

Other Business

Item 8. Computerized Criminal History System (CCH) Update. (See page 15; to be presented by staff member Patricia Haley)

Announcements

The next ATCOG Board of Directors meeting will be held on March 30, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 2nd Floor, located at 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, as well as via teleconference/webinar.

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 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 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 available 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.

**JOINT MINUTES
NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, AND
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 26, 2023**

The Northeast Texas Economic Development District (NETEDD) and the Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Executive Committee met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 26, 2023, at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 2nd Floor, located at 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mount Pleasant, Texas, and via teleconference/webinar.

Item 1. Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County, called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. At this time the Committee introduced themselves.

Item 4. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

NETEDD Agenda Items

Item 5. The first order of business was to review and consider approval for the minutes as submitted for the NETEDD meeting held Thursday, September 29, 2022.

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

Item 6. Chris Brown, Executive Director, presented for review and consideration to authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Carollo Engineers, Inc to provide consultation services for a population study.

Mr. Brown stated that a population study and projections would assist ATCOG with various data needs; housing, community development, pandemic and emergency response, economic development, and other potential needs.

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

This concluded all NETEDD agenda items.

ATCOG Executive Committee Agenda Items

Item 7. Chris Brown, Executive Director, presented the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Executive Committee meeting held Thursday, August 25, 2022, via teleconference/webinar.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the Ark-Tex Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council meeting held Thursday, December 1, 2022, via teleconference/webinar.

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

Review and Comment

- Item 8. Mr. Brown presented, for information only, the Executive Director Report. He reviewed the indirect finance reports and explained that the overall budget percentages align with the fiscal year. Mr. Brown provided updates and statistics for all ATCOG programs.

Mr. Brown reported that ATCOG must have an interlocal agreement with its cities and counties within the region to provide Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant writing assistance. This agreement will not prohibit the cities and counties from using an alternate grant writing source. However, an interlocal agreement is required for ATCOG to provide grant writing services. ATCOG will email a resolution template to its cities and counties.

Regular Business

- Item 9. Ms. Toni Lindsey presented for review and consideration approval of the submission of a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Rural Business Development Grant Revolving Loan Fund.

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

- Item 10. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for review and consideration approval authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Sparklight Advertising to provide region-wide digital advertising.

Ms. Rudel stated that the digital advertising campaign would replace billboard advertising. The new campaign would cost a total of \$50,000 for a 12-month campaign and provide a broader reach.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Mr. Scott Norton, CEO/Executive Director, TexAmericas. It was approved.

- Item 11. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and consideration approval of the submission of a grant to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division for the Purchase of Juvenile Justice Services Project for FY2024.

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

- Item 12. Ms. Haley presented for review and consideration approval for the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division to provide regional law enforcement training in the ATCOG region for FY2024 and FY2025.

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

- Item 13. Mr. Mark Compton presented for review and consideration approval of the purchase of six (6) ADA minivans for ATCOG service expansion of non-emergency medical transportation.

Mr. Compton stated that the six (6) Chrysler Voyager Minivans would cost \$523,668.00 (\$87,278.00 each). TxDOT has approved ATCOG to make the purchase using 5311 federal funding. The vehicles will be purchased through a State contract.

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

Announcements

Mr. Chris Brown announced that the Northeast Texas Regional Alliance 2023 Legislative Summit & Reception is scheduled to be held on March 1, 2023, in Austin, Texas. The Final agenda will be distributed soon. An informational flyer was provided to the Board.

Mr. Brown announced that the NADO Washington Policy Conference would be held on March 12-15, 2023, in Arlington, Virginia. A draft agenda was provided to the Board.

Judge Howell announced that the Workforce CEOs meeting would be held immediately following the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting.

Lastly, Judge Howell announced that the next Executive Committee meeting would be held on February 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 2nd Floor, located at 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, as well as via teleconference/webinar.

With no further business, Judge Howell adjourned the meeting.

NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville
Stan Wyatt, NETX Municipal Water District Board

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville
Stan Wyatt, NETX Municipal Water District Board

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
Harold Martin, Mayor, City of Queen City
Harold Nash, Councilman, Sulphur Springs
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb

GUESTS PRESENT

Sara Butler, Office of United States Senator John Cornyn
April Corbit, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
KiAnn Richardson, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
Randy Reed, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
Ray Wilson, Office of United States Senator Bryan Hughes

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Brown, Executive Director
Jenny Butler, Areas Agency on Aging Manager
Mark Compton, Transportation Director
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator

Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Melody Harmon, Economic Development Manager
Mae Lewis, Housing Director
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Manager
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Leslie McBride, Human Resources Director
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Lisa Reeve, Area Agency on Aging Director
Mary Beth Rudel, Deputy Director
Melinda Tickle, Finance Director

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 5:

Review and consider approval of the submission of the following applications for FY23 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant funds through the Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grant Division.

BACKGROUND:

The State requires that each applicant submit a resolution with the application for funding, signifying that the applicant's governing body approves of the agency applying for the funding and is willing to abide by the grant requirements.

DISCUSSION:

ATCOG will be applying for three projects under the SHSP grant program.

- ATCOG is applying for funding in the amount of \$96,000 for the ATCOG Planning, Training, and Exercises project. This project will cover a 12-month period and include salary for two positions (Homeland Security Coordinator and Finance Specialist), employee benefits, office rent, postage, copying expenses, office telephone, and ATCOG indirect expenses, as well as travel for training and State/Regional meetings, and annual contracts for regional support (regional mass notification system, WebEOC, and EOC support equipment). This project will provide planning, training, and exercise services related to prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery from terrorist activities for the nine-county region.
- ATCOG will be applying for funding in the amount of \$76,000 for the ATCOG Regional Law Enforcement Planning and Training project. This project will cover a 12-month period. Budget items include \$76,000 in instructor fees to host training for law enforcement officers in the ATCOG region as well as salary and benefits for two positions (Homeland Security Coordinator and Criminal Justice Coordinator). This project will only be funded or partially funded if ATCOG does not meet its LETPA requirement of 35%.
- Lastly, ATCOG is applying for funding in the amount of \$170,511 for the ATCOG Cybersecurity Enhancements project. This project will cover a 12-month period. The budget includes software licensing, cybersecurity training, security camera systems, and risk assessment consultations. This project is part of the competitive national priority categories and funding. This project will not affect funds from ATCOG's regional allocation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. AEC23-06

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FY23 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT DIVISION.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the ATCOG Region that the ATCOG Planning, Training, and Exercise project be operated from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, matching funds for the project will be provided as required by the Office of the Governor if applicable; and

WHEREAS, in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director, as the grantee's authorized official, is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

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

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Executive Committee approves the submission of an application for FY23 State Homeland Security Program grant funds through the Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grant Division.

Section 2 - That the Executive Director, Chris Brown, has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to the submission of the application for FY23 State Homeland Security Program grant funds through the Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grant Division.

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 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

RESOLUTION NO. AEC23-07

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FY23 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT DIVISION.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the ATCOG Region that the ATCOG Regional Law Enforcement Planning and Training project be operated from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, matching funds for the project will be provided as required by the Office of the Governor if applicable; and

WHEREAS in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director as the grantee's authorized official and is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

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

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Executive Committee approves the submission of an application for FY23 State Homeland Security Program grant funds through the Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grant Division.

Section 2 - That the Executive Director, Chris Brown, has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to the submission of the application for FY23 State Homeland Security Program grant funds through the Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grant Division.

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 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

RESOLUTION NO. AEC23-08

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FY23 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT DIVISION.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the ATCOG Region that the ATCOG Cyber-security Enhancement project be operated from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, matching funds for the project will be provided as required by the Office of the Governor if applicable; and

WHEREAS, in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director, as the grantee's authorized official, is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

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

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Executive Committee approves the submission of an application for FY23 State Homeland Security Program grant funds through the Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grant Division.

Section 2 - That the Executive Director, Chris Brown, has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to the submission of the application for FY23 State Homeland Security Program grant funds through the Office of the Governor Homeland Security Grant Division.

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 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 6:

Review and consider approval of prioritization of 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

BACKGROUND:

The State instructed regions to use allocation averages from the last 3 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 \$483,253 in projects. Once the Federal guidance is released from FEMA and the State determines each region's allocation, the State will then review each jurisdiction's project individually and approve or disapprove each one.

DISCUSSION:

The Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) met on February 16, 2023, and reviewed the 2023 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 proposed 2023 funding distribution list is being provided at the meeting. The Homeland Security Advisory Committee approved this item on February 16, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. AEC23-09

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS FOR 2023 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS.

WHEREAS, only jurisdictions that meet the 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program requirements are eligible to receive these funds; and

WHEREAS, the projects were prioritized based on the allocation process previously approved by the ATCOG Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Homeland Security Advisory Committee reviewed the projects submitted and recommended the attached prioritization of projects for approval; and

WHEREAS, the ATCOG Executive Committee must approve the prioritization of projects for Homeland Security Grant Program funds to be allocated to the jurisdictions in the ATCOG region.

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

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Executive Committee approves the prioritization of projects for 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

Section 2 - That the Executive Director, Chris Brown, has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to the prioritization of projects for 2023 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 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 7:

Review and consider approval of the nominated representatives to serve on the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) through December 31, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

The members of the RCJAC are appointed or reappointed at the beginning of each even-numbered year. County members are nominated by their respective County Judges, and there are also nine regional representatives (one for each county in the ATCOG region) nominated by ATCOG Criminal Justice staff. New members are also nominated/appointed as vacancies occur.

DISCUSSION:

The following vacancies exist due to resignation, and position changes:

- Cass County – Judge Travis Ransom nominated Chief Greg Restelle (Atlanta Police Department) to replace Robin Betts (retired) and Wayne Mosley (Hughes Springs Independent School District) to replace Robert McGee (resigned).
- Franklin County – ATCOG Criminal Justice Coordinator Patricia Haley nominated Tim Dial (Franklin County Emergency Management Coordinator) to replace Josh Dailey (previous Franklin County Emergency Management Coordinator).
- Red River County - ATCOG Criminal Justice Coordinator, Patricia Haley, nominated Sheana Johnson (Bogata Police Department -Victim Services Advocacy)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. AEC23-10

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUR NEW REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RCJAC) MEMBERS TO SERVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

WHEREAS, the RCJAC is an advisory subcommittee of the ATCOG Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the RCJAC membership is required by the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor (OOG) to conduct the necessary business related to service deliverables in the OOG/ATCOG Interlocal Agreement; and

WHEREAS, vacancies existed on the RCJAC for the counties of Cass, Franklin, and Red River; and

WHEREAS, nominated representatives for the counties of Cass, Franklin, and Red River to fill those vacancies on the RCJAC were presented.

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

Section 1 - That the Board of Directors approves the following RCJAC member appointments to fill the vacancies and serve through December 31, 2023:

Cass County – Greg Restelle and Wayne Mosley
Franklin County – Tim Dial
Red River County – Sheana Johnson

Section 2- That the Executive Director, Chris Brown, has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to the RCJAC appointments.

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 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 8:

CCH Eligibility Requirement for all FY2024 grant applications:

1) In order for an applicant to be eligible for FY24 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 2017 through 2021. 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 February 6, 2023, in the table below.

This OOG/PSO requirement must be met by August 1, 2023.

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 February 6, 2023	Adult criminal history disposition completeness avg.	Juvenile criminal history disposition completeness avg.
Bowie	90	99
Cass	81	99
Delta	86	100
Franklin	88	100
Hopkins	95	97
Lamar	94	91
Morris	93	95
Red River	89	85
Titus	91	95

CCH Compliance Contact:

Craig Lopez
DPS Field Director
(512)424-7614 (desk)
(512)920-4092 (cell)
craig.lopez@dps.texas.gov