

**JOINT AGENDA
NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 29, 2023**

The Northeast Texas Economic Development District (NETEDD) and the Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) will meet at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 29, 2023, 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.

Use the following information to register for the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwodu2tqzgtE9YI5uOAwaWfQbKEk7MvkPbt>

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.

- Item 1. Call to order – Quorum Determination.
- Item 2. Invocation.
- Item 3. Federal Update from Congressman Nathan Moran.
- Item 4. 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.

NETEDD Agenda Items

- Item 5. Review and consider approval of the minutes as submitted for the NETEDD meeting held Thursday, January 26, 2023. (See page 4)
- Item 6. Review and comment on information from the Economic Development Administration and the Texas Department of Agriculture as it pertains to future and past funding applications and/or awards. (See page 8; to be presented by staff member Toni Lindsey)

This concludes all NETEDD Agenda Items.

**ATCOG Board of Directors
Agenda Items**

- Item 7. Review and consider consent agenda items. (To be presented by Executive Director Chris Brown)
 - Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Board of Directors meeting held Thursday, March 30, 2023. (See page 10)
 - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council meeting held Thursday, June 8, 2023. (See page 13)

Regular Business

- Item 8. Review and consider ratification of ATCOG Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Revolving Loan Fund Plan changes approved by USDA. (See page 16 and [Addendum](#) page 1; to be presented by staff member Melody Harmon)
- Item 9. Review and consider approval of the Investment Policy. (See page 19; to be presented by staff member Mary Beth Rudel)
- Item 10. Review and consider approval of the Ark-Tex Area Agency on Aging FFY2024-2026 Area Plan. (See page 24 and [Addendum](#) page 10; to be presented by staff member Mary Beth Rudel)
- Item 11. Review and consider authorizing the Executive Director to enter into two separate contracts with Senior Citizen's Service of Texarkana, Inc and Human Resources, Inc to provide services for the Senior Nutrition Program. (See page 26; to be presented by staff member Debbie Purifoy)
- Item 12. Review and consider approval authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Rerate and Benefits Verification Form with Texas Health Benefits Pool (formerly Texas Municipal League Health) to continue to provide health, dental, and life insurance benefits to staff for Plan Year 2023-2024. (See page 28; to be presented by staff member Leslie McBride)
- Item 13. Review and consider approval of the proposed Salary Schedule for ATCOG for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. (See page 33; to be presented by Executive Director Chris Brown)
- Item 14. Review and consider approval of the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Housing Community Affairs (TDHCA) for 2023 Emergency Solution Grant program funds (ESG). (See page 36; to be presented by staff member Mary Wormington)
- Item 15. Review and consider approval of revisions to the ATCOG Rural Transit District Title VI Program Plan as required by the Federal Transit Administration. (See page 38 and [Addendum](#) page 91; to be presented by Veronica Duran)
- Item 16. Review and consider approval of the appointment of the ATCOG Board of Directors Executive Committee member. (See page 40; to be presented by Board President Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County)
- Item 17. Review and consider authorizing the Executive Director to enter into two separate contracts for the purchase of radio infrastructure equipment with Continental Wireless, Inc. not to exceed \$181,486 for Franklin County's project and \$196,068 for Delta County's project. (See page 42; to be presented by staff member Mary Beth Rudel)
- Item 18. Review and consider approval to cancel the July ATCOG Executive Committee meeting and to move the annual meeting from September to August. (To be presented by Executive Director Chris Brown)

Other Business

- Item 19. Presentation of the Section 3 Program. (See [Addendum](#) page 177; to be presented by staff member Toni Lindsey)

Item 20. Computerized Criminal History System (CCH) Update. (See page 44; to be presented by staff member Patricia Haley)

Item 21. Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) updates. (To be presented by Executive Director Chris Brown)

Announcements

Upon Board approval of item 18 above, the Annual Board Meeting will be held on August 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Mount Pleasant Civic Center, 1800 N. Jefferson Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and 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 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 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 Reeder. 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 Director
Mae Lewis, Housing Director
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director
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
Northeast Texas Economic Development District Board

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 6:

Review and comment on information from the Economic Development Administration and the Texas Department of Agriculture as it pertains to future and past funding applications and/or awards.

BACKGROUND:

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) post relevant information on their websites to keep entities up to date on funding opportunities, use of funds, new software, and other relevant information. EDA has Nine (9) open Funding Applications currently posted with information and links to the application site with more documents. TDA has various notices posted, but the one that is most impactful to cities and/or counties is the transition in to the new software system TDA-GO.

DISCUSSION:

The information being presented is for your reference only. The funding applications are for each city/county/special district to determine need and meeting eligibility to apply. Some have specific deadlines, and others are continuous applications. The TDA-GO Grant Management System will require Cities and Counties to have a login to manage any funds and reports for active awards or closeout reports. The link or the notice on the Texas Department of Agriculture website will indicate which awards are being transitioned in to the TDA-GO system.

This is a new system for all of us. TDA is there to help if needed.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

EDA presently has Nine (9) open Funding Applications:

https://www.eda.gov/funding/funding-opportunities/all-Opportunities?q=/funding/funding-opportunities/all-opportunities&f%5B0%5D=funding_status%3A6565

- Fiscal Year 2017 Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity – No Application Deadline
- Fiscal Year 2021-2023 EDA Planning and Local Technical Assistance Program – Continual Basis
- Fiscal Year 2021-2023 Research and National Technical Assistance (RNTA) Notice of Funding Opportunity – No Submission Deadline
- Fiscal Year 2023 Build to Scale (B2S) Program – Deadline Friday, July 28, 2023
- Fiscal Year 2023 Disaster Supplement – No Application Deadline
- Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Application Submission and Program Requirements – Application Accepted until Funds Expended
- Fiscal Year 2023 STEM Talent Challenge – Application Deadline June 12, 2023
- Fiscal Year 2023 University Center Economic Development (UC) Competition – Application Deadline July 10, 2023
- Tech Hubs Program Phase I – Application Deadline August 15, 2023

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Many of our Cities and/or Counties are scheduled for 2019-2021 awards to transition to the TDA-GO Grant Management System. Please see the following link to make sure that you have a login to the system:

<https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/Publications/RED/CDBG/Announcements/Transition%20Reference%20for%20Website.pdf>

MINUTES
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 30, 2023

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Board of Directors met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 2nd Floor, 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via teleconference/webinar.

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

Item 2. Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

No members of the public made a comment.

Item 4. The first order of business was to review and consider approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Board of Directors meeting held Thursday, December 8, 2022.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb. It was approved.

Review and Comment

Item 5. Mr. Chris Brown presented, for information only, the Executive Director Report.

Mr. Brown reviewed the 2022 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) and THSSP Implementation Plan (IP) Feedback Report. Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator, received an assessment score of 17 out of a possible score of 17 points on this report.

Regular Business

Item 6. Ms. Lisa Reeve presented for review and consideration approval of an appointment to serve on the Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council.

- Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

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

Item 7. Ms. Veronica Williams presented for review and consideration approval of the purchase of one Dodge Ram ProMaster 3500 vehicle for the ATCOG Transportation Program.

The Dodge ProMaster 3500 bus will give communities equal access to public services and support. The vehicle will be procured through a state contract in the total amount of \$171,264.45, with both the TxDOT grant and local transportation funds.

Motion was made by Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County, and seconded by David Fordinal, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Como. It was approved.

Item 8. Mr. Chris Pruitt of Pattillo, Brown, & Hill, L.L.P. presented for review and consideration for approval of the ATCOG Financial Statement and Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022.

Ms. Melinda Tickle introduced Mr. Pruitt to present the Financial Statements and Auditor's report. The auditor's review depicted an unmodified opinion, meaning ATCOG financials are free of material misstatement and can be relied upon by a 3rd party; this is the highest opinion an auditor can provide.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Reeder and seconded by Judge Lee. It was approved. Year ending September 30, 2022.

Item 9. Mr. Chris Brown presented for review and consideration approval of revisions to the ATCOG Accounting Policies. Mr. Brown discussed ATCOG's internal check signing controls and proposed the following policy revisions for approval.

- Revise the requirement of two signatures on checks to one signature on checks.
- Remove the Finance Director as a check signer.
- Addition of the requirement that check and EFT reports are to be provided to and reviewed by the Executive Director and Deputy Directors after completion of the payment process.

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

Item 10. Mr. Scott Norton presented for review and consideration approval of the recommended ATCOG Board of Directors Executive Committee member appointments.

Mr. Norton stated that the Nominating Committee met on March 23, 2023, and approved the recommendation of the following ATCOG Board Directors for appointment to the Executive Committee.

- Honorable Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
- Honorable Robert Bridges, Judge, Red River County

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

Item 11. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for adoption of a resolution authorizing the recognition of April as a National Fair Housing Month. Ms. Rudel stated that April is recognized as National Fair Housing Month to commemorate the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, known as the Fair Housing Act of April 11, 1968. The President of the United States has historically acknowledged April as National Fair Housing Month.

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

Announcements

The Red River Leadership Institute "Leadership & Innovation Symposium" will be held Friday, April 14, 2023, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

The next ATCOG Executive Committee meeting will be held Thursday, April 27, 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, and via teleconference/webinar.

With no further announcements, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Mr. Norton. The meeting adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
Rosina Duckworth, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Cumby
David Fordinal, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Como
Ronald Humphrey, Mayor, City of New Boston
Brad Johnson, Northeast Texas Rural Rail Transportation District
Joe Kelsey, Red River Appraisal District
Craig McDuffie, Alderman, City of Red Lick
George Moore, Vice President, Texarkana College Board of Trustees
Harold Nash, Councilman, City of Sulphur Springs
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb

GUESTS PRESENT

Robbin Bass, Office of United States Representative Nathaniel Moran
Gaye Beard, Office of United States Representative Pat Fallon
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County
Chris Pruitt, Pattillo, Brown, & Hill, L.L.P.
Ray Wilson, Office of Texas State Senator Bryan Hughes
Ryan Jewell, McKinstry

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Brown, Executive Director
Jenny Butler, Area Agency on Aging Manager
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Leslie McBride, Human Resources Director
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer
Lisa Reeve, Area Agency on Aging Director
Mary Beth Rudel, Deputy Director
Melinda Tickle, Finance Director
Bobby Williams, TRAX Operations Manager
Veronica Williams, Transportation Planner

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

ATTEST:

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 at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at the Titus Medical Plaza in Mount Pleasant and via video conference call. Tammy Lawing, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

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

Mayor Ann Rushing, Elected Official
Tammy Lawing, Chairperson, Red River County Representative
Brenda Davis, Bowie County Representative
Ruth Brown, Healthcare Representative
Rhonda Rogers, Texas Silver Haired Legislature
Ken Kunkel, Veteran Administration Representative
Angela Hill, Cass County Representative
Judge Lynda Cox, Morris County Representative
Bill Collins, Lamar County Representative
Judge Robert Newsom, Elected Official

AAA staff present:
Lisa Reeve, AAA Director
Jenny Butler, AAA Manager
Magen Watters, AAA Program Specialist

Guests:
Cindy Watson, Veteran Services Assistant

It was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

A motion was made by Bill Collins to approve the minutes of the March 2,2023 meeting. Motion was seconded by Ken Kunkel. All members present were in favor.

Nomination of Megan Knight, Hospital Representative

A motion was made by Judge Robert Newsom and seconded by Judge Linda Cox to nominate Megan Knight for the position of hospital representative formally held by Tracie Smith. The council approved the selection of Megan Knight to serve on the Regional Advisory Council.

Term Renewal for Members

Jenny Butler, AAA Manager read the names of the current board members that would like to renew their terms with the Regional Advisory Council. The following members are:

Tammy Lawing, Chairperson, Red River County Representative

Bill Collins, Lamar County Representative

Terry Landers, Delta County Representative

Ruth Brown, Healthcare Representative

Shelly Braziel, Title III Service Provider

Ken Kunkel, Veteran Administration Representative

Paul Lindsey, Titus County Representative

A motion was made by Judge Robert Newsom to accept the renewals and seconded by Brenda Davis. All members present were in favor. Motion approved.

Proposed Area Plan FY 2024-2026

Jenny Butler, AAA Manager completed the Area Plan for FY 2024-2026 and provided a summary of updates and changes to all members present and sent a copy via email to those who attended via video conference call. A motion was made by Judge Linda Cox to accept the Area Plan for FY2024-2026 and seconded by Bill Collins. All members present were in favor. Motion approved.

Request for Proposal for the Nutrition Program results

The AAA recently received bids from meal providers to serve the 9 counties in the region. A committee consisting of Ruth Brown, Healthcare Representative, Brenda Davis, Bowie County Representative, Lisa Reeve, AAA Director and Jenny Butler, AAA Manager, graded the Request for Proposals (RFPs). David E. Boone, Sr. Ministries, Inc., L Human Resources, Inc., and Senior Citizen Services of Texarkana, Inc. were the three proposals received for review. It was recommended by the committee to stay with the current meal providers serving the region which are Lamar Human Resources Council for Lamar, Red River, Delta and Hopkins and Senior Citizens Services for Bowie, Titus, Franklin, Morris, and Cass Counties. The AAA will offer 5-year contracts to both Lamar County Human Resources and Senior Citizen Services beginning October 1, 2024. It was discussed that the recommendation has to be approved by the Regional Advisory Council and then presented to the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) board for approval.

Judge Robert Newsom motioned to approve the recommendation and it was seconded by Mayor Ann Rushing. All members present were in favor. Motion approved.

Budget Updates

Carry over funds from 2022 are expected to be received by the following Friday, June 9th, 2023. The AAA has used about half of the funding available so far which is right on target. The AAA will also have some funds to carry over for the next year.

With the Public Health Emergency ending on May 11, 2023 most COVID19 funding is also ending. American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding will be available through 2024.

Hi-CAP Budget for benefits counseling which covers April 2023 - March 2024 was completed and approved. Lisa Reeve stated the AAA has spent \$1.58 million which is a little less than half of the total budget received to date. She stated that more funding could be used for care coordination

and income support. Lisa mentioned AAA staff changes includes having one less part-time case manager and does not anticipate filling that vacancy at this time. Lisa Reeve stated Debbie Graff, AAA Finance Specialist is preparing the budget for the next fiscal year.

Announcements

Rhonda Rogers stated that the Texas Silver Haired Legislature should have the same percentage of their resolutions passed as bills that were filed passed. She believes the impact this term will be greater than it ever has been due to retired teachers getting a COLA. Increasing the personal needs allowance for residents in nursing homes by 15%. This is the first time in 18 years that there has been any increase in the personal needs allowance. The meal rate for home delivered meals is expected to increase from \$5.31 to \$6.46. This legislative session has been successful, Gary Van Deaver has introduced legislation that would enable Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) to do evaluations for guardianship cases.

Rhonda will be retiring from the Texas Silver Haired Legislature as Speaker on June 20, 2023 but will still act as an advisor and member.

Lisa Reeve spoke about the CARES conference that took place on May 18, 2023 which was a huge success with approximately 165 participants.

Ken Kunkel stated that an eligible Veteran may get home tax relief credit, which could be given to a surviving spouse. However, if the surviving spouse moves from original home the home tax relief credit would be discontinued. Ken has contacted the State and Congress to change that.

Lisa Reeve, AAA Director will be retiring from the Area Agency on Aging September 1, 2023.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Ken Kunkel and seconded by Bill Collins. The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m. The next RAC meeting is September 7, 2023.

Tammy Lawing, Chairperson

Date

Attest

Date

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 8:

Review and consider ratification of ATCOG Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Revolving Loan Fund Plan changes approved by USDA.

BACKGROUND:

In 2022, ATCOG was awarded a Rural Business Development Grant Program Revolving Loan Fund grant, which would allow ATCOG to provide loans to assist small and emerging businesses in the rural areas of the region. The FY2022 RBDG RLP plan was originally approved on June 28, 2022. In 2023, during the review of the first loan application for funding, USDA expressed three primary concerns with ATCOG's RBDG RLF Plan.

The three primary concerns were: (1) RBDG RLF is an ATCOG award, and USDA did not want NETEDD named as the oversight in the plan. (2) Refinance was a disallowed expense unless it was for construction. Refinancing needed to be classified as an eligible expense with criteria. (3) Loan terms needed to be modified based on updated regulations and the borrower's unique qualifications.

DISCUSSION:

The USDA Business & Cooperative Programs Director approved the first amendment to the plan on June 8, 2023, which included the following revisions as shown in the attached plan.

1. All references to NETEDD Loan Review Committee were replaced with ATCOG Loan Review Committee
2. The following was added to the Qualifying Projects section (pg 3):
 - Refinancing debt will be exclusive to construction financing, which includes equipment elements that are considered "part of the building" as in typically built into the structure of the building and are not moveable.
 - The intermediary is responsible for making prudent lending decisions based on sound underwriting principles when considering the restructuring of an ultimate recipient's debt.
 - Refinancing debts may be allowed only when it is determined by the intermediary that the project is viable and refinancing is necessary to create new or save existing jobs or create or continue a needed service.
3. The following was removed from the In-Eligible Projects section (pg 4):
 - RLF loan funds will not be used to pay off any previous debt. Refinancing construction financing is an exception to this rule.

4. The Loan Terms section (pg 4-5) was amended to read: The loan term must be reasonable and prudent considering the purpose of the loan, expected repayment ability of the ultimate recipient, and the useful life of collateral, and must be within any limits established by the intermediary's work plan approved by the Agency. No loan will exceed 20 years.

All other conditions remain unchanged.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD23-15

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) RATIFYING THE ATCOG RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT (RBDG) REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) PLAN CHANGES APPROVED BY USDA.

WHEREAS, the Rural Business Development Grant Revolving Loan Fund Plan was amended as a result of a review of the first application for an RLF loan for the USDA funds; and

WHEREAS, the USDA provided wording for the Amendment #1 of the RBDG RLF Plan; and

WHEREAS, the amendment clarified the oversight entity name, refinancing terms, and loan terms.

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

Section 1 - That the Board of Directors ratifies the 1st Amendment to the June 28, 2022, Revolving Loan Fund Plan as approved by USDA on June 9, 2023.

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 ATCOG Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Revolving Loan Fund Plan.

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 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 9:

Review and consider annual approval of the Investment Policy that establishes procedures to be followed in investing funds for Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG).

BACKGROUND:

In December 2002, the ATCOG Board approved a new Investment Policy. ATCOG normally operates on a reimbursable basis whereby we receive approval for grant funds, we provide services, and then we are reimbursed our money from that particular grant. In the event ATCOG should receive funds in advance, the Investment Policy stipulates how the funds are invested.

This Investment Policy was amended in April 2014 designating the ATCOG Finance Manager as the ATCOG Investment Officer, and the title was later revised to ATCOG Finance Director in June 2019. These are the only amendments to the original document approved in December 2002.

DISCUSSION:

The Public Funds Investment Act requires that the ATCOG Board review and approve the Investment Policy annually. This is an opportunity for the Board to make any necessary changes. The Policy is and will remain a part of the Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

Ark-Tex Council of Governments

Investment Policy

Purpose: The purpose of the policy is to establish the procedures to be followed in investing Ark-Tex Council of Governments funds.

1.0. Policy

It is the policy of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) to invest public funds in a manner which will provide the highest investment return with the maximum security while meeting ATCOG's daily cash flow demands and conforming to all federal, state and local statutes governing the investment of public funds.

2.0. Prudence

Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of capital as well as the probable income to be derived. The strategy of the pool is to assure cash flows are matched with adequate liquidity.

3.0. Objective and Strategy

The primary objectives, in priority order, of ATCOG's investment activities shall be:

- (a) Safety: Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments of the ATCOG shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital.
- (b) Liquidity: The ATCOG's investments will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the ATCOG to meet all operating requirements which might be reasonably anticipated.
- (c) Yield: ATCOG's investments will be limited to relatively low risk securities in anticipation of earning a fair return relative to the risk being assumed.

4.0. Delegation of Authority

The ATCOG's Finance Director is hereby designated as the ATCOG's Investment Officer. The Investment Officer shall be responsible for the implementation of this policy. The Investment Officer shall attend at least one training session within twelve months of assuming duties. The Investment Officer is granted the authority to deposit, withdraw, invest and manage the program.

5.0. Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program or which could impair their ability to make impartial investment decisions. The Investment Officer shall disclose to the Texas Ethics Commission and the ATCOG's Board of Directors any personal business relationship or material financial interests with anyone attempting to sell an investment to the ATCOG.

6.0. Authorized and Suitable Investments

The Investment Officer may invest in:

- (a) Interest Bearing Checking Accounts at ATCOG's designated depository bank;
- (b) Eligible Investment Pools; or
- (c) Such other investments as the governing body may authorize that are in accordance with federal and state laws and local statutes.

7.0. Maximum Maturities

To the extent possible, the ATCOG will attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Unless matched to a specific cash flow, the ATCOG will not directly invest in securities maturing more than one year from date of purchase. The dollar weighted average maturity for the investment pool fund group will not exceed 180 days.

8.0. Internal Control

The Investment Officer shall establish an annual process of independent review by an external auditor. The review will provide internal control by assuring compliance with policies and procedures.

9.0 Investment Policy Adoption

This policy shall be adopted by the ATCOG’s Board of Directors and shall be reviewed as needed by the Board. Any modifications made thereto must be approved by the ATCOG Board of Directors.

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

ATTEST:

RESOLUTION NO. ABD23-16

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE INVESTMENT POLICY.

WHEREAS, ATCOG is a regional planning commission and political subdivision of the State of Texas operating under Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Public Funds Investment Act requires that the ATCOG Board of Directors review and approve the Investment Policy annually; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG normally operates on a reimbursable basis whereby we receive approval for grant funds, we provide services, and then we are reimbursed our money from that particular grant; and

WHEREAS, the Investment Policy stipulates how the funds are invested should ATCOG receive funds in advance of the services provided; and

WHEREAS, there are no revisions to the policy at this time.

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

Section 1 - That the Board of Directors approves the Investment Policy.

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 Investment Policy.

Section 3 - That this resolution is approved by majority vote in accordance with the bylaws of ATCOG and applicable law, and shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 10:

Review and consider approval of the Ark-Tex Area Agency on Aging Area Plan FFY2024 – FFY2026.

BACKGROUND:

The Older Americans Act (OAA) Section 306 Area Plans requires each area agency on aging (AAA) to prepare an area plan for a planning and service area (PSA). The 28 approved area plans from all the AAAs in Texas help to inform the State Plan on Aging (OAA Section 307) and enable Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to speak to how OAA services are implemented throughout the state to older Texans. The HHSC provided the template for the Area Plan FFY2024 - FFY2026.

DISCUSSION:

The Area Plan FFY2024 – FFY 2026 document describes, in detail, the identified needs within the Ark-Tex PSA and how the AAA plans to address these needs through the development and expansion of new and existing community services. It provides information on service priorities and targeted outreach to vulnerable older individuals. The area plan also states the goals and objectives that the AAA and its staff plan to accomplish during the planning period, subject to the availability and limitations of funding and the authorization of services provided by or through the AAA. The plan reflects the AAA's efforts to develop and implement current and future plans. A Summary of Changes and Updates document is attached. The Area Plan FFY2024 – FFY2026 can be found in the addendum.

This area plan developed for FFY2024 – FFY2026 was reviewed and approved on June 8, 2023, by the AAA Regional Advisory Council.

The area plan must be approved by the ATCOG Board of Directors prior to submission to HHSC for final approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD23-17

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE ARK-TEX AREA AGENCY ON AGING (AAA) AREA PLAN FFY2024 – FFY2026.

WHEREAS, the Older Americans Act (OAA) Section 306 Area Plans requires each AAA to prepare an area plan for a planning and service area (PSA); and

WHEREAS, the twenty-eight (28) approved area plans from all the AAAs in Texas help to inform the State Plan on Aging and enable Texas Health and Human Services Commission to speak to how OAA services are implemented throughout the state to older Texans; and

WHEREAS, the Area Plan FFY2024 – FFY 2026 document describes, in detail, the identified needs within the Ark-Tex PSA and how the AAA plans to address these needs through the development and expansion of new and existing community services; and

WHEREAS, the AAA Regional Advisory Council (RAC) reviewed and approved the plan on June 8, 2023; and

WHEREAS, upon ATCOG Board of Directors' approval, the plan will be sent to Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for final approval.

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

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors approves the Ark-Tex AAA Area Plan FFY2024 – FFY2026.

Section 2 - That the Executive Director, Chris Brown, has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to Ark-Tex AAA Area Plan FFY2024 – FFY2026.

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 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 11:

Review and consider authorizing the Executive Director to enter into two separate contracts with Senior Citizen's Services of Texarkana, Inc and Human Resources, Inc to provide services for the Senior Nutrition Program.

BACKGROUND:

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) advertised a Request for Proposals to provide services for the Senior Nutrition Program on April 9, 2023. Three bids were submitted by the due date of May 26, 2023. Proposals were reviewed on June 5, 2023, and two providers were chosen to serve the Ark-Tex region for home-delivered meals and congregate meals.

DISCUSSION:

Senior Citizen's Services of Texarkana, Inc. (SCS) and Human Resources, Inc. (Lamar County) received the highest scores and will be awarded the contracts for five years if approved. These agencies currently provide meals for AAA clients in the Ark-Tex region. SCS provides the nutrition program in Bowie, Cass, Franklin, Morris, and Titus Counties. Human Resources provides the nutrition program in Delta, Hopkins, Lamar, and Red River Counties. The service areas will remain the same for each provider.

The estimated funding for the FY2024 Senior Nutrition Program is \$785,140. The home-delivered meal program is estimated to receive \$580,033. The congregate meal program is estimated to receive \$205,107. The funding will be disbursed between the two providers, according to the number of meals authorized by the AAA.

The plan to award contracts to Senior Citizen's Services of Texarkana, Inc. and Human Resources, Inc. to provide nutrition services was approved by the Ark-Tex Regional Advisory Council on June 8, 2023.

The ATCOG Procurement Policy states that all purchases of \$50,000 and above require ATCOG Board of Director approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD23-18

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO TWO SEPARATE CONTRACTS WITH SENIOR CITIZEN'S SERVICES OF TEXARKANA, INC AND HUMAN RESOURCES, INC TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) advertised a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide services for the Senior Nutrition Program on April 9, 2023; and

WHEREAS, proposals were reviewed on June 5, 2023, and two providers were chosen to serve the Ark-Tex region for home-delivered meals and congregate meals; and

WHEREAS, Senior Citizen's Services of Texarkana, Inc provides the nutrition program services in Bowie, Cass, Franklin, Morris, and Titus Counties, and Human Resources provides the nutrition program services in Delta, Hopkins, Lamar, and Red River Counties; and

WHEREAS, the plan to award contracts to Senior Citizen's Services of Texarkana, Inc. and Human Resources, Inc. to provide nutrition services was approved by the Ark-Tex Regional Advisory Council on June 8, 2023.

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 two separate contracts with Senior Citizen's Services of Texarkana, Inc and Human Resources, Inc to provide services for the Senior Nutrition Program.**

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 above-mentioned contracts.

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 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 12:

Review and consider approval authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Rerate and Benefit Verification Form with Texas Health Benefits Pool (formerly Texas Municipal League Health) to continue to provide health, dental, and life insurance benefits to staff for Plan Year 2023-2024.

BACKGROUND:

Texas Health Benefits Pool (THBP) has provided health, dental, and life insurance benefits to ATCOG for several years, and it is once again time for the renewal of those benefits for FY 2024. The signed Rerate Notice and Benefit Verification Form is due to THBP Health by July 1, 2023.

DISCUSSION:

The Rerate Notice for FY 2024 includes an increase for health premiums and dental; however, life insurance rates are the same as FY 2023.

Medical

Current Defined Contribution: \$845.12/Month

Defined Contribution Effective 10/01/2023: \$946.54/Month

(12% Increase, or \$101.42 increase per month)

Employees with coverage as of June 1, 2023: 71 Staff Members

Dental

Current Dental Rates:

Employee Only: \$28.44
Employee + Spouse: \$66.82
Employee + Children: \$61.10
Employee + Family: \$85.24

Rates Effective 10/01/2023:

Employee Only: \$30.72
Employee + Spouse: \$72.18
Employee + Children: \$66.00
Employee + Family: \$92.06

Life Rates:

Life: \$0.194
AD&D: \$0.040

ATCOG will be offering four plan options to staff. We are proposing to make a defined contribution of \$946.54 to each employee per month. This will pay for the basic PPO health plan rate of \$946.54. Staff that wish to "buy up" to a more expensive plan may do so at their own expense. There is also a high deductible plan at a rate of \$834.16 per month that would allow staff to contribute the remaining defined contribution to a health savings account.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.



Renewal Notice and Benefit Verification Form

Ark Tex COG

Original

Plan Year 10/01/2023 - 09/30/2024 (12 Months)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: A signed renewal is required by the due date in your cover letter. If TX Health Benefits Pool does not receive the fully executed renewal notice by the indicated due date, you will no longer have an option to change benefits which will result in renewal of the benefit plans listed below at the new rates and the current employer contributions.

Medical

Collective Plans

Plan	Benefit Percent	In Net Ded	Out Net Ded	In Net OOP	Office Visit	Rates	Current	New
Collective III Copay-1K-3K ER-DAW1&2	80/50	\$1000	\$2000	\$3000	\$30	EE Only:	\$1,078.98	\$1,208.46
						EE + Spouse:	\$2,190.30	\$2,453.14
						EE + Child(ren):	\$1,899.02	\$2,126.90
						EE + Family:	\$3,182.92	\$3,564.88
Collective III HSA-3K E-DAW1&2	100/70	\$3000	\$6000	\$3000	N/A	EE Only:	\$914.98	\$1,024.78
						EE + Spouse:	\$1,857.40	\$2,080.30
						EE + Child(ren):	\$1,610.38	\$1,803.64
						EE + Family:	\$2,699.12	\$3,023.02
Collective III Copay-3K-6K ER-DAW1&2	80/50	\$3000	\$6000	\$6000	\$30	EE Only:	\$845.12	\$946.54
						EE + Spouse:	\$1,715.60	\$1,921.48
						EE + Child(ren):	\$1,487.42	\$1,665.92
						EE + Family:	\$2,493.06	\$2,792.24
Collective III HSA-4K-6K E-DAW1&2	80/50	\$4000	\$8000	\$6000	N/A	EE Only:	\$744.78	\$834.16
						EE + Spouse:	\$1,511.92	\$1,693.36
						EE + Child(ren):	\$1,310.82	\$1,468.12
						EE + Family:	\$2,197.08	\$2,460.74

In Network Deductible applies towards In Network OOP.

Medical and Dental Plan Accumulators will be based on Calendar Year.

Defined Contribution

TX Health Benefits Pool requires 60% employer contribution toward employee medical – Minimum employer contribution is \$500.50.

Note: All Defined Contributions will be allocated as follows (if offered): Medical, Dental, Vision, & all Employee Paid Voluntary Products (ex: voluntary life, voluntary spouse life, voluntary AD&D...). Any left-over contribution dollars will then be applied to an employee's HRA or HSA (as applicable) depending on medical plan election.

Please enter your defined contribution amounts for active employees here:

- Employer's **MONTHLY** Defined Contribution of \$ _____ equal to a full **ANNUAL** Defined Contribution of \$ _____ (monthly contribution x12).
- Will employees receive this Defined Contribution if medical coverage is waived? No Yes (if yes, see 2a).
 - Will employee's receive the full monthly Defined Contribution or a partial amount? Full Partial \$ _____
- Are there different contributions based on other factors (ex: hourly vs salary, department, location...)? If so please explain here:

Dental

Rates	Current (Dental IV)	New (Dental IV)
EE Only:	\$28.44	\$30.72
EE + Spouse:	\$66.82	\$72.18
EE + Child(ren):	\$61.10	\$66.00
EE + Family:	\$85.24	\$92.06

Basic Life and AD&D: Plan 43 (1xBAE, Max \$300,000)

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Life:	\$0.194	\$0.194
AD&D:	\$0.040	\$0.040

Note: Plan requires 100% Participation and is 100% EMPLOYER paid.

Additional Employee Life and AD&D

<u>Age of Employee</u>	<u>Current Rate per \$1000</u>	<u>New Rate per \$1000</u>
Under 30	0.041	0.041
30 - 34	0.052	0.052
35 - 39	0.091	0.091
40 - 44	0.129	0.129
45 - 49	0.198	0.198
50 - 54	0.332	0.332
55 - 59	0.595	0.595
60 - 64	0.913	0.913
65 - 69	1.513	1.513
70 and over	2.431	2.431

Note: Plan is EMPLOYEE paid.

COBRA Eligibility and Administration (Continuation of Coverage)

COBRA Eligible? Yes

COBRA Administration through TX Health Benefits Pool? Yes

NOTE: Employer will be charged a flat monthly fee of \$80 regardless of how many members are utilizing COBRA.

Benefit Waiting Period

1st of mo after date of hire

Consumer-Driven Health Plans

<u>FSA Admin</u>	<u>DCA Admin</u>	<u>HRA Admin</u>	<u>HSA Admin</u>	<u>RRA Admin</u>
No	No	No	Yes	No

Note: If employer accesses FSA and/or HRA, HSA, or RRA, one charge of \$3.70 per participant per month will be incurred and paid by EMPLOYER.

HSA Administration

Defined Contribution (amount will vary).

Employer/Applicant acknowledges that TX Health Benefits Pool is not a Bank and cannot operate as a Bank Custodian. Because an HSA is a tax-exempt trust or custodial account set up with a qualified HSA trustee/custodian to pay or reimburse certain medical expenses incurred by a participating employee, TX Health Benefits Pool has no responsibility or liability for HSA trustee/custodian services. Employer Applicant further acknowledges that TX Health Benefits Pool can only assist with accessing the HSA vendor by assisting with enrollment, billing, and import of HSA contributions for deposit with the HSA vendor and only associated with Employer Applicant's qualifying High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP Plans). Employer/Applicant assumes the liability and responsibility of complying with any IRS or other federal regulations related to HSAs.

Required Annual Eligibility and Enrollment Information

Please provide the following information:

1. Will you allow Employee Self Service (ESS) via TXHB Online for Open Enrollment and Qualifying Life Events? No Yes

Signature Section

The undersigned employer hereby acknowledges that for an employee to receive coverage, TX Health Benefits Pool must receive enrollment information within thirty-one (31) days of the date of hire or within thirty-one (31) days of the coverage effective date, whichever is later, regardless of whether the Employer has a waiting period or a waiting and orientation period. If an enrollment is not submitted within this timeline, the employee cannot be added to the Plan until the next Open Enrollment period or a qualifying event occurs.

Employer Member Additional Acknowledgements and Agreements

1. Employer Member acknowledges and agrees that its signature on this Renewal Notice and Benefit Verification Form indicates its binding selections for renewal services through TX Health Benefits Pool.
2. Employer Member acknowledges that certain benefit service selections require completion and execution of additional forms and agreements and agrees that it will work with all due diligence and in good faith to complete, execute, and return all necessary forms and agreements to TX Health Benefits Pool prior to the beginning of the Group's open enrollment.
3. Employer Member acknowledges that TX Health Benefits Pool will only allow open enrollment for renewal services in good faith and without receiving all necessary signed benefit service forms and agreements if:
 - A. A signed Renewal Notice and Benefit Verification Form with all necessary Employer Member selections and information has been received; and
 - B. Employer Member has in good faith attempted but failed to approve and return the applicable benefit service forms and agreements timely.
4. Employer certifies that it has adopted an Employee Flexible Benefits Plan under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code. This Plan is offered to all eligible employees who are qualified by employment status.
5. Employer certifies that it will provide notice of the creditable status of the coverage it offers to new enrollees prior to the effective date of their coverage, as required by the Medicare Modernization Act.

Please sign by the due date and return this completed form via email to your Account Executive/Account Manager or TMLHealthMarketing@tmlhb.org.

751293383 _____ Tax ID Number	_____ Authorized Signature	_____ Date
_____ Printed Name	_____ Title	

The rates are based on census information five months prior to plan year. If the census changes by more than 10%, TX Health Benefits Pool reserves the right to revise rates due to census change and underwriting impact.

Rates are subject to change due to intervening events such as action taken by the TX Health Benefits Pool Board of Trustees, legislation passed during the plan year, or other events affecting benefits.

Supplemental benefits cannot be accessed without accessing the TX Health Benefits Pool Medical Benefit Plan.

YOUR RENEWAL QUOTE INCLUDES PROPRIETARY INFORMATION THAT SHOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH OTHER COMPETITORS OR USED TO CIRCUMVENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF TEXAS COMPETITIVE BIDDING LAWS. IN THE EVENT YOU RECEIVE A RENEWAL QUOTE AND LATER DECIDE TO ISSUE AN RFP, THE RENEWAL QUOTE MAY NOT BE SHARED WITH ANY OTHER COMPETITORS AS DOING SO WOULD DISADVANTAGE TX HEALTH BENEFITS POOL IN THE COMPETITIVE PROCESS. TX HEALTH BENEFITS POOL ALSO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVISE PREVIOUSLY ISSUED RATES IN RESPONSE TO YOUR RFP.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD23-19

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SIGN THE RERATE AND BENEFIT VERIFICATION FORM WITH TEXAS HEALTH BENEFITS POOL TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HEALTH, DENTAL, AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES FOR PLAN YEAR 2023-2024.

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

WHEREAS, Texas Health Benefits Pool (formerly Texas Municipal League) has provided health, dental, and life insurance benefits to ATCOG for several years; and

WHEREAS, the rerate notice for plan year 2023-2024 includes an increase for health premiums (increase of \$101.42) and dental (increase of \$2.28), but life insurance premiums remain the same as FY2023; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG will be offering four plan options to employees with a defined contribution of \$946.54 to each employee per month, which will pay for the basic PPO health plan; and

WHEREAS, employees who wish to “buy up” to a more expensive plan may do so at their own expense; and

WHEREAS, a high deductible plan at a rate of \$834.16 per month is available to employees, which would allow employees to contribute the remaining defined contribution to a health savings account; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG will continue to provide dental and life insurance coverage for employees only.

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 sign the rerate and benefit verification form with Texas Health Benefits Pool to provide health, dental and life insurance benefits to employees for plan year 2023-2024.

Section 2 - That Executive Director Chris Brown has full authority to act on behalf of the ATCOG Board in all matters pertaining to the benefits 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 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 13:

Review and consider approval of the proposed Salary Schedule for Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) for fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The State requires that we submit a Salary Schedule by August each year to compare salaries of ATCOG employees with salaries of State employees in equivalent jobs; such salary schedule is to be approved by the full Board of Directors. The State will not allow the salaries of ATCOG employees to exceed those of State employees in equivalent positions.

DISCUSSION:

All ATCOG employees are paid lower or are at the low end of the State salary scale. There are no positions at ATCOG that exceed the pay of State employees in equivalent positions.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

	POSITION	ATCOG GRADE	ATCOG SALARY RANGE	STATE CLASS #	STATE GROUP	STATE SALARY RANGE	DEPARTMENT
3	AAA P/T Evidence Based Technician	06	\$37,388 - \$47,311	5142	B15	\$35,976 - \$55,045	AAA
0	AAA Program Assistant	05	\$33,728 - \$42,679	0152	A11	\$29,332 - \$44,355	AAA
1	AAA Program Technician II	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	0156	A15	\$35,976 - \$55,045	AAA
2	AAA P/T Case Manager	08	\$45,341 - \$57,375	5229	B18	\$42,521 - \$67,671	AAA
2	AAA Case Manager	08	\$45,341 - \$57,375	5229	B18	\$42,521 - \$67,671	AAA
1	AAA Case Manager-BC	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	5704	B15	\$35,976 - \$55,045	AAA
1	AAA Benefits Counselor	08	\$45,341 - \$57,375	5706	B17	\$39,976 - \$61,399	AAA
4	Associate Ombudsman	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	3660	B17	\$39,976 - \$61,399	AAA
1	Managing Local Ombudsman	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	3662	B19	\$45,244 - \$72,408	AAA
1	AAA Coordinator	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	5230	B20	\$48,158 - \$77,477	AAA
0	AAA Manager	11	\$61,807 - \$78,212	1584	B21	\$51,278 - \$82,901	AAA
1	AAA Director	12	\$68,535 - \$86,725	1602	B24	\$62,004 - \$101,556	AAA
17							
2	Housing Inspector	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	1323	B15	\$35,976 - \$55,045	Housing
1	Lead Housing Inspector	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	1325	B19	\$45,244 - \$72,408	Housing
3	Housing Program Assistant	05	\$33,728 - \$42,679	0059	A11	\$29,332 - \$44,355	Housing
3	Housing Specialist	08	\$45,341 - \$57,375	5229	B18	\$42,521 - \$67,671	Housing
1	RRH/HP Case Manager	05	\$33,728 - \$42,679	5227	B14	\$34,144 - \$52,134	Housing
1	FSS Coordinator	10	\$55,744 - \$70,540	1574	B21	\$51,278 - \$82,901	Housing
1	Housing Coordinator	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	5230	B20	\$48,158 - \$77,477	Housing
1	Housing Manager	11	\$61,807 - \$78,212	1584	B21	\$51,278 - \$82,901	Housing
1	Housing Director	12	\$68,535 - \$86,725	1602	B24	\$62,004 - \$101,556	Housing
14							
31	TRAX Driver	02	\$24,738 - \$31,304	9322	A09	\$26,781 - \$37,859	Transportation
Var.	TRAX Driver - PRN	02	\$24,738 - \$31,304	9322	A09	\$26,781 - \$37,859	Transportation
4	Lead TRAX Driver	04	\$30,418 - \$38,490	9324	A13	\$32,439 - \$49,388	Transportation
2	Fleet Technician	06	\$37,388 - \$47,311	9417	A14	\$34,144 - \$52,134	Transportation
1	Fleet Supervisor	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	1996	B18	\$42,521 - \$67,671	Transportation
6	Dispatcher/Scheduler	04	\$30,418 - \$38,490	0059	A11	\$29,332 - \$44,355	Transportation
1	Transportation Technician	05	\$33,728 - \$42,679	0154	A13	\$32,439 - \$49,388	Transportation
1	Transportation Supervisor	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	9325	A15	\$35,976 - \$55,045	Transportation
2	Transportation Coordinator	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	1573	B20	\$48,158 - \$77,477	Transportation
1	Transportation Operations Manager	11	\$61,807 - \$78,212	1584	B21	\$51,278 - \$82,901	Transportation
1	Transportation Director	12	\$68,535 - \$86,725	1602	B24	\$62,004 - \$101,556	Transportation
50							
0	911 Program Technician	06	\$37,388 - \$47,311	0154	A13	\$32,439 - \$49,388	9-1-1
1	911 Specialist	08	\$45,341 - \$57,375	1570	B17	\$39,976 - \$61,399	9-1-1
1	911 Addressing Technician	06	\$37,388 - \$47,311	0270	B18	\$42,521 - \$67,671	9-1-1
1	911 GIS Technician-Part Time	06	\$37,388 - \$47,311	0270	B18	\$42,521 - \$67,671	9-1-1
1	911 GIS Technician	06	\$37,388 - \$47,311	0270	B18	\$42,521 - \$67,671	9-1-1
1	911 Database Specialist III	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	0211	B21	\$51,278 - \$82,901	9-1-1
1	GIS Coordinator	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	0272	B22	\$54,614 - \$88,703	9-1-1
1	911 Emergency Communications Coordinator	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	0289	B21	\$51,278 - \$82,901	9-1-1
1	911 Program Director	12	\$68,535 - \$86,725	1602	B24	\$62,004 - \$101,556	9-1-1
8							
1	Homeland Security Coordinator	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	6241	B19	\$45,244 - \$72,408	Homeland Security
1	Criminal Justice Coordinator	10	\$55,744 - \$70,540	1572	B19	\$45,244 - \$72,408	Criminal Justice
1	Environmental Resources Coordinator	10	\$55,744 - \$70,540	2653	B20	\$48,158 - \$77,477	Environmental
1	Hazard Mitigation Planner-Part Time	08	\$45,341 - \$57,375	0516	B18	\$42,521 - \$67,671	Regional Development
2	Development Specialist	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	1570	B17	\$39,976 - \$61,399	Regional Development
1	Regional Development Director	12	\$68,535 - \$86,725	1602	B24	\$62,004 - \$101,556	Regional Development
1	Development Specialist	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	1570	B17	\$39,976 - \$61,399	Economic Development
1	Economic Development Director	12	\$68,535 - \$86,725	1602	B24	\$62,004 - \$101,556	Economic Development
0	Accounting Specialist	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	1012	B15	\$35,976 - \$55,045	Finance
6	Accounting Specialist	08	\$45,341 - \$57,375	1016	B17	\$39,976 - \$61,399	Finance
0	Accounting/Payroll Technician	07	\$41,459 - \$52,463	1291	B15	\$35,976 - \$55,045	Finance
1	Accounting Technician	05	\$33,728 - \$42,679	1002	A13	\$32,439 - \$49,388	Finance
1	Finance Director	14	\$83,082 - \$105,134	1620	B26	\$72,886 - \$123,267	Finance
1	Custodian/Maintenance Worker	02	\$24,738 - \$31,304	8005	A08	\$25,705 - \$36,229	Administration
1	Receptionist	04	\$30,418 - \$38,490	0008	A11	\$29,332 - \$44,355	Administration
1	Executive Assistant	08	\$45,341 - \$57,375	0160	B17	\$39,976 - \$61,399	Administration
1	Procurement/Compliance Coord.	09	\$50,271 - \$63,613	1401	B21	\$51,278 - \$82,901	Administration
1	Human Resources Director	12	\$68,535 - \$86,725	1739	B25	\$66,259 - \$108,666	Administration
1	Information Technology Director	12	\$68,535 - \$86,725	0314	B25	\$66,259 - \$108,666	Administration
1	Deputy Director	15	\$92,120 - \$116,571	1620	B26	\$72,886 - \$123,267	Administration
1	Executive Director		\$135,685 - \$149,254	1624	B30	\$106,712 - \$180,475	Administration
25							

RESOLUTION NO. ABD23-20

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR FY2024.

WHEREAS, ATCOG is a regional planning commission and political subdivision of the State of Texas operating under Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, for each fiscal year, the ATCOG Board of Directors shall adopt a salary schedule containing a classification salary schedule for classified positions and identifying and specifying the salary ranges for positions exempt from the classification salary schedule; and

WHEREAS, A salary for a position classified under the salary schedule may not exceed the state salary that has been approved by the state auditor's office and paid by the state for comparable work; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG shall submit to the state auditor the its salary schedule, including the salaries of all exempt positions, not later than the 45th day before the date of the beginning of ATCOG's fiscal year.

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

Section 1 - That the Board of Directors approves the attached salary schedule for FY2024.

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 salary schedule.

Section 3 - That this resolution is approved by majority vote in accordance with the bylaws of ATCOG and applicable law, and shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 14:

Review and consider approval of the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Housing Community Affairs (TDHCA) for 2023 Emergency Solution Grant program funds (ESG).

BACKGROUND:

Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) has successfully administered ESG program funds for six years. ATCOG was recently reviewed for eligibility by TDHCA for an ESG award based on the following criteria:

1. Awarded funds from at least three of the prior four allocations of ESG Annual Grants.
2. Submitted monthly reports for each of their active ESG Annual Contracts in a timely manner.
3. Does not have unresolved monitoring findings in any TDHCA-funded programs.
4. Expended a minimum of 95% of their contracted award amount.
5. Did not de-obligate an amount that exceeds 5% of their contracted award amount on their most recently closed ESG Annual Contract.

At this time, ATCOG is anticipated to be eligible for \$163,775.00

DISCUSSION:

ATCOG wishes to apply for 2023 ESG program funds to continue its efforts in preventing and reducing homelessness in the ATCOG region. ATCOG works to reduce Homelessness within the nine-county region and meet goals with TDHCA in transitioning ESG Homelessness Prevention. ESG HP clients will be offered a Housing Choice Voucher to transition to permanent housing after receiving housing rental assistance for three months.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION ABD23-21

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING THE ATCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR 2023 EMERGENCY SOLUTION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS.

WHEREAS, the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program assists people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the application will be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), which is responsible for allocating program funds; and

WHEREAS, TDHCA is the State of Texas State ESG recipient and is responsible for distributing sub-recipient funding; therefore, if funded, ATCOG will execute a contract with TDHCA and comply with all TDHCA reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG will be coordinating with additional agencies providing related services to provide a coordinated entry for program participants.

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

- Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors approves the submission of the application for the FY23 Emergency Solution Grant.
- 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 2023 Emergency Solution Grant.
- 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 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 15:

Review and consider approval of revisions to the ATCOG Rural Transit District Title VI Program Plan as required by the Federal Transit Administration.

BACKGROUND:

ATCOG'S Rural Transit District's Title VI Program Plan is reviewed every three years to capture updates and demographic changes. Title VI is a federal law that protects individuals or groups, regardless of citizenship, from discrimination based on race, color, and national origin. Other related regulations prohibit discrimination based on sex, age, and disability. The Title VI plan summarizes how any person who believes he or she, individually or as a member of any specific class, has been subject to discrimination may file a complaint. The TRAX Title VI Plan outlines the department's roles, responsibilities, and procedures to ensure compliance with Title VI.

DISCUSSION:

In this update, the following revisions have been made: new Title VI Coordinator contact information, number of vehicles in inventory, costs for a translator for LEP assistant, and the Board of Directors roster. Due to personnel changes, Veronica "Roni" Duran, Transportation Coordinator, is the new Title VI Program Coordinator for ATCOG's Rural Transit District. All the demographics for our service area have been updated with the 2020 Census Bureau, which includes Bowie, Cass, Titus, Lamar, Red River, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, and Morris Counties.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD23-22

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING REVISIONS TO THE ATCOG RURAL TRANSIT DISTRICT (RTD) TITLE VI PROGRAM PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA).

WHEREAS, ATCOG is a Regional Planning Commission established pursuant to the authority granted by Article 1011m, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, and Arkansas Interlocal Cooperation Act 430; and

WHEREAS, ATCOG is governed by a Board of Directors with the responsibility to oversee the operation and management of a rural transportation system and to oversee the provision of rural transportation services within the ATCOG RTD; and

WHEREAS, the FTA has required that the ATCOG RTD Title VI Program Plan include revisions which meet all updated requirements issued by the FTA.

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

Section 1 - That the Board of Directors approves the revisions to the ATCOG RTD Title VI Program Plan as required by the Federal Transit Administration.

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 ATCOG RTD Title VI Plan.

Section 3 - That the meeting at which this Resolution is passed is open to the public and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by law.

Section 4 - That this Resolution shall be in effect immediately upon its execution.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 16:

Review and consider approval of the ATCOG Board of Directors Executive Committee member appointment.

BACKGROUND:

Article V, Section A, of the ATCOG Bylaws, provides that the vacancies on the Executive Committee because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise may be filled immediately by a vote of the Board of Directors at a regular meeting of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments on the recommendation of a nominating committee of not less than three Directors appointed by the highest officer of the then active Executive Committee.

DISCUSSION:

The ATCOG Nominating Committee consists of Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County/Chair; Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO of TexAmericas/Vice Chair; Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County; Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County; Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County; and Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville.

The Nominating Committee met on June 13, 2023, and approved the recommendation of the following ATCOG Board Director for appointment to the Executive Committee.

- Honorable Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County

RECOMMENDATION:

The Nominating Committee and staff recommend approval.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD23-23

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) APPROVING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, Article V, Section A, of the ATCOG Bylaws provide for vacancies on the Executive Committee because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise may be filled immediately by a vote of the Board of Directors at a regular meeting of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments on the recommendation of a nominating committee of not less than three Directors appointed by the highest officer of the then active Executive Committee.

WHEREAS, the ATCOG Nominating Committee consists of Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County/Chair; Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO of TexAmericas/Vice Chair; Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County; Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County; Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County; and Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville.

WHEREAS, the Nominating Committee met on June 13, 2023, and approved the recommendation of the following ATCOG Board of Directors appointment to the Executive Committee.

- Honorable Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County

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

Section 1 - That the ATCOG Board of Directors approves the recommended appointment of the ATCOG Executive Committee member to serve a two-year term effective this day.

Section 2 - 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 29TH DAY OF JUNE 2023.

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

ATTEST:

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 17:

Review and consider authorizing the Executive Director to enter into two separate contracts for the purchase of radio infrastructure equipment with Continental Wireless, Inc. not to exceed \$181,486 for Franklin County's project and \$196,068 for Delta County's project.

BACKGROUND:

In 2022, the 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. Emergency management coordinators in Delta and Franklin County evaluated their communication systems and determined what radio infrastructure equipment was needed to enhance/sustain their communication systems.

DISCUSSION:

The ATCOG Homeland Security Program utilized The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) governed by the Region 8 ESC Board of Directors to obtain quotes from Continental Wireless, Inc to purchase the following:

- 4 (four) p25 VHF Repeaters or compatible equivalent to install in Franklin County
- 1 (one) two-position dispatch console with accessories to install at Delta County Sheriff's Office

The purchase and installation of the two projects are not to exceed \$181,486 for Franklin County and \$196,068 for Delta County. Any additional expenses beyond the grant award will be the responsibility of the counties respectively.

The ATCOG Procurement Policy states that all purchases of \$50,000 and above require ATCOG Board approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

RESOLUTION NO. ABD23-24

RESOLUTION OF THE ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ATCOG) AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO TWO SEPARATE CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPMENT WITH CONTINENTAL WIRELESS, INC., NOT TO EXCEED \$181,486 FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY'S PROJECT AND \$196,068 FOR DELTA COUNTY'S PROJECT.

WHEREAS, in 2022, the 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, Emergency Management Coordinators in Delta and Franklin County evaluated their communication systems and determined what radio infrastructure equipment was needed to enhance/sustain their communication systems; and

WHEREAS, the ATCOG Homeland Security Program utilized The Interlocal Purchasing System to obtain quotes from Continental Wireless, Inc; and

WHEREAS, any additional expenses beyond the grant award will be the responsibility of the counties respectively; 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 Executive Committee authorizes the Executive Director to enter into two separate contracts for the purchase of radio infrastructure equipment with Continental Wireless, Inc., not to exceed \$181,486 for Franklin County's project and \$196,068 for Delta County's project.

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 contracts.

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 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

ATTEST:

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

BRIEFING PAPER

ITEM 20:

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 June 12, 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 June 12, 2023	Adult criminal history disposition completeness avg.	Juvenile criminal history disposition completeness avg.
Bowie	91	99
Cass	93	99
Delta	90	100
Franklin	91	100
Hopkins	97	100
Lamar	94	91
Morris	94	97
Red River	94	100
Titus	92	95

CCH Compliance Contact:

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