MINUTES
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 24, 2026

The Executive Committee of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 24, 2026, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

1. Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center, called the meeting to order.

2. Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County, gave the invocation.

3. Public Comment.

   No members of the public made comments.

4. The next order of business was to review and approve the consent agenda items.

   - Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday, April 30, 2026.

   - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council meeting held Thursday, September 3, 2026.

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

5. Ms. Leslie McBride, Deputy Director, presented for review and approval of the utilization of ATCOG's indirect cost rate for ATCOG employees working on behalf of the Texarkana Urban Transit District (TUTD).

   In accordance with requirements set by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), the ATCOG Board is required to grant the Texarkana Urban Transit District authorization to utilize ATCOG's Certificate of Indirect Cost rate.

   "TUTD is "piggybacking" off ATCOG's rate because ATCOG has signed a contract with TUTD to provide service; therefore, ATCOG's board should give TUTD permission to charge an indirect cost rate. ATCOG gets their indirect cost rate from their cognizant agency, so TUTD cannot charge more than ATCOG is allowed. ATCOG needs to provide TUTD a Certificate of Indirect Cost approval letter that states that the board has given TUTD authority to use ##% indirect cost for the period of ____ to ____ and must be signed by the President."

   ATCOG has developed an Indirect Cost Proposal (ICP) following 2 CRF 200, Appendix VII D.1.b and certified to the validity of the Indirect Cost Proposal/Cost Allocation Plan in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200. The indirect cost rate for Oct. 1, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2027, is 21.36%.

   Ms. Rudel reported that ATCOG received the indirect cost rate and benefits rate from Texas Health and Human Services. These rates, which were included in the FY2027 Financial Plan submitted to and approved by the ATCOG Board in August, align with the indirect cost rates established by Texas Health and Human Services.

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

6. Ms. Debbie Purifoy presented for review and approval of an interlocal agreement with Purchasing Solutions Alliance (PSA).

   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.

   ATCOG would like to enter into an interlocal agreement with Purchasing Solutions Alliance (PSA). The Purchasing Solutions Alliance (PSA) Program is to improve procurement process efficiency and help participating local governments, non-profits, and other political subdivisions achieve best value.

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

7. Ms. Rea Allen presented for review and approval of a contract with OnShore IT.

   ATCOG utilized the Purchasing Solutions Alliance (PSA) to obtain a quote from OnShore IT for the following:

   Provide full end-to-end comprehensive network and security managed services with a 24/7/365 four-hour response Service Level Agreement (SLA), including network engineering support and troubleshooting, performance tuning and capacity planning, centralized Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA)/Virtual Private Network (VPN) access controls with Multifactor Authentication (MFA) and usage tracking, proactive patch management and emergency security updates, incident and problem management, ongoing reporting and analysis, hardware inventory management, support contract management for network firewalls, routers, and switches, and advanced automation.

   The total regional network provisioning contract provides five years of support at $53,040 per year, totaling $265,200, plus a one-time setup fee of $5,500, for an estimated total of $270,700.

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

8. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented for review and approval to reschedule the ATCOG Executive Committee meeting on February 25, 2027, to an alternate date.

   The Northeast Texas Legislative Summit is set for Wednesday, February 25, 2027. This conflicts with the scheduled ATCOG Executive Committee meeting. After discussion, the committee recommended moving the Executive Committee meeting to Thursday, March 4, 2027.

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

9. Mr. Nathan Carroll, District Coordinator 5 of Region 3, of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, provided a presentation regarding emergency management within the State of Texas and the ATCOG region.

10. Following the announcements, Scott Norton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Judge Reeder and seconded by Judge Lee. It was approved. Meeting adjourned.

Announcements

Ms. Rudel announced the Workforce CEO meeting to be held immediately following their meeting. All Judges were asked to 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 that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2026, 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
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Brad Cecil, Executive Director, Northeast Texas Regional Advisory Council
Juan Duenez, Board of Trustees, Mt. Pleasant Independent School District
Becky Fellers, Board of Trustees, Liberty Eylau Independent School District
Wesley Lyon, Mayor, City of Mt. Pleasant
Dana Reeves, General Manager, Franklin County Water District

GUESTS PRESENT
Nathan Carroll, Texas Department of Emergency Management
April Corbit, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
Seth Cox, Commissioner, Delta County & NETEDD Board Member
Claribel Banda, Mt. Pleasant Economic Development Corporation
Matt Holloway, Texas Department of Emergency Management
Janeth Moreno, Mt. Pleasant Economic Development Corporation
Tiffany Pate, Texas Department of Emergency Management
Bart Spivey, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
Robert Vine, City Manager, City of Mt. Pleasant
Ray Wilson, Office of Senator Bryan Hughes

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director
Daneshia Cherry, Housing Director
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Coordinator
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer

[redacted]

Doug Reeder, President
Board of Directors
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST:

[redacted]

Board of Directors
Ark-Tex Council of Governments