

BUDGET

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on” prior education investments and would pave the way for a third teacher pay raise during his time in office.

The March revenue numbers provide some of the backdrop for that discussion. On a rolling 12-month basis, combined individual

and corporate income tax collections totaled \$6.7 billion, up \$366 million, or 5.7 percent. Combined sales and use tax collections totaled \$7 billion, up \$108.8 million, or 1.6 percent. Oil and gas gross production tax collections reached \$1.1 billion over the same 12-month span, up \$83.2 million, or 8.2 percent.

The month-to-month

picture for March was broadly positive as well, though not every category moved the same direction. The treasurer’s report showed March 2026 tax revenue at about \$1.4 billion, up \$94.3 million, or 7.2 percent, from March 2025. Sales and use tax collections rose 10.5 percent year over year to \$568.6 million, and corporate income

tax collections climbed 49.7 percent to \$79.6 million. At the same time, overall income tax collections were down 4.7 percent year over year, and gross production tax collections were down 8.6 percent for the month.

Even with those mixed category-by-category results, the broader trend in the treasurer’s report point-

ed upward. Russ said March reflected “renewed momentum” in Oklahoma’s economy, with broad-based growth across major revenue sources and a strengthening outlook. The report also showed March collections were up \$222.6 million, or 18.7 percent, from February.

The budget agreement itself is an im-

portant political marker because it gives lawmakers a framework earlier than usual, while the March tax report gives a snapshot of the revenue environment surrounding it. Taken together, the two show a state government trying to balance restraint, savings and targeted spending at a time when overall revenues are still growing.

CITY

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they’re Native Americans,” Downey said. “We want to know from everybody because that gives us a better sample size.”

Downey said some residents have mistakenly believed the survey only applies to those with Native American heritage, but emphasized that every response matters.

“I spoke to somebody this week that came in with their water bill and said, ‘Well, I’m not Native American, so I’m just going to throw this piece of paper away,’” Downey said. “I said, please fill it out with your address and say no, because then we have an answer for that address, and the more addresses that we have answers for, the better data that we’re going to be able to provide.”

The purpose of the survey is to help both cities better understand the percentage of residents with Native American heritage within their utility service areas. That information is expected to support applications for funding tied to infrastruc-

ture improvements.

“They want to know, as close as we can, what percentage of the community is Native,” Downey said. “It doesn’t matter if it’s Chickasaw or Apache or any other tribe. They use that to help determine how much, in terms of a percentage of the project, they’re willing to fund.”

Tuttle City Manager Dana Schoening said a strong response rate is essential for demonstrating need and strengthening the overall application.

“It’s very important for the citizens to fill out the survey and that we get a really good response rate,” Schoening said.

“The response, we need a high response rate to demonstrate to the Indian Health Services that we have a number of community members who are going to benefit by this infrastructure.”

While the survey includes questions related to Native American heritage, Schoening said the broader goal is to ensure the project benefits the entire community.

“We’re really looking at any citizen that has Native American heritage, and it doesn’t have to be 100%. It could be any percentage, because they’re

going to be customers of water as well,” Schoening said.

Both officials said the survey is one step in a larger effort to address long-term infrastructure challenges facing both cities.

Downey said the project itself focuses on expanding water capacity and improving reliability for both communities as they continue to grow.

“Tuttle and Blanchard are working together in what’s called the Grady McClain County Utility Trust,” Downey said. “We’re working together to build a new booster station and storage in the vicinity of Highway 37 and County Line Road so that we can bring more water to Blanchard and help Tuttle with their water needs as they continue to grow as well.”

The partnership reflects a shared understanding that regional cooperation is necessary to tackle infrastructure challenges that extend beyond city boundaries.

“We know that working with our neighbors is better than working against our neighbors,” Downey said. “The things that are good for Tuttle are typically good for Blanchard,

and the things that are good for Blanchard are typically good for Tuttle.”

Schoening echoed that sentiment, pointing to the collaboration as a positive step toward addressing one of the most critical issues facing both communities.

“We’re doing what we can, looking at every area, every potential partner, to help fund this,” Schoening said. “Which is important to handle our basic needs here in Tuttle, and I would speak for Blanchard as well.”

Water infrastructure, both officials said, has become an increasingly important issue not just locally, but across the country.

“Water is one of, if not the most important infrastructure conversations that is being had across the United States today,” Downey said. “Being able to provide water for our communities is something that small communities and large communities are dealing with.”

For Blanchard, Downey said the issue is directly tied to the city’s ability to continue growing.

“Blanchard’s single largest barrier to growth is the ability to make sure

that we have water,” he said. “Not just for the people that are here, but the people that are coming here, the businesses that are coming here.”

He added that the current project is just one of several efforts underway to improve infrastructure capacity and reliability.

“This project that we’re working on in tandem with Tuttle through the GMC Trust is but one of the many infrastructure projects that Blanchard is embarking on,” Downey said. “We have several projects in the pipeline that are intended to increase our capacity, increase our volume, increase our pressure and make sure that the summer months are less hard on us than they have been in the past.”

Schoening said the cities’ willingness to explore partnerships and funding opportunities is an encouraging sign moving forward.

“I think it’s a positive that we were directed to do the survey,” Schoening said. “It makes sense, and I think that they’re going to be willing to assist us here as a community.”

He added that the collaboration between

Tuttle and Blanchard has been strong and could serve as a foundation for future joint efforts.

“Working with Blanchard has been great,” Schoening said. “We are two communities looking at some of the same issues, and working together really well.”

City officials said residents can complete the survey through multiple methods. In Tuttle, surveys were distributed through utility billing, with options to return them by mail or drop-off. The survey is also available online through a QR code shared on the city’s social media platforms.

Officials in both communities emphasized that participation from all households will help ensure the data collected is as complete and accurate as possible.

“This is just one step along the way,” Schoening said. “But it’s an important step.”

Residents in both cities can complete the survey through forms included with their utility bills, return them by mail or drop-off, or access the survey online through a QR code shared on both cities’ social media pages.

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(Published Thurs. Apr. 16, 2026)

Board of McClain County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 8:15a.m. in Room 111 of the McClain County Courthouse. Chairman Wilson Lyles called the meeting to order and led the flag salute. County Clerk Rebekah Couch called the roll and those present were: Chairman Wilson Lyles, Vice Chairman Terry Daniel, and Member Glen Murray.

Terry Daniel moved to approve the minutes of the 3/30/2026 meeting, Glen Murray seconded. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Terry Daniel moved to approve the following maintenance and operation claims, seconded by Glen Murray. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

CLAIMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 AS FOLLOWS:
CCSI 9, Turn Key Health Clinics, 9880.83, Service;
Eco Dev-ST 20, Annie And Lloyd Tree And Landscape, 3744.00, Contract Labor;
Em Mgmt-ST 86, ImageNet Consulting, 95.83, Service 87, Okana MDE, 393.00, Lodging;
Extension-ST 102, Dumas, Emily, 553.82, Travel 103, McDaniel, Justin, 594.64, Travel 104, Wollenberg, Connie, 406.86, Travel 105, Vandaveer, Laura A., 191.11, Travel 106, Conner, Nicole, 640.30, Travel;
Fair Main-ST 64, Clark, Jesse, 120.00, Steward 65, Harvey, Lyndsey, 500.00, Judges 66, McClain County Fair Board, 2842.00, Premiums;
General 1503, Blanchard News, 270.60, Minutes 1504, Capitol Lift Truck, 16000.00, Forklift 1505, Clean Uniform, 34.08, Service 1506, DJ Trailers And Welding, 55.00, Parts 1507, Hoyt, Shannon Eugene, 38.39, Fuel 1508, Johnson Controls Building Solutions, 445242.27, Chiller/FCU Project 1509, J&S Glass, 625.00, Windshield 1510, McClain County Election Board, 1162.90, Travel 1511, McClain County Election Board, 739.50, Travel 1512, Purcell Register, 29.40, Bid Publication 1513, Purcell Register, 29.40, Bid Publication 1514, Quill, 114.14, Supplies 1515, Rockys Professional Plumbing, 353.75, Service 1516, Robbins Ace, 65.91, Supplies 1517, Sysco, 6979.88, Supplies 1518, Stolz Telecom, 761.25, Mics 1519, Turn Key Health Clinics, 12363.15, Service 1520, Uniti, 277.41, Service 1521, WW Tire, 20.00, Service 1522, Elliotts Purcell Automotive, 679.99, Parts & Service;
Health 225, Purcell Public Works, 269.04, Service 226, Quadient Finance USA, 700.00, Postage;
Highway 1460, Amazon, 120.22, Supplies 1461, AEG Petroleum, 2579.55, Oil 1462, Bills Seat Cover And Upholstery, 200.00, Service 1463, Cimarron Surveying, 4290.00, Service 1464, Cintas, 317.75, Service 1465, Dolese Bros, 24752.57, Chips & Rock 1466, Hoidale, 491.40, Service 1467, LA Jacobson Concrete, 605.55, Concrete 1468, Luther Sign, 94.22, Signage 1469, OEC, 362.00, Utilities 1470, OG&E, 260.28, Utilities 1471, P&K Equipment, 933.00, Parts & Material 1472, P&K Equipment, 227.55, Labor 1473, P&K Equipment, 157.16, Parts 1474, Roth, Saundra M., 240.00, Service 1475, Trinitas Materials, 29909.61, Asphalt 1476, Uniti, 158.45, Utilities 1477, Warren CAT, 36.28, Parts 1478, Windy Chevrolet, 1806.57, Parts & Labor 1479, Warren CAT, 227.50, Parts 1480, Warren CAT, 227.50, Parts;
Preservation 10, Mid West Printing, 49334.68, Service;
Rental of County Property - Expo 132, Clean Uniform, 37.54, Service 133, Hamilton Landscape, 1875.00, Lawn Service 134, Robbins Ace, 787.92, Supplies 135, Uniti, 182.16, Service;
Rural Fire-ST 187, AT&T, 169.02, Service 188, Quality Auto Truck & Trailer Repair, 2450.85, Parts & Labor 189, Rural Electric Coop, 48.01, Service 190, Sids, 754.97, Fuel & Supplies 191, Stolz Telecom, 11102.25, Radios 192, Sids, 961.08, Fuel & Supplies 193, Zoll Medical Corporation, 2895.60, AED Supplies;
SFAG 83, Davison Fuels & Oil, 3252.20, Fuel;
Sheriff Commissary 34, WW Tire, 159.04, Tires & Service;
Sheriff Service Fee 217, Stolz Telecom, 10125.00, Radio Equipment;
SR Cit-ST 342, Ben E Keith Lockbox, 1829.96, Supplies 343, Cable Meat And Food Service, 1278.32, Supplies 344, Cox, Charles Leroy, 446.25, Contract Labor 345, HAC, 873.18, Supplies 346, OG&E, 265.39, Service 347, OG&E, 226.73, Service 348, OEC, 170.67, Service 349, Tyson, Bridget A., 680.00, Contract Labor 350, Uniti, 231.92, Service 351, Woods, Teresa Sue, 1092.00, Contract Labor 352, Ben E Keith Lockbox, 3426.61, Supplies 353, Classic Paper, 526.88, Supplies 354, Amazon, 694.79, Supplies 355, Amazon, 1113.42, Refrigerator.

Terry Daniel moved to approve Blanket Purchase Orders as on file in the County Clerk’s office, seconded by Glen Murray. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

No Transfers of Appropriations or Road Crossing Permits were requested.

Terry Daniel moved to approve Lacey Caskey and Lt. Hannah Armstrong as Receiving Officers for McClain County Sheriff’s Office, Glen Murray seconded. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Terry Daniel moved and Glen Murray seconded to award the following bids for the McClain County Health Department Renovation – Civil Packages, as listed and on file in the County Clerk’s Office, to the lowest and most responsible bidders, all within the Guaranteed Maximum Price as previously approved on February 17, 2026. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

The following awards were approved: Midwest Wrecking Co. – Site Demolition; Clint’s Welding – Miscellaneous Steel; WW Builders, Inc. – Paving, Walks, and Site Concrete; American Fence Co. – Fencing.

Terry Daniel moved, Glen Murray seconded to lift the countywide burn ban effective immediately. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

With no further business, Terry Daniel moved to adjourn at 8:34 a.m., Glen Murray seconded. Vote Aye: Murray, Lyles, Daniel. Motion carried.

Attest:

Rebekah Couch County Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
McCLAIN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Wilson Lyles, Chairman
Terry Daniel, Vice Chairman
Glen Murray, Member

Advertisement for legal notices in Oklahoma, Canadian, and Grady counties. Includes logos for Mustang Times, The Tuttle Times, Choctaw Times, The Blanchard News, and Minco-Union City Times. Contact info: (405) 376-6688.

(Published Thurs. Apr. 16 & 23, 2026)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE
CJ-2025-224

Notice is given that on the 19 day of May, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 121 of the County Courthouse, in the city of Purcell, McClain County, Oklahoma, the Sheriff will offer for sale and sell, with appraisal, at public auction, to the highest and best bidder, all that certain real estate in McClain County, Oklahoma;

Lot Four (4), Block One (1), of FRANCIS TALK OF THE TOWN, to the Town of Blanchard, McClain County, Oklahoma, according to the recorded plat thereof.

subject to unpaid taxes, and all amounts set forth in the judgment granted herein, said property having been duly appraised at \$ 200,000.00. Sale will be made pursuant to a Special Execution and Order of Sale issued in accordance with judgment entered in the District Court of McClain County, Oklahoma, in Case No. CJ-2025-224, titled Freedom Mortgage Corporation vs Richard A Morgan Jr., being all of the Defendants and persons holding or claiming any interest in lien in the subject property.

McClain County Sheriff
McClain County, Oklahoma

By: Sheriff Sandy Offutt DEPUTY

Don Timberlake - # 9021
Kim S. Jenkins - # 32809
Gina D. Knight - # 12996
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