

AGENDA
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 1, 2026

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Board of Directors will meet at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 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/meeting/register/1fLwLxZESzWzOI3os045bQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/1fLwLxZESzWzOI3os045bQ)

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.

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.

4. 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, December 4, 2025. (See page 3)
 - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Area Agency on Aging Regional Council meeting held Thursday, March 5, 2026. (See page 7)
5. Review and consider approval of revisions to the ATCOG Policies and Procedures Manual. (See page 10; to be presented by Deputy Director Leslie McBride)
6. Review and consider authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an Interlocal agreement with The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard). (See page 17; to be presented by staff member Debbie Purifoy)
7. Review and consider approval of prioritization of 2026 Homeland Security Grant Program funds. (See page 27; to be presented by staff member Whitney Fezell)
8. Review and consider authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with The Cambridge Group (TCG Investments LLC) to install dispatch consoles with accessories in Lamar County. (See page 29; to be presented by staff member Whitney Fezell)

9. Review and consider approval of the Northeast Texas Housing Finance Corporation request for membership to ATCOG. (See page 31; to be presented by Executive Director Mary Beth Rudel)
10. Review and consider approval of the representative as a replacement member to serve on the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee through December 31, 2027. (See page 32; to be presented by staff member Patricia Haley)
11. Computerized Criminal History System (CCH) Update. (See page 34; to be presented by staff member Patricia Haley)
12. Adoption of a resolution authorizing recognition of April as National Fair Housing Month. (See page 35; to be presented by staff member Daneshia Cherry)
13. Adoption of a resolution authorizing recognition of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. (See page 36; to be presented by staff member Rea Allen)
14. Presentation of the ATCOG Telecommunicator of the Year (to be presented by staff member Rea Allen)
15. Adjourn.

Announcements

The next joint meeting of the Northeast Texas Economic Development District, Inc. (NETEDD) and the Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) will be held on Thursday, April 30, 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. Should any Board Member need a copy printed and available at the meeting, please call 903.255.3555 or email mmatthews@atcog.org.

**MINUTES
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) met 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.

1. Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County, called the meeting to order.
2. Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center, gave the invocation.
3. Public Comment.

No members of the public made comments.

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, August 28, 2025.

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

5. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented the NETEDD Program report for information only.

This concludes all NETEDD agenda items.

ATCOG Board of Directors Agenda Items

6. 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, August 28, 2025.
 - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting held Thursday, April 10, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by Chris Brown, Vice President, Hopkins County Hospital District, and seconded by Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb. It was approved.

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

The following revisions to the policy and procedures manual were proposed:

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

Upon Board approval, the policy revision will be distributed to all employees and added to our Policies and Procedures Manual.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar 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 its bylaws. Amendments were needed for FY26. The Bylaws were reviewed, amendments were discussed, and the RCJAC approved the following revisions, as 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.

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

9. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and approval of revisions to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) local priorities and the grant application scoring instrument.

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 (PSO/CJD). The RCJAC conducts an annual review of the local priorities and the scoring instruments for each fund source.

Regional Criminal Justice Planning Focus Groups established the local priorities. Those recommendations, along with the scoring instrument, were reviewed and approved by the RCJAC for incorporation into the application scoring process, as required by the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office/Criminal Justice Division. Upon Board approval, the recommended local priorities and grant application scoring instrument will be incorporated into the application scoring process.

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

10. Ms. Whitney Fezell presented for review and approval of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments 2025 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), and State Preparedness Report (SPR).

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 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 that it has identified the resources necessary to achieve homeland security preparedness goals for fiscal year 2026.

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

11. Ms. Whitney Fezell presented for review and approval of continual use of the allocation formula for FY2026 as the method for allocating State Homeland Security Program funds to jurisdictions.

The state requires the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) to prioritize applications using a risk-informed methodology. The proposed scoring process will evaluate projects in several areas, including risk and prioritization. Adopting ATCOG's scoring process would reflect the region's priorities and align with state principles.

The ATCOG HSAC met on November 13, 2025, and discussed and reviewed the Risk Methodology and Allocation Process for FY26, as well as the means of prioritizing Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (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 and ranked according to these scores and recommended for funding in that rank order. Applicants who submit multiple projects must identify their primary project for ATCOG prioritization ranking. Secondary projects, as well as any additional projects, will be ranked at the bottom based on their scores and will be funded only if sufficient funds are available after all primary projects are funded.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Walker and seconded by Scott Norton. It was approved.

Announcements

Ms. Mary Beth Rudel announced that the NADO Washington Policy Conference will be held March 8th - 11th. This is a great time to visit with our House and Senate Members and their staff. Please contact Marla or Mary Beth if interested in attending.

Ms. Rudel stated that 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.

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

NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center

Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
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 Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
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
Juan Duenez, Board of Trustees, Mt. Pleasant Independent School District
Becky Fellers, Board of Trustees, Liberty Eylau Independent School District
Laney Harris, Director, City of Texarkana-AR
Wesley Lyon, Mayor, City of Mt. Pleasant
Gary Spraggins, Council Member, City of Sulphur Springs
Shawn Tully, Red River County Appraisal District
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb

GUESTS PRESENT

Nathan Carroll, Texas Division of Emergency Management
Elizabeth Cockerham, Office of Representative Cole Hefner
Reece DeWoody, Office of Senator Bryan Hughes
Sherrie Houff, Department of State Health Services
Janeth Moreno, Mt. Pleasant Economic Development Corporation
Ray Wilson, Office of Senator Bryan Hughes

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director
Laura Cowling, Finance Director
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer
Bobby Williams, Transportation Operations Coordinator

ATTEST:

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

ARK-TEX AREA AGENCY ON AGING (AAA)
Regional Advisory Council Meeting
MINUTES

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Regional Advisory Council met on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at the Titus Medical Plaza in Mount Pleasant and via video conference call. Tammy Lawing, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Magen Watters, AAA Program Specialist, called roll. Regional Advisory Council members present were as follows:

Tammy Lawing, Chairperson, Red River County Representative
Judge Robert Newsom, Elected Official
Paul Lindsey, Titus County Representative
Mayor Ann Rushing, Elected Official
Rhonda Rogers, Vice-Chairperson, Lamar County Representative
Shelly Braziel, Title III Representative
Brenda Davis, Bowie County Representative
Angela Hill, Cass County Representative
Charles Jordan, General Public Representative

AAA staff present:

Jenny Butler, AAA Director
Magen Watters, AAA Program Specialist

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

A motion was made by Rhonda Rogers to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025, meeting. Motion was seconded by Paul Lindsey. All members present were in favor.

Budget Updates/AAA Updates/Area Plan 2027-2029:

Jenny Butler, AAA Director, shared that the AAA has received its carryforward Notification of Funding Award (NFA). The NFA includes funding for meals, health maintenance, residential repair, income support, emergency response, as well as evidence-based, homemaker and respite services. While this does not represent an increase in overall funding, the award was received earlier than in previous years, providing the AAA with greater flexibility to access and distribute the funds more effectively throughout the year.

Jenny commended ATCOG Finance Specialist, Callie-Anne Kennedy, who has been the AAA finance specialist since October 2025. Jenny highlighted Callie's hands-on approach in navigating the stricter state guidelines related to reimbursements and adjustments and noted

since receiving the carryforward funding, Callie has been actively incorporating it into the budget and allocating it across AAA services.

Rhonda Rogers, Vice-Chairperson and Lamar County Representative, asked whether the funding received for services such as residential repair is sufficient to meet the need. Jenny responded that there is consistently a high demand for residential repair services. She explained that the residential repairs provided by the AAA are generally limited to safety-related modifications, such as grab bars and ramps. The AAA has one contractor from Texarkana who installs grab bars and a great standing relationship with the Texas Ramp Project. Due to cost considerations, the AAA is able to assist a greater number of seniors with grab bar installations compared to more extensive repairs. Jenny also noted that the AAA provides information and referrals to additional resources for seniors whose repair needs fall outside the agency's scope of services.

Jenny shared information regarding The USDA Single Housing Repair Loans and Grants Program, also known as the Section 504 Home Repair Program. This program assists very low-income homeowners - particularly seniors aged 62 and older - in maintaining safe and livable homes. The program provides financial assistance for essential repairs and improvements, supporting seniors' ability to age in place safely and comfortably.

AAA Updates:

Jenny updated RAC members on the implementation of a new database introduced for all Texas Area Agencies on Aging on February 23, 2026. She noted that the transition has presented challenges across all AAAs as staff continue training on the new system. Issues have included data transfer difficulties and adjusting to a workflow-driven database, which differs significantly from the previous client-centered system. Despite these challenges, Jenny shared that she and AAA staff remain optimistic that the new database will ultimately benefit both clients and staff.

Area Plan 2027-2029:

Jenny updated RAC members on the success of survey that was approved during the last board meeting. The survey was distributed to a broad range of participant groups, including but not limited to clients, service providers, government officials, caregivers, social workers, and other community members. Jenny is currently working on finalizing the feedback collected to incorporate it into the Area Plan to help identify regional needs, set priorities, and guide service improvements.

Jenny also provided information on the Area Plan for 2027–2029, which is due to the Office of Area Agency on Aging by May 29, 2026. This year the Area Plan requires a 30-day public comment period in which Jenny may do a large press release to draw attention to the matter. She explained that the plan also requires approval from the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Board and the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Board. Due to the required

approval timeline, Jenny will schedule a special Zoom meeting for the RAC Board as soon as possible to formally approve the plan. Jenny plans to have the Ark-Tex Area Agency on Aging plan to closely align with the State plan to ensure all goals are met.

Announcements:

The Area Agency on Aging will hold the next Lunch and Learn in Texarkana on May 19, 2026. Shelly Shaw with Adult Protective Services will be the speaker. In June 2026 we will have the next Lunch and Learn in Paris, TX. Actual date TBD.

Jenny noted she is working on caregiver support and training events for professional and family caregivers and hopes to incorporate these trainings among our 9 counties.

Rhonda asked about the future RAC meeting dates and the dates were provided. Jenny noted the December 4th date may need to be moved due to a scheduling conflict with the ATCOG board meeting. Jenny will update RAC members if the date is changed.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Brenda Davis and seconded by Rhonda Rogers. The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 am. The next RAC meeting is Thursday, June 4, 2026.

Tammy Lawing, Chairperson

Date

Attest

Date

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 5:

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 revisions to the **policy and procedures manual** are being proposed to remove certain stipulations on holiday pay:

6.00 Leave

8.01 Holiday – General Policy

10.03 Workers' Compensation

Attachment B

The following revisions to the **policy and procedures manual** are being proposed to clarify rates to be used for reimbursing employees when using the personal vehicle option. These revisions also clarify when day travel should be reconciled and how to handle non-travel related expenses:

17.02 Day Travel

17.04 Overnight Travel

17.05 Overnight Travel Expense Reports

17.12 Non-Travel Expenses

Upon Board approval, the policy revisions will be distributed to all employees and added to our Policies and Procedures Manual.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval.

6.00 LEAVE

9. MAXIMUM DURATION OF LEAVE: The total cumulative maximum period of time which an employee may be absent from work on family and medical leave during any 12 month period is 12 weeks (26 weeks of leave for a family member or next of kin to care for a seriously injured or ill member of the Armed Forces), regardless of whether all or a portion of the leave period is paid or unpaid. If an employee has accrued sick leave, annual leave, or personal days at the time the family and medical leave commences, the employee must exhaust those balances before being eligible for unpaid family and medical leave. Once the employee's leave balances have been exhausted, ATCOG will then provide enough unpaid family leave to bring the cumulative total to 12 weeks. All annual, sick, comp, and leave without pay must be annotated on the employee's Time and Attendance Sheet under the appropriate leave column with the number of hours preceded by the letter, "F," e.g., F8. This is necessary since the FMLA requires employers to "keep and maintain records pertaining to compliance with the FMLA, which includes:

- a. basic payroll and identifying employee data, including name, address and occupation;
- b. rate or basis of pay in terms of compensation;
- c. daily and weekly hours worked per pay period;
- d. additions to or deductions from wages, and total compensation paid;
- e. dates FLMA is taken by employees (leave must be designated in the records as FMLA leave); and
- f. the hours of the leave, etc., if FMLA leave is taken in increments of less than one full day.

During the unpaid portion of an employee's family and medical leave period, the employee accrues no additional sick leave ~~or, annual leave, or any other paid leave time, including holiday leave.~~

8.01 GENERAL POLICY

Paid holidays are established by the ATCOG Board of Directors and will be observed as follows:

- New Year's Day January 1
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Third Monday in January
- Presidents' Day Third Monday in February
- Good Friday Friday before Easter Sunday
- Memorial Day Last Monday in May
- Juneteenth June 19
- Independence Day July 4
- Labor Day First Monday in September
- Veteran's Day November 11
- Thanksgiving Day Fourth Thursday in November
- Friday Following Thanksgiving Fourth Friday in November
- Christmas Eve December 24
- Christmas Day December 25
- Personal Day (2) Floating

Holidays are compensated at a standard rate of eight (8) hours. ~~An employee must either work or be in paid leave status the work day preceding and the work day following a holiday in order to receive pay for the holiday.~~ If a holiday occurs on Saturday, it will be observed the Friday before the holiday. If a holiday occurs on Sunday, it will be observed the Monday after the holiday. If one or both of the Christmas holidays occur on the weekend, the holidays will be observed as follows:

- If Christmas Eve is on Friday and Christmas Day is on Saturday, Christmas Day will be observed the Monday after the holiday.
- If Christmas Eve is on Saturday and Christmas Day is on Sunday, Christmas Eve will be observed the Friday before the holiday and Christmas Day will be observed the Monday after the holiday.
- If Christmas Eve is on Sunday and Christmas Day is on Monday, Christmas Eve will be observed the Friday before the holiday.

An employee who has completed his/her introductory period is entitled to take two eight (8) hour personal days on any day chosen by the employee. A personal day must be taken in its entirety and not split up.

10.06 WORKERS' COMPENSATION

3. Compensation.

a. If an employee sustains a work-related injury/illness which renders him unfit for performing the duties of the job, and if accrued sick leave is available, the employee is placed on sick leave status and receives full pay less legal deductions from ATCOG for the first seven (7) calendar days of disability.

b. After the initial seven (7) calendar days waiting period, an employee with accrued sick leave may elect to supplement his workers' compensation payments with sick leave payments from ATCOG provided the employee has an adequate balance of accrued sick leave. The supplemental sick leave pay from ATCOG will be in an amount that, when added to the workers' compensation payment, equals the employee's regular "take home" pay (that is, the employee's gross salary minus income tax, social security deductions, and any other deductions that are not applicable to the workers' compensation pay). The employee must request this option.

c. An employee receiving workers' compensation payments does not accrue vacation or sick leave. ~~and is not entitled to receive holiday pay.~~

ATTACHMENT B: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN DIRECT DELIVERY OF SERVICES

5. **Holidays:** Employees involved in the direct delivery of services may not be able to observe holidays on the day the holiday actually occurs. However, those employees will be given another day off with pay in lieu of the holiday as scheduling permits. The employee must take the make-up holiday within 30 days of the holiday or forfeit that holiday without compensation. The holiday may also be taken prior to the actual date within the current payroll period. ~~In addition, employees working alternate schedules must be in a paid leave status the scheduled work day before and the scheduled work day after a holiday in order to receive pay for the holiday.~~ Refer to **8.00 HOLIDAYS** of the Manual for the holidays observed by ATCOG and other policies pertaining to holidays.

17.02 DAY TRAVEL

2. When traveling by personal vehicle, mileage will be reimbursed at a rate up to the Internal Revenue rate for the average per mile cost of operation, unless otherwise specifically mandated by contract or funding agency. Any exception will be on a case-by-case basis and must be preapproved by the Executive Director. ATCOG **will not** reimburse for meal expenses unless an overnight stay is required. When the most economical option is traveling by rental vehicle but the traveler chooses to travel by personal vehicle, the traveler will be reimbursed the actual cost of a full sized car rental on the ATCOG rental account. In this situation, the traveler will be reimbursed for fuel expenses at a full sized car's average fuel economy rate of 21 miles per gallon at the price per gallon.

Reimbursement is limited to the cost of gasoline only, as a standard full sized rental car is a gasoline-powered vehicle. The price per gallon used for reimbursement calculation will be based on receipts supplied by the traveler, or may be verified using a fuel price comparison website. listed on the receipts supplied by traveler. To calculate, use the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{total miles traveled} \times \text{price per gallon}}{21 \text{ miles per gallon}} = \text{fuel reimbursement amount}$$

Day travel must be reconciled monthly for personal expense reimbursements and must be reconciled within 3 business days when direct bill expenses are incurred.

17.04 OVERNIGHT TRAVEL

4. Overnight travel by personal vehicle will be reimbursed at the lesser of actual mileage at current ATCOG mileage rate or the actual cost of airfare or rental vehicle at the most economical fares available. When two or more employees travel in a single vehicle, only the employee whose vehicle is being utilized will receive mileage reimbursements. When the most economical option is traveling by rental vehicle but the traveler chooses to travel by personal vehicle, the traveler will be reimbursed the actual cost of a full sized car rental on the ATCOG rental account. In this situation, the traveler will be reimbursed for fuel expenses at a full sized car average fuel economy rate of 21 miles per gallon.

Reimbursement is limited to the cost of gasoline only, as a standard full sized rental car is a gasoline-powered vehicle. The price per gallon used for reimbursement calculation will be based on receipts supplied by the traveler, or may be verified using a fuel price comparison website. at the price per gallon listed on the receipts supplied by traveler. To calculate, use the following formula:

total miles traveled x price per gallon = fuel reimbursement amount 21 miles per gallon
21 miles per gallon

17.05 OVERNIGHT TRAVEL EXPENSE REPORTS

3. The traveling employee must submit an Overnight Travel Expense Report form documenting actual expenses within 3 business days once travel is complete. as soon as possible once travel is complete. Failure to do so will result in the employee not being reimbursed for his or her expenses.

17.12 NON-TRAVEL EXPENSES

Non-travel related expenses incurred by an employee require pre-purchase approval authorizing the issuance of a purchase order. Reimbursement for actual cost must be submitted with all receipts attached. on a Requisition form authorizing issuance of a purchase order. Reimbursement for actual cost will be filed on a Disbursement Voucher that must be signed and approved as required, with the requisition form, yellow copy of the purchase order, and receipts attached.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-06

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING REVISIONS 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 ATCOG Board of Directors approves the attached revisions 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 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2026.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 6:

Review and consider authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an Interlocal agreement with The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard).

BACKGROUND:

Texas Government Code 791 Interlocal Cooperation Contracts allows for local governments, which includes Councils of Governments, to contract with one another and with agencies of the state to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local governments.

DISCUSSION:

ATCOG would like to enter into an interlocal agreement with The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard).

The purpose of The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard) Program shall be to improve procurement process efficiencies and assist in achieving best value for participating local governments, non-profits, and other political subdivisions.

The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard) will:

- Coordinate the Competitively Bid Process for all Vendor Awarded Contracts.
- Provide members with procedures for placing orders through the BuyBoard PO System.
- Maintain a filing system for Due Diligence Documentation.
- Collect fees from vendors to support the costs of operations of BuyBoard.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative

INTERLOCAL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

This Interlocal Participation Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative ("Cooperative"), an administrative agency of cooperating local governments, acting on its own behalf and the behalf of all participating local governments, and the undersigned local government of the State of Texas ("Cooperative Member").

I. RECITALS

WHEREAS, a local government entity is authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, to agree with other local government entities to form a purchasing cooperative; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative is further authorized as a local purchasing cooperative organization as set forth in Section 271.101, *et seq.*, of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate compliance with state procurement requirements, to identify qualified vendors of commodities, goods and services, to relieve the burdens of the governmental purchasing function, and to realize the various potential economies, including administrative cost savings, for Cooperative Members;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises and obligations contained herein, the undersigned Cooperative Member and the Cooperative agree as follows.

II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Adopt Organizational Interlocal Cooperation Agreement.** The Cooperative Member by the execution or acceptance of this Agreement hereby adopts and approves the Organizational Interlocal Agreement dated January 26, 1998, which agreement is incorporated herein by reference (and is available from the Cooperative upon request). The Organizational Interlocal Agreement established the Cooperative as an administrative agency of its collective participants, and Cooperative Member agrees to become a participant or additional party to that Organizational Interlocal Agreement.
- Term.** The initial term of this Agreement shall commence on the date it is executed by both parties and shall automatically renew for successive one-year terms unless sooner terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. If the Cooperative Member is an existing Cooperative Member that joined the Cooperative by executing a participation agreement which authorized amendment upon the Cooperative providing 60 days notice, then this Agreement will be deemed an Amendment by Notice, which will be effective on the 61st day that the Cooperative Member is sent notice of this document. In addition, this Agreement will continue to automatically renew for successive one-year terms on the anniversary date of the Cooperative Member's initial term (not the effective date of the Amendment by Notice), unless the Agreement is sooner terminated in accordance with the provisions herein

3. Termination.

- (a) **By the Cooperative Member.** This Agreement may be terminated by the Cooperative Member at any time by thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Cooperative, provided any amounts owed to the Cooperative and any vendor have been fully paid.
- (b) **By the Cooperative.** The Cooperative may terminate this Agreement by:
 - (1) Giving ten (10) days notice by certified mail to the Cooperative Member if the Cooperative Member breaches this Agreement; or
 - (2) Giving thirty (30) days notice by certified mail to the Cooperative Member with or without cause.
- (c) **Termination Procedure.** If the Cooperative Member terminates its participation under this Agreement or breaches this Agreement, or if the Cooperative terminates participation of the Cooperative Member, the Cooperative Member shall bear the full financial responsibility for all of its purchases made from vendors under or through this Agreement. The Cooperative may seek the whole amount due, if any, from the terminated Cooperative Member. In addition, the Cooperative Member agrees it will neither be entitled to a refund of any membership dues paid nor a distribution which may occur after the Cooperative Member terminates from the Cooperative.

4. Payments by Cooperative Member.

- (a) The Cooperative Member agrees to pay membership fees as may be required by the Cooperative. The Cooperative will provide the Cooperative Member with 60 days prior written notice of any change in the membership fee before such fee becomes effective. Membership fees are payable by Cooperative Member within 30 days of receipt of an invoice from the Cooperative or its designee, unless otherwise provided by law. A late charge amounting to the maximum interest allowed by law, but not less than the rate of interest under Section 2251.021, *et seq.*, Texas Government Code, shall begin to accrue daily on the 46th day following the due date and continue to accrue until the membership fees and late charges are paid in full. The Cooperative reserves the right to collect all funds that are due to the Cooperative in the event of termination by Cooperative Member or breach of this Agreement by Cooperative Member.
- (b) In addition to membership fees, the Cooperative Member will make timely payments to the vendor for the goods, materials and services received in accordance with the terms and conditions of the bid invitation, instructions, and all other applicable procurement documents. Payment for goods, materials and services and inspections and acceptance of goods, materials and services ordered by the procuring Cooperative Member shall be the exclusive obligation of the procuring Cooperative Member, and not the Cooperative. Furthermore, the Cooperative Member is solely responsible for negotiating and securing ancillary agreements from the vendor on such other terms and conditions, including provisions relating to insurance or bonding, that the Cooperative Member deems necessary or desirable under state or local law, local policy or rule, or within its business judgment.

5. **Payments by Vendors.** The parties agree that the Cooperative will require payment from vendors which are selected to provide goods, materials or services to Cooperative Members. Such payment (hereafter "Vendor Fees") may be up to two percent (2%) of the purchase price paid by Cooperative Members or a flat fee amount that may be set from time to time by the Cooperative Board of Trustees. Cooperative Member agrees that these Vendor Fees fairly compensate the Cooperative for the services and functions performed under this Agreement and that these Vendor Fees enable the Cooperative to pay the administrative, endorsement, licensing, marketing, and other expenses involved in successfully operating a program of electronic commerce for the Cooperative Members. Further, Cooperative Member affirmatively disclaims any rights to such Vendor Fees, acknowledging all such fees are the property of the Cooperative. Similarly, in no event shall a Cooperative Member be responsible for payment of Vendor Fees.
6. **Distribution.** From time to time, and at the sole discretion of the Cooperative Board of Trustees, the Cooperative may issue a distribution to Cooperative Members under a plan developed by the Cooperative Board of Trustees. Cooperative Member acknowledges that a distribution is never guaranteed and will depend on the overall financial condition of the Cooperative at the time of the distribution and the purchases made by the Cooperative Member.
7. **Administration.** The Cooperative may enter into contracts with others, including non-profit associations, for the administration, operation and sponsorship of the purchasing program provided by this Agreement. The Cooperative will provide reports, at least annually, to the Cooperative Member electronically or by mail. Cooperative Member will report purchase orders generated under this Agreement to the Cooperative or its designee, in accordance with instructions of the Cooperative.
8. **BuyBoard®.** Cooperative Member will have a non-exclusive license to use the BuyBoard electronic purchasing application during the term of this Agreement. Cooperative Member acknowledges and agrees that the BuyBoard electronic application and trade name are owned by the Texas Association of School Boards, Inc. and that neither the Cooperative nor the Cooperative Member has any proprietary rights in the BuyBoard electronic application or trade name. Cooperative Member will not attempt to resell, rent, or otherwise distribute any part of the BuyBoard to any other party; nor will it attempt to modify the BuyBoard programs on the server or acquire the programming code. Cooperative Member may not attempt to modify, adapt, translate, distribute, reverse engineer, decompile, or disassemble any component of the application. Cooperative Member will use the BuyBoard in accordance with instructions from the Cooperative (or its designee) and will discontinue use upon termination of participation in the Cooperative. Cooperative Member will maintain equipment, software and conduct testing to operate the BuyBoard system at its own expense.

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. **Amendment by Notice.** The Board may amend this Agreement, provided that prior written notice is sent to the Cooperative Member at least 60 days prior to the effective date of any change described in such amendment and provided that the Cooperative Member does not terminate its participation in the Cooperative before the expiration of said 60 days.

2. **Authorization to Participate and Compliance with Local Policies.** Each Cooperative Member represents and warrants that its governing body has duly authorized its participation in the Cooperative and that the Cooperative Member will comply with all state and local laws and policies pertaining to purchasing of goods and services through its membership in the Cooperative.
3. **Bylaws.** The Cooperative Member agrees to abide by the Bylaws of the Cooperative, as they may be amended, and any and all written policies and procedures established by the Cooperative.
4. **Cooperation and Access.** The Cooperative Member agrees that it will cooperate in compliance with any reasonable requests for information and/or records made by the Cooperative. The Cooperative reserves the right to audit the relevant records of any Cooperative Member. Any breach of this provision shall be considered material and shall make the Agreement subject to termination on ten (10) days written notice to the Cooperative Member.
5. **Coordinator.** The Cooperative Member agrees to appoint a program coordinator who shall have express authority to represent and bind the Cooperative Member, and the Cooperative will not be required to contact any other individual regarding program matters. Any notice to or any agreements with the coordinator shall be binding upon the Cooperative Member. The Cooperative Member reserves the right to change the coordinator as needed by giving written notice to the Cooperative. Such notice is not effective until actually received by the Cooperative.
6. **Current Revenue.** The Cooperative Member hereby warrants that all payments, fees, and disbursements required of it hereunder shall be made from current revenues budgeted and available to the Cooperative Member.
7. **Defense and Prosecution of Claims.** The Cooperative Member authorizes the Cooperative to regulate the commencement, defense, intervention, or participation in a judicial, administrative, or other governmental proceeding or in an arbitration, mediation, or any other form of alternative dispute resolution, or other appearances of the Cooperative in any litigation, claim or dispute which arises from the services provided by the Cooperative on behalf of its members, collectively or individually. Neither this provision nor any other provision in this Agreement will create a legal duty for the Cooperative to provide a defense or prosecute a claim; rather, the Cooperative may exercise this right in its sole discretion and to the extent permitted or authorized by law. The Cooperative Member shall reasonably cooperate and supply any information necessary or helpful in such prosecution or defense. Subject to specific revocation, the Cooperative Member hereby designates the Cooperative to act as a class representative on its behalf in matters arising out of this Agreement.
8. **Governance.** The Board of Trustees (Board) will govern the Cooperative in accordance with the Bylaws.

9. **Jurisdiction/Venue.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and, to the extent permitted by law, venue for all disputes arising under this Agreement shall lie in Travis County, Texas.
10. **Legal Authority.** The Cooperative Member represents and warrants to the Cooperative the following:
- (a) It meets the definition of “Local Government” or “State Agency” under the Interlocal Cooperation Act (“Act”), Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code.
 - (b) The functions and services to be performed under the Agreement will be limited to “Administrative Functions” as defined in the Act, which includes purchasing.
 - (c) It possesses the legal authority to enter into this Agreement and can allow this Agreement to automatically renew without subsequent action of its governing body.
 - (d) Purchases made under this Agreement will satisfy all procedural procurement requirements that the Cooperative Member must meet under all applicable local policy, regulation, or state law.
 - (e) All requirements – local or state – for a third party to approve, record or authorize the Agreement have been met.
11. **Disclaimer.** THE COOPERATIVE, ITS ENDORSERS (TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, INC., TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, AND TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE) AND SERVICING CONTRACTOR (TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, INC.) DO NOT WARRANT THAT THE OPERATION OR USE OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES WILL BE UNINTERRUPTED OR ERROR FREE.
- THE COOPERATIVE, ITS ENDORSERS AND SERVICING CONTRACTORS, HEREBY DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN REGARD TO ANY INFORMATION, PRODUCT OR SERVICE FURNISHED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY AND ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
12. **Limitation of Liability.** Without waiver of the disclaimer or other limitation of liability in this Agreement, the parties agree that:
- (a) Neither party waives any immunity from liability afforded under law;
 - (b) In regard to any lawsuit or formal adjudication arising out of or relating to this Agreement, neither party shall be liable to the other under any circumstance for special, incidental, consequential, or exemplary damages;

- (c) The maximum amount of damages recoverable will be limited to the amount of fees which the Cooperative received as a direct result of the Cooperative Member's membership fee and purchase activity, within 24 months of when the lawsuit or action was filed; and
- (d) In the event of a lawsuit or formal adjudication the prevailing party will be entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to Section 271.159 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Without waiver of the disclaimer or other limitation of liability in this Agreement, the parties further agree to limit the liability of the Cooperative's servicing contractor, endorsers and sponsors (including, but not limited to, the Texas Association of School Boards, Inc., Texas Association of Counties, Texas Municipal League, and educational service centers) up to the maximum amount each received from or through the Cooperative, as a direct result of the undersigned Cooperative Member's membership fee and purchase activity, within 24 months of the filing of any lawsuit or action.

- 13. **Limitation of Rights.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, nothing in this Agreement, is intended to confer upon any person, other than the parties hereto, any benefits, rights, or remedies under or by reason of this Agreement.
- 14. **Merger/Entirety.** This Agreement, together with the Cooperative's Bylaws and Organizational Interlocal Agreement, represents the complete understanding of the Cooperative and Cooperative Member. To the extent there exists any conflict between the terms of this Agreement and that of prior agreements, the terms of this Agreement shall control and take precedence over all prior participation agreements.
- 15. **Notice.** Any written notice to the Cooperative shall be made by first class mail, postage prepaid, and delivered to the BuyBoard Administrator, Texas Association of School Boards, Inc., P.O. Box 400, Austin, Texas 78767-0400. Notices to Cooperative Member may be made by first class mail, postage prepaid, and delivered to the Cooperative Member's Coordinator or chief executive officer (e.g., superintendent, city manager, county judge or mayor).
- 16. **Severability.** If any portion of this Agreement shall be declared illegal or held unenforceable for any reason, the remaining portions shall continue in full force and effect.
- 17. **Signatures/Counterparts.** The failure of a party to provide an original, manually executed signature to the other party will not affect the validity, enforceability or binding effect of this Agreement because either party may rely upon a facsimile signature as if it were an original. Furthermore, this Agreement may be executed in several separate counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.
- 18. **Warranty.** By the execution and delivery of this Agreement, the undersigned individuals warrant that they have been duly authorized by all requisite administrative action required to enter into and perform the terms of this Agreement.

[Signature page follows.]



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties, acting through their duly authorized representatives, accept this Agreement.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE COOPERATIVE:

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASING COOPERATIVE,
as acting on behalf of all other Cooperative Members

By: _____ Date: _____
Dan Troxell, Ph.D., Secretary

TO BE COMPLETED BY COOPERATIVE MEMBER:

[Signature required unless accepted as an Amendment by Notice as described in the Agreement.]

(Name of Local Government)

By: _____ Date: _____
Signature of authorized representative of Cooperative Member

Printed name and title of authorized representative

Coordinator (Program Contact) for the Cooperative Member is:

Name

Title

Mailing Address

City
Texas, _____
(zip)

Telephone

Email



BOARD RESOLUTION

of

(Name of Local Government)

Cooperative Member

WHEREAS, the above-named entity (hereinafter “Cooperative Member”) desires to participate in a local government cooperative purchasing program pursuant to the authority granted by Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, the Interlocal Cooperation Act (“Act”) and has elected to be a Cooperative Member in The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (hereinafter “Cooperative”), a local government purchasing cooperative program created by local governments in accordance with and pursuant to the Act and Section 271.101, *et seq.*, of the Texas Local Government Code;

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Member, is of the opinion that participation in the Cooperative’s purchasing program will be highly beneficial through the efficiencies and potential savings to be realized; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Member has reviewed the Interlocal Participation Agreement (“Agreement”) and seeks to adopt such Agreement in order to become a member of, and participate in, the Cooperative;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board of Trustees hereby adopts the above-referenced Agreement as presented, thereby becoming a member of The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative; and
2. The Board of Trustees of the Cooperative Member authorizes its Board President, Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee to execute the Interlocal Participation Agreement which includes the adoption and approval of the Organizational Interlocal Agreement previously executed and adopted by two or more local governments.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Board as of the following date:

_____.

President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Trustees

RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-12

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASING COOPERATIVE (BUYBOARD).

WHEREAS, Texas Government Code 791 Interlocal Cooperation Contracts allows for local governments, which include Councils of Governments, to contract with one another and with agencies of the state to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local governments; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG would like to enter into an interlocal agreement with The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard) shall be to improve procurement process efficiencies and assist in achieving best value for participating Local Governments, Non-Profits, and Other Political Subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree to comply fully with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in connection with the program.

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

- Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director to enter into an interlocal agreement The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard).
- 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 interlocal agreement.
- 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 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2026

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 7:

Review and consider approval of prioritization of 2026 Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

BACKGROUND:

The State instructed regions to use allocation averages from the last three years as a guide for this year's funding. A funding allocation amount of \$230,000 was used as the estimated allocation amount. ATCOG has submitted roughly \$406,712.79 in projects. Once the Federal guidance is released from FEMA and the State determines each region's allocation, the State will review each jurisdiction's project individually and approve or disapprove each one.

DISCUSSION:

The Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) met on March 31, 2026, and reviewed the 2026 funding requests. Projects were submitted in numerous categories, such as Regional Planning, Interoperable Communications, Intelligence Information Sharing, and First Responder Capabilities. The HSAC scored the projects via ballot based on risk, reasonableness, and priority level. The HSAC approved the prioritization of the 2026 Homeland Security Grant Program funds on March 31, 2026. The proposed 2026 funding distribution list will be provided at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-07

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) WITH APPROVAL OF THE PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS FOR 2026 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS.

WHEREAS, the ATCOG Board of Directors must approve the prioritization of the Homeland Security projects prior to submission to the Public Safety Office; and

WHEREAS, only jurisdictions that meet the 2026 Homeland Security Grant Program requirements are eligible to receive these funds.

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

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors approves the prioritization of projects for 2026 Homeland Security Grant Program 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 prioritization of projects for 2026 Homeland Security Grant Program 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 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 8:

Review and consider authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with The Cambridge Group (TCG Investments LLC) to install dispatch consoles with accessories in Lamar County.

BACKGROUND:

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

DISCUSSION:

ATCOG Homeland Security Program utilized The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard) to obtain a quote from Air Waves Communications Inc., an authorized designated dealer under The Cambridge Group (TCG Investments LLC), to purchase/install the following:

- Zetron Maz Dispatch consoles with accessories (including 12 Kenwood NX5700k VHF Control radios and 12 Kenwood NX5800K UHF Control Radios)

The estimated total for the purchase and installation of consoles with accessories in Lamar County is \$317,804.56. The grant will cover expenses up to \$320,000.00. Expenses exceeding \$320,000.00 will be the responsibility of Lamar County.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-08

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE CAMBRIDGE GROUP (TCG INVESTMENTS LLC) TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL DISPATCH CONSOLES WITH ACCESSORIES FOR LAMAR COUNTY.

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Management Coordinator in Lamar County evaluated their communication systems and determined what radio infrastructure equipment was needed to enhance/sustain their communication systems; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG Homeland Security Program utilized The Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard) to obtain a quote from The Cambridge Group; and

WHEREAS, all federal, state, and local regulations were followed during the procurement process.

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

- Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a contract with The Cambridge Group (TCG Investments LLC) to purchase/install dispatch consoles and accessories in Lamar County for an estimated total of \$317,804.56.
- 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 contract.
- 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 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

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

ATTEST:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-01

RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHEAST TEXAS HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (HFC) AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE AS A DIRECTOR ON THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WHEREAS, the Northeast Texas Finance Housing Corporation is a corporation of the State of Texas with the powers and authorities specified in Chapter 394 of the Texas Local Government Code of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) is a political subdivision of the State of Texas pursuant to the authority granted by Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code (formerly Article 1011m, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas), and the Arkansas Interlocal Cooperation Act 430, an Interstate Regional Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG serves the Northeast Texas and Southwest Arkansas region that is comprised of nine (9) counties in Texas and one (1) in Arkansas, and includes cities, counties, school districts, and special districts with membership open to all interested governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG is governed by a Board of Directors, and state law requires that this governing body be composed primarily of local government elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Texas HFC is governed by an elected Board of Directors and is allowed one (1) position on the ATCOG Board from its governing body; and

WHEREAS, the general purpose of ATCOG is to plan for the unified, far-reaching development of the region, eliminate duplication of services, and promote economy and efficiency through coordination.

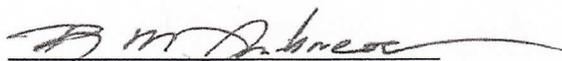
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTHEAST TEXAS HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION THAT:

The Northeast Texas Housing Finance Corporation will fulfill the requirements to become a member in good standing with the Ark-Tex Council of Governments; and

L. D. Williamson is hereby appointed to serve as a Representative on the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Board of Directors.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

ATTEST:



Richard M. Anderson



L.D. Williamson, President
Northeast Texas Finance Housing Corporation

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 10:

Review and consider approval of the representative as a replacement member to serve on the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) through December 31, 2027.

BACKGROUND:

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 or a replacement is necessary during the two-year term, a new appointment shall be presented to the ATCOG Board of Directors/Executive Committee for approval to fulfill the need.

DISCUSSION:

ATCOG is required to have a member representing the education category on the RCJAC.

- Education Category - Hayes Leshar, Principal, Mt. Pleasant ISD DAEP Campus.

Ronnie Humphrey, the Mt. Pleasant ISD Police Chief, who has served under the law enforcement category (instead of the education category, per the Office of the Governor-Public Safety Office), has agreed to forgo his membership in order to allow Hayes Leshar, Principal of the Mt. Pleasant ISD DAEP campus, to serve in his place and fill the required category of education.

Mr. Hayes Leshar has agreed to serve.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-09

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RCJAC) MEMBER FOR THE 2026/2027 TERM, TO SERVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2027.

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations of the Office of the Governor-Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division require that the RCJAC, representing the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) region, be maintained by ATCOG Criminal Justice staff; and

WHEREAS, according to the RCJAC Bylaws, RCJAC terms of membership shall be two years, and members may be reappointed to serve additional terms.

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

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors approves the RCJAC replacement member to serve through December 31, 2027.

Hayes Leshner – Education Category

Section 2- In the event that there is an RCJAC member vacancy or a replacement is necessary during 2026/2027, a new appointment shall be presented to the ATCOG Board of Directors/Executive Committee for approval to fulfill the need.

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 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 11:

CCH Eligibility Requirement for all FY2027 grant applications:

- 1) In order for an applicant to be eligible for FY27 grant funding through the Office of the Governor-Public Safety Office (OOG/PSO), the county (or counties) in which the applicant is located must have a 90% average on both adult and juvenile criminal history dispositions to the Texas Department of Public Safety for calendar years 2020 through 2024. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system. See percentages as of March 23, 2026, in the table below.

This OOG/PSO requirement must be met by August 1, 2026.

- 2) Beginning January 1, 2021, counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90 percent of convictions and other dispositions ***within five business days*** to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety. ****All ATCOG counties are in compliance with this portion of the requirement.***

As of March 23, 2026	Adult criminal history disposition completeness avg.	Juvenile criminal history disposition completeness avg.
Bowie	96	99
Cass	89	98
Delta	91	100
Franklin	91	100
Hopkins	97	100
Lamar	92	87
Morris	92	100
Red River	91	100
Titus	88	85

CCH Compliance Contact:

Jaclyn Hambright
DPS Region 1 Field Auditor
(512)424-7614 (desk)
(512)217-4893 (cell)
jaclyn.hambright@dps.texas.gov

RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-10

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) AUTHORIZING RECOGNITION OF APRIL AS NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH.

WHEREAS, ATCOG is a political subdivision of the State of Texas serving Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus counties; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG administers U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development programs in Bowie, Cass, Camp, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, Upshur, Titus, and Wood counties; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG recognizes the importance of fair housing as a fundamental right for all individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act of April 11, 1968, prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, and was later amended to include protections for people with disabilities and families with children; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG is committed to promoting equal housing opportunities and ensuring that all participants within our jurisdiction have access to safe, affordable, and fair housing; and

WHEREAS, April has been nationally recognized as Fair Housing Month to commemorate the passage of the Fair Housing Act and to reaffirm our commitment to eliminating housing discrimination; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG encourages local governments, businesses, and community organizations to uphold fair housing principles and support initiatives that foster inclusive and diverse communities.

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

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors hereby declares the month of April 2026 to be National Fair Housing Month.

Section 2 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors encourage all local governments to sign a similar resolution.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

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

ATTEST:

RESOLUTION NO. ABD26-11

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) AUTHORIZING RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK.

WHEREAS, the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) is a political subdivision of the State serving Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus, Texas counties, and Miller County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG is committed to providing a high-quality emergency communications system to the residents of the region; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG recognizes the professional and unending services of the telecommunicators who answer 9-1-1 calls on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the 9-1-1 telecommunicators are the link between people calling for help in an emergency situation and the emergency response agencies who arrive on the scene; and

WHEREAS, the 9-1-1 telecommunicators are the true backbone of the 9-1-1 system; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has historically acknowledged the second week of April as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

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

Section 1 - That, on behalf of the telecommunicators in the ATCOG region, the ATCOG Board of Directors hereby declares the week of April 12-18, 2026, to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Section 2 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors encourages all local governments to sign a similar resolution and all 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Centers to celebrate this week with appropriate activities and commemorations.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 1ST DAY OF APRIL, 2026.

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

ATTEST:
