



Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office

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Date: April 8, 2026

From: Sheriff Tommie Johnson III

Re: OCCJA MOU Notice of Termination

This letter intends to serve as notice of termination for the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of the Oklahoma County Sheriff and the Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority. Pursuant to Article IV: Termination of the Agreement; Letter D, I am issuing the required 30-day notice of termination where the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office will cease all duties outlined in the agreement on May 10, 2026, at 11:59PM. The Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office finance team will prorate and bill all final invoices pursuant to Article IV; Letter E and all appropriate parties will be notified pursuant to Article IX: Notices.

While only the required 30-day written notice is being given, this announcement of termination is not sudden. In fact, the beginnings of this termination date back to 2023 when members of the community and jail trust authority questioned the agreement prompting informal legal opinions. These grumblings have continued since 2023 to present day thus eliciting a final decision.

In Article IV: Termination of the Agreement; Letter D, it states in part, "any party may terminate this Agreement when it is determined to be in the party's best interest". As the duly elected Sheriff of Oklahoma County, I have a fiduciary to both the Citizens of Oklahoma County via the Oklahoma County Budget Board and to the Oklahoma County Detention Center via the Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Authority. At the April 2nd jail trust authority meeting, it was stated openly that after diving into the jail's finances, these services could be conducted in-house with savings of up to half the cost of the current agreement. I cannot in good faith continue to execute these duties knowing that the jail can provide these services with substantially less fiscal impact to the Oklahoma County taxpayer.

With the jail's recent funding at 100% of their budget request, and the detention officers starting salaries being higher than ever before, now is the most appropriate time to make this transition. Further, by the jail trust "stepping into the shoes of the Sheriff" for this obligation, I can redirect the focus of my employees to better enhance courthouse security concerns which is a requirement of the Sheriff's Office outlined by the Oklahoma Constitution.

I am committed to making this transition as smooth as possible, and my employees are available to assist with this change.

Very Respectfully,

Sheriff Tommie Johnson III