

BATTLE OF OKC

A Veterans Business Pitch Competition
Ten Oklahoma veteran entrepreneurs. One
stage. \$10,000.

WHERE VETERANS PITCH TO WIN



YOU'RE INVITED: PRESS CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026 • 12:00–2:00 P.M.

The Verge, Oklahoma City | Lunch reception included | RSVP: Jason.archer@bakerhill.com

WHY THIS MATTERS TO OKLAHOMA CITY

Baker Hill, the commercial lending technology company, is launching **Battle of OKC**, a new pitch competition where Oklahoma veteran entrepreneurs compete for \$10,000 in front of local judges, lenders and business leaders. Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, brings ten finalists live to Oklahoma City. We'd like you there for the announcement, and to help us put the call for applicants in front of the veterans who should be competing.

\$10,000

GRAND PRIZE

10

FINALISTS PITCH LIVE

NOV. 11

VETERANS DAY FINALS

PRESS CONFERENCE AGENDA – THURSDAY, OCT. 15

12:00–12:20	Presentation with Andy Ivankovich and Oklahoma City leadership
12:20–12:30	Q&A
12:30–1:00	Lunch reception
1:00–2:00	Media availability – one-on-one conversations, B-roll and photo opportunities

STORY ANGLES

- **Veterans as founders.** Veterans bring leadership, adaptability and resourcefulness to building a business. Battle of OKC puts capital and a spotlight behind that.
- **A fintech CEO who is a veteran.** Air Force veteran Andy Ivankovich started as a C-130 crew chief and now leads Baker Hill. He has personally helped more than 30 veterans start and run companies.
- **Strengthening the OKC ecosystem.** Nonprofits, the SBDC, a national veteran institute and lenders are lining up behind local veteran-owned businesses.
- **Ten local profiles.** Finalists will be named Nov. 1, with ten veteran-owned businesses available for interviews before and after the event.
- **Veterans Day, live.** Pitches, judges' questions and winners announced on Nov. 11.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Cover it. Attend Oct. 15, interview speakers, or cover the Nov. 11 finals (media check-in opens at 5:00 p.m.).

Share it. Tell your audience veterans can apply at bakerhill.com/okc by **Oct. 29**. See the social share kit on the last page.

RESOURCES

Battle of OKC One-Pager

One-page overview of the competition: date, location, prize, how it works and partners. Included with this kit as **Battle_of_OKC_One-Pager.pdf**.

Apply / learn more

bakerhill.com/okc

FACT SHEET

What	Battle of OKC, a veterans' business pitch competition. Ten veteran entrepreneur finalists pitch to a judging panel; scores determine the winners.
When	Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2026 (Veterans Day), 5:00–8:00 p.m. Winners announced about 7:30 p.m.
Where	The Verge, Oklahoma City
Prize	\$10,000 grand prize
Who can apply	Veteran entrepreneurs whose business is majority veteran-owned, has operated for at least one year, and is registered in Oklahoma.
How to apply	Submit a 3-minute video about the business at bakerhill.com/okc by Oct. 29 .
Partners	Baker Hill • The Verge OKC • D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University • Gradient • OKC SBDC

HOW IT WORKS

Phase 1 – Video. Applicants upload a 3-minute video. A panel of Baker Hill staff and partners selects the top 10. Videos due Oct. 29; finalists notified Nov. 1. Finalists receive coaching from local community agencies.

Phase 2 – Live finals. Each finalist gives a 3-minute pitch and answers 2 minutes of judges' questions. Scores are tallied and winners announced at the close of the event.

EVENT SCHEDULE – NOV. 11

5:00 p.m.	Registration and networking (media check-in opens)
5:45 p.m.	Welcome remarks
6:00 p.m.	Finalist pitches
7:00 p.m.	Scores tallied, refreshments
7:30 p.m.	Winners announced
7:45 p.m.	Closing remarks
8:00 p.m.	Event ends

KEY DATES

Oct. 15	Press conference and public announcement
Oct. 29	Applications and 3-minute videos due
Nov. 1	Ten finalists identified and notified
Nov. 11	Battle of OKC live finals, The Verge

SPOKESPEOPLE & PARTNERS

Andy Ivankovich

Chairman & CEO, Baker Hill

U.S. Air Force veteran who began as a C-130 crew chief and mechanic. Previously led lending technology at USAA, held an executive role at JPMorgan Chase, and founded iLendx (acquired by Fiserv in 2018). Has personally helped more than 30 veterans start and run companies. Available for interviews on request.

Kristen Garcia

The Verge OKC

Speaks to the Oklahoma City entrepreneurial ecosystem and veteran founder support.

PARTNERS

Baker Hill	Presenting sponsor
The Verge OKC	Nonprofit community that helps turn ideas into impactful businesses. Recruiting and pitch coaching.
IVMF	D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University. Outreach, recruitment and resources.
Gradient	Recruitment and pitch coaching
OKC SBDC	Recruitment and pitch coaching

SOCIAL SHARE KIT

Hashtag: **#BattleOKC** | Link: bakerhill.com/okc

Announcement: Oklahoma veteran entrepreneurs: \$10,000 is on the line. Battle of OKC is a new pitch competition culminating live on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at The Verge. Applications close Oct. 29. bakerhill.com/okc #BattleOKC

Call to apply: Own a majority veteran-owned business in Oklahoma that has operated for 1+ year? Send a 3-minute video and you could pitch for \$10,000. Details: bakerhill.com/okc #BattleOKC

Know a veteran founder? Tag them. Ten finalists will pitch live to judges on Veterans Day in Oklahoma City. Where Veterans Pitch to Win. bakerhill.com/okc #BattleOKC

ABOUT BAKER HILL

Baker Hill is the leading provider of commercial lending technology for banks and credit unions across the United States. Each month, financial institutions use Baker Hill's platform to process more than \$7 billion in lending originations — helping them Lend Better, Lend Faster, and Lend More™ in their communities. Backed by Flexpoint Ford, a private equity firm, Baker Hill delivers the scale, security and innovation required to meet the demands of modern banking. Headquartered in Carmel, Indiana, with operations in Santa Barbara, California. www.bakerhill.com

MEDIA CONTACT

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