

Western District County Commissioner Don Hawthorne is hoping to make improvements soon to part of 112th Street near the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. Hawthorne sent a written request to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Thursday asking for an Industrial Access Funds grant to pay for repairs to approximately two miles of 112th Street that serve a busy industrial park on Lawton's west side, including the region's largest civilian employer, Goodyear. The Comanche County board of commissioners voted to give Hawthorne permission to pursue the funds at its Feb. 13 meeting.

The section of 112th Street between Cache Road and Lee Boulevard sees heavy traffic, much of it from trucks and other commercial vehicles.

Hawthorne's letter to ODOT said the daily traffic count on 112th Street is 1,223 vehicles and at least 40 percent of the traffic is heavy trucks.

All of that traffic has damaged the road.

"We hope to get it resurfaced and up to specs for the heavy truck traffic on it," Hawthorne said.

He said the plan is to put six inches of aggregate on the road, with six inches of asphalt on top of that, if ODOT approves the grant.

Hawthorne said ODOT will most likely perform an inspection on the road.

Mark Scott, assistant division manager for ODOT, said Friday the agency is aware of the request but has not actually received the letter yet.

According to the letter, the estimated cost of the resurfacing project will be about \$860,000.

The letter also said the project will be handled jointly by the county and the City of Lawton.

Hawthorne said he has been working closely with Lawton Mayor Fred Fitch, Lawton City Manager Larry Mitchell, District 7 Oklahoma Transportation Commissioner Brad Burgess, and Goodyear plant manager Brent Copeland to get the grant for repairs on 112th Street.

A letter from Copeland was included with the request for Industrial Access Funds, stating

Goodyear entered a loan agreement with the Comanche County Industrial Development Authority for \$2 million, in return for which Goodyear pledged to expand its plant and create at least 50 new positions.

The purpose of Industrial Access Funds is to improve access to major employers for commercial traffic.

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