



Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

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NEWS RELEASE

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Aeronautics Commission Approves State Grants for Various Airport Projects

OKLAHOMA CITY – Construction projects at five Oklahoma airports will begin soon following the recent approval by the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission of more than \$363,000 in state grants.

The grants are part of the Commission's Capital Improvement Program, which provides funding to Oklahoma airports for various capital needs, such as runway maintenance and construction; installation of navigational aids; land purchases; and installation and repair of airfield lights and signage.

Commissioners approved two state grants totaling \$53,539 for two separate projects at Richard L. Jones Jr. Airport in **Tulsa**. A grant of \$3,874 will be used to install airport access control gates, while a grant of \$49,665 will help complete the third and final phase of the airport's storm water drainage improvement project. The drainage project will allow storm water to efficiently flow off the airport and directly into the Arkansas River, which runs parallel along the east side of the airport. A federal grant will cover most of the costs for the entire drainage project, which add up to approximately \$6.4 million.

A "design only" grant of \$116,478 was approved for Max Westheimer Airport in **Norman**. The state funds will help pay for plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of one of the airport's runways and aprons. The total cost of the project is \$129,420. Airport officials stated that it was critical that the facility keep up with the continued growth of the Norman area and the subsequent increase in aircraft flying in and out of the airport.

Claremore Regional Airport was approved for a \$91,000 state grant, which will be used to extend the airport's taxiway and connecting taxiway. Airport officials said the project will allow for more development in the area. Total cost of the project is \$508,366, most of which will be paid through federal funds.

Commissioners also approved a state grant of \$86,420 for **Ada** Municipal Airport. The funds will help pay for phase I of the reconstruction and realignment project of the airport's parallel taxiway, as well as for reconstruction of the airport apron. Currently, the parallel taxiway is in poor condition and does not meet FAA specifications. The reconstruction and realignment project should correct those deficiencies. A federal grant will cover most of the phase I costs, which add up to more than \$3.4 million.

And finally, a state grant of \$15,571 was approved for William R. Pogue Municipal Airport in **Sand Springs** to upgrade and replace electrical wiring on its runway and taxiway, as well as to install new signage. The total cost for the project is nearly \$623,000. Officials said that the new electrical wiring and signs would provide a safer environment for pilots.

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“Keeping Oklahoma’s public airports safe and up-to-date is critical for our state and for the communities in which these airports are located,” Commission Director Victor Bird said. “These airports are ‘Gateways to the World’ for these communities and are very important to their local economies. These grants help ensure that our state’s air transportation system is safe for everyone who uses it—business travelers and non-business travelers alike.”

The Commission’s mission is to encourage, foster and assist in the development of aeronautics in Oklahoma and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of airports. This includes the preservation and improvement of the state’s 114 public airports in communities throughout the state, which make up the State Airport System.