

BOKCHITO CIVIC CEMETERY

INFORMATION AND HANDBOOK

Adopted: October 4, 2021

Bokchito Civic Cemetery Rules & Regulations

**For the mutual protection of each lot and/or plot of the cemetery as a whole, the cemetery board has adopted these revised/updated rules and regulations for Bokchito Civic Cemetery. All plot and/or lot owners and visitors within the cemetery and all plots and/or lots, shall be subject to the rules and regulations, amendments or alterations as adopted by the Bokchito Civic Cemetery Board on
DATE APPROVED.**

General Rules

The Bokchito Civic Cemetery is operated by volunteers who were elected to the cemetery board by the membership of the Bokchito Civic Cemetery. The annual meeting will be held on the second Saturday in the month of June. To be eligible for voting rights during the annual meeting, payment of yearly membership dues of \$35 is required. A minimum of one newsletter will be mailed out annually to keep membership updated on the operations of the cemetery.

SECTION I Definitions

Lot: “Lot” shall apply to a space of sufficient size to accommodate one adult interment approximately 3’ X 10’.

Plot: “Plot” shall refer to an area of sufficient size for eight (8) adult graves; **HALF PLOT** shall refer to an area of sufficient size for four (4) adult graves.

Interment: “Interment” shall mean the permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person in a grave...typically with funeral rites.

Monument: “Monument” shall include a monument or marker of granite, marble or bronze military markers as issued by the Department of Defense.

Flat Head Marker: “Flat Head Marker” shall mean a memorial flush with the ground.

Head Marker: “Head Marker” shall mean a marker above ground level.

Corner Marker: “Marker” shall mean marble, granite or concrete used to locate the Plot and/or Lot that is flush with the ground.

Skirting: “Skirting” shall mean the concrete border outlining the Plot and/or Lot which will be level with the ground.

Vase: “Vase” shall mean marble, granite, metal or plastic container used to hold flowers.

Certificate of Deed: “Certificate of Deed” shall apply to the deed given to the purchaser/owner of the Plot and/or Lot.

Cemetery Board: “Cemetery Board” shall mean persons elected by the members of the Bokchito Civic Cemetery Association at the annual meeting.

Mausoleum: “Mausoleum” is a building structure housing individual- or multiple-shelved entombments.

Vault: “Vault” is an outside container for a coffin/urn.

Disinterment: “Disinterment” shall mean the exhuming/removing of a corpse from a grave.

Restoration Fee: “Restoration Fee” shall mean the fee paid to cover the cost of a burial.

Perpetual Care: “Perpetual Care” is the repair and general maintenance of the burial plot/lot which includes landscaping and lawn mowing.

Descendant: “Descendant” is a person who is related to a person or group of people who lived in the past...offspring of a particular person.

Cemetery Contractor: “Cemetery Contractor” is a person who is responsible for the care and maintenance of the cemetery which also includes the restoration of a burial site.

Crypt: “Crypt” is an underground room or vault beneath a burial place.

SECTION II

Lot and/or Plot Owners

Person(s) desiring to purchase a Lot and/or Plot should contact a board representative who will assist in making a selection. The purchase price will be paid to the Bokchito Civic Cemetery. Upon receipt of payment, a certificate of deed will be given to the person who purchased the Lot(s) and/or Plot(s).

- 1) No lot and/or plot shall be used for any other purpose than for the interment of the deceased.
- 2) Descriptions of plots and/or lots will be in accordance with cemetery records and maps that are kept on file.
- 3) The Cemetery Board will take all reasonable precautions to protect lot and/or plot owner(s) and the property rights of lot and/or plot owner(s) within the cemetery from loss or damage. The cemetery distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control and, especially, from damage caused by elements and acts of God, thieves, vandals or unavoidable accidents...whether the damage be direct or collateral.
- 4) The instrument of conveyance of the Rules and Regulations and any amendments thereto constitute the sole agreement between the cemetery and the lot and/or plot owner(s). The transfer of a lot and/or plot to another party shall be recorded by a board representative after written documentation and transfer fee of \$35 is received. (Refer to Section IV, Descendant of Deed).
- 5) Burials are not to be held on Sunday or legal holidays unless under unusual circumstances. Notification and agreed arrangements must be made in advance.
- 6) All restoration fees are payable to cemetery board representative by way of check or cash. Restoration fees may also be paid through arrangements with a designated funeral home. The funeral home will then, in return, send payment to the Cemetery Board Treasurer.
- 7) Persons within the cemetery shall use only the avenues, roads and walkways in gaining access to one's lot and/or plot. The cemetery expressly disclaims liability for any injuries sustained by anyone violating this rule.

- 8) Persons visiting the cemetery or attending funerals are strictly prohibited from picking flowers, wild or cultivated, breaking or injuring any tree, shrub or plant or from writing upon, defacing or damaging any memorials, fence or other structure within the cemetery grounds. The throwing of litter or rubbish on the driveways, or on any part of the grounds, or in the pavilion is prohibited. Trash barrels are provided.
- 9) Using the cemetery as a place of exercise such as walking or running is welcome.
- 10) The driving of motorcars or other vehicles through the gates or in the cemetery at excessive speed is prohibited.
- 11) No animals allowed within cemetery grounds.
- 12) The following actions within the cemetery are prohibited: (a) loud or boisterous talking; (b) idling or loafing on the grounds or pavilion; (c) peddling or soliciting the sale of any commodity within the cemetery; (d) placing of notices or advertisements or signs of any kind; (e) no firearms in cemetery unless authorized. No drugs or alcohol are permitted on the cemetery property.
- 13) Special cases may arise in which the literal enforcement of a rule may impose unnecessary hardship. The Cemetery Board of Directors, therefore, reserve the right to make exceptions, suspensions, alterations or modifications of any of these rules and regulations, without notice, and such temporary exception, suspension or modifications shall, in no way, be construed as affecting the general applications of such rules and regulations.
- 14) The Cemetery Board of Directors do hereby expressly reserve the right to adopt additional rules and regulations, or to amend, alter or repeal any rule, regulation, article, section, paragraph or sentence in these rules and regulations at any time. The Cemetery Board reserves the authority to remove any decorations that become discolored or damaged due to the elements of the weather.

The maintenance of private decorations is to be maintained throughout the year as follows:

- a) Winter decorations may be maintained on graves from November 1st until March 1st. If such decorations are not removed by March 1st, they shall be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by the Cemetery caretaker and/or Cemetery Board Members assisting with the task in preparation of the mowing season. Such decorations will include cut flowers, potted plants, wreath sprays, easels, headstone sprays, and plastic sprays.
- b) Floral arrangements placed on grave at the time of interment shall remain in place until such time as they become unsightly.
- c) Any small personal memorial items will need to be placed on the marker concrete pad. The cemetery is not responsible for the loss or damage to any of these items that are not placed in the correct location in accordance with this rule.
- d) No glass objects will be allowed.

Vases shall be permitted only if permanently affixed to monument or marker and maintained by Lot and/or Plot owner(s).

Regarding markers or monuments that are leaning or have fallen over: Markers and monuments are the property of the estate of the deceased. It will be the responsibility of the estate of the deceased to correct or repair the problem. The Bokchito Civic Cemetery is not responsible for the repair, restoration, refurbishment, reinforcement or removal of a leaning or fallen marker or monument.

The general care assumed by the Cemetery shall, in no case, mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any memorial or head marker placed or erected upon lot and/or plot. The Cemetery is not responsible for any special or unusual work, including work caused by the impoverishment of soil; nor does it mean the reconstruction of any marble or granite work on any section or lot and/or plot, or any portion or portions thereof in the cemetery, caused by the elements, an act of God, thieves, vandals or unavoidable accident, whether the damage is direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.

Updated information relating to the rules and regulations will be posted on the Bokchito Civic Cemetery website.

- 15) Under no circumstances will an individual or community mausoleum or crypt be allowed to be built in the Bokchito Civic Cemetery.
- 16) Upkeep of cemetery grounds concerning ruts, holes or shifting of soil will be addressed at a reasonable time, weather permitting.
- 17) Notification by way of written communication from the Cemetery Board may be needed to address any concerns or infractions. Written communication will require three (3) board member signatures.

SECTION III

Schedule of Prices

- 1. Individual Plot (in specified area).....\$ 400.00
- 2. Plot (size) Half Plot (4 Lots).....\$ 1,600.00
- 3. Plot (size) Full Plot (8 Lots).....\$ 3,200.00
- 4. Interment/Restoration.....\$ 500.00
- 5. Half plot in NEW Metcalf North (4 Lots).....\$ 2,000.00
- 6. Full Plot NEW Metcalf North (8 Lots).....\$ 4,000.00

~~ Fee of \$35.00 to produce a replacement deed or transfer deed ~~

~~ Prices are subject to change at any time ~~

There will be no buyback of any lot and/or any portion of a plot by the Bokchito Civic Cemetery. Burial plots and/or lots may be purchased through transfer of deed. The prices of purchased plots and/or lots through transfer of deed will be decided between the two parties involved. If needed, a Cemetery representative can assist in advising said parties on the cost at the time of original purchase. In order to transfer a deed, 10% of the purchase price will go to perpetual care. The Board of Directors reserve the right to refuse the purchase of any lot/plot.

SECTION IV

The laws of the State of Oklahoma (Oklahoma Statutes, Title 8. Cemeteries, Section 6 – Interments) governs the descent of title to cemetery lot and/or plot as well as other matters pertaining to assignment, conveyance, devices, trust deeds and inalienability. All transfers shall be in accordance with the requirement stated in Section II, #4.

SECTION V

1. All funerals, upon entering the cemetery, shall be under the direction of the funeral home director and Cemetery Contractor.
2. Once a casket and/or cremation container has entered the confines of the cemetery, no person shall be permitted to open the casket or container without the consent of legal representation of the deceased or an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
3. Outer containers such as vaults, concrete boxes, etc., are optional for all burials.
4. A maximum of two (2) cremation burials may be made in the same lot as long as the person making such burial is a family representative of the deed holder of said lot and, as long as an interment fee for each burial is paid in advance to the Bokchito Civic Cemetery. When two (2) cremations are buried in the same lot, there must be only a single headstone with both names erected...no double stones will be allowed on a single lot.
5. When an interment is to be made in a lot and/or plot, the lot and/or plot owner shall designate the location of such interment. Should the lot and/or plot owner be unable to make a decision, a Cemetery Board representative can assist in the selecting of a suitable, proper and legal interment location. Owner of a lot and/or plot(s) can, in advance, choose to give notice in designating how individual lot and/or plots are to be used.
6. There must be at least forty-eight hours' notice prior to any interment and at least one week's notice prior to any disinterment or removal, unless prior approval has been obtained from the Cemetery Board representative or other authorized personnel.
7. Besides being subject to these rules and regulations, all interments, disinterment and removals are made subject to the state laws of Oklahoma.

SECTION VI

Care of Lots and/or Plots

General care of the cemetery is performed by the Cemetery Contractor and includes cutting of the grass at reasonable intervals, spraying, raking and cleaning of the grounds. This will also include the pruning of shrubs, hedges and trees.

Concrete Foundation Required: All monuments and markers are required to have suitable concrete foundations. Anyone not obeying these regulations at the time of placement will not be permitted to install or leave memorial on premises. If help is needed, contact the Board representative for assistance in advance. There will be a \$75 fee if it is necessary for the Cemetery Contractor to be involved...this includes military markers.

Monuments: Upright monuments, as stated in Section I, single or double, will be permitted as long as they are in line with survey at head of grave. Military Markers are welcome and may be used at the head or foot of the lot and/or plot; however, if a military marker is to be used at the foot of the lot/plot it must be a low profile marker.

All concrete borders/skirting will be flush with the ground which will help in preventing damage from mowing and/or when equipment is used for burial restoration.

Flat markers, upright grave markers and upright lot and/or plot monuments are permitted in all sections of the cemetery as long as documentation is on file with the cemetery which provides proof of interment. Verbal acknowledgement without recorded documentation shall not be accepted.

Lot and/or plot owners shall make no improvements nor erect any bench, concrete pad, monument, statue, marker, fence, curbing, decorative rock, ditch or grave mound of any kind. **No planting will be allowed.**

If any rule or regulation is violated, the Cemetery Board will send written notification, signed by three (3) Cemetery Board members, to the lot and/or plot owner(s) of the infraction to help solve the problem.

SECTION VII **Correction of Errors**

The Bokchito Civic Cemetery Board of Directors reserves and shall have the right to correct any errors that were made in making interments, disinterment or removal, or in the description, transfer or conveyance. Refunding the amount of money paid on account of said purchase can be at the discretion of the Cemetery Board of Directors. In the event such error shall involve the interment of the remains of any person in such property, the Cemetery Contractor, through the support and authority of the Cemetery Board of Directors, reserves and shall have the right to remove or transfer such remains so interred to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

Durant, Oklahoma, Funeral Homes:

Brown's Funeral Home.....4900 W. Hwy 70, Durant, OK 74701.....580.920.0393
Director: Mike Overton

Gordon Funeral Home.....221 N. 3rd Avenue, Durant, OK 74701.....580.916.9090
Director: Brent Gordon

Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home....121 N. 5th Ave., Durant, OK 74701...580.924.3331
Director: Merle Soltis

**Bokchito Civic Cemetery Association
Rules and Regulations
Signature Page**

John L. Wigley, President

Jerrie Goforth, Vice-President

Gary McIntire, Treasurer

Peggy Allen, Secretary

Linda Canady, Board Member

Jim Easter, Board Member Emeritus

Martha Easter, Board Member Emeritus

William Hughes, Board Member

Terrie Keck, Board Member

Dena McIntire, Board Member

Ryan Perry, Board Member

Joyce Tobler, Board Member

Barbara Wigley, Board Member

Charlotte Young, Board Member

Zach Neal, Board Member

Jared Branscum, Board Member

Signed and Dated _____

AMENDMENTS

September 6, 2022 - Amendment 1, Section VI, Monuments: Upright monuments, as stated in Section 1, single or double, will be permitted as long as they are in line with survey at head of grave. Military markers are welcome and can be used at the head or foot of the lot and/or plot; however, if military markers are to be used at the foot of the lot and/or plot, it must be a low-profile marker.

October 3, 2022 – Amendment 2, Section III, Item No. 4: Removed Cremation Interment/Restoration Fee.

October 3, 2022 – Amendment 3, Section V, Paragraph 4 to read as follows: A maximum of two (2) cremation burials may be made in the same lot as long as the person making such burial is a family representative of the deed holder of said lot and, as long as an interment fee for each burial is paid in advance to the Bokchito Civic Cemetery. When two (2) cremations are buried in the same lot, there must be only a single headstone with both names erected...no double stones will be allowed on a single lot.

August 5, 2024 – Amendment 4, Section III, Paragraph 1 to read as follows: NEW Metcalf North, half plot (4 lots) price increase to \$2,000. NEW Metcalf North, full plot (8 lots) price increase to \$4,000.

Amended: 8/5/2024