

**MINUTES
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 31, 2024**

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Executive Committee met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 31, 2024, at the Franklin County Law Enforcement Training Center, 208 Texas Highway 27, Mt. Vernon, Texas, and via videoconference.

Item 1. Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Item 2. Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

Item 4. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented for review and consideration approval of the consent agenda items.

- Approval of the minutes as submitted for the Executive Committee meetings held on Thursday, September 26, 2024, and Monday, October 7, 2024.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the Homeland Security Advisory Committee meeting held Thursday, August 22, 2024.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County. It was approved.

Review and Comment

Item 5. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented the executive director's reports for review and information. She reviewed the report information per county and regional totals.

Ms. Rudel stated the new reporting reflects what has transpired per department during each quarter, with totals for each region. Some department information will be measured cumulatively, and others will not, depending on the item. Ms. Rudel inquired if the board would like to see any revisions made to the reports. No changes were recommended.

Ms. Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice, will review and ensure the training numbers are noted as cumulative on reports going forward. Judge Cooper requested the training numbers be broken down by county.

Ms. Rudel introduced Ms. Tina Bell, ATCOG's new Public Relations and Media Coordinator, to the Board.

Regular Business

Item 6. Ms. Rea Allen presented for review and consideration approval of the addition of the Lamar County Sheriff's Office as a secondary PSAP for the ATCOG region.

Lamar County Sheriff's Office exceeds the minimum criteria for approval for a Secondary PSAP:

average calls per day, sufficient staffing, network, maintenance, electrical and power backup, and adequate facilities.

Becoming a remote PSAP as a secondary PSAP gives the Lamar County Sheriff's office all regional services and equipment needed to receive all emergency communications data and Next-generation 9-1-1 service offerings delivered with a 9-1-1 call.

The estimated cost to add a four-position remote site is \$310,081 and will be procured through the CSEC allocation to ATCOG of the SB8 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. The RPC's executive board must approve the addition of a secondary PSAP, and an amendment request to the ATCOG 9-1-1 strategic plan must be submitted to the Commission on State Emergency Communications for final approval.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Judge Cooper. It was approved.

- Item 7. Ms. Whitney Fezell presented for review and consideration approval of an amendment to the Resolution ABD24-10 to increase the contract threshold from \$192,461 to \$250,000 to expend the remaining statewide Emergency Radio infrastructure grant balance.

The initial contract amount was \$192,461, which included 1 (195 Ft) Self-supporting tower with antenna, repeater, lighting kit, and additional accessories. The amendment to the contract threshold includes adding an additional repeater, with an estimated cost of \$50,560.96. The additional repeater increases the total contract to \$243,021.96.

Staff requests approval to raise the contract threshold to \$250,000 to cover additional expenditures, with the total project cost not to exceed \$250,000. Any additional charges over \$250,000 will be the responsibility of Delta County.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Cooper and seconded by Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County. It was approved.

- Item 8. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for review and consideration approval of FY 2025 rent payment standards for the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

ATCOG's Housing Choice Voucher program serves the following twelve counties: Bowie, Camp, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, Titus, Upshur, and Wood counties.

ATCOG establishes payment standard amounts for each unit size in each county annually following the posting of fair market rent by HUD. HUD provides an allowable range of 90% - 110% percent of the published fair market rent for payment standards. ATCOG wishes to adopt payment standards that are 110% of the fair market value.

ATCOG also has Desegregated Housing Opportunities (DHO) zones in its service area and must set separate payment standards for these areas. HUD predetermines these rates.

Motion to approve was made by Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County, and seconded by Judge Lee. It was approved.

- Item 9. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel prepared an inaction activity for the board members. A short legislative survey was conducted to help understand the board's needs within their city/county/entities. Ms. Rudel will share their priorities with our Legislators.

Announcements

Judge Howell announced that the next ATCOG Board of Directors Meeting will be on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Offices, 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, Texas, and via videoconference.

Ms. Rudel announced that the Texas Broadband Development Office hosted a webinar on October 30th to share the essential details of the Texas BEAD challenge process. All eligible challengers may challenge the SCC maps, and they have 14 days to challenge beginning December 3, 2024. Ms. Rudel will email all information and details to the board.

Judge Ransom announced that Chris Brown is the new TEX-21 president and that Northeast Texas has a great representation presence, with Commissioner Tom Whitten, Scott Norton/TexAmericas Center, and Judge Tanner Crutcher/Delta County. TEX-21 has added 369 Corridor as an area of focus. Judge Ransom stated that TEX-21 has finalized its legislative agenda, which includes motor fuel tax for counties.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Scott Norton, CEO, TexAmericas Center
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County
Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Rosina Duckworth, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Cumby
Jean Matlock, Council Member, City of Texarkana-TX
Harold Nash, Sr., Mayor, City of Sulphur Springs
Kevin Sherman, Council Member, City of Atlanta

GUESTS PRESENT

Reece DeWoody, Office of Senator Bryan Hughes

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director
Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Coordinator
Tina Bell, Public Relations and Media Coordinator
Jenny Butler, AAA/ADRC Director
Mark Compton, Transportation
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Amber Murr, Human Resources Director
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer
Melinda Tickle, Finance Director

Bobby Howell, President
Board of Directors
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST:
