

# Quarterly Report

---

Oklahoma County Criminal Justice  
Advisory Council  
Quarterly Report to Interlocal Partners

# Table Of Content

<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>OUR SIX-FOLD PLAN</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>ALTERNATIVES FOR MENTAL HEALTH &amp; ADDICTION</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>JUSTICE SYSTEM TRANSPARENCY</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>COURT PROCESS EFFICIENCY</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>JAIL POPULATION AND TRENDS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SUBCOMMITTEES</b>	<b>12</b>



## MEMBERS

**Tony Tyler**, Chairperson, First Community Representative

**Sanford Coats**, Vice-Chairperson, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Representative

**Vicki Behenna**, District Attorney of Oklahoma County

**Brigitte Biffle**, Chief Public Defender of Oklahoma County

**Sue Ann Arnall**, Second Community Representative

**Ron Bacy**, Chief of Police of Oklahoma City

**Craig Freeman**, City Manager of Oklahoma City

**Christy Gillenwater**, President & CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber

**Mankinta Holloway**, Court Administrator of Oklahoma City

**Judge Donald Kiffin**, Presiding Judge of Oklahoma City Municipal Court

**Sheriff Tommie Johnson III**, Oklahoma County

**Rev. Theodis Manning**, Fourth Community Representative

**Brian Maughan**, Oklahoma County Commissioner

**Judge Richard Ogden**, Presiding Judge of Oklahoma County District Court

**Retired Rear Admiral Gregory Slavonic**, Interim Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

**Dan Straughan**, Third Community Representative

**Rick Warren**, Court Clerk of Oklahoma County

**Police Chief JD Younger**, City of Edmond Designee

**Melissa Walton**, Executive Director

**Amy K. Simpson**, City Clerk for OKC, Secretary

**Cole Marshall**, General Counsel McAfee & Taft

# ABOUT US

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to independently assess our community's criminal justice system by analyzing the processes that lead to jail population, understanding how the decisions in the process are made, identifying the costs associated with processes and decisions, recommending priorities to responsibly reduce jail population with associated costs, and outlining long-term sustainability options.

## OUR VISION

- An economical, efficient, and smart local justice system that reflects our values of fairness, compassion and good governance.
- A system of pre-trial detention that effectively prioritizes public safety through data-informed and evidence-based practices.
- Detention facilities that are safe and humane for both staff and detainees.
- Community oversight that is sustainable and continually strives for efficiency.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The final quarter of 2025 marked an important leadership transition for the Council, as the terms of Chair District Attorney Vicki Behenna and Co-Chair Chief Public Defender Bridget Biffle came to a close. Their shared leadership guided the Council through a period of heightened jail populations, complex system pressures, and the ongoing work of aligning accountability with fairness. Together, they set a tone of collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and respect across traditionally siloed parts of the justice system.

A defining focus of this quarter has been the work of the Courts Subcommittee. It became a central forum for addressing the true drivers of jail population growth. The Subcommittee brought the right people to the table, including judges, law enforcement, treatment providers, TEEM, Diversion Hub, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the Department of Corrections. This broad collaboration acknowledges the complexity of the justice system.

Finally, in 2026, the Council welcomes new Chair Tony Tyler and Co-Chair Sandy Coats, who will build on this foundation of collaboration and problem-solving established by their predecessors.

## OUR SIX-FOLD PLAN.

In 2015, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber created a justice reform task force with support from the Vera Institute of Justice, which identified six key areas for improvement now guiding CJAC's work. While some reforms are limited by state law, most can be implemented locally through collaboration across law enforcement, the jail, and the courts. These efforts aim to create a justice system that is safer, fairer, and more efficient, with meaningful progress already underway in Oklahoma County.

### 1 Justice System Transparency

The Criminal Justice Advisory Council fulfills this role by fostering coordination. It unites leaders from the justice system, the business sector, and nonprofits to drive lasting reform. The council uses data to design and implement countywide justice solutions.

### 2 Preventing Jail for Low-Level Offenses

Low-level arrests make up a quarter of jail bookings, slowing operations with little impact on safety. Keeping these individuals out of jail saves time and resources.

### 3 Evidence-Based Pretrial Decisions

Most people in county jail are pretrial, held only for an inability to pay bail. Risk-based strategies would improve fairness and reduce unnecessary detention.

### 4 Court Process Efficiency

Delays keep people jailed for months without improving safety. CJAC works with judges and attorneys to move cases efficiently from arrest to resolution.

### 5 Alternatives for Mental Health & Addiction

People who suffer from mental health or substance use disorders are overrepresented in jail. CJAC advocates for community partnerships to provide holistic solutions such as treatment, housing, and jobs instead of incarceration.

### 6 End Fines-Based Incarceration

Excessive fines trap people in a cycle of debt and jail, eventually costing taxpayers more. Smarter, compassionate approaches can resolve cases without punishing poverty.





# Alternatives for Mental Health & Addiction

People who suffer from mental health or substance use disorders are overrepresented in jail. CJAC advocates for community partnerships to provide holistic solutions such as treatment, housing, and jobs instead of incarceration.

## Nashville Behavioral Care Center as Model for Oklahoma County

This fall, CJAC's executive director visited Davidson County's Behavioral Care Center (BCC) in Nashville, the model selected to help guide Oklahoma County's own forthcoming BCC, currently under construction. The Nashville BCC plays a central role in diverting people in crisis away from jail and into appropriate treatment. Its programming incorporates proven best practices, including individual and group therapy, with a strong emphasis on restorative practices.

The Nashville BCC is a 60-bed facility with an average length of stay of approximately 18 days, followed by coordinated aftercare and community-based support. Eligible participants receive short-term, trauma-informed treatment instead of traditional prosecution, addressing underlying mental health needs while reducing pressure on the jail and courts.

The Davidson County model is particularly relevant to Oklahoma County due to its similar population size and system demands. Its success is rooted in sustained collaboration among law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, and treatment providers. This level of coordination mirrors efforts already underway in Oklahoma County and underscores the importance of shared responsibility in achieving meaningful reform.

**“Oklahoma County has an opportunity to promote healing, strengthen the workforce, and build a healthier, more resilient community.”**

## Treatment

### Incarceration

Prioritizing treatment over incarceration for individuals experiencing mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders can improve outcomes for individuals while relieving some of the burden on the justice system. This approach focuses on accountability, collaboration, and repairing harm, helping participants stabilize, return to work, and reconnect with their families and communities. The results include reduced recidivism and improved long-term outcomes for participants who might otherwise cycle through incarceration.

It was recently announced that Tulsa-based CREOKS Behavioral Health Services will run the Oklahoma County BCC, and as we move forward, the Davidson County model offers a clear roadmap. Investing in treatment-focused alternatives supports public safety, reduces system costs, and advances a more humane and effective justice system. By adopting this model, Oklahoma County has an opportunity to promote healing, strengthen the workforce, and build a healthier, more resilient community.



## Leadership Stabilization at the Oklahoma County Jail

Oklahoma County Detention Center has taken a step toward stabilizing operations and improving conditions through renewed leadership and a clearer focus on accountability, staffing, and care standards. The appointment of Tim Kimrey as jail administrator on November 10, 2025 is an opportunity to address longstanding challenges. Kimrey is committed to participating in CJAC's reform work and subcommittee meetings. He recently kicked off a 45-day audit, and has offered access to the jail to system workers and stakeholders in a gesture of transparency.

Kimrey brings experience in public safety and corrections, including prior service as a U.S. Navy veteran, a former Oklahoma Highway Patrol captain, and the jail's training director. His familiarity with the facility and its staff positions him to move quickly on operational priorities while maintaining continuity during a period of transition. County leaders view his institutional knowledge as critical to restoring consistency and improving day-to-day functions in the jail.

Under Kimrey's leadership, staffing practices and improved training are a current emphasis. This approach recognizes that stable operations depend on supporting the workforce responsible for maintaining safety and care within the facility. Improving working conditions for staff is directly tied to better outcomes for those in custody.

Detainee welfare practices are also under examination, including appropriate supervision, access to basic services, and adherence to established standards of care. These efforts align with broader county goals to reduce risk, improve transparency, and create conditions that support safer operations while longer-term solutions, including facility replacement and diversion initiatives, move forward.

While structural challenges remain, the current focus is on measurable improvements rather than short-term fixes. These steps represent continued progress toward a more stable, accountable, and humane system within Oklahoma County.



## Justice System Transparency

The Criminal Justice Advisory Council fulfills this role by fostering coordination. It unites leaders from the justice system, the business sector, and nonprofits to drive lasting reform. The council uses data to design and implement countywide justice solutions.



## Court Process Efficiencies

Delays keep people jailed for months without improving safety. CJAC works with judges and attorneys to move cases efficiently from arrest to resolution.

### Court Date Text Reminders: A Powerful and Cost-Effective Change

Oklahoma County is entering a new phase of data-driven court reform with the implementation of automated text reminders for court appearances, an initiative implemented by the Supreme Court of Oklahoma. While the intervention itself is simple, its implications are significant. National research consistently shows that court reminder systems reduce failure-to-appear rates by approximately 20 percent, helping courts avoid unnecessary warrants, delays, and incarceration tied to missed appearances.

To ensure these benefits are realized locally, our partners at Arnall Family Foundation are working alongside CJAC to educate system stakeholders and create public awareness materials to ensure this investment from the Oklahoma Supreme Court are fully utilized

“National research consistently shows that court reminder systems reduce failure-to-appear rates by approximately

# 20%

helping courts avoid unnecessary warrants, delays, and incarceration tied to missed appearances”

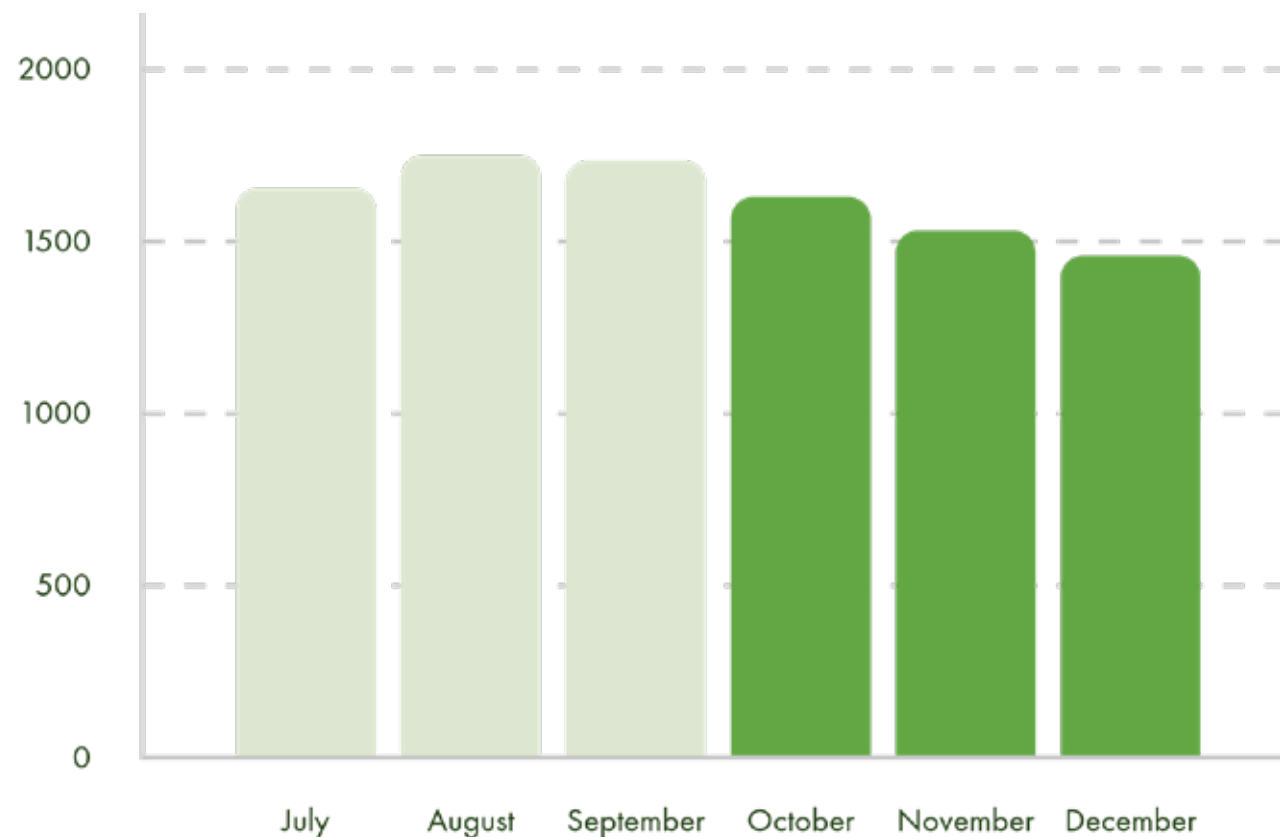
Failure-to-appear warrants often result in avoidable jail stays that disrupt employment, housing, and family responsibilities. These text reminders help prevent failure-to-appear warrants, which can easily derail lives and increase the county detention center population. Text reminders have seen success in other states around the nation. This is an exciting development and we have much to look forward to as we monitor warrant rates over the next few years.

These simple text reminders are a big step in continuous improvement and informed decision-making as Oklahoma County advances court modernization efforts. As results emerge over the coming years, this work will help demonstrate how thoughtful, low-cost interventions can strengthen the justice system while contributing to a more stable and productive local economy.

## Jail Population Declines in Late Fall 2025

Following a summer peak, the Oklahoma County jail population declined steadily through the final months of calendar year 2025. After averaging more than 1,700 individuals between July and September, the population fell to 1,630 in October, 1,532 in November, and 1,459 in December. This represents a significant and sustained reduction from the highest levels seen earlier in the year.

Several operational and system-level changes contributed to this decline. Stable leadership under newly appointed Jail Administrator, Mr. Kimrey has emphasized accountability and more precise population management, including improved tracking of individuals booked on low-level municipal charges (trespassing, traffic violations, etc.). Those detainees should be booked to document and set a court date, then immediately released (excluding cases involving warrants), but congestion in the jail and processing had led to low-level offenders being unnecessarily held for days. Mr. Kimrey has shifted from tracking detention length by days to tracking by hours, aligning more closely with those best practices.

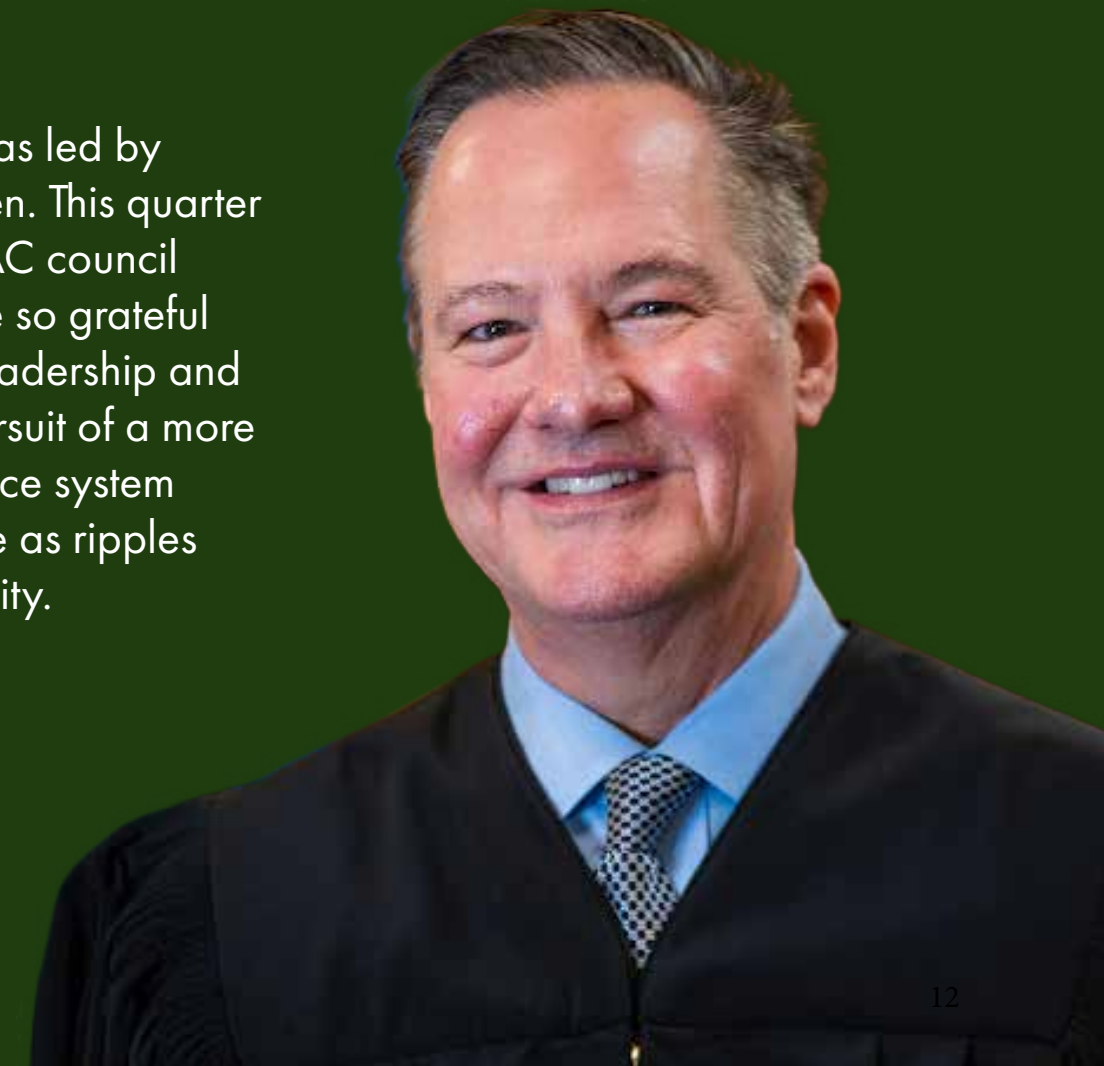


## CJAC Subcommittees Foster Effective Partnerships

Collaboration through the CJAC Courts Subcommittee has helped identify causes of rising jail population and seeks practical solutions by bringing together key justice system partners. The committee helped determine available strategies for the transportation of sentenced individuals to the Department of Corrections, following the acquisition and outfitting of new transport vans, which relieved some population pressure that had built up during the summer pause.

Together, these efforts contributed to a measurable and sustained reduction in the jail population entering the winter months.

Much of this work was led by Judge Richard Ogden. This quarter was his last as a CJAC council member, and we are so grateful for his service. His leadership and persistence in the pursuit of a more efficient and fair justice system will continue to move as ripples through our community.



OKLAHOMA COUNTY  
**CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Our Address**

123 Park Ave., 1st Floor,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

**Web & Email**

Email : [mwalton@okcountycjac.org](mailto:mwalton@okcountycjac.org)  
Web : [www.okcountycjac.com](http://www.okcountycjac.com)



@OKCountyCJAC



Oklahoma County Criminal  
Justice Advisory Council