

**MINUTES**  
**ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 30, 2025**

The Executive Committee of Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 30, 2025, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

1. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel introduced Dr. Helen You, Ph.D., Associate Director/Senior Demographer, for the Texas Demographics Center. Dr. You presented demographic information regarding the Texas population and the ATCOG region.
2. Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County, called the meeting to order.
3. Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County, gave the invocation.
4. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

5. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented the following consent agenda items:
  - Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Executive Committee meeting held Thursday, September 25, 2025.
  - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Homeland Security Advisory Committee meeting held Thursday, August 21, 2025.
  - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Area Agency on Aging Regional Council meeting held Thursday, September 4, 2025.
  - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting held Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

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

6. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented the Executive Director's report for information only.
  - Indirect Finance Quarterly Report
  - Quarterly Program Reports
7. Ms. Daneshia Cherry presented for review and consideration approval of the ATCOG 2026 Fair Market Rent Payment Standards (FMRs) for the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

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

Each year, ATCOG sets payment standards for all unit sizes in each county based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published FMRs. HUD allows payment standards to range between 90% and 110% of the FMR. ATCOG proposes adopting standards at 110% of FMR for FY2026.

Additionally, ATCOG administers Desegregated Housing Opportunity (DHO) zones within its service area. Separate payment standards are required for these zones, which are predetermined by HUD.

Motion to approve was made by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, and seconded by Judge Bell. It was approved.

8. Mr. Paul Prange presented for review and consideration approval of the FY2026/2027 application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to administer the Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant Program.

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments receives funding every two years from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to administer the Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant Program. An application must be submitted by ATCOG to TCEQ at the beginning of each biennium to execute the contract for the grant period.

ATCOG is seeking authorization to apply to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to administer the FY2026/2027 Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant Program. ATCOG staff plan to fund Community Collection Events and Illegal Dumping Cleanup Events throughout the region during this biennium.

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

9. Mr. Paul Prange presented for review and consideration approval of the funding priorities for the FY2026/2027 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant Program.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) held a meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the FY2026/2027 funding priorities. The SWAC recommended allocating funds in the amount of approximately \$60,000.00 to sponsor Community Collection Events/Illegal Dumping Cleanup Events throughout the ATCOG region during FY2027.

ATCOG is seeking authorization to utilize the funding allocation of approximately \$60,000.00 during FY2027 to sponsor Community Collection Events/Illegal Dumping Cleanup Events throughout the ATCOG region.

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

10. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and consideration approval for the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Kilgore College/East Texas Police Academy not to exceed \$99,999.99 to provide police academy training services.

ATCOG is awaiting receipt of a 2-year Regional Law Enforcement Training grant from the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Division, for the FY26/FY27 grant period. Quotes were requested for a contracted police academy provider for the Regional Law

Enforcement Training program. Kilgore College/East Texas Police Academy (ETPA), which is ATCOG's current provider of law enforcement training, was the only provider to submit a quote. They will provide basic peace officer training, basic corrections/jailer training, and advanced/specialized courses.

Ms. Haley introduced Mr. Warren Egerton, Director of the East Texas Police Academy/Kilgore College, and invited him to greet the Executive Committee.

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

11. Ms. Jenny Butler presented for review and consideration approval of the appointment of a new member and Vice-Chairperson to the Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council.

AAA RAC member appointment for the vacant position to represent Hopkins County:

- Rachelle Sills of Sulphur Springs, Texas/Hopkins County.

AAA RAC Vice-Chairperson appointment:

- Rhonda Rogers of Paris, Texas/Lamar County.

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

12. Mr. Mark Compton presented for review and consideration approval of a grant application to be submitted to the Martha, David, & Bagby Lennox Foundation in the amount of \$50,000.00 for ATCOG Transportation Operations.

The Martha, David, & Bagby Lennox Foundation has advocated for TRAX transportation for several years and has been a strong voice for Red River County and TRAX services. ATCOG will request grant funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 for FY2026. As part of the grant agreement, TRAX will continue to support transportation services within Red River County.

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

13. Mr. Mark Compton presented for review and consideration approval of a grant application to be submitted to the RAM Foundation in the amount of \$25,000.00 for ATCOG Transportation Operations.

The RAM FOUNDATION has advocated TRAX transportation for several years and has been a strong voice for Lamar County and TRAX services. ATCOG will request grant funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 for FY2026. As part of the grant agreement, TRAX will continue to support transportation services within Lamar County.

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

14. Ms. Rea Allen presented for review and consideration approval for the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Critical Response Group to provide indoor school mapping.

The Critical Response Group provides for the development of both macro and micro collaborative response graphics (CRGs) for campuses across thirty-one school districts within the ATCOG region. The services are being procured through a state contract, and a cost-share approach with school districts is also being utilized. The contract total is \$263,720. The cost includes site visits, as well as implementation and ongoing maintenance services to support the effective use of the graphics in emergency response efforts.

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

15. Ms. Rea Allen presented for review and consideration approval for the Executive Director to enter into a contract with RapidDeploy Eclipse Analytics for Management Information System services.

The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) Program requires that each Regional Planning Commission log via an MIS system all 9-1-1 call records. RapidDeploy Eclipse Analytics collects, analyzes, and reports all PSAPs' raw Call Detail Record (CDR) data in the ATCOG jurisdiction. Every 9-1-1 call routing trunk is profiled and reported in Eclipse. The purpose of the application is to deliver accurate call volume statistics for all PSAPs in the jurisdiction. These reports are used in calculating PSAP equipment needs, compliance assessments, and RPC reporting

The Management Information System contract with RapidDeploy, via AT&T, is being procured through a state contract, totaling \$457,910, for a 5-year contract term. The costs are based on region-wide MIS service, initial implementation, Text-to-9-1-1 reporting modules, individual PSAP dashboards, and Wireless Routing analysis.

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

### **Announcements**

Ms. Mary Beth Rudel announced that the TEX-21 Statewide Meeting will be held on Thursday-Friday, November 6-7, at the Texarkana College Aviation Technology School Hangar, Texarkana Regional Airport, 60 Globe Avenue, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Ms. Rudel announced that the next Joint NETEDD and ATCOG Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Judge Cooper. The meeting was adjourned.

ATCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County  
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County  
Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Laney Harris, Director, City of Texarkana-AR  
Dana Reeves, General Manager, Franklin County Water District

GUESTS PRESENT

Warren Egerton, East Texas Police Academy  
Donna Egerton  
Dr. Helen You, Associate Director/Senior Demographer, Texas Demographics Center  
Seth Cox, Board Member, Northeast Texas Economic Development District  
Anna Thomas, Office of Senator Cornyn  
Rea Donna Jones, Texarkana MPO

ATCOG STAFF PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director  
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director  
Laura Cowling, Finance Director  
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer  
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant  
Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Director  
Jenny Butler, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Daneshia Cherry, Housing Director  
Mark Compton, Transportation Director  
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator  
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator  
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator  
Bobby Williams, Transportation Operations Coordinator

  
Scott Norton, Vice President  
Board of Directors  
Ark-Tex Council of Governments



