



Kiowa Tribe

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Public Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KIOWA TRIBE OPENS NEW FACILITY TO OFFER ESSENTIAL SUPPORT

LAWTON, Okla. – On Friday, November 13, 2020, the Kiowa Tribe welcomed a brand-new facility designed to provide essential services year-round for tribal members. Tribal leaders cut the ribbon of the new COOP center or Continuity Of Operations at 1605 SW Lee Boulevard, Lawton, Okla.

The facility was purchased with CARES Act funding brought on by the pandemic. The COOP center's sole purpose is to provide uninterrupted essential services amid a crisis. It will provide an alternate site outside of the main headquarters in Carnegie, Okla.

The COOP will assist tribal members (elders) with transportation to and from appointments, act as a dry goods and PPE storage, COVID-19 assistance intake station, and act as a command center in times of need. "This is a much-needed facility in this area of our Kiowa jurisdiction outside of Carnegie. It's a larger city with more to offer around us. The Lawton area is also home to nearly 8-hundred tribal members. That's a lot of tribal members in one area," said Freida Satepehtaw, COVID-19 Response Program Director.

Satepehtaw said it is not known as this time how many workers it will employ. The transportation department plans to offer transit to the public in the near future at a minimal cost. The garage will also offer discount prices for small vehicle maintenance jobs.

Kiowa Tribal Chairman Matthew Komalty addressed the crowd, along with Lawton Mayor Stan Booker. Other guests included Michael Cleghorn, Lawton City Manager, Dan Mullins, former property owner, Johnny Owens, Comanche County District 2 Commissioner, Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society, Delaware Nation President Deborah Dotson, Lonnie Emhoolah, cedar blessing, and Kendal Hamilton and BlueSky Tosee who performed the Lord's Prayer in sign language.

Mayor Booker welcomed the Kiowa Tribe to Lawton and said he looks forward to this new relationship.

Photo Courtesy: Kiowa Tribe Public Relations (L to R: Kendal Hamilton, Michael Cleghorn, Lawton City Manager, Rhonda Ahhaitty, Vice Chairwoman, Matthew Komalty, Chairman, Lawton City Mayor Stan Booker, and Bluesky Tosee).

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