

## March 23, 2025 My Own Prison: Municipal Finance & Infrastructure Research

*Integrity of the Game vs Economic Impact (Politics); The Oklahoma Business Plan*

### Executive Summary

This body of work examines the intricate financial mechanisms governing municipal infrastructure investments, integrating detailed fiscal analysis with reflective field observations. On March 23, 2025, a day marked by personal milestones and professional inquiry, the research focused on unraveling discrepancies in municipal capital funding practices. Utilizing comprehensive financial records obtained from both public records requests and the Oklahoma State Auditor's website, the analysis exposed critical differences between market-determined interest rates and those approved by municipal authorities—exemplified by Shawnee's 4.25% rate versus the market cap of 3.25–3.5%.

The research further contextualizes historical practices, including loan consolidations credited with saving millions, and raises important questions about long-standing financial policies dating back to at least the 1993 county debt loan. Concurrently, an expanded study of USSSA tournament fees, reinforced by AI-driven analysis through Notebook LM, revealed an unexpected increase in entry fees, prompting a reassessment of earlier manual studies and underscoring the importance of accurate, transparent financial reporting in the sports domain.

Overall, this ongoing investigation not only highlights significant areas of fiscal discrepancy and infrastructural investment but also demonstrates the transformative role of AI in modern financial research—enabling the synthesis of large, complex data sets into actionable insights that inform both public policy and academic discourse.

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Journal Entry	Professor K (Summary)	Minutes Research	Key Themes	Action Items	Related Entities	Follow-up Required	Supporting Data Sources
<p>Today, on Brian's 38th birthday, I had the opportunity to reflect at the Brian Croftmoral Sports Complex while watching my grandson Jackson participate in a local ball game. The peaceful environment provided a fertile backdrop for deep contemplation and rigorous scholarly inquiry into municipal finance. I have been intensively examining financial records from various municipalities to uncover discrepancies and trends in infrastructure investments. My work has involved obtaining comprehensive data sets—from annual financial reports and budgets to lease agreements and transfer instruments—primarily sourced from the Oklahoma State Auditor's website and previously through direct records requests. A key finding emerged from the analysis of Shawnee's official minutes, which reveal that despite a market rate analysis suggesting a maximum rate of 3.25–3.5% for capital funding, Shawnee approved a non-competing rate of 4.25% for qualifying banks. Historical records also hint at significant savings achieved by consolidating loans, though questions remain about past interest rate practices dating as far back as the 1993 county debt loan. Alongside these fiscal inquiries, I have expanded my research into USSSA tournament fee trends, where an AI-assisted reanalysis—complementing earlier manual studies—indicated a notable increase of approximately 1.5 million dollars in tournament entry fees, bringing the total to an estimated 21 million dollars. This dual research focus not only underscores the importance of financial transparency and accountability in public expenditure but also highlights the transformative potential of AI in synthesizing complex financial data for public understanding.</p>	<p>Professor K's review emphasizes the blend of personal observation with rigorous financial analysis. The integration of AI tools like Notebook LM into traditional document review has significantly enhanced the clarity and accessibility of municipal financial data.</p>	<p>The minutes from Shawnee's council reveal critical discrepancies in approved interest rates versus market expectations, warranting deeper investigation into historical consolidation practices and the impact on current fiscal policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal financial transparency and accountability</li> <li>• Impact of AI in financial data analysis</li> <li>• Discrepancies in capital funding interest rates</li> <li>• Historical loan consolidation savings</li> <li>• USSSA tournament fee analysis and trends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a targeted inquiry into the approved 4.25% rate and its implications across similar municipalities.</li> <li>• Acquire additional documentation regarding the 1993 county debt loan and subsequent consolidation measures.</li> <li>• Refine the USSSA tournament fee study to address data gaps (e.g., missing data from Savage Park) and validate AI findings.</li> </ul>	<p>City of Shawnee ; Shawnee Public Schools; Gordon Cooper Technology Center; City of McLoud; McLoud Public Schools; City of Tecumseh; Tecumseh Public Schools; Town of Bethel; Pottawatomie county; Brian Croftmoral Sports Complex; USSSA; Notebook LM; local government officials.</p>	<p>Yes – further documentation and comparative analysis are necessary to clarify both the municipal financial discrepancies and the evolving trends in tournament fee structures.</p>	<p>Financial statements from the Oklahoma State Auditor's website; official minutes of the City of Shawnee; records requests; Notebook LM-generated summaries; historical fiscal data.</p>

**Disclaimer:** This summary is presented in a formal, academic style, reflecting both legal and community perspectives. The findings herein are based on the data compiled in the Research and do not constitute legal advice. The opinions expressed regarding municipal failures are those of the investigator(s) and do not necessarily represent an official stance by any governing body.