

**MINUTES
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 29, 2026**

The Executive Committee of Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 29, 2026, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

1. Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO of TexAmericas Center, called the meeting to order. Mr. Norton announced that, due to time constraints, the meeting would be expedited, and some items would be carried forward from January 29, 2026, and placed on the next meeting agenda.
2. Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, gave the invocation.
3. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

4. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented the following consent agenda items:
 - Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday, October 30, 2025.
 - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Area Agency on Aging Regional Council meeting held Thursday, December 11, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee, and seconded by Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville. It was approved.

5. Executive Director's Report
Item not considered; to be carried forward and placed on the next meeting agenda.
6. Review and consider ratification of the submission of an application for the Texas Regional Broadband Program.
Item not considered; to be carried forward and placed on the next meeting agenda.
7. Mr. Paul Prange presented for review and consideration approval authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with ALL4 LLC to conduct Air Quality Modeling and Emission Inventory in Bowie County, Texas, during 2026-2027.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) amended the Air Quality Grant contract with ATCOG in November 2025 to continue air quality services through 2027. ATCOG has received \$281,250.00 in additional funds from TCEQ to conduct the Rider 7 PM2.5 Air Quality Grant Program. The grant will pay the consultant approximately \$253,125.00, and ATCOG will use the remaining funds of \$28,125.00 to administer the grant program.

The previous Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an Air Quality Consultant included wording that permits ATCOG to modify an existing contract with All4, LLC. without repeating the RFQ process:

- **Modification and Renewals:** ATCOG reserves the right to negotiate a modification in connection with any executed agreement/contract funded through this RFQ without repeating the RFQ process for a period of up to five (5) years from the original proposal initiation. Vendor modifications and renewals shall be considered based upon the vendor's ability to meet ATCOG needs.

Since this is a continuation of an existing project, ATCOG would like to amend the contract with All4, LLC. to include an additional \$253,125.00 for services requested by TCEQ through 2027.

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

8. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and approval of revisions to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) Bylaws.

The RCJAC conducts an annual review of the current RCJAC Bylaws. Amendments were necessary for FY26. The Bylaws were reviewed, amendments were discussed, and the RCJAC approved the recommendations. It was determined that further clarification and wording were needed to be amended to explain the meeting notice posting requirements. Therefore, the RCJAC met again on December 11, 2025, to review and approve the necessary additions to the wording. The revisions are explained below.

- **Regular Meetings:** This revision includes an update to provide notice of the meeting at least three full business days prior to the meeting date. Also included is clarification of the statement "Business days exclude weekends and holidays" 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 business days prior to the meeting date. Also included is clarification of the statement "Business days exclude weekends and holidays" to align with the new Texas Open Meetings Act requirement.

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

9. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and approval of the list of representatives as reappointments/appointments to serve on the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory (RCJAC) Committee through December 31, 2027.

The members of the RCJAC are appointed or reappointed at the beginning of each even-numbered year and are nominated for appointment/reappointment by their respective County Judges. There is a total of 29 members on the committee, and the number of members per county is based on population. If a vacancy should exist during the two-year term, a new appointment shall be presented to the ATCOG Board of Directors/Executive Committee for approval to fill the vacancy.

Ms. Haley reported the following two (2) updates to the member roster after the Executive Agenda packet was distributed:

- Cass County: Courtney Golden, Cass County District Attorney
- Lamar County: Laci Northam, Lakes Regional MHMR-Paris

A list of all appointed or reappointed members of the RCJAC has been provided (See attachment). These members will serve their two-year membership term during the 2026/2027 calendar years.

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

10. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and approval of the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor-Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division, for the Juvenile Justice Services project for FY2027.

The Juvenile Justice Services project provides the necessary funds to allow county juvenile probation departments in the ATCOG nine-county region to purchase quality services for juveniles referred to them. Services previously purchased and provided include psychological and psychiatric evaluations, as well as professional therapy and mental health counseling services, anger management, juvenile sex offender counseling/treatment, and possibly substance abuse counseling/treatment if applicable/eligible, and funds are available.

The proposed budget will include an approximate total of \$32,500 for contracted Juvenile Justice Services and approximately \$22,500 for personnel/indirect/travel/direct operating/supply expenses. Upon approval, ATCOG will apply for a total of \$55,000 for this project.

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

11. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and approval of the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor-Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division, for the Specialized Regional Crisis Training Program for FY2027.

The Specialized Regional Crisis Training program will provide specialized training for law enforcement and investigators, as well as for prosecutors, judges, victim coordinators/staff, child advocacy staff, and other professionals responding to child abuse and high-risk situations.

Training will be conducted by a TCOLE-approved specialized training instructor/provider and arranged/hosted by ATCOG at various locations across the region. Contracted training to be included in the program will be Child Abuse Investigations and Search Warrants training. This program will have a 12-month project period.

Upon approval, ATCOG will apply for a total of \$48,503, to include approximately \$20,480 in contracted training costs and approximately \$28,023 in personnel/indirect/travel/direct operating/supply expenses.

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

12. Computerized Criminal History System Update.

Item not considered; to be carried forward and placed on the next meeting agenda.

13. The Executive Committee will recess the Open Session and go into Executive Closed Session to deliberate on matters concerning real property, as allowed in the Texas Open Meeting Act, Section 551.072, Omaha Property.

Item not considered; to be carried forward and placed on the next meeting agenda.

14. The Executive Committee will reconvene in Open Session and take action on Item 13, as necessary.

Item not considered; to be carried forward and placed on the next meeting agenda.

15. Mr. Norton introduced and welcomed ATCOG's recently appointed board members.

- Steven King, Mayor, City of Cumby
- Jeff Parker, Council Member, City of Hooks

Mr. Norton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Judge Cooper. It was approved. Meeting adjourned.

Announcements

Ms. Mary Beth Rudel announced that a Workforce CEO meeting will be held immediately following this meeting. She asked that the Judges please reconvene at the front of the room or remain on Zoom. All others may move to the hallway or exit the Zoom meeting.

Ms. Rudel announced the next ATCOG Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

ATCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center

Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County

Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County

Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County

Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County

Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County

Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County

Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John Booth, Ph.D., Board of Trustees, Texarkana College
Laney Harris, Director, City of Texarkana-AR
Steven King, Mayor, City of Cumby
Wesley Lyon, Mayor, City of Mt. Pleasant
Dana Reeves, General Manager, Franklin County Water District
Shawn Tully, Director, Red River County Appraisal District
Shannon McGuire, Board of Regents, Paris Junior College
Jeff Parker, Council Member, City of Hooks
Gary Spraggins, Council Member, City of Sulphur Springs
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb

GUESTS PRESENT

April Corbit, NETX Workforce Solutions
Seth Cox, Board Member, Northeast Texas Economic Development District
Kaleb Hackney, Chief of Police, City of Cumby
Sherrie Houff, Department of State Health Services
Kyle Hunt, ALL4 INC
Miranda Randle, City Administrator, City of Cumby
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks
KiAnn Richardson, NETX Workforce Solutions
Bart Spivey, Executive Director, NETX Workforce Solutions

ATCOG STAFF PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director
Laura Cowling, Finance Director
Daneshia Cherry, Housing Director
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Amber Murr, Human Resources
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer



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

ATTEST:

