

**JOINT AGENDA  
NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC., AND  
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 2025**

The Northeast Texas Economic Development District, Inc. (NETEDD) and the Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) will meet at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 4, 2025, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

**If attending via Zoom, use the following link to register for the meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/5Cg3E5SxTiGFxjMDP4Rkww>

*If you experience issues while registering, please contact Marla Matthews no less than two (2) workdays prior to the meeting at 903.255.3555 or [mmatthews@atcog.org](mailto:mmatthews@atcog.org).*

1. Call to order – Quorum Determination.
2. Invocation.
3. Public Comment.

*ATCOG invites members of the public to provide oral comments on any item included on this agenda under this item. Each person wishing to make a public comment shall be limited to 3 minutes, with comments directed to the Board as a whole. Reasonable accommodation shall be made for members of the public utilizing a translator for public comment.*

**NETEDD Agenda Items**

4. Review and consider approval of the minutes as submitted for the NETEDD meeting held on Thursday, August 28, 2025. (See page 3)
5. NETEDD Program Report. (For information only; See page 11)

***This concludes all NETEDD agenda items.***

**ATCOG Board of Directors Agenda Items**

6. Review and consider consent agenda items. (To be presented by Executive Director Mary Beth Rudel)
  - Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Board of Directors Meeting held Thursday, August 28, 2025. (See page 13)
  - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting held Thursday, April 10, 2025. (See page 21)
7. Review and consider approval of revisions to the ATCOG Policies and Procedures Manual. (See page 25; to be presented by Deputy Director Leslie McBride)

8. Review and consider approval of revisions to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Bylaws. (See page 28; to be presented by staff member Patricia Haley)
9. Review and consider approval of revisions to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee local priorities and the grant application scoring instrument. (See page 31; to be presented by staff member Patricia Haley)
10. Review and consider approval of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments 2025 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, and State Preparedness Report. (See page 49 and [addendum page 1](#); to be presented by staff member Whitney Fezell)
11. Review and consider approval of continual use of the allocation formula for FY2026 as the method for allocating State Homeland Security Program funds to jurisdictions. (See page 51; to be presented by staff member Whitney Fezell)

### **Announcements**

The NADO Washington Policy Conference will be held March 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to visit with our House and Senate Members and their staff.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

*Pursuant to the Texas Open Meeting Act, Government Code Chapter 551 one or more of the above items may be considered in an executive session closed to the public, including but not limited to consultation with an attorney pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 and Section 551.074 arising out of the attorney's ethical duty to advise ATCOG concerning legal issues arising from an agenda item. Any decision held on such a matter will be taken or conducted in an open session following the conclusion of the executive session.*

*Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the Administration at 903-832-8636, two (2) workdays prior to the meeting, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.*

*All agendas are sent electronically and are available on the ATCOG website at [www.atcog.org](http://www.atcog.org). Should any Board Member need a copy printed and available at the meeting, please call 903.255.3555 or email [mmatthews@atcog.org](mailto:mmatthews@atcog.org).*

**MINUTES  
NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC., AND  
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
AUGUST 28, 2025**

The Northeast Texas Economic Development District, Inc. (NETEDD) and the Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, August 28, 2025, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

1. Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County, called the meeting to order.
2. Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County, gave the invocation.
3. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

**NETEDD Agenda Items**

4. The next order of business was to review and consider approval of the minutes as submitted for the NETEDD meeting held on Thursday, June 26, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by Chris Brown, Vice President, Hopkins County Hospital District, and seconded by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County. It was approved.

5. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented for review and approval of NETEDD's portion of ATCOG's Financial Plan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center, and seconded by Chris Brown. It was approved.

6. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented the NETEDD Program announcement for information only.

***This concludes all NETEDD agenda items.***

**ATCOG Board of Directors Agenda Items**

7. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for review and approval of the consent agenda items.

- Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Board of Directors Meeting held Thursday, June 26, 2025.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council meeting held Thursday, June 5, 2025.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

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

8. Judge Howell called for the Board of Directors to recess from the Open Session and move into an Executive Closed Session at 10:11 a.m., to discuss personnel matters, as allowed under the

Texas Open Meetings Act, Section 551.074, regarding the Executive Director's performance evaluation.

9. Judge Howell reconvened the Board of Directors meeting into an Open Session at 10:20 a.m. Upon review of Ms. Rudel's performance evaluation, Judge Howell recommended that she receive a 5% COLA increase.

Motion to approve was made by Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County, and seconded by Judge Lee. It was approved.

10. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented the Executive Director Report for information only.

- Indirect Finance Quarterly Report
- Quarterly Program Reports

11. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for review and approval of ATCOG's Financial Plan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

Ms. Rudel stated the Plan reflects anticipated revenues and expenditures of \$27,646,541. This document combines a Work Program and a Financial Plan. It is not technically a budget because ATCOG does not have taxing or oversight authority. Within each State or Federal grant that ATCOG administers, the funding agency regulates the categories in which we are allowed to spend funds. The funding source has complete oversight of the individual grant programs.

Ms. Rudel stated that each program area, specific project-by-project tasks, and performance measures are delineated for the year. Each project is assigned an objective, work tasks, performance measures, and human resource requirements.

There are 14 managed programs, comprising over 60 projects and contracts, that make up the revenue sources in the FY 2026 Ark-Tex Council of Governments Strategic Work Program and Financial Plan.

Ms. Rudel stated that this Plan does include various merit step increases for staff. Funding is provided for the Salary Schedule effective October 1, 2025. This Plan includes a COLA for all staff. The total COLA increases for the past 10 years add up to 27.20%, while the SSI COLA increased by a total of 28.3% prior to FY2026.

ATCOG has 80 full-time and 15 part-time personnel, for an approximate total of 84.22 FTEs.

Ms. Rudel stated that ATCOG's healthcare provider continues to be the Texas Health Benefits (TXHB). Premiums for our basic medical plan remained the same this year. ATCOG's defined contribution amount is \$946.54 per month for each employee's basic medical coverage, which is 100% of the employee's premium. Employees have the option to "buy up" to a medical plan with a lower deductible and/or out-of-pocket costs and to make extra contributions to their HSA. Additional premium costs over the defined employer contribution of \$946.54 per month will be paid by the employee. Employee dental insurance premiums remain \$30.72 per employee per month. Rates for life, accidental death, and dismemberment (AD&D) did not change.

Ms. Rudel stated that ATCOG's current retirement plan is under TCDRS. We are currently at a 200% employer-to-employee match with an employee contribution rate of 4%.

The Benefit rate is estimated to be 52.8%, which includes utilizing the FY24 overallocation.

According to Texas Health and Human Services (HHS), ATCOG's State Cognizant Agency, which reviews/approves the indirect rate each year, will utilize the fixed with carry-forward calculation based on prior year audit figures. The indirect rate is applied to salaries and benefits, and the approved rate is 20.8%.

Ms. Rudel stated it was reported last year that ATCOG program revenues would trend back down due to the previous utilization of CARES and ARPA funding. Revenues and Expenses may continue to see some adjustments as the timing of funding and other factors are taken into account.

Ms. Rudel added that current estimates would utilize approximately \$31,574 of ATCOG Unrestricted Funds for Transportation and Aging match, as well as other needs, to support ATCOG programs and personnel. The FY24 Audit reflects an unrestricted balance of \$3,447,570, which decreased from the FY23 audit amount of \$4,740,183. This is due to the required match for Transportation.

- Housing, Environmental, Criminal Justice, and Regional Development revenues are increasing.
- Transportation will see a significant decrease, which will result in a reduction in services across the region. A reduction-in-force was implemented prior to the start of the fiscal year.
- Aging, 9-1-1, Economic Development, and Special Projects experienced decreases.

The Budget/Personnel Committee met on August 25, 2025, and approved recommending the FY2026 Financial Plan to the ATCOG Board of Directors for approval.

Motion to approve was made by Scott Norton and seconded by Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb.

12. Ms. Debbie Purifoy presented for review and approval of an agreement with Guaranty Bank to provide banking services beginning October 1, 2025.

On July 6, 2025, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) issued a comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) inviting financial institutions to submit proposals for banking services.

By the specified deadline of August 6, 2025, we received a single, detailed proposal from Guaranty Bank & Trust, the only institution to respond to our RFP. The evaluation committee meticulously reviewed the submitted proposal based on criteria that included service offerings, cost-effectiveness, and customer support. After a thorough assessment, Guaranty Bank & Trust's proposal was found to align perfectly with our requirements and expectations.

The banking services will begin on October 1, 2025, and extend through September 30, 2029, with one possible one-year extension, subject to approval by the ATCOG Board of Directors.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Walker and seconded by Dana Reeves, General Manager, Franklin County Water District. It was approved.

13. Ms. Debbie Purifoy presented for review and approval of revisions to the ATCOG Procurement Policy and Procedures Manual.

On May 29, 2025, the Texas Legislature enacted revisions to Texas Government Code 252, which impact procurement processes by raising the threshold for competitive purchasing requirements to \$100,000. This legislative change alters the criteria for how ATCOG will handle various procurement activities and changes the scope of transactions that require a formalized competitive bidding process.

The proposed revisions to the Procurement Policy and Procedures manual are as follows:

- **Introduction** – Updates specifically in paragraphs 3 and 6. (Page 3)
- **3.0.2 Competitive Small Purchase** – This revision reflects the following change: If the purchase is more than \$10,000.00 but less than \$100,000. (Page 18)
- **3.0.3 Competitive Formal Sealed Solicitation** – This revision reflects the following change: If the purchase amount is nearly \$100,000.00, a detailed competitive formal sealed solicitation process will be implemented. (Page 18)

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

14. Ms. Leslie McBride presented for review and approval of revisions to the ATCOG Policies and Procedures Manual.

The proposed revisions to the policy and procedures manual are as follows:

- **17.02 Day Travel-General Policy**
- **17.04 Overnight Travel-General Policy**

Both policy revisions update verbiage to align with ATCOG's contract with Enterprise for rental vehicles. A standard-size car was replaced with a full-size car, and 26 miles per gallon was replaced with 21 miles per gallon.

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

15. Ms. Amber Murr presented for review and approval of the annual renewal of the ATCOG Ethics Policy Manual.

The rules adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission established a framework for the internal ethics and compliance program of any entity that receives financial assistance from the department. The compliance program must satisfy specific requirements, with the goal of discouraging fraud and illegal activity. TXDOT also instituted an internal ethics and compliance program designed to encourage further ethical behavior within the department, as well as compliance with the law and departmental policies.

This Ethics Policy Manual was approved by the Board of Directors on December 16, 2010, making our agency eligible to apply for and receive state and federal funding.

ATCOG enforces a compliance program by reviewing and providing all employees a copy of the "Ethics Policy Manual" during new hire orientation; by conducting yearly Ethics Manual Training that is mandatory for all employees; by reminding Board members of the standard of ethical behavior that our employees and board members must meet; by internal controls used to monitor activities; and by conducting investigations of any alleged misconduct. A copy of the Ethics Policy Manual is also available on the shared administration computer folder for constant access by employees.

Motion to approve was made by Chris Brown and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

16. Ms. Amber Murr presented for review and approval of updates to the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan.

The purpose of the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan is to affirm that ATCOG will provide a work environment that is free from discrimination, including harassment, based on race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

The plan provides guidelines for employment practices, the complaint process, and data representing the ATCOG workforce. This data includes employment practices such as separations, disciplinary actions, promotions, and hiring.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) reviewed ATCOG's EEO Plan on August 20, 2025. No revisions were suggested.

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

17. Ms. Amber Murr presented for review and adoption of the ATCOG Flexible Benefits Cafeteria Plan for FY2026.

The ATCOG Flexible Benefits Cafeteria Plan will allow ATCOG to offer additional benefits to employees on a pre-tax basis, such as cancer, critical illness, and accident insurance. ATCOG remains in compliance with Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by updating the written plan annually, distributing it to all eligible employees, offering the plan to all eligible employees, and completing nondiscrimination testing on the plan to ensure that only those who are eligible receive the pre-tax benefit.

Motion to approve was made by Becky Fellers, Board of Trustees, Liberty Eylau Independent School District, and seconded by Chris Brown. It was approved.

18. Ms. Jenny Butler presented for review and approval of appointment to the ATCOG Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council.

The Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council has a vacancy for the Lamar County Representative. It seeks the approval of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Board for the appointment of one new member to fill the vacancy.

- AAA RAC Member nomination to represent Lamar County - Ms. Rhonda Rogers, the Texas Silver Hared Legislature Immediate Past Speaker, Paris, Texas

Ms. Rogers has served on numerous committees during her ten years with the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature and has been a strong advocate for older Texans. She is retired from the U.S.

Air Force, has taught various classes in high school and university-level classes, served as the Lamar County Veterans' Service Officer, and has founded and served on several committees in the Paris area.

Motion to approve was made by Chris Brown and seconded by Dana Reeves. It was approved.

19. Ms. Toni Lindsey presented for review and approval of the submission of an application for FY26 Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant Funds through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The grant opening is expected in September 2025 with an estimated 2-month application completion timeframe. ATCOG seeks to apply for \$1,500,000 in Coalition Assessment Funding to be utilized in eligible rural areas of the ATCOG region. Brownfield sites will be assessed by the ATCOG Environmental Coordinator and the Environmental Specialist procured in 2024 for site eligibility for coalition application inclusion. Further guidance relating to the 2026 applications will be posted on the EPA site when the grants officially open.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Walker and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

20. Ms. Whitney Fezell presented for review and approval authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with MAL Technologies Fleet, LLC., to purchase and install dispatch consoles and accessories for Franklin County.

In 2024, ATCOG Homeland Security Program secured funding through the Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure grant to support projects that support state and regional efforts to improve or sustain interoperable emergency radio infrastructure. Emergency management coordinators in Franklin County evaluated their communication systems and determined what radio infrastructure equipment was needed to enhance/sustain their communication systems.

ATCOG Homeland Security Program utilized The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) to obtain a quote from MAL Technologies Fleet, LLC to purchase/install the following:

- A two-position dispatch console with radios, antennas, coax, and accessories.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$108,672.74. The grant will cover approximately \$112,000 of the expenses, and any remaining costs over \$112,000 will be the responsibility of Franklin County.

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

21. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for review and approval to combine the November Executive Committee and December Board of Directors meetings to be held on Thursday, December 4, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by Chris Brown and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Mary Beth Rudel announced that presentations for the ATCOG Annual Meeting will be held, along with a special guest speaker, immediately after the Board meeting. A meal will be provided, and she encouraged everyone present to stay and enjoy lunch along with the presentations.



Ms. Rudel informed the Board that the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Annual Training Conference 2025 will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from October 14 to 17, 2025. Please contact Marla or Mary Beth if interested in attending.

Ms. Rudel stated that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

Judge Howell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judge Reeder and seconded by Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville. It was approved. Meeting adjourned.

#### NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

#### ATCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

#### ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Brown, Vice President, Hopkins County Hospital District  
Becky Fellers, Board of Trustees, Liberty Eylau Independent School District  
Laney Harris, Director, City of Texarkana-AR  
Deana Ramsey, Council Member, City of Blossom  
Kelly Redfearn, Council Member, City of Mt. Pleasant  
Dana Reeves, General Manager, Franklin County Water District  
Wesley Lyon, Mayor, City of Mt. Pleasant  
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb

#### GUESTS PRESENT

Claribel Banda, Mt. Pleasant Economic Development Corporation  
Reece DeWoody, Office of Senator Bryan Hughes  
Ginny Lewis-Ford, Executive Director/Texas Association of Regional Councils  
Andrea Loreda, Texarkana Gazette  
L.D. Williamson  
Karen Fuse

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director  
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director  
Laura Cowling, Finance Director  
Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Program Director

Tina Bell, Public Relations/Media Coordinator  
Jenny Butler, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Nancy Flowers, Area Aging on Aging Program Specialist  
Daneshia Cherry, Housing Director  
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator  
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator  
Melody Harmon, Economic Development Director  
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director  
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant  
Amber Murr, Human Resources Director  
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator  
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer  
Bobby Williams, Transportation Operations Coordinator

Bobby Howell, President  
Northeast Texas Economic Development District, Inc.

ATTEST:

# **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT DECEMBER 2025**

## **TEXAS DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE (TDA)**

### **Texas Community Development Block Grant Program**

#### **[Guide to Meeting a National Program Objective](#)**

(Click to follow link)

Each proposed activity included in an application for Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) program funds must meet one of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) three National Program Objectives (NPO):

1. Principally benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons:
  - Low-to-moderate income area benefit
  - Low-to-moderate income limited clientele
  - Low-to-moderate income housing
  - Low-to-moderate income jobs.
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight.
  - Slum/blight area basis
  - Slum/blight spot basis
3. Meet other community development needs of particular urgency which represent an immediate threat to the health and safety of residents of the community.

Full details can be found online at Texas Department of Agriculture **TxCDBG Guide to Meeting a National Program Objective** (*click on Guide above*).

## **INTERLOCAL (AGREEMENTS) COOPERATION CONTRACTS**

ATCOG invites Counties, Cities, and EDCs to enter an Interlocal Agreement under Government Code Title 7 Chapter 791 Subchapter A. with the Development Department when preparing grants. For Texas Department of Agriculture, a new Interlocal Agreement must be created for each grant Notice of Funding Opportunity.

The Interlocal Agreement gives the Development Department the ability to discuss all aspects of the grant and provide information. If chosen for a TxCDBG phase 2, and you want ATCOG Development Department to write the grant, you will not have to go for procurement for a grant writer/administrator. The Interlocal Agreement is an allowable document for TxCDBG Community Development Block Grants. This agreement gives you the option to remain with ATCOG Development Department or to go out for procurement for a grant writer/administrator.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

### [Open Funding](#)

(Click to follow link)

### EDA Investment Priorities

EDA's investment priorities provide an overarching framework to ensure its grant investment portfolio – ranging from planning to infrastructure construction -- contributes to local efforts to build, improve, or better leverage economic assets that allow businesses to succeed and regional economies to prosper and become more resilient. Competitive grant applications will be responsive to the evaluation criteria listed under each individual funding announcement, including at least one of the investment priorities below:

1. **Critical Infrastructure:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.
2. **Workforce:** Economic Development planning or implementation projects that:
  - a. Support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that results in well-paying jobs; or
  - b. Otherwise promote labor force participation.
3. **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that:
  - a. Support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure,
  - b. Promote business development and lending; or
  - c. Foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.
4. **Economic Recovery Resilience:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or economic impacts from natural disasters.
5. **Manufacturing:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

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Motion to approve was made by Scott Norton and seconded by Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb.

12. Ms. Debbie Purifoy presented for review and approval of an agreement with Guaranty Bank to provide banking services beginning October 1, 2025.

On July 6, 2025, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) issued a comprehensive Request for Proposal (RFP) inviting financial institutions to submit proposals for banking services.

By the specified deadline of August 6, 2025, we received a single, detailed proposal from Guaranty Bank & Trust, the only institution to respond to our RFP. The evaluation committee meticulously reviewed the submitted proposal based on criteria that included service offerings, cost-effectiveness, and customer support. After a thorough assessment, Guaranty Bank & Trust's proposal was found to align perfectly with our requirements and expectations.

The banking services will begin on October 1, 2025, and extend through September 30, 2029, with one possible one-year extension, subject to approval by the ATCOG Board of Directors.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Walker and seconded by Dana Reeves, General Manager, Franklin County Water District. It was approved.

13. Ms. Debbie Purifoy presented for review and approval of revisions to the ATCOG Procurement Policy and Procedures Manual.

On May 29, 2025, the Texas Legislature enacted revisions to Texas Government Code 252, which impact procurement processes by raising the threshold for competitive purchasing requirements to \$100,000. This legislative change alters the criteria for how ATCOG will handle various procurement activities and changes the scope of transactions that require a formalized competitive bidding process.

The proposed revisions to the Procurement Policy and Procedures manual are as follows:

- **Introduction** – Updates specifically in paragraphs 3 and 6. (Page 3)
- **3.0.2 Competitive Small Purchase** – This revision reflects the following change: If the purchase is more than \$10,000.00 but less than \$100,000. (Page 18)
- **3.0.3 Competitive Formal Sealed Solicitation** – This revision reflects the following change: If the purchase amount is nearly \$100,000.00, a detailed competitive formal sealed solicitation process will be implemented. (Page 18)

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

14. Ms. Leslie McBride presented for review and approval of revisions to the ATCOG Policies and Procedures Manual.

The proposed revisions to the policy and procedures manual are as follows:

- **17.02 Day Travel-General Policy**
- **17.04 Overnight Travel-General Policy**

Both policy revisions update verbiage to align with ATCOG's contract with Enterprise for rental vehicles. A standard-size car was replaced with a full-size car, and 26 miles per gallon was replaced with 21 miles per gallon.

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

15. Ms. Amber Murr presented for review and approval of the annual renewal of the ATCOG Ethics Policy Manual.

The rules adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission established a framework for the internal ethics and compliance program of any entity that receives financial assistance from the department. The compliance program must satisfy specific requirements, with the goal of discouraging fraud and illegal activity. TXDOT also instituted an internal ethics and compliance program designed to encourage further ethical behavior within the department, as well as compliance with the law and departmental policies.

This Ethics Policy Manual was approved by the Board of Directors on December 16, 2010, making our agency eligible to apply for and receive state and federal funding.



ATCOG enforces a compliance program by reviewing and providing all employees a copy of the "Ethics Policy Manual" during new hire orientation; by conducting yearly Ethics Manual Training that is mandatory for all employees; by reminding Board members of the standard of ethical behavior that our employees and board members must meet; by internal controls used to monitor activities; and by conducting investigations of any alleged misconduct. A copy of the Ethics Policy Manual is also available on the shared administration computer folder for constant access by employees.

Motion to approve was made by Chris Brown and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

16. Ms. Amber Murr presented for review and approval of updates to the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan.

The purpose of the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan is to affirm that ATCOG will provide a work environment that is free from discrimination, including harassment, based on race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

The plan provides guidelines for employment practices, the complaint process, and data representing the ATCOG workforce. This data includes employment practices such as separations, disciplinary actions, promotions, and hiring.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) reviewed ATCOG's EEO Plan on August 20, 2025. No revisions were suggested.

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

17. Ms. Amber Murr presented for review and adoption of the ATCOG Flexible Benefits Cafeteria Plan for FY2026.

The ATCOG Flexible Benefits Cafeteria Plan will allow ATCOG to offer additional benefits to employees on a pre-tax basis, such as cancer, critical illness, and accident insurance. ATCOG remains in compliance with Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by updating the written plan annually, distributing it to all eligible employees, offering the plan to all eligible employees, and completing nondiscrimination testing on the plan to ensure that only those who are eligible receive the pre-tax benefit.

Motion to approve was made by Becky Fellers, Board of Trustees, Liberty Eylau Independent School District, and seconded by Chris Brown. It was approved.

18. Ms. Jenny Butler presented for review and approval of appointment to the ATCOG Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council.

The Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council has a vacancy for the Lamar County Representative. It seeks the approval of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Board for the appointment of one new member to fill the vacancy.

- AAA RAC Member nomination to represent Lamar County - Ms. Rhonda Rogers, the Texas Silver Hared Legislature Immediate Past Speaker, Paris, Texas

Ms. Rogers has served on numerous committees during her ten years with the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature and has been a strong advocate for older Texans. She is retired from the U.S.

Air Force, has taught various classes in high school and university-level classes, served as the Lamar County Veterans' Service Officer, and has founded and served on several committees in the Paris area.

Motion to approve was made by Chris Brown and seconded by Dana Reeves. It was approved.

19. Ms. Toni Lindsey presented for review and approval of the submission of an application for FY26 Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant Funds through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The grant opening is expected in September 2025 with an estimated 2-month application completion timeframe. ATCOG seeks to apply for \$1,500,000 in Coalition Assessment Funding to be utilized in eligible rural areas of the ATCOG region. Brownfield sites will be assessed by the ATCOG Environmental Coordinator and the Environmental Specialist procured in 2024 for site eligibility for coalition application inclusion. Further guidance relating to the 2026 applications will be posted on the EPA site when the grants officially open.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Walker and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

20. Ms. Whitney Fezell presented for review and approval authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with MAL Technologies Fleet, LLC., to purchase and install dispatch consoles and accessories for Franklin County.

In 2024, ATCOG Homeland Security Program secured funding through the Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure grant to support projects that support state and regional efforts to improve or sustain interoperable emergency radio infrastructure. Emergency management coordinators in Franklin County evaluated their communication systems and determined what radio infrastructure equipment was needed to enhance/sustain their communication systems.

ATCOG Homeland Security Program utilized The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) to obtain a quote from MAL Technologies Fleet, LLC to purchase/install the following:

- A two-position dispatch console with radios, antennas, coax, and accessories.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$108,672.74. The grant will cover approximately \$112,000 of the expenses, and any remaining costs over \$112,000 will be the responsibility of Franklin County.

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

21. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for review and approval to combine the November Executive Committee and December Board of Directors meetings to be held on Thursday, December 4, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by Chris Brown and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Mary Beth Rudel announced that presentations for the ATCOG Annual Meeting will be held, along with a special guest speaker, immediately after the Board meeting. A meal will be provided, and she encouraged everyone present to stay and enjoy lunch along with the presentations.

Ms. Rudel informed the Board that the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Annual Training Conference 2025 will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from October 14 to 17, 2025. Please contact Marla or Mary Beth if interested in attending.

Ms. Rudel stated that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

Judge Howell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judge Reeder and seconded by Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville. It was approved. Meeting adjourned.

#### NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

#### ATCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

#### ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Brown, Vice President, Hopkins County Hospital District  
Becky Fellers, Board of Trustees, Liberty Eylau Independent School District  
Laney Harris, Director, City of Texarkana-AR  
Deana Ramsey, Council Member, City of Blossom  
Kelly Redfearn, Council Member, City of Mt. Pleasant  
Dana Reeves, General Manager, Franklin County Water District  
Wesley Lyon, Mayor, City of Mt. Pleasant  
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb

#### GUESTS PRESENT

Claribel Banda, Mt. Pleasant Economic Development Corporation  
Reece DeWoody, Office of Senator Bryan Hughes  
Ginny Lewis-Ford, Executive Director/Texas Association of Regional Councils  
Andrea Loreda, Texarkana Gazette  
L.D. Williamson  
Karen Fuse

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director  
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director  
Laura Cowling, Finance Director  
Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Program Director

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

20 of 55

**ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG)  
REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RCJAC)**

**April 10, 2025**

**Mt. Pleasant Civic Center & via ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) met April 10, 2025 9:00 a.m., at the Mt. Pleasant Civic Center and via ZOOM.

Darrell Bruce, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Patricia Haley performed a roll call to record those present in-person and on the teleconference, of RCJAC members and any other visitors present. There were a total of 18 present (RCJAC members, ATCOG staff) in-person and on the teleconference. A quorum was confirmed.

The minutes from the April 1, 2025 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Tom Whitten and seconded by Sharyn Cary to approve the minutes. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Patricia Haley discussed OOG-PSO/CJD's funding allocations for the ATCOG region. The conflict of interest policy was also reviewed.

Patricia Haley discussed the layout of the funding recommendation template for each fund source, as used to submit scores and recommendations to OOG-PSO/CJD in past years. The Acceptable "Quality" Project Line and the Allocated Funding Depletion Line were explained.

The Juvenile Justice score and RBE/estimated allocation was reviewed. A motion was made by Ronnie Humphrey to place the quality line and allocated funding depletion line below ATCOG (the only applicant), and to fund ATCOG with the available allocation amount and if more funding is available recoup ATCOG's requested amount as much as possible, and if less funding is available ATCOG would receive what is available. The motion was seconded by Leah Thomas. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The JAG scores and the RBE/estimated allocation were reviewed. After discussion of the applications and the amount of funds available, a motion was made by Ronnie Humphrey to place the quality line and allocated funding depletion line below the 7<sup>th</sup> application, which would recommend that all applicants receive funding since there is enough funding available in the allocation to fully fund applicants 1-7. If the additional funds exceed that, then consider allowing the applicants to expand the scope of their current requested project, in 1 thru 7 order until the funding is depleted. The motion also recommended that in the event that

less JAG funding is available, the recommended amounts would decrease in descending order of ranking. The motion was seconded by Melissa Horton. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Truancy Prevention score and RBE/estimated allocation was reviewed. A motion was made by Leah Thomas to place the quality line and allocated funding depletion line below Bowie County (the only applicant), and to fund Bowie County with the available allocation amount and if more funding is available recoup their requested amount as much as possible, and if less funding is available, they would receive what is available. The motion was seconded by Robert Vine. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The VOCA scores and rankings were reviewed. After discussion, a motion was made by Tracey Climer to place the quality line below the 3<sup>rd</sup> application (which would recommend that all applicants receive funding if enough funding was available for all three) and to recommend that:

- If Total Allocation is \$1,179,086.54, 100% of requested amount goes to SAFE-T, Bowie Co., DVP Inc.
- If Total Allocation is less than \$1,179,086.54, 59.36799% of the Total Allocation goes to SAFE-T, 8.82039% of the Total Allocation goes to Bowie County, and 31.81162% goes to DVP Inc.

The motion was seconded by Sharyn Cary. One member opposed and all others were in favor and the motion carried.

Patricia Haley explained the process of getting the recommendations approved by the ATCOG Board and after they are approved, the applicants would be notified of the results and those would be submitted to OOG.

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Newsom and seconded by Leah Thomas. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rex Bloodworth, Cass County Sheriff's Office

Sherry Edwards, Red River County Juvenile Probation

Tracey Climer, Daingerfield Police Department

Angela Price, Hopkins County Sheriff's Office

Ronnie Humphrey, Mt. Pleasant ISD Police Department

Courtney Shelton, Cass County DA

Darrell Bruce, Lamar County Juvenile Probation

Scott Dupree, Cass County Juvenile Probation

Jack Martin, Morris County Sheriff's Office

Lance Hall, Bowie County Emergency Management

RCJAC Minutes

April 10, 2025

Page 3

Sharyn Cary, Titus County Citizen

Tom Whitten, Bowie County Commissioner

Leah Thomas, Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Robert Vine, City of Paris

Robert Newsom, Hopkins County Judge

Melissa Simpson, Bowie County Juvenile Probation

Melissa Horton, Mt. Pleasant Police Department

**STAFF PRESENT**

Patricia Haley, ATCOG staff

*Angela Price*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Price, RCJAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman

Approval Date: 11/18/25

# RCJAC Minutes 04-10-25 (for signature)

Final Audit Report

2025-11-18

Created:	2025-11-18
By:	Patricia Haley (phaley@atcog.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAYIc7qi--YFKsiVc4qEphtNlapE7QD_aE

## "RCJAC Minutes 04-10-25 (for signature)" History

-  Document created by Patricia Haley (phaley@atcog.org)  
2025-11-18 - 4:56:47 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Angela Price (aprice@hopkinscountytexas.org) for signature  
2025-11-18 - 4:56:51 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Angela Price (aprice@hopkinscountytexas.org)  
2025-11-18 - 5:35:44 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Angela Price (aprice@hopkinscountytexas.org)  
Signature Date: 2025-11-18 - 5:36:06 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2025-11-18 - 5:36:06 PM GMT



## **BRIEFING PAPER**

### **ITEM 7:**

Review and consider approval of revision to the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Policies and Procedures Manual.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Board of Directors is required to approve all revisions to the Policies and Procedures Manual.

### **DISCUSSION**

The following revision to the **policy and procedures manual** is being proposed:

**7.04 Retirement Plan** - This revision clarifies ATCOG's contributions to employees' retirement accounts.

If approved by the Board, the policy revision will be distributed to all employees and added to our Policies and Procedures Manual.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend approval.

## 7.04 RETIREMENT PLAN

Effective January 1, 2017, ATCOG participates in the Texas County & District Retirement System (TCDRS) for the benefit of all regular full-time employees and regular part-time employees. ~~Employees contribute 4% of their salary into their retirement fund each payday on a pre-taxed basis, and ATCOG matches employee contributions at 200%, or an additional 8% each payday.~~ Employees contribute 4% of their salary into their retirement fund each payday on a pre-taxed basis, and ATCOG matches employee contributions at 200% at retirement. Employees become 100% vested after 8 years of employment and are eligible for retirement benefits at age 60, if vested. In addition, the Retirement Plan Trustees Committee and the Board of Directors have approved adoption of the rule of 75 for retirement eligibility (total of your age plus years of service) and/or 30 years of service regardless of age. Employee retirement accounts will earn 7% compounded interest yearly.

If an employee ceases employment prior to 8 years of service, regardless of reason, he/she then becomes eligible to withdraw the funds the employee has contributed, minus taxes and/or IRS penalties, if applicable. No matching ATCOG funds are available to that employee since vesting has not been achieved. Employees that attain retirement eligibility will receive a monthly, defined retirement amount based on the dollars that are in their respective retirement account. No partial lump-sums are payable at retirement and no in-service withdrawals can be made.

The plan Participation Agreement is available for inspection in the Human Resources Office.

**RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING REVISION TO THE ATCOG POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL.**

**WHEREAS**, the manual was developed to ensure that the ATCOG functions as a vital, evolving organization; and

**WHEREAS**, generally, the manual serves as the employee's primary instrument of policy guidance concerning questions of administrative and personnel policies; and

**WHEREAS**, upon approval, any such changes to the manual will supersede all previous policies of the same nature and will become a part of this manual.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:**

- Section 1 - That the Board of Directors approves the attached revision to the ATCOG Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Section 2 - That the Executive Director has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to the ATCOG Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Section 3 - That this resolution is approved by majority vote in accordance with the bylaws of Ark-Tex Council of Governments and applicable law, and shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.**

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

**ATTEST:**

  

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## **BRIEFING PAPER**

### **ITEM 8:**

Review and consider approval of revisions to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) Bylaws.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Bylaws are very important in conducting the business of the RCJAC and scoring the Office of the Governor – Public Safety Office/Criminal Justice Division (PSO/CJD) grant applications. The Office of the Governor - PSO/CJD requires ATCOG Criminal Justice Staff to submit a copy of the current RCJAC Bylaws upon request, and to also provide a copy to potential PSO/CJD grant applicants.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The RCJAC conducts an annual review of the current RCJAC Bylaws. Amendments were necessary for FY26. The Bylaws were reviewed, amendments were discussed, and recommendations were approved by the RCJAC. The revisions are explained below.

**Regular Meetings:** This revision includes an update to provide notice of the meeting at least three full days prior to the meeting date, to align with the new Texas Open Meetings Act requirement.

**Special Meetings:** This revision includes an update to provide notice of the meeting at least three full days prior to the meeting date, to align with the new Texas Open Meetings Act requirement.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend approval.

### **Quorum and Action**

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the total membership will constitute a quorum at any meeting, whether at a location or by teleconference or webinar. If by teleconference or webinar, an official roll call will be taken to ensure a quorum is present.

Action taken by the committee shall be by a simple majority vote of the members present at the meeting by which a quorum is present.

### **Regular Meetings**

The RCJAC shall meet as necessary during the year on a day, time and place specified by the ATCOG Executive Director, the ATCOG Criminal Justice liaison or the RCJAC as a whole.

RCJAC meetings can be conducted at a location, via teleconference, or via webinar as is allowable by the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Written notice, including an agenda, of each regular meeting shall be prepared by the ATCOG Criminal Justice liaison and electronically transmitted to each RCJAC member at least ~~seventy-two (72) hours~~ three full days prior to the meeting date.

### **Special Meetings**

The RCJAC shall hold a special meeting if called by the ATCOG Executive Director, the ATCOG Criminal Justice liaison, the RCJAC Chairman or requested in writing by at least one-third of the RCJAC membership. Only business reasonably related to the purpose or purposes described in the request may be conducted at a special meeting.

Notice of any special meeting shall be given at least ~~seventy-two (72) hours~~ three full days prior to the special meeting date.

Special meetings can be conducted in person, via teleconference, or via webinar as is allowable by the Texas Open Meetings Act.

## **ARTICLE V - SUBCOMMITTEES**

The RCJAC Chairman shall appoint temporary subcommittees as the need arises to perform specific tasks related to the business and activities of the RCJAC.

**RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-02**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE REVISIONS OF THE REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RCJAC) BYLAWS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) is an advisory subcommittee of the ATCOG Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, the bylaws of the committee regulate committee affairs and the behavior of its members.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:**

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors approves the RCJAC Bylaws revisions as shown in the attachment; and

Section 2 - That all other previous bylaws adopted by the ATCOG Board of Directors are now null and void.

Section 3 - That this resolution is approved by majority vote in accordance with the bylaws of Ark-Tex Council of Governments and applicable law, and shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025.**

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

**ATTEST:**

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## **BRIEFING PAPER**

### **ITEM 9:**

Review and consider approval of revisions to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) local priorities and the grant application scoring instrument.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The local priorities and the scoring instruments are very important tools used by the RCJAC to review and score the criminal justice grant applications from the Office of the Governor - Public Safety Division/Criminal Justice Division (PSO/CJD). The RCJAC conducts an annual review of the local priorities and the scoring instruments for each fund source.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The local priorities were established by the Regional Criminal Justice Planning Focus Groups. Those recommendations, as well as the scoring instrument, were reviewed and approved by the RCJAC to be incorporated into the application scoring process, as required by the Office of the Governor-PSO/CJD.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend approval.

## **Local Priorities for 2026 Strategic Plan (and FY27 Grant Year)**

### **Victim Services**

- 24-hour crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and counseling (staff counselor) to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and human/sex trafficking and also provide shelter services and case management to the victims as necessary.
- Provide a safe child-friendly atmosphere for child abuse victims, while fostering collaborative working relationships with investigative agencies, thus reducing the trauma experienced by child victims and their non-offending family member when interviewed and provide follow up services.
- Legal Advocacy and/or assistance with protective order processing, court accompaniment, as well as assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) and Texas Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE), in relation to violent crime victims.
- Short-term housing assistance for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as other types of victims.
- Educational programs, public awareness, school programs, and community involvement to increase awareness regarding child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, sexual assault, bullying, and dating violence.

### **Juvenile Justice Services**

- Resources for sex offender treatment, psychological/psycho-sexual evaluations, and other mental health and substance abuse services for at-risk youth, including psychiatric evaluations, counseling, and treatment.
- Programs to divert at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system, such as prevention services and mentoring programs for children under age 10.
- School Resource Officers and Juvenile Case Managers to lead preventative intervention services and classes such as awareness and prevention programs, peer support groups, and combat school violence, delinquency, and truancy.
- Programs/services to assist youth in their development of cognitive behavioral skills including positive decision making and thought processes, and also independent living skills for ages 16 and older.
- Resources and awareness for children and youth who are targeted and/or victims of human/sex trafficking, along with pre-intervention (crisis intervention) services for children and youth.

### **Law Enforcement Services**

- Required, mandated and operational training for law enforcement.
- Advanced equipment and technology for law enforcement purposes.
- Updated communications systems, allowing for agency and interagency communication and cooperation.
- Resources to address the excessive crime, such as human/sex trafficking, and also cyber crimes.
- Resources to address mental health and mentally ill individuals in their interaction with law enforcement, as well as in the jail system.



## Office of Governor – PSO/CJD Applications

### RCJAC Scoring Instrument

#### JAG

#### *Applicant Agency*

Funding Opportunity: **Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)**

Applicant Agency:

Project Title:

Application Number:

Amount Requested:

1. Name of RCJAC Member:
  2. Phone Number of RCJAC Member):
- 

#### Conflict of Interest:

The COG's governing body and RCJAC members must abstain from scoring, commenting, and voting on any application, other than a grant application submitted by the COG, during the prioritization process if they, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, have one or more of the following conflicts of interest.

(Please answer each question)

3. Are you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
4. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, serve on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
5. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, own or control any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**

6. Will you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, receive any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or routine services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**

**Yes**

**No**

**Attendance:**

7. Was a knowledgeable representative from the applicant agency available at the CJAC scoring meeting to present their project and address potential questions?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Management & Fiscal Capability:**

8. If funded, would the applicant/agency be able to provide the necessary resources to manage and carry out the project in an effective and fiscally responsible manner?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Local/State Priorities:**

9. Does the project address at least one local priority for the ATCOG region from the following list, and does it meet the OOG/PSO state priority/eligibility requirement(s)?  
(updated state priorities list will be provided to RCJAC members, prior to scoring)

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Required, mandated and operational training for law enforcement.
  - ❖ Advanced equipment and technology for law enforcement purposes.
  - ❖ Updated communications systems, allowing for agency and interagency communication and cooperation.
  - ❖ Resources to address the excessive crime, such as human/sex trafficking, and also cyber crimes.
  - ❖ Resources to address mental health and mentally ill individuals in their interaction with law enforcement, as well as in the jail system.
- 

**Documentation of Problem:**

10. Does this project avoid duplication or overlapping of existing resources or programs available within the project's proposed service area and target population?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does the supporting data validate the problem within the proposed target area?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Cost and Program Effectiveness:**

12. Are the activities to be conducted reasonable and will they adequately accomplish the goals of the project? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Are the budget line items eligible and essential to meeting the goals of the project?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

14. Does the organization have a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
15. Does the project document coordinated collaboration with other agencies and/or organizations? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

16. Enter any comments you have regarding this application/project here:

Comments:

17. By entering your RCJAC member code below, you are certifying that the above scores are your own. \_\_\_\_\_

(Each RCJAC member should have received his/her confidential code in the scoring packet email.)

## Office of Governor – PSO/CJD Applications

### RCJAC Scoring Instrument

#### Juvenile Justice

#### *Applicant Agency*

Funding Opportunity: **Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention**

Applicant Agency:

Project Title:

Application Number:

Amount Requested:

1. Name of RCJAC Member:
  2. Phone Number of RCJAC Member):
- 

#### Conflict of Interest:

The COG's governing body and RCJAC members must abstain from scoring, commenting, and voting on any application, other than a grant application submitted by the COG, during the prioritization process if they, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, have one or more of the following conflicts of interest.

(Please answer each question)

3. Are you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
4. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, serve on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
5. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, own or control any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**

6. Will you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, receive any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or routine services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**

**Yes**

**No**

**Attendance:**

7. Was a knowledgeable representative from the applicant agency available at the CJAC scoring meeting to present their project and address potential questions?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Management & Fiscal Capability:**

8. If funded, would the applicant/agency be able to provide the necessary resources to manage and carry out the project in an effective and fiscally responsible manner?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Local/State Priorities:**

9. Does the project address at least one local priority for the ATCOG region from the following list, and does it meet the OOG/PSO state priority/eligibility requirement(s)?

(updated state priorities list will be provided to RCJAC members, prior to scoring)

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Resources for sex offender treatment, psychological/psycho-sexual evaluations, and other mental health and substance abuse services for at-risk youth, including psychiatric evaluations, counseling, and treatment.
  - ❖ Programs to divert at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system, such as prevention services and mentoring programs for children under age 10.
  - ❖ School Resource Officers and Juvenile Case Managers to lead preventative intervention services and classes such as awareness and prevention programs, peer support groups, and combat school violence, delinquency, and truancy.
  - ❖ Programs/services to assist youth in their development of cognitive behavioral skills including positive decision making and thought processes, and also independent living skills for ages 16 and older.
  - ❖ Resources and awareness for children and youth who are targeted and/or victims of human/sex trafficking, along with pre-intervention (crisis intervention) services for children and youth.
- 

**Documentation of Problem:**

10. Does this project avoid duplication or overlapping of existing resources or programs available within the project's proposed service area and target population?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does the supporting data validate the problem within the proposed target area?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Cost and Program Effectiveness:**

12. Are the activities to be conducted reasonable and will they adequately accomplish the goals of the project? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Are the budget line items eligible and essential to meeting the goals of the project?  
(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
14. Does the organization have a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
15. Does the project document coordinated collaboration with other agencies and/or organizations? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

16. Enter any comments you have regarding this application/project here:

Comments:

17. By entering your RCJAC member code below, you are certifying that the above scores are your own. \_\_\_\_\_

(Each RCJAC member should have received his/her confidential code in the scoring packet email.)

## Office of Governor – PSO/CJD Applications

### RCJAC Scoring Instrument

#### Truancy

#### *Applicant Agency*

Funding Opportunity: **Juvenile Justice & Truancy Prevention**

Applicant Agency:

Project Title:

Application Number:

Amount Requested:

1. Name of RCJAC Member:
  2. Phone Number of RCJAC Member):
- 

#### Conflict of Interest:

The COG's governing body and RCJAC members must abstain from scoring, commenting, and voting on any application, other than a grant application submitted by the COG, during the prioritization process if they, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, have one or more of the following conflicts of interest.

(Please answer each question)

3. Are you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
4. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, serve on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
5. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, own or control any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**

6. Will you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, receive any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or routine services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**

Yes

No

**Attendance:**

7. Was a knowledgeable representative from the applicant agency available at the CJAC scoring meeting to present their project and address potential questions?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Management & Fiscal Capability:**

8. If funded, would the applicant/agency be able to provide the necessary resources to manage and carry out the project in an effective and fiscally responsible manner?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Local/State Priorities:**

9. Does the project address at least one local priority for the ATCOG region from the following list, and does it meet the OOG/PSO state priority/eligibility requirement(s)?

(updated state priorities list will be provided to RCJAC members, prior to scoring)

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Resources for sex offender treatment, psychological/psycho-sexual evaluations, and other mental health and substance abuse services for at-risk youth, including psychiatric evaluations, counseling, and treatment.
  - ❖ Programs to divert at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system, such as prevention services and mentoring programs for children under age 10.
  - ❖ School Resource Officers and Juvenile Case Managers to lead preventative intervention services and classes such as awareness and prevention programs, peer support groups, and combat school violence, delinquency, and truancy.
  - ❖ Programs/services to assist youth in their development of cognitive behavioral skills including positive decision making and thought processes, and also independent living skills for ages 16 and older.
  - ❖ Resources and awareness for children and youth who are targeted and/or victims of human/sex trafficking, along with pre-intervention (crisis intervention) services for children and youth.
- 

**Documentation of Problem:**

10. Does this project avoid duplication or overlapping of existing resources or programs available within the project's proposed service area and target population?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does the supporting data validate the problem within the proposed target area?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cost and Program Effectiveness:**

12. Are the activities to be conducted reasonable and will they adequately accomplish the goals of the project? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Are the budget line items eligible and essential to meeting the goals of the project?  
(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
14. Does the organization have a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
15. Does the project document coordinated collaboration with other agencies and/or organizations? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

16. Enter any comments you have regarding this application/project here:

Comments:

17. By entering your RCJAC member code below, you are certifying that the above scores are your own. \_\_\_\_\_

(Each RCJAC member should have received his/her confidential code in the scoring packet email.)

## Office of Governor – PSO/CJD Applications

### RCJAC Scoring Instrument

#### VOCA

#### *Applicant Agency*

Funding Opportunity: **General Victim Assistance-Direct Services (VOCA)**

Applicant Agency:

Project Title:

Application Number:

Amount Requested:

1. Name of RCJAC Member:
  2. Phone Number of RCJAC Member):
- 

#### Conflict of Interest:

The COG's governing body and RCJAC members must abstain from scoring, commenting, and voting on any application, other than a grant application submitted by the COG, during the prioritization process if they, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, have one or more of the following conflicts of interest.

(Please answer each question)

3. Are you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
4. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, serve on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
5. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, own or control any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**

6. Will you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, receive any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or routine services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**

**Yes**

**No**

**Attendance:**

7. Was a knowledgeable representative from the applicant agency available at the CJAC scoring meeting to present their project and address potential questions?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Management & Fiscal Capability:**

8. If funded, would the applicant/agency be able to provide the necessary resources to manage and carry out the project in an effective and fiscally responsible manner?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Local/State Priorities:**

9. Does the project address at least one local priority for the ATCOG region from the following list, and does it meet the OOG/PSO state priority/eligibility requirement(s)?  
(updated state priorities list will be provided to RCJAC members, prior to scoring)

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ 24-hour crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and counseling (staff counselor) to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and human/sex trafficking and also provide shelter services and case management to the victims as necessary.
  - ❖ Provide a safe child-friendly atmosphere for child abuse victims, while fostering collaborative working relationships with investigative agencies, thus reducing the trauma experienced by child victims and their non-offending family member when interviewed and provide follow up services.
  - ❖ Legal Advocacy and/or assistance with protective order processing, court accompaniment, as well as assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) and Texas Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE), in relation to violent crime victims.
  - ❖ Short-term housing assistance for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as other types of victims.
  - ❖ Educational programs, public awareness, school programs, and community involvement to increase awareness regarding child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, sexual assault, bullying, and dating violence.
- 

**Documentation of Problem:**

10. Does this project avoid duplication or overlapping of existing resources or programs available within the project's proposed service area and target population?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does the supporting data validate the problem within the proposed target area?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cost and Program Effectiveness:**

12. Are the activities to be conducted reasonable and will they adequately accomplish the goals of the project? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

13. Are the budget line items eligible and essential to meeting the goals of the project?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

14. Does the organization have a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Does the project document coordinated collaboration with other agencies and/or organizations? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

16. Enter any comments you have regarding this application/project here:

Comments:

17. By entering your RCJAC member code below, you are certifying that the above scores are your own. \_\_\_\_\_

(Each RCJAC member should have received his/her confidential code in the scoring packet email.)

## Office of Governor – PSO/CJD Applications

### RCJAC Scoring Instrument

#### VAWA

#### *Applicant Agency*

Funding Opportunity: **Violence Against Women Justice & Training Projects (VAWA)**

Applicant Agency:

Project Title:

Application Number:

Amount Requested:

1. Name of RCJAC Member:
  2. Phone Number of RCJAC Member):
- 

#### Conflict of Interest:

The COG's governing body and RCJAC members must abstain from scoring, commenting, and voting on any application, other than a grant application submitted by the COG, during the prioritization process if they, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, have one or more of the following conflicts of interest.

(Please answer each question)

3. Are you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, employed by the applicant agency and works for the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
4. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, serve on any governing board that oversees the unit or division that would administer the grant if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**
5. Do you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, own or control any interest in a business entity or other non-governmental organization that benefits, directly or indirectly, from activities with the applicant agency? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**  
  
**Yes**  
  
**No**

6. Will you, or an individual related within the third degree by consanguinity or within the second degree by affinity, receive any funds, or a substantial amount of tangible goods or routine services, from the applicant agency as a result of the grant, if awarded? **If answer is yes, RCJAC member cannot score this application and must abstain.**

**Yes**

**No**

**Attendance:**

7. Was a knowledgeable representative from the applicant agency available at the CJAC scoring meeting to present their project and address potential questions?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Management & Fiscal Capability:**

8. If funded, would the applicant/agency be able to provide the necessary resources to manage and carry out the project in an effective and fiscally responsible manner?

(Maximum 15 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Local/State Priorities:**

9. Does the project address at least one local priority for the ATCOG region from the following list, and does it meet the OOG/PSO state priority/eligibility requirement(s)?  
(updated state priorities list will be provided to RCJAC members, prior to scoring)

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ 24-hour crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and counseling (staff counselor) to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and human/sex trafficking and also provide shelter services and case management to the victims as necessary.
  - ❖ Provide a safe child-friendly atmosphere for child abuse victims, while fostering collaborative working relationships with investigative agencies, thus reducing the trauma experienced by child victims and their non-offending family member when interviewed and provide follow up services.
  - ❖ Legal Advocacy and/or assistance with protective order processing, court accompaniment, as well as assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) and Texas Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE), in relation to violent crime victims.
  - ❖ Short-term housing assistance for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as other types of victims.
  - ❖ Educational programs, public awareness, school programs, and community involvement to increase awareness regarding child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, sexual assault, bullying, and dating violence.
- 

**Documentation of Problem:**

10. Does this project avoid duplication or overlapping of existing resources or programs available within the project's proposed service area and target population?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does the supporting data validate the problem within the proposed target area?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Cost and Program Effectiveness:**

12. Are the activities to be conducted reasonable and will they adequately accomplish the goals of the project? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

13. Are the budget line items eligible and essential to meeting the goals of the project?

(Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

14. Does the organization have a clear plan to generate, collect, and assess output and outcome measures to support evaluation of results? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Does the project document coordinated collaboration with other agencies and/or organizations? (Maximum 10 Points) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

16. Enter any comments you have regarding this application/project here:

Comments:

17. By entering your RCJAC member code below, you are certifying that the above scores are your own. \_\_\_\_\_

(Each RCJAC member should have received his/her confidential code in the scoring packet email.)

**RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-03**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE REVISIONS OF THE REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RCJAC), LOCAL PRIORITIES AND GRANT APPLICATION SCORING INSTRUMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) is an advisory subcommittee of the ATCOG Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, the local priorities and scoring instruments are important tools used by the RCJAC to review and score criminal justice grant applications from the Office of the Governor – Public Safety Office/Criminal Justice Division.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:**

- Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors approves the local priorities and scoring instruments as shown on the attachment and previously recommended/approved by the RCJAC; and
- Section 2 - That all other previous local priorities and scoring instruments adopted by the ATCOG Board of Directors are now null and void.
- Section 3 - That this resolution is approved by majority vote in accordance with the bylaws of Ark-Tex Council of Governments and applicable law, and shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025.**

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

**ATTEST:**

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## **BRIEFING PAPER**

### **ITEM 10:**

Review and consider approval of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) 2025 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), and State Preparedness Report (SPR).

### **BACKGROUND:**

The State requires each Council of Governments to revise and submit its THIRA, SPR, and Regional Implementation Plan annually. This year the Implementation Plan was omitted. These documents are all interrelated and provide an overview of the threats, risks, and resources in the ATCOG region. These documents ensure that ATCOG is fully integrated into the State of Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan and has identified resources necessary to achieve homeland security preparedness goals for fiscal year 2026.

### **DISCUSSION:**

These documents do not replace any existing Regional Plans, Mutual Aid Agreements, or strategies. Rather, it incorporates existing plans, agreements, and strategies. Also, this plan does not preclude the use or activation of any existing plans or agreements that an individual county may have with an entity that is outside the boundaries of the ATCOG.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-04**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 2025 THREAT AND HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT (THIRA), AND STATE PREPAREDNESS REPORT (SPR).**

**WHEREAS**, these documents align with and support the intent of the general homeland security strategy for the State established by the Governor in the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, these documents ensure that the Ark-Tex Council of Governments is fully integrated into the State of Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan and has identified the resources necessary to achieve homeland security preparedness goals for fiscal year 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the approval of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, and State Preparedness Report is to set forth our homeland security preparedness and identify time, funds, equipment, organization, planning, training, and exercises required to implement the plan; and

**WHEREAS**, these documents do not replace any existing Regional Plans, Mutual Aid Agreements, or strategies, but rather incorporate those existing plans, agreements, and strategies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:**

- Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors approves the Ark-Tex Council of Governments 2025 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), and State Preparedness Report (SPR).
- Section 2 - That the Executive Director, Mary Beth Rudel, has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to the Ark-Tex Council of Governments 2025 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), and State Preparedness Report (SPR).
- Section 3 - That this resolution is approved by majority vote in accordance with the bylaws of Ark-Tex Council of Governments and applicable law, and shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025.**

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

**ATTEST:**

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## **BRIEFING PAPER**

### **ITEM 11:**

Review and consider approval of continual use of the allocation formula for FY2026 as the method for allocating State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funds to jurisdictions.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The ATCOG HSAC, with Board approval, has allocated funds to jurisdictions in many different ways since the inception of the SHSP in 2003, including the use of score sheets and discussions. The process of deciding allocations has been subjective rather than objective. For several years, ATCOG has been utilizing a risk-based formula to allocate funds to eligible jurisdictions. This formula was designed to provide all eligible applicants with funds but did not fulfill the capability gaps of smaller jurisdictions in our region. The state requires HSAC to prioritize applications using a risk-informed methodology process. The proposed scoring process will score projects in several areas, including risk and prioritization. Adopting ATCOG's scoring process would reflect the region's priorities and align with the State's principles.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The ATCOG HSAC met on November 13, 2025, and discussed and reviewed the Risk Methodology and Allocation Process for FY26, as well as means of prioritizing SERI projects.

The scoring process will score projects equally in categories of risk, reasonableness, and priority level. The scoring process will allot additional points to applicants applying for regional projects, applicants who participated in the development of the Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, State Preparedness Report, and Implementation Plan (THIRA/SPR/IP), the Annual Communication Exercise, the Special Events data call, as well as for applicants who did not receive funding the previous grant year. Scores will be calculated, and projects will be prioritized/ranked by scores and recommended for funding in that rank order. Applicants who submit multiple projects must identify which is their primary project for ATCOG prioritization ranking; secondary projects and so on will be ranked at the bottom based on their score and will only be funded if enough funds are available after all primary projects are funded.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend approval.

## Ark-Tex Council of Governments Homeland Security Allocation Process

The ATCOG Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) consists of emergency management coordinators, judges, mayors, fire chiefs, EMS directors, volunteer fire fighters, police chiefs, and representatives from the Texas Forest Service and Texas Department of Public Safety. Each of ATCOG's nine counties is represented as well as the two major cities: The City of Texarkana and the City of Paris. The HSAC was created by Ark-Tex Council of Governments to advise the Board of Directors in all matters related to regional homeland security and to recommend to the Board of Directors plans and programs which improve the emergency response and recovery throughout the region which support and maintain the State of Texas Goals for Homeland Security in order to maximize effective and efficient use of resources.

Each year, ATCOG receives State Homeland Security Program funding to help prevent, mitigate, respond and recover from terrorism activities. ATCOG HSAC uses a scoring process to prioritize HSGD application.

The scoring process will score projects in categories of risk, reasonableness, and priority level, each category weighed equally. The scoring process will allot additional points to applicants applying for regional projects, applicants who participated in Development of the THIRA/SPR/IP, and applicants who did not receive funding the previous year grant year. Scores will be calculated, and projects will be prioritized/ranked by scores and recommended for funding in that rank order.

Up to 100pts	Up to 100pts	Up to 100pts	Bonus Points Awarded				
Risk	Reasonableness	priority level	Regional Project +5	Participated in Annual communication exercise +5	Participated in Special Events Data collection +5	participated in development of THIRA/SPR/IP +5	Did not receive HSGD funding prior grant year +20

## **Grant Application Workshop**

All grant applicants must attend the Grant Application Workshop in order to be eligible for grant funding.

The grant application workshop will include the following information:

- a. Who can apply and what activities are eligible under each funding opportunity
- b. Requirements for project problem statements with supporting data, goal statement, project activity explanations, current and target output and outcome measures, and budget categories and line items
- c. The project period for each funding opportunity
- d. Applicable rules, regulations, and certifications required
- e. Any prohibitions
- f. Civil rights rules related to applicant employees and projects or activities
- g. State strategies or funding preferences
- h. Potential jurisdictional funding allocations based on risk-based funding allocation formula
- i. Local policies and procedures that affect the COG's prioritization process
- j. Due dates for applicants to submit and certify applications

## **ATCOG Staff Review and HSAC Recommendation for Funding**

Once all applications are received, the applications are reviewed by ATCOG staff to ensure completion and that all requested items are allowable. The HSAC reviews the projects to ensure all projects are in line with regional priorities (if applicable) and have met the regional requirements of 75% participation in the monthly ATCOG Communication Repeater Tests.

Applications are then scored via ballot in categories of risk, reasonableness, and priority level. The scoring process will allot additional points to applicants applying for regional projects, applicants who participated in the Special Events data collection, Regional Communication Exercise, Development of the THIRA/SPR/IP, regional project, and applicants who did not receive funding the previous year grant year. Each HSAC member has plans and reports in possession and may bring these documents to the meeting for reference but are not required. The committee's involvement provides an overarching knowledge of each jurisdiction within the region, which guides and aids the HSAC during the scoring of projects. Scores will be calculated, and projects will be prioritized/ranked by scores and recommended for funding in that rank order.

ATCOG's project will be ranked as number (1) in the prioritization process and shall receive full funding. Any other special projects approved by the HSAC committee will be ranked as number (2) and so forth. LETPA projects will have priority funding until the 30% LEPTA threshold is met. Once met, the remaining LEPTA projects will resume ranking with the regular SHSP projects. In the event of a tie between two or more projects, the lowest rankings on each project involved will be dropped until the tie is broken. Applicants submitting multiple projects must identify their primary project for ATCOG prioritization ranking. Secondary projects will be ranked at the bottom based on their score and will only be funded if enough funds are available after all primary projects are funded. jurisdictions may also apply for competitive state funding for projects with no limit, and these projects will not be scored by the HSAC committee. Any representative from the agency applying is prohibited from including his or her agency's project in the prioritization due to the conflict of interest policy in ATCOG's HSAC bylaws. All projects must be scalable. If the amounts of LETPA projects submitted do not meet the [30%](#) LETPA requirement, ATCOG HSAC can increase the LETPA projects' amounts to meet the requirement.

### **Final Project Allocation**

Following the committee meeting, the project allocation recommendation and prioritization results will be presented to the ATCOG Board of Directors for approval. Board approved prioritization will be submitted to the Office of the Governor for final determination.

**RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-05**

**RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE RISK METHODOLOGY AND ALLOCATION PROCESS FOR ALLOCATING STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM (SHSP) FUNDS.**

**WHEREAS**, the ATCOG Board of Directors and Homeland Security Advisory Committee find it to be in the best interest to adopt a scoring process as the method for allocating FY2026 Homeland Security Grant Program funds to eligible jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the scoring process will score projects in categories of risk, reasonableness, and priority level; and

**WHEREAS**, the Scores will be calculated and projects will be ranked by score from highest to lowest and recommended for funding in that rank order. Applicants who submit multiple projects must identify their primary project for ATCOG prioritization ranking; secondary projects and so on will be ranked at the bottom based on their score and will only be funded if enough funds are available after all primary projects are funded; and

**WHEREAS**, the approval of the Risk Methodology and Allocation Process replaces the previous version.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:**

- Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors approves the Risk Methodology and Allocation Process for allocating State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funds.
- Section 2 - That the Executive Director, Mary Beth Rudel, has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to the Risk Methodology and Allocation Process for allocating State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funds.
- Section 3 - That this resolution is approved by majority vote in accordance with the bylaws of Ark-Tex Council of Governments and applicable law, and shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 4TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025.**

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

**ATTEST:**

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