Chairman Ortega
Commissioner Ritz
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Raney

Nays - None

Abstain - Commissioner Potter

The motion carried 4-0.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT — Chris Wadsworth, Chief of Staff (Information Only)

The Commission will be briefed on current financial figures.

Mr. Wadsworth briefed the Commission on current financial figures and gave a general projection of future revenue levels.

5. LEGISLATIVE, CONGRESSIONAL AND REGULATORY UPDATE — Director Ardies
(Information Only)

The Commission will be briefed on legislation and public policy issues concerning airports, aviation and aerospace and Commission legislative initiatives for the 2024 Legislative session.

The Commission was briefed on legislation and public policy issues concerning airports, aviation and aerospace and Department legislative initiatives for the 2024 Legislative session. Director Ardies mentioned several pieces of UAS legislation the Department is keeping an eye on and meeting with the respective authors about. Director Ardies also discussed FAA reauthorization and ensuring that the Mike Monroney Center is protected given the economic driver that it is for the city and state.

6. FIVE-YEAR AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM – Nick Young, Airport Division Manager (Action Required)

The Commission will consider approving an amendment to the five-year Airport Construction Program (ACP) to add a project for the **Altus/Quartz Mountain Regional Airport**. The project will install a 100LL Fuel System and a Jet A Fuel System. Based on preliminary estimates, the total project cost of the project is \$1,282,300 and will be funded with \$615,000 of federal grant funds, \$600,000 of state grant funds and \$68,300 of sponsor matching funds.

Commissioner Ritz made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to the five-year Airport Construction Program. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. Chairman Ortega called for the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Ayes - Commissioner Raney
Chairman Ortega
Commissioner Ritz
Commissioner Hunter

Commissioner Potter

Nays - None

Abstain - None

The motion carried 5-0.

7. AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM — Ben Naghavi, Airport Engineer
(Information Only)

- A. The Commission will be briefed on an amendment to state grant WWR-24B-PREP to acquire land at the north end of the runway at **West Woodward Regional Airport**. The amendment will allow for additional funding due to a transposed number and additional fees to complete the acquisition. The additional cost will be \$5,430.30 and will be funded with \$5,430.30 of PREP funds.

Ben Naghavi shared with the Commission that the amendment would allow for additional funding due to a transposed number and additional fees needed to complete the acquisition.

8. AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM CONSENT DOCKET — Ben Naghavi, Airport Engineer (Action Required)

Any Commissioner may request that any or all of these items be considered individually.

- A. The Commission will consider approving a change order to state grant 1K4-24-S for reconstructing the taxiway at **David J Perry (Goldsby) Airport**. The change order will allow for subgrade stabilization due to unsuitable subgrade. The estimated additional cost will be \$121,342.20 and will be funded with \$115,275.09 of state grant funds and \$6,067.11 of sponsor matching funds.
- B. The Commission will consider approving a state grant for a project that is currently identified in the Commission's approved Airport Construction Program at **Elk City Regional Business Airport**. The project consists of constructing a terminal building. Based on bids, the total project cost is \$2,751,107 and will be funded with \$448,000 of federal funds, \$1,000,000 of state grant funds and \$1,303,107 of sponsor matching funds. An approval is contingent upon the Commission receiving an acceptable grant application.
- C. The Commission will consider approving a state grant for a project that is currently identified in the Commission's approved Airport Construction Program at **Elk City Regional Business Airport**. The project consists of utility work for the new terminal building and hangar projects. Based on bids, the total project cost is \$540,715.68 and will be funded with \$513,679 of state grant funds and \$27,036.68 of sponsor matching funds. An approval is contingent upon the Commission receiving an acceptable grant application.
- D. The Commission will consider approving a state grant for a project that is currently identified in the Commission's approved Airport Construction Program at **Miami Regional Airport**. The project consists of constructing a new terminal building. Based on bids, the total project cost is \$3,278,500 and will be funded with \$1,049,000 of federal funds, \$1,000,000 of state grant funds and \$1,229,500 of sponsor matching funds. An approval is contingent upon the Commission receiving an acceptable grant application.
- E. The Commission will consider approving a state grant for a project that is currently identified in the Commission's approved Airport Construction Program at **Mid-America**

Industrial Airport. The project consists of constructing a new terminal building. Based on bids, the total project cost is \$3,131,585 and will be funded with \$985,000 of federal funds, \$1,000,000 of state grant funds and \$1,146,585 of sponsor matching funds. An approval is contingent upon the Commission receiving an acceptable grant application.

- F. The Commission will consider approving design fees for a project that is currently identified in the Commission’s approved Airport Construction Program at **William R. Pogue Municipal Airport.** The project consists of constructing a new Jet A fuel system. Based on estimates, the cost of the design phase is \$51,000 and will be funded with \$25,500 of state grant funds and \$25,500 of sponsor matching funds. An approval is contingent upon the Commission receiving an acceptable grant application.

- G. The Commission will consider authorizing staff to enter into a contract for the construction of projects that are currently identified in the Commission’s approved Airport Construction Program at **Sallisaw Municipal Airport, Seminole Municipal Airport, Stan Stamper Municipal Airport** and **Hefner-Easley Airport.** The projects consist of pavement crack repair and seal coat. The total combined project cost is \$763,844.05. Based on bids, the total project cost at **Sallisaw Municipal Airport** is \$224,508 and will be funded with \$213,282.60 of state funds and \$11,225.40 of sponsor matching funds; the total project cost at **Seminole Municipal Airport** is \$188,565 and will be funded with \$179,136.75 of state funds and \$9,428.25 of sponsor matching funds; the total project cost at **Stan Stamper Municipal** is \$210,970.95 and will be funded with \$200,422.40 and \$10,548.55 of sponsor matching funds; and the total project cost for **Hefner-Easley Airport** is \$139,800.30 and will be funded with \$132,810.29 of state funds and \$6,990.01 of sponsor matching funds.

Commissioner Ritz made a motion to approve the Airport Construction Grant Program Consent Docket. Commissioner Hunter seconded the motion. Chairman Ortega called for the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Ayes - Commissioner Potter
 Chairman Ortega
 Commissioner Ritz
 Commissioner Hunter
 Commissioner Raney

Nays - None

Abstain - None

The motion carried 5-0.

**9. PROGRESSING RURAL ECONOMIC PROSPERITY (PREP) FUND PROJECT
 CONSTENT DOCKET – Director Ardies (Action Required)**

- A. The Commission will consider approving a state grant for a project that is currently identified in the Commission’s approved Airport Construction Program at **Elk City Regional Business Airport.** The project consists of constructing a 100’x150’ hangar. Based on bids, the total project cost is \$2,142,433.05 and will be funded with \$856,973 of state grant funds and \$1,285,460.05 of sponsor matching funds. An approval is contingent upon the Commission receiving an acceptable grant application.

- B.** The Commission will consider approving a state grant for a project that is currently identified in the Commission’s approved Airport Construction Program at the **University of Oklahoma Westheimer Airport**. The project consists of constructing two 100’ x 100’ hangars as well as necessary support infrastructure. Based on bids, the total project cost is \$4,410,220 and will be funded with \$295,000 of federal funds, \$1,764,088 of state grant funds and \$2,351,132 of sponsor matching funds. An approval is contingent upon the Commission receiving an acceptable grant application.

Commissioner Raney made a motion to approve the Progressing Rural Economic Prosperity (PREP) Fund Project Consent Docket. Commissioner Ritz seconded the motion. Chairman Ortega called for the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Ayes - Commissioner Potter
Chairman Ortega
Commissioner Ritz
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Raney

Nays - None

Abstain - None

The motion carried 5-0.

10. PROGRESSING RURAL ECONOMIC PROSPERITY (PREP) FUND UPDATE – Director Ardies (Information Only)

The Commission will be briefed on PREP funds allocated for certain infrastructure projects at Oklahoma airports.

The Commission was briefed on PREP funds allocated for certain infrastructure projects at Oklahoma airports, including the four megaprojects at Will Rogers MRO Hangar, Tulsa International Tower, Ardmore Air Cargo Development, and West Woodward Regional, which are all in the design or bidding phase. He mentioned that hangar projects have been identified under the \$14M discretionary hangar fund, including the project just approved at Elk City Regional and University of Oklahoma Max Westheimer Airport. Director Ardies mentioned that part of Ardmore’s project is now under construction, the MRO hangar at Will Rogers and Tulsa air traffic control tower are in the final stages of design, and West Woodward has several projects in design currently. The director also discussed the commercial air service grant program portion of the PREP funds and that Tulsa International has submitted their grant application and that Will Rogers will be doing so in the next couple of months. These will be considered as soon as the March 2024 meeting.

11. POSSIBLE REVISIONS/ACTION RELATED TO AIRPORT(S) IN THE OKLAHOMA AIRPORT SYSTEM – Director Ardies (Action Required)

As co-sponsor of the Lake Texoma State Park Airport under state law, the Commission will consider joining a request of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, the owner and co-sponsor of the airport, to remove the airport from the NPIAS and close/abandon the facility. As a part of this request and initial steps, the Commission will consider a joint request letter to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) indicating our desire to remove the airport and close/abandon it and a request to determine what necessary steps the FAA will require in that process. In addition, the Commission will consider offering a 30-day comment period for the public prior to final action being considered at the next Commission meeting.

The Commission was briefed on a request from the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, co-sponsor of the Lake Texoma State Park Airport, that Lake Texoma State Park is under consideration for some development. Now that the development announcement has been made, Tourism has asked the Department to inquire with the Federal Aviation Administration and ask what the requirements are to remove the airport from the NPIAS system and close the airport. Director Ardies presented a request to join with Tourism and send a letter to determine steps needed to potentially close the airport. He noted that Lake Texoma is unobligated and has not taken federal or state grants in the last 20 years. In addition, he stated that the Department will offer a 30-day comment period to the public prior to final action at the next Commission Meeting. He said should the Department leave the airport in the system, it would require multiple hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars because the pavement has deteriorated beyond its useful life. The airport does not have based aircraft or services and is utilized infrequently. Commission Hunter inquired as to the ownership of the property. Director Ardies advised Tourism has a long-term lease with the Army Corp of Engineers for a portion of the property and owns the other portion. Ownership will not change, Tourism may lease for commercial or cabin development as a non-airport asset. After Tourism learned the airport was at its maximum length due to a highway on one end and the lake on the other, they were no longer interested in keeping it open and would rather rely on a runway extension at the Madill Airport or use of the nearby Durant Airport. Commissioner Hunter inquired on the possibility of selling off the surrounding land for proceeds for further development. Director Ardies explained Tourism was not interested in occurring the cost themselves. Commissioner Raney could not see closing it with all this development even if it is only a grass strip. Commissioner Ritz inquired on visual aids. Director Ardies explained it is restricted to daytime VFR only and has a windsock. Commissioner Potter asked for clarification on what was being asked today and Director Ardies reiterated the intent of sending the letter to seek the steps necessary to close the airport. Comment period would essentially open January 31, 2024, emailed to our distribution listed, posted on Department website and posted to aviation groups so those interested have an opportunity to comment.

Commissioner Ritz made a motion to approve the Possible Revisions/Actions Related to the Airport(s) in the Oklahoma Airport System. Chairman Ortega seconded the motion. Chairman Ortega called for the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Ayes - Commissioner Potter
Chairman Ortega
Commissioner Ritz

Nays - Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Raney

Abstain - None

The motion fails 3-2.

12. AVIATION AND AEROSPACE EDUCATION UPDATE – Paula Kedy (Information Only)

The Commission will be briefed on the following:

- A.** Newly approved schools for 2024-2025
- B.** School meetings: Guthrie High School Jan. 11, Choctaw High School Jan. 18, Oklahoma City Public Schools Jan. 19, Stonewall High School Jan. 17, Southwest Technology Center Jan. 26.

C. Bessie Coleman After-School All Star Program

D. OKC Thunder Aero Day

Paula reported that 13 new schools, Bethany, Bixby, Blackwell, Edmond Memorial, Edmond North, Edmond Santa Fe, Idabel, Jenks, Sapulpa, Savannah, Silo, Tulsa Union High School, and Choctaw have all signed up as new schools to teach the AOPA curriculum for the 2024-2025 school year. Schools have until May 31st to apply. Paula also briefed the Commission on recent visits to Guthrie, Choctaw, Stonewall and Southwest Technology Center. Paula also briefed the Commission on two events that were held recently. On January 11th staff were at the Capitol to announce the launch of the Bessie Coleman Aviation All-Star Program that will be an after-school program for sixth and seventh grade students at Weatherford and Pryor Public Schools and Springdale Elementary in Tulsa. Our hope is to move it onto more Oklahoma schools in the future. On January 23rd the Department partnered with the Oklahoma City Thunder for Aero Day at the Paycom Center. About 450 AOPA students from across the state attended the event, spending the afternoon touring vendor booths and talking with industry representatives and then attending the basketball game that night.

13. SPONSORSHIP OF 2024 AERO OKLAHOMA DAY AT THE CAPITOL – Director Ardies (Action Required)

The Commission will consider approving up to \$5,000 for sponsorship of Aero Oklahoma Day at the Capitol scheduled for April 3, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hunter made a motion to approve the Sponsorship of 2024 Aero Oklahoma Day at the Capitol. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion. Chairman Ortega called for the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Ayes - Commissioner Potter
Chairman Ortega
Commissioner Ritz
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Raney

Nays - None

Abstain - None

The motion carried 5-0.

14. PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR 2024 CONFERENCES AND TRADE SHOWS CONSENT DOCKET – Director Ardies (Action Required)

Any Commissioner may request that any or all of these items be considered individually.

A. MRO AMERICAS CONFERENCE

The Commission will consider approving a \$5,000 partnership/sponsorship with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for a state exhibit booth at the MRO Americas Conference, April 9 - 11, 2024, in Chicago, IL.

B. ASSOCIATION FOR UNCREWED VEHICLE SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL (AUVSI) XPONENTIAL

The Commission will consider approving a \$5,000 partnership/sponsorship with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for a state exhibit booth at the AUVSI XPONENTIAL Conference & Expo, April 22 - 25, 2024, in San Diego, CA.

C. FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW

The Commission will consider approving a \$10,000 partnership/sponsorship with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and other Oklahoma-based companies and organizations for a state exhibit booth at the Farnborough International Airshow, July 22-26, 2024, in Farnborough, England.

D. EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION (EAA) AIRVENTURE/OSHKOSH

The Commission will consider approving a \$5,000 partnership/sponsorship with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for a state exhibit booth at the EAA AirVenture event in Oshkosh, WI, July 22-28, 2024.

E. NATIONAL BUSINESS AVIATION ASSOCIATION – BUSINESS AVIATION CONFERENCE & EXPO (NBAA-BACE)

The Commission will consider approving a \$5,000 partnership/sponsorship with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for a state exhibit booth at the NBAA-BACE, Oct. 22-24, 2024, in Las Vegas, NV.

Director Ardies noted that these are the same shows that the Department partnered with Commerce on last year. He gave a brief overview of Commerce’s process of incentivizing new business and on the opportunities trade shows provide for starting and continuing conversations with prospective businesses. Commissioner Raney made a motion to approve the Partnerships with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for 2024 Conferences and Trade Shows Consent Docket. Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. Chairman Ortega called for the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Ayes - Commissioner Potter
Chairman Ortega
Commissioner Ritz
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Raney

Nays - None

Abstain - None

The motion carried 5-0.

15. TULSA TECHNOLOGY CENTER SPONSORSHIP FOR AEROSPACE MAINTENANCE COMPETITION AT THE 2024 MRO AMERICAS CONFERENCE – Director Ardies (Action Required)

The Commission will consider approving a \$5,000 sponsorship for the students of Tulsa Tech Aviation Academy Maintenance Team to travel and compete in the 2024 Aerospace Maintenance Competition at the MRO Americas Conference in Chicago, IL, April 8-11, 2024.

Commissioner Ritz made a motion to approve the Tulsa Technology Center Sponsorship for Aerospace Maintenance Competition at the 2024 MRO Americas Conference. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion. Chairman Ortega called for the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Ayes - Commissioner Potter
Chairman Ortega
Commissioner Ritz
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Raney

Nays - None

Abstain - None

The motion carried 5-0.

16. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP – Director Ardies (Action Required)

The Commission will consider entering into a partnership with Tulsa area local and governmental entities to support the Tulsa Technology Hub proposal and invest in UAS/AAM infrastructure to support needed testing and development opportunities for the NE region of the state. The potential partnership will include support and acquisition of radar and other detection systems to allow UAS testing and eventual commercial operations as well as supporting the necessary centralized operations center if Tulsa is selected as a Tech Hub.

The Commission was briefed on an opportunity for the Department to support the Tulsa Technology Hub proposal and potentially invest funds in permanent infrastructure items that will support testing and eventual commercial operations of UAS. Director Ardies explained that the goal is for this development to occur in Northeast Oklahoma first as part of this project and then eventually expand it to the rest of the state. Commissioner Potter made a motion to approve the Partnerships with the Unmanned Aerial Systems Partnership. Commissioner Ritz seconded the motion. Chairman Ortega called for the vote, and the votes were recorded as follows:

Ayes - Commissioner Potter
Chairman Ortega
Commissioner Ritz
Commissioner Hunter
Commissioner Raney

Nays - None

Abstain - None

The motion carried 5-0.

17. REVIEW OF UPCOMING AVIATION AND AEROSPACE EVENTS — Katelyn Wade (Information Only)

The Commission will be briefed on upcoming events.

Katelyn Wade briefed the Commission on upcoming aviation and aerospace events throughout the state.

18. DIRECTOR’S REPORT— Director Ardies (Information Only)

- A.** Airport meetings – Stan Stamper and Vinita, Dec. 15; Carlton Landing Jan. 3
Department staff met with these airports to discuss future plans and ways to spend their state and federal funds.
- B.** Tinker Air Force Base strategic planning meeting, Jan. 5
Department staff met with Tinker officials as well as members of other community groups to discuss protocol and process procedures.
- C.** KOCO interview with Sandra Shelton, Jan. 8
Director Ardies and Sandra Shelton were interviewed on the morning show discussing the Department and Sandra’s role.
- D.** Fort Sill tour, Jan. 16
Sandra Shelton, Doug Wood and Katelyn Wade visited Fort Sill regarding how we can better partner and engage with them on future events.

E. TUL customs facility groundbreaking, Jan. 24

Nick Young attended the groundbreaking ceremony on behalf of the Department. The facility is expected to be completed at the end of 2025 and will allow for international commercial air travel.

19. CONCLUDING REMARKS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS — Director Ardies and Commissioners

Director Ardies told the Commission that a new Executive Assistant has been hired and will start on February 5, 2024. Chairman Ortega and Hunter requested that the Department of Commerce provide metrics and outcomes for the benefits of attending trade shows. Director Ardies said that he would ask Commerce for figures and update the Commission at a future meeting.

20. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING — Chairman Ortega

Chairman Ortega announced that the next meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation First Floor Commission Room, 200 Northeast 21st Street in Oklahoma City.

21. NEW BUSINESS (*“any matter not known about or which could not be reasonably foreseen 24 hours before the meeting”*)

No new business.

22. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ortega requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Raney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Potter seconded. Chairman Ortega declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.