Mayor Geary Smith
President

Judge Richard Duncan
Vice-President

Heart of Texas
Council of Governments

Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting
9:30 AM, Thursday, February 15, 2024
HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. Welcome and Introductions

    A. Guest Recognition:
- Russell Devorsky (HOTCOG ExDir)
- Andy Davis (HOTCOG)
- Harold Furguson (HOTCOG)
- Wayne Stovall (HOTCOG)
- John Salazar (Limestone SO)
- Chris Jackson (Hill Co Asst EMC)
- Martin Whitfield (TDEM)
- Lana Gudgel (HOTCOG)
- Falen Bohannon (HOTCOG)
- Nita Wuebker (Falls County Commissioner)

    B. Member Recognition:

- Rob Bergerson	- Heath Crossland
- Phillip Cantrell	- Robert Lafoy
- Chris Cary	- Jeremy Shipley
- Nancy Cross	- Ryan Dirker
- Michael Graham	- Terry Townley
- Matt Groveton	- Kirk Turner
- Danny Guerra	- Buffy Waldie
- Tom Hemrick	- Jeff Watkins
(Chair)	- Heather Wheeler

II. Determination of Quorum
- Tom Hemrick determined a quorum was present.

III. Proof of Posting
- Wayne Stovall verified proof of posting.

IV. Public Comment
- None

V. Sub-Committee Reports
- None

VI. Chair's Report
- None

VII. HOTCOG Staff Reports

    A. 2025 SHSP Overview
- Harold Ferguson gave a quick overview of the 2025 SERI grant application and what projects can be funded.

- Andy Davis provided a presentation to review the total applications, how projects are scored, and what materials are provided as reference. Russel Devorsky provided examples and explained how conflict of interest affects scoring.

VIII. <u>**New Business - Consideration of and/or Action On**</u>
    A. Review, Discuss, and Approval of January 10, 2024 - EPAC Meeting Minutes
- Michael Graham first, Heath Crossland second, motion passed.
    B. Presentation and scoring of 2024 SHSP grant applications.
        1. HOTCOG ENS – 9:45 am
- *Harold Ferguson presented the HOTCOG emergency notification system application. He explained how the system is used regionally and provides a direct resource to alert the public of emergencies.*
        2. Limestone County Radios – 10:00 am
- *Matt Groveton presented the Limestone County radio system application. He explained the need to upgrade radios for limestone county emergency services and the limitations that current sheriff's deputies have.*
        3. Bosque County Courthouse Security System – 10:15 am
- *Kirk Turner presented for the Bosque County courthouse security system application. Kirk explained how the current panic alarm system for the courthouse is over 20 years old as well as non-functional. He also explained how this project satisfies LETPA and NPA requirements.*
        4. Clifton PD Radios – 10:30 am
- *Chris Blanton (Clifton PD Chief) presented the Clifton PD radio application. Chief Blanton explained what radios would be purchased for the police department as well as what the city has been able to provide for the radio project thus far.*
        5. Waco Fire CBRNE Equipment – 10:45 am
- *Brent Weatherby (Waco FD) presented the Waco Fire CBRNE Equipment application. Brent focused the presentation on the need to purchase level A multi-threat hazmat suits. The suits mentioned in the application would help with a faster response time as well as add equipment for a CBRNE team that is already seeing an increase in call outs.*
        6. Hill County Warning Boards – 11:00 am
- *Chris Jackon presented the Hill County warning boards application. Chris explained the multiuse nature of the warning boards. The warning boards as described are extremely portable and provide a capability for public warning that TXDOT has limited resources to do so in Hill County.*
        7. Freestone County SWAT – 11:15 am
- *Jeremy Shipley presented the Freestone County SWAT application. Sheriff Shipley has been working on a project to develop a SWAT team in Freestone County but currently lacks funding to send personnel to the required training. He explained the inconvenience of being the farthest county in the COG and how that hinders his ability to receive fast mutual aid for SWAT level incidents.*
        8. HOTCOG Regional Citizen Corps Program – 12:30 pm
- *Andy Davis presented the HOTCOG regional CCP application. Andy provided a presentation to explain what the citizen corps has done in the past and what plans HOTCOG has for the regional citizen corp program going forward.*
        9. Hill County Elections Software – 12:45 – pm
- *Hill County Election Software was moved to a state scoring solicitation.*

***10.** McLennan County Bomb Squad – 1:00 – pm*
- *Michael Graham presented the McLennan County Bomb Squad application. In his presentation Michael provided a list of activities and costs that the grant would cover. The grant would provide equipment and enhanced capabilities towards LETPA.*
***11.** HOTCOG BMMAP – 1:15 – pm*
- *Lana Gudgel presented the HOTCOG BMMAP application. Lana briefly described what the program is and how it will affect the region. This project will meet NPA and LETPA requirements.*
***12.** Falls County Radios -1:30 – pm*
- *Jeff Watkins presented the Falls County Radio application. This application would provide 20 P25 radios needed for the volunteer fire departments. The radios would be distributed between the 7 VFD's that need the radios the most.*
***13.** HOTCOG Regional Planning – 1:45 pm*
- *Wayne Stovall presented the HOTCOG regional planning application. During his presentation he elaborated on the varying services that HOTCOG can provide because of this grant. He explained the importance this grant has in providing personnel positions in the homeland security department.*

   o *Final Prioritization:*
      ▪ *Jeremy Shipley made a motion to recommend only the top 9 ranked applications according to score for full funding. Kirk Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed while contested. Kirk Turner made a motion for a roll call vote which was granted by Chairman Tom Hemrick. Roll call vote showed the original motion to fail.*
      ▪ *Michael Graham made a motion to approve the final rank of applications according to the score presented and recommend all applications for full funding. Heath Crossland seconded the motion. Roll call vote was ordered, and the motion passed.*

IX. <u>Announcements or Future Business Items</u>
- Discussion was held amongst members to update scoring sheets and review regional priorities in upcoming meetings throughout the year.s

X. <u>Next EPAC Meeting</u>
Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 9:30 AM at the HOTCOG

XI. <u>Adjournment</u>
- Nancy Cross motioned to adjourn, Robert LaFoy seconded, motion passed.