

Oklahoma Historical Society FY 2027 Budget Presentation

Collect. Preserve. Share.



Oklahoma
Historical
Society

What We Do

- **Own & operate museums & historic sites**
- **Education**
 - Programming & traveling trunks
 - National History Day
 - Special events such as the Wild West Show & Civil War re-enactment
- **Care for artifacts**
 - 2D items such as newspapers, photos, maps, letters, etc.
 - 3D items such as furniture, saddles, clothing, etc.
- **Distribute grants**
 - Heritage Preservation Grant program
 - Civil Rights Trail Grant
- **State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**
 - National Register of Historic Places
 - Historic tax credits
 - Section 106
 - Centennial Farm and Ranch program
- **Publications**
 - *Chronicles of Oklahoma*
 - *Mistletoe Leaves*
 - *Encyclopedia of History and Culture (online)*
 - *Gateway to Oklahoma History (online)*



OHS has been collecting newspapers since 1893



Civil War re-enactment at Honey Springs Battlefield



Fred & Addie Drummond Home in Hominy

A Very OK Podcast

- Explore the interesting stories and fascinating personalities that make up Oklahoma's unique history
- Hosted by Trait Thompson and Dr. Bob Blackburn
- New episodes 3rd Tuesday of every month
- 53 episodes and over 66,000 all-time downloads



Top Accomplishments in FY 25

- Awarded \$1.1 million to 28 organizations through the Oklahoma Civil Rights Trail Grant Program
- Celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Oklahoma History Center
- Completed the new visitor center at Fort Gibson Historic Site in the restored 1870s-era hospital
- Awarded more than \$577,000 to 40 historical non-profits across the state
- Held more than 300 educational programs and events across the state
- Added over 114,000 items to the Gateway to Oklahoma History online portal



Visitor center at Fort Gibson Historic Site



Folk Life Festival at the Oklahoma History Center



Wild West Show at Pawnee Bill Ranch



Upcoming Projects for FY 26 - 27



Filming of Oklahoma Route 66 documentary at Cherokee Studios in Owasso

- Route 66 Centennial:
 - Complete new exhibit at the History Center
 - Release documentary film
 - Assist in planning centennial activities across the state
- Fundraising for the neon sign park at the History Center
- Kick off solicitation for contractors at OKPOP to complete the museum
- Begin LCF projects on Overholser Mansion, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Fort Gibson Historic Site, and Oklahoma Territorial Museum

OKPOP Museum

- Fundraising completed in November 2025 and certified by State Treasurer to access \$18 million in state match.
- Target opening date is Spring 2028
- Begin soliciting for construction contractor, architect, and exhibit design firm in early 2026.
- Some new collections: James Marsden's X-Men costume, Tommy Allsup's 1958 Fender Stratocaster, Cain's Ballroom posters from the 1940s-'60s, and watch worn by Warren Beatty in the 1990 film, *Dick Tracy*.



A replica of Bob Wills' 1948 tour bus is moved onto the platform at OKPOP in October 2025

FY 2027 OHS Budget Request

- Increase funding from sales & use tax apportionment to 2024 cap amount to cover costs associated with maintenance of properties and equipment. Increase of \$654,876. (SB 38)
- Increase of \$20,000 to cover part-time staffer for National History Day activities due to lost federal grant.
- One-time appropriation of \$583,287 to install new exhibits at Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City.
- One-time appropriation of \$449,550 to cover installation of high-density storage at the History Center



Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City

Thank You

- Last session's appropriation of \$2.8 million for the HVAC system at the Oklahoma History Center will ensure the viability of the building as a top-tier facility for artifacts display and storage for years to come.
- Currently soliciting for consultants who will then assist OHS in writing vendor solicitation and quality assurance during and after installation.



Oklahoma Historical Society

Trait Thompson

Executive Director

trait.thompson@history.ok.gov

405-522-5201