Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday March 28, 2024 10:00 AM

Heart of Texas
Council of Governments
Offices
1514 South New Road
Waco, Texas



Mayor Geary Smith President

Judge Richard Duncan Vice President Councilmember Jimmy Rogers Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky Executive Director

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF MCLENNAN

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments will meet on Thursday, the 28th Day of March 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, 1514 South New Road, Waco, Texas at which time the following subjects will be considered.

Virtual Meeting Information: https://meet.goto.com/816302277

Dial in using your phone: Access Code: 816-302-277

United States (Toll Free): <u>1 877 309 2073</u>

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum
- II. Proof of Posting of notice in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- III. Introduction of Guests

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- PAGE IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:
 - A. Approval of the February 22, 2024 meeting minutes
 - B. Public Hearing for Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program 2025-2026 Community Development (CD) Fund application cycle
 - C. New Business
 - 1. Consider and Act on Establishing HOTCOG's Regional Project Priorities for the TxCDBG 2025-2026 CD applications
 - 2. Solid Waste Advisory Committee Conformance Review Recommendation

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16	3. Authorization and approval of 9-1-1 Expenditures – Service Agreements with
17 19	VistaCom for voice recording maintenance 4. Approval of Resolution for Radio Infrastructure Grant Award 5. Executive Committee Appointment
	D. Report of the Executive Director and Staff
20	Department of Administration a. Financial and Personnel Report
25	Regional Services a. Department Activities Report
34	Health & Human Services a. Department Activities Report
	4. Executive Director's Report
V.	Other Reports Law Enforcement Training Attendees by Agency
VI.	Public Comment
VII.	Adjournment
Signe	d this the 21st Day of March 2024.
Russe	ell Devorsky
-	ting Director

Executive Director



Mayor Geary Smith President

Judge Richard Duncan Vice-President

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Councilman Jimmy Rogers
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee, in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, met in regular session, on Thursday, the 22nd Day of February 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, 1514 S New Road, Waco, Texas, at which time the following subjects will be considered.

Members Present

Mayor Geary Smith, *President*Judge Richard Duncan, *Vice-President*Councilmember Jimmy Rogers, *Sec.-Treas*.
Judge Jay Elliott
Judge Justin Lewis
Judge Scott Felton
Judge Linda Grant
Co. Treasurer Jeannie Keeney
Commissioner Jim Smith

Limestone County
City of Robinson
Falls County
Hill County
McLennan County
Freestone County
Freestone County
McLennan County

City of Mexia

Members Absent

Mayor Protem Jim Holmes
Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Commissioner Nita Wuebker
Councilmember Andrea Barefield
Councilmember Alice Rodriguez
Mr. Calvin Rueter

City of Waco
Bosque County
Falls County
City of Waco
City of Waco
Special Districts

Staff Present

Russell Devorsky
John C. Minnix
Donnis Cowan
Mary McDow
Dorthy Jackson
Rep Pledger
Wayne Stovall
Andy Davis
John Vorderkunz
Falen Bohannon
Lana Gudgel
Eric Hobbs

Executive Director
Dep. Exec. Director of Administration
Director of Health & Human Services
HR Manager
Regional Economic Development Manager
Transportation Manager
Homeland Security/CJ Manager
Emergency Preparedness Planner
Quality Contract Assurance Specialist
Environmental/Economic Coordinator
Criminal Justice Planner/Trainer
Housing Resource Navigator

Guests: Rob Barthen

GrantWorks

- I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum
 The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 22, 2024.
- II. Proof of Posting of notice in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Proof of posting of the February 22, 2024 Executive Committee meeting was provided by Mary McDow.

- III. Introduction of Guests Guests and staff were introduced.
- IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:
 - A. 1. Approval of the January 25, 2024, meeting minutes

A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Rogers to approve the January 25, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

B. New Business

1. Explanation of Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Award Process and HOTCOG Roll

Mrs. Jackson presented an overview of the Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Community Block Grant Award Process and HOTCOG's roll. The Community Development (CD) Fund is the largest TxCDBG funding category and is available on a biennial basis for funding through an application competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Each state planning region is responsible for assisting in the process which will ultimately establish scoring criteria used by TDA to select applicants for funding under the TxCDBG CD Fund for the 2025-2026 application cycle. Mrs. Jackson provided the list of the regional project priorities that will be established by the Executive Committee at the March meeting.

State Planning Regions (COG staff) will participate in the following:

- Facilitate representative nominations to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC).
- Establish regional project priorities.
 - Facilitate 2024 Award Regional Kick-Off Meetings (Concurrent to the

above process, TDA staff will review applications for funding consideration in 2024.)

2. Appointment of Representative to the Unified Scoring Committee for the TxCDBG program fund application cycle

Mrs. Jackson noted that the governing body for the region is responsible for the nomination of a representative to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) that is eligible in accordance with TDA's criteria. Mrs. Jackson stated Megan Henderson, City Manager from the City of Hillsboro was appointed the last cycle and staff recommends the reappointment of Mrs. Henderson to the USC.

A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Juge Linda Grant to reappoint Mrs. Megan Henderson to serve as the Region's representative on the Unified Scoring Committee for the TXCDBG 2025-2026 Community Development (CD) Fund application cycle. Motion passed.

3. FY 2025 State Crisis Intervention Grant and Resolution

Mrs. Gudgel stated the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office is soliciting applications for projects that provide Crisis Intervention Training during the state fiscal years 2025 grant cycle. The Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) will request \$34,831.02 for the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Criminal Justice Program from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. Under the grant contract, HOTCOG will be responsible for the following:

- scheduling TCOLE certified courses for regional law enforcement
- maintaining a quality program that offers specialized classes related to persons in mental health crisis
- Provide grant management, including quarterly progress as required

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by County Treasurer Jeannie Keeney to authorize the Executive Director to submit an application to the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office for FY 2025 Criminal Justice Program funding through the resolution presented. Motion passed.

4. 2025 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) HOTCOG Regional Projects

Mr. Wayne Stovall stated that HOTCOG staff requested local and regional projects for the 2025 State Homeland Security Grant cycle from all local jurisdictions. Allowable projects address one of the following areas: intelligence and information sharing, interoperable communications, sustaining special responseteams and first responder capabilities, regional or local planning, critical infrastructure related to terrorist threats, and homeland security. Mr. Stovall noted that the region was required to spend a certain amount of its anticipated funding on national priority areas. These areas

include community preparedness and resilience 3%, protection of soft targets/crowded places 3%, enhancing cybersecurity, domestic violent extremism, addressing emerging threats, emergency operation centers, information and intelligence sharing 3%, and election security 3%.

Mr. Stovall stated the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (EPAC) reviewed 13 applications and ranked 12 of the submitted projects. One application of the 13 submitted (Hill Co. Protection of Soft Targets) was put in a competitive scoring fund by the Governor's office. The Texas Office of the Governor (OOG) provided HOTCOG with a Reasonable Budget Expectation (RBE) amount of \$470,00.00 for this coming year. The committee ranked the projects from 1 to 12 on the list presented. The EPAC committee considered the project eligibility, threat and risk protection, existing or new, and a nexus to terrorism, and national or regional priority for all projects.

Mr. Stovall noted that after the ranking list was determined, the committee reviewed the requested funds for each project and determined the recommended funding amount for each project. The decision was based on the HOTCOG Operational Policy and Application Guidelines. The committee voted to approve the funding of the applications for the requested amount in the ranking order on the scored list presented.

A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the 2025 SHSP Project List as presented in scored, ranked, and recommended funding order by the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee for submission by COG staff to the Office of the Governor for the regional distribution recommendation. Motion passed.

C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

- 1. Department of Administration
 - a. Financial and Personnel Reports
 Mr. Minnix presented the Financial and Personnel Reports to the Executive Committee for review.
- 2. Health & Human Services

Department Activities Report

Ms. Donnis Cowan presented the Health and Human Services Division activity report to the committee including Heart of Texas Area Aging on Aging, Heart of Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center and the Heart of Texas 2-1-1 Area Information Center.

Ms. Cowan noted that the Area Agency on Aging is working on a public health expansion campaign with funding received from the American Rescue Plan Act that will end in August, 2024. Ms. Cowan stated that 5000 clear totes were purchased and will be filled with two COVID test along

with masks for distribution to a target population of Aging and Disability Seniors and low income individuals in the rural areas. Ms. Cowan also noted that the Resource Guide publication has been delayed due to previous supporters of the Guide that did not want to renew their ad. The AAA was able to fund two pages of the Guide but the reduction of funders resulted in the condensing of pages.

Staff member, Eric Hobbs, Senior Housing Navigator for the ADRC was introduced to talk about his activities in working with the counties in the Region.

Mr. Rep Pledger gave an update on the Heart of Texas Rural Transportation Program and noted that the four new Blue buses were in production.

- 3. Regional Services
 - Department Activities Report

Mrs. Jackson gave a report on the activities of the Community and Economic Development program to the committee.

- 4. Executive Director's Report Mr. Devorsky noted that HOTCOG staff continues to attend Chamber of Commerce meetings and community groups in the region. Mr. Devorksy discussed mental health services, the greater demand for those services in the near future and the importance of local governments in the Region working together to address needs more efficiently within the communities. Mr. Devorsky noted that Oncor is in the process of setting up meetings around the state to hold a forum on Electric Vehicles (EV). HOTCOG will co-sponsor the meeting in our area. Oncor would like to present the facts on what will be required to create an infrastructure for charging stations, etc. as more electric vehicles increase on the road.
- V. Other Reports Law Enforcement Training report by Attendees
- VI. Public Comment None
- VII. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned.

Honorable Geary Smith, President Mayor, City of Mexia Honorable Jimmy Rogers, Secretary-Treas. Councilmember, City of Robinson

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

In accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 28, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. by the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Board, Waco, Texas. At the meeting, the Executive Board will review/discuss and establish Project Priority scoring for various project types for the upcoming Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) 2025-2026 Community Development (CD) Fund application cycle.

This meeting is open to the public and will provide an opportunity for public comment. Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the Heart of Texas Council of Governments at (254) 292-1800 two days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE March 28, 2024

<u>SUBJECT</u>: Consider and Act on Establishing HOTCOG's Regional Project Priorities for the TxCDBG 2025-2026 CD applications.

INFORMATION:

The HOTCOG Executive Committee is responsible for ranking CDBG eligible project activities by priority based on feedback from the non-entitlement communities. There was a survey sent out to all non-entitlement communities to respond to and a public hearing before the Executive Committee. Projects are listed on next page.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee set the Tier levels as follows: Tier 1: 50 points; Tier 2: 40 points and Tier 3: 20 points.

Staff recommends that projects are given tier levels based on feedback from the surveys and public hearing.

The tier levels on the next page are the results of survey. The Executive Committee has the authority to make any changes they deem necessary, especially after considering feedback of public hearing.

Regional Project Priority Scoring Element:

Region: HOTCOG

Date Adopted: March 28, 2024

TxCDBG Community Development Fund (CDV) Project Priority points are awarded based on tiers of prioritized activities. Assign points to each tier in ten-point increments. Assign no more than 50 points to any single tier - each point assignment is separate, there is no cumulative point total for this scoring element.

Project Priority Tier	Number of Points Assigned
First Tier	50
Second Tier	40
Third Tier	20

Assign a Project Priority Tier to each activity category. Any application requesting to consider activities not

identified as a Priority Tier will receive no Project Priority points.

Activity Code	Activity Name	Priority Tier
03A	Senior Centers	3
03B	Facility for Persons with Disabilities	3
03C	Homeless Facilities	0
03D	Youth Centers	3
03E	Neighborhood Facilities	3
203F	Parks, Recreational Facilities	2
03G	Parking Facilities	0
03H	Solid Waste Disposal Improvements	2
031	Flood Drainage Improvements	1
03J	Water/Sewer Improvements	1
03K	Street Improvements	1
03L	Sidewalks	2
03M	Child Care Centers	3
030	Fire Station/Equipment	2
03P	Health Facilities	0
03Z	Other Eligible CDBG Public Improvements	3
004	Clearance and Demolition	3
005	Public Services	3
120	Construction of New Housing (via community development organizations)	2
140	Rehab; Single-Unit Residential	0
14A	Rehab; Single-Unit Residential Utility Connections	0
14B	Rehab; Multi-Unit Residential	0
14C	Public Housing Modernization	0
14Z	Other Housing Rehab, Relocation, and/or Homeownership Services	0
150	Code Enforcement	1
16A	Residential Historic Preservation	3
16B	Non-Residential Historic Preservation	0
170	Economic Development -Assistance to Not-for-Profit Organizations	0
18A	Economic Development - Assistance to For-Profits	0
18C	Micro-Enterprise Assistance	0
020	Planning	3

Regional Project Priority Scoring, Cont.:

Persons participating in priority selection:

		All members of regional planning organization (open meeting)	
		All members of regional planning organization's executive committee	
		Executive Director	
		Other standing committee:	
Approved as	nd submi	ted to TDA:	
	Russell	Devorsky, Executive Director Date	

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

3/28/2024

SUBJECT:

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Conformance Review Recommendation

INFORMATION:

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee met on March 7, 2024 and performed a conformance review requested by SCS Engineers Consultants for the City of Waco Transfer Station proposal. The following recommendation is now being made to the HOTCOG Executive Committee for the conformance of the City of Waco's transfer station registration. The recommendation is as follows:

The committee recommends that the registration for the City of Waco's transfer station proposal is in conformance with the Heart of Texas Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

SWAC Members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of HOTCOG's Executive Committee to represent multiple stakeholder groups and perspectives on solid waste. Stakeholder groups from whom representation is encouraged include Permit Holders (utilities, small businesses, industry, Brazos River Authority;) Transportation (TxDOT, Public Transportation;) Citizens; Environmental Groups; Public Health; Research Entities; Planning Agencies; City of Waco; McLennan County; Falls County; Limestone County; Freestone County; Hill County; and Bosque County

ACTION:

HOTCOG Executive Committee approves the conformance recommendation from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Heart of Texas Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Conformance Checklist

As the state's designated planning agency, the Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) is responsible for reviewing municipal solid waste management facility permit applications submitted to the TCEQ for conformance to the *Heart of Texas Solid Waste Management Plan*, required under 363.066 of the *Texas Health and Safety Code*. The questions that follow, which address the goals and objectives of the region, will be used by the HOTCOG Solid Waste Advisory Committee to determine conformance with the regional plan.

The Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Subchapter E 330.61 (p) states that it is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate conformance with the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. This checklist is intended to assist Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) facility permit or registration applicants meet these requirements. The 30 TAC 330.57 (e) (2) directs the applicant to send a copy to the COG.

This process requires review from both the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the HOTCOG Executive Committee; therefore, the HOTCOG must receive the information noted above by the 10th of the month to complete a review in the same month.

If additional space is needed, please attach an additional sheet and label numerically.

Section	1: General Appli	cant Information					
1.	Applicant's Name	City of Waco					
2.	Is this a permit or a reg	istration application?		Permit	No		
			X	Registration	No. <u>4033</u>	8	
3.	What type of MSW fac (please check the appropr	ility is being registered or perniate box)	itted?				
	Type I Landfill			Type IV AE La	andfill		
	Type I AE Landf		\boxtimes	Type V Facility			
	Type IV Landfill			Other (please d	lescribe)		
	Describe "Other" belov	v:					
4.	What types of waste(s)	will be accepted at your facility	y? Ple	ase specify any	special waste	es.	
		oal solid waste, putrescible was					
		acility will accept special waste	s, such	as dead animals	s, pharmacei	ıticals	<u>5,</u>
non-KA	CM, C&D waste, Class	2 and Class 3 Wastes.	-				
5.	What entity or entities i	n the Heart of Texas region is/	are this	s facility intende	d to serve?		
This fac	cility will primarily serve	e McLennan County and the su	rround	ling communitie	s.		
		6					
6.		out-of-state waste at your facilit d waste stream will be from ou)	X	Yes
						П	No

Section 2: Conformance with Regional Planning Goals

Please provide information as to how your proposed facility will help to support or conform with the goals or objectives of the Heart of Texas Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

Goal 1 Objective 2: Maintain and develop adequate disposal and recycling facilities in the region								
 Will your facility divert for recycling or beneficial reuse any of the following items? White Goods X Yard Waste X Scrap Metal X Construction/Demolition Debris X Tree limbs or brush Other-please describe below: 								
2. Do you believe your facility will support this regional planning goal? If so, please explain.								
Yes, the facility will include a Citizens' Convenience Station (CCS) that will allow for the drop-off of recyclable materials. Additionally, the facility will accept brush and yard waste, which will subsequently be mulched for further reuse.								
Goal 1 Objective 5: Encourage industry research and development of solid waste technologies								
3. Will you utilize any energy recovery methods at your facility? If so please explain.								
The facility will not include any energy recovery methods.								
4. Do you believe your facility will support this regional planning goal? If so, please explain. This proposed facility will be constructed and operated on top of a closed solid waste landfill. Additionally, it will include a methane barrier system to prevent methane from intruding with daily operations and impacting health and safety of employees at the facility. As such, construction of this facility will encourage industry research and development of solid waste technologies to construct such facilities in future.								

Goal 2.2: Support local efforts to stop illegal dumping
5. What measures will you take to make your services conveniently accessible to the public?
As discussed above, the facility will include a CCS, which will allow citizens to drop off their recyclables or other approved wastes, reducing the likelihood that citizens may illegally dump their wastes. Additionally, the site is located in an area that is currently underserved. With easier access to a permitted facility, it reduces the likelihood of illegal dumping in the region.
6. As part of your operating plan, would you be willing to accept waste from locally-sponsored litter and illegal dumping clean-up projects at no cost or at significantly reduced costs if the waste is an allowable material for your type of facility? Please explain.
Yes. The existing City of Waco disposal facilities have a long history of participating in such projects, for example: in previous years, the City of Waco Solid Waste Department has partnered with organizations like Keep Waco Beautiful and local Neighborhood Associations to host clean-up events. Currently, residents of the City of Waco are allowed to dispose of four free loads per year, and the facility plans to continue offering this benefit to City of Waco residents in the future. This will give residents an opportunity to perform their residential clean-up activities in a manner that encourages and facilitates the proper management and disposal of waste
7. Do you believe your facility will support this regional planning goal? If so, please explain.
Yes, we believe the addition of this facility to the community will aid in reducing incidents of illegal dumping. With easier access and the addition of a CCS, we believe the community will be encouraged to drop-off their wastes at an approved facility.
Goal 3 Objective 5: Consider possible impacts of municipal solid waste facilities on local governments by incorporating land use factors
8. Is the site of your proposed facility in an area that has been zoned by one of the region's local governments? Yes No
9. If yes, which local government zoning standards will this facility have to comply with? Also, attached documentation from the zoning entity indicating that the proposed facility is in compliance with the standards.
N/A, the facility is located on an existing closed landfill.

	provide a map of the area and identify any feature(s) of archaeological or historical significance						
	See attached Figure	e I/II-5, Land Use Map					
To the	North:	Majority industrial land use with some residential areas					
To the	e South:	Majority agricultural land use, with some residential areas					
To the	East:	Residential and industrial land use					
To the	e West:	Majority agricultural land, with some commercial use					
11.	If the proposed faci	lity is a landfill, what will be the maximum fill height of the facility?					
E.	Feet above	e grade: N/A					
12.	features (surroundi	n fill height is reached, how will the facility compare to surrounding elevation ng meaning, "within a two-mile circumference of the facility")? Will this be elevation feature within a 2-mile radius? Please explain.					
N/A							
13.	Will vehicular traff traffic patterns? Ple	fic into and out of the proposed facility disrupt or impact the area's existing ease explain.					
No, the vehicular traffic related to the facility will not disrupt the area's existing traffic patterns. From t traffic study included with the application, the volume of traffic generated by the facility represents a relatively small percentage of the projected volume on State Highway 6 north of the facility. Additional from discussing with TxDOT, there are no existing or future restrictions within one mile of the facility would prevent safe and efficient operation for the facility-generated traffic or other vehicles in the area.							
		•					
14.		knowledge, is there <u>any</u> pre-existing, planned development of Yes nt to the proposed facility site? If yes, please explain No					
15. N/A		sing Alternative Daily Cover materials or other space-savings measures that eful life of your landfill? If "Yes", please explain.					
1							
16.	Do you believe that explain.	your proposed facility will contribute toward this regional goal? If so, please					
As disc	cussed previously, the	is analyzed for surrounding land use factors when choosing this site location. Is facility is located on an existing closed landfill. The majority of the cultural land and industrial land use.					

Describe the current land use within 1 mile of the footprint of the proposed facility site? Please

10.

Section 3: Certifications							
I hereby certify that the information contained herein is, to the best of my knowledge is complete and accurate and that the information in fact represents the MSW facility for which this entity is requesting a TCEQ registration or permit.							
Name of Applicant' Chief Administrative C	Officer: Kody Petillo						
Title of Chief Administrative Officer: Di	rector of Solid Waste						
Kody Petillo	1/30/2024						
Signature of Chief Administrative Officer	Date						

Return your completed form to:

Falen Bohannon
Environmental Development Planner
Heart of Texas Council of Governments
1514 S. New Road
Waco, TX 76711

Falen.bohannon@hot.cog.tx.us

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Authorizing approval of 9-1-1 expenditures exceeding \$50,000

INFORMATION:

HOTCOG 911 staff is requesting authorization to approve expenditures of \$130,011 for maintenance for the life of the voice recording equipment for the Region's Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The current equipment is under its 1 year manufacturer's warranty.

ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee approve the authorization for the Executive Director to sign service agreements with VistaCom for voice recording maintenance expenditures exceeding \$50,000.

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 28, 2024

SUBJECT:

Resolution for Radio Infrastructure Grant Award

INFORMATION:

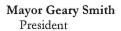
In late 2020, HOTCOG was awarded a \$1,600,000 grant under the State Radio Infrastructure grant program. This grant will help public safety communications tremendously by allowing for VHF repeaters to be replaced, three communications towers to be constructed and the addition/modification of two consoles in our region.

HOTCOG has again completed an application with the State Emergency Radio Infrastructure Grant Program to improve Radio Infrastructure issues in Hill, Bosque, and Limestone Counties in the amount of \$1,427,897.00

As part of the terms and conditions, the Office of the Governor requires a resolution from the governing body noting the grant title, application number, designates the grant authorized official, notes the requirement for repayment of grant funds for loss or misuse, and approval of the resolution.

ACTION:

That the Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee approve the attached resolution for the Radio Infrastructure Grant #4559402 for submission to the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office.



Judge Richard Duncan Vice-President



Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Councilmember Jimmy Rogers Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, The Heart of Texas Council of Governments finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Region that the HOTCOG Regional Communication Infrastructure project in the amount of \$1,427,897.00 be operated for 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, The Heart of Texas Council of Governments agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the Heart of Texas Council of Governments assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

WHEREAS, The Heart of Texas Council of Governments designates Russell Devorsky, Executive Director, as the grantee's authorized official. The 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 that the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee approves submission of the grant application for the HOTCOG Regional Communication Infrastructure to the Office of the Governor.

Date:	Mayor Geary Smith, President	
Attest:		
Councilmember Jimmy Rogers Secretary-Treasurer	_	
Application #4559402		

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: HOTCOG Executive Committee Appointment

INFORMATION:

Judge Justin Lewis, Hill County has recommended Mayor Janice Sanders from the City of Whitney for appointment to the Executive Committee. Mayor Sanders will replace the former Mayor Andy Smith from the City of Hillsboro.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee consider the recommendation to appoint Mayor Janice Sanders, City of Hillsboro, to serve on the Executive Committee.

Administrative Services Department Financial / Personnel Reports

Executive Committee Meeting

March 28, 2024

Heart of Texas Council of Governments Combined Balance Sheet February 29, 2024

Assets

Current Cash Investments Due (to)/from Grantor Agencies Membership Dues Receivables Aging Match Receivables Other Receivables Pre-Paid Items Fixed Assets Building Land Furniture & Equipment Less: Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 119,503 660,402 1,055,481 67,212 247 - 19,227 1,922,072 2,810,000 690,000 2,928,116 (3,553,255) 2,874,861	-	
Total Assets		\$	4,796,933
Liabilities			
Current Accounts Payable Due to HOTEDD Accrued Vacation Deferred Revenue	263,866 597,504 149,839 120,565 1,131,774		
<u>Long-term Liabilities</u> Notes Payable	<u>170,514</u> 170,514		
Total Liabilities		\$	1,302,288
Fund Equity			
Investments in Fixed Assets, net of related debt Nonspendable-prepaid items Restricted for Emergency Notification System Restricted for Federal & State programs Unassigned	2,704,347 19,227 618 116,633 653,820		
Total Fund Equity		\$	3,494,645
Total Liabilities & Fund Equity		\$	4,796,933

Heart of Texas Council of Governments Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Fund Balance For Five Months Ended February 29, 2024

Annual Budget <u>Remaining</u>	\$ 5,649,340 289,052 81,694 240 473,410 4,030 (2,916)	\$ 6,494,850	668,802 274,386 27,139	÷.	20	\$ 6,436,698		7	Out-only		
12 Month <u>Budget</u>	\$ 8,269,127 474,551 138,816 61,832 492,950 15,000 6,000	\$ 9,458,276	1,107,951 504,671 46.765	1,539,427 20,845 289,399	4,002,478 988,617 100,000 230,729 492,950	\$ 9,323,832	134,444	(101,261)	33,183		
YTD Budget <u>Variance</u>	\$ (825,683) (12,231) (718) 35,829 (185,856) 4,720 6,416	\$ (977,522)	22,497 (20,005) (141)	377,981 2,720 (33,331)	445,969 (3,561) 91 0 205,576	\$ 997,796					
YTD Budget	\$ 3,445,470 197,730 57,840 25,763 205,396 6,250 2,500	\$ 3,940,948	461,646 210,280 19,485	641,428 8,685 120,583	1,667,699 411,924 41,667 96,137 205,396	\$ 3,884,930					
Year <u>To Date</u>	\$ 2,619,787 185,499 57,122 61,592 19,540 10,970 8,916	\$ 2,963,426	439,149 230,285 19,626	263,447 5,965 153,914	1,221,730 415,485 41,576 96,137	\$ 2,887,134	76,292	(30,053)	46,239	744,059	\$ 790,298
Revenues	Grants administered from State/Federal Rent-WF Bldg Local Funds/Mgt. Fees Membership Dues Inkind Match/Program Income Interest income Miscellaneous Income	Total Revenues	Expenditures Salaries Fringe Benefits Travel	Equipment Supplies Other Expenses	Delegate Agency/Contractual Costs Indirect Costs Insurance/Maintenance-WF Bldg Debt Service-WF Bldg Inkind Match/Program Income	Total Expenditures	Changes in Fund Balance Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	Transfers-Due (to)/from HOTEDD	Net Change in Fund Balances	Fund Balances as of October 1, 2023	Fund Balances as of February 29, 2024

Heart of Texas Council of Governments Monthly Report of Cash Transactions and Condition As of February 29, 2024

	Operating Account			Short Term Investments		Total Cash	
Beginning Balance 2/1/24	\$	145,827	\$	571,422		\$	717,249
Transactions Cash In Cash (Out)		763,925 (703,775)		2,506			766,431 (703,775)
Net Income (Outlay)		60,150		2,506			62,656
Net Transfers In (Out)		(86,474)		86,474			
Net Total Transactions		(26,324)		88,980			62,656
Ending Balance 2/29/24	\$	119,503	_\$_	660,402	:	\$	779,905

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS PERSONNEL STATUS SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 22, 2024

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AUTHORIZED BY GRANT/FUND BUDGETS

32

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED

32

As of March 22, 2024, HOTCOG had no vacancies as referenced by the number of positions authorized and filled. The following is a departmental breakout of the above figures:

PEOPLE EMPLOYED

<u>Department</u>	Positions Authorized	Regular <u>Fulltime</u>	Temporary <u>Fulltime</u>	Regular & Temporary <u>Part-Time</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Executive/ Admin. Services	6	6	0	0	0
Regional Services	8	7	0	1	0
Health and Human Services	18	17	0	1	0
<u>Totals</u>	32	30	0	2	0

REGIIONAL SERVICES REPORT

MARCH 2024

<u>9-1-1</u>

HOTCOG 9-1-1 IP Network (Next-Generation 9-1-1)

Members of the TriCOG 9-1-1 Alliance (BVCOG, CTCOG and HOTCOG) continue to collaborate with network consultants and equipment vendors to maintain a robust network. The TriCOG Alliance maintains its partnership with Mission Critical Partners (MCP) for NextGen Core Services (NGCS) Consulting and Cybersecurity Support. MCP follows a scope of work identifying three tasks to assist the TriCOG in technical issues to include Project/Task Management for GIS Readiness and Geospatial Call Routing, Procurement support for a Request for Proposal for call handling equipment and the development of a Cyber Security Plan. Members of the TriCOG participate in regularly scheduled conference calls to discuss ongoing NGCS projects and planning for the future of the regional networks. In addition, project planning calls with Motorola Solutions Connectivity, Inc. continue to be held weekly, and discussions include ongoing project deliverables and discussions for upcoming activities.

Enterprise Geospatial Database Management System (EGDMS)

In NG9-1-1 systems, an EGDMS (GIS map data) replaces the traditional Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) for location-based 9-1-1 call routing and location validation. An EGDMS is crucial for the transition to NG9-1-1 because it provides a means to create and maintain data critical to NG9-1-1 success. Staff participated in the Customer Focus Group (CFG) for this project. The CFG was responsible for assisting with development of the Quality Assurance/Quality Control plan, participating in GIS Data Management collaboration meetings, and assisting in GIS data management workflow development.

9-1-1 staff exceeded the 99% data match rate as recommended by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) with a match rate of 99.99% with no critical errors remaining. HOTCOG has completed the transition to an EGDMS, and staff is a participant in a focus group for continued implementation across the state.

Text-to-9-1-1

Text-to-9-1-1 is available in the HOTCOG Region as an alternate means of communicating with 9-1-1 for people with a hearing and/or speech disability, or when speaking aloud would put the individual in danger. Text-to-9-1-1 also provides a silent alternative in cases such as child abduction, active shooter, or domestic abuse.

Public Education

There were 100 public education items distributed to the Region for public education and public outreach/health expo events.

Meetings/Training/Conference Calls and Site Visits

- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG March 4th
- CSEC Touchpoint conference call, HOTCOG March 5th
- TriCOG SB8 RFP discussion meeting, BVCOG March 6th
- Strategic Planning TARC Committee conference call, HOTCOG March 7th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG March 11th
- Freestone combined dispatch site visit, Fairfield March 12th
- MCP Incident Response Plan discussion conference call, HOTCOG March 12th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG March 18th
- TriCOG project discussion conference call, HOTCOG March 20th
- CSEC Solar Eclipse Planning conference call, HOTCOG March 22nd

- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG March 25th
- CSEC Commission Meeting/RPC Workshop, Austin March 27th

Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness

Grant/COG Projects

- Staff attended the monthly Homeland Security conference calls with the Office of the Governor (OOG).
- Staff submitted prioritized list of 2025 SHSP Grant Applications to OOG for final review and Awards.
- Staff submitted an application for 2024-2025 State Emergency Radio Infrastructure Grant for Regional Communications improvements.

Technical Assistance

- Staff met with Falls County EMC and representatives assessing communications issues and needed improvements.
- Staff met with Freestone County officials and toured the location of the new 911
 Dispatch center slated to open later this year.

Criminal Justice

Planning Grant

CJ Planner, Lana Gudgel, began working with regional law enforcement to discussions regarding a Regional Crisis Intervention Team under the State Crisis Intervention Grant Program

Lana began reaching out to the area mental health experts to discuss additional training to respond to critical incidents within the region, to include things such as active shooter, hostage incidents, or natural disasters.

Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy Grant

CJ Planner Lana Gudgel taught Basic Instructor in March and 8 Law Enforcement Officers successfully completed the course.

A second Basic Instructor course was added to the training calendar as well as a Mental Health Peace Officer, Advanced Instructor and TCIC/NCIC.

Lana also contracted with Step up Texas to offer two Resilient Response: Policeing Trauma. This course teaches about damaging effects of trauma on the brain and body, and how to be resilient in the face of trauma, as well as how to extend that resiliency to fellow officers and the communities they serve.

BMMAP

CJ Planner Lana Gudgel, partnered with New Mexico Tech to bring two new courses for law enforcement and the school districts in the region. The first is Understanding and Planning for School Bombing Incidents (UPSBI) and Surviving Bombing Incidents for Educators (SBIE).

The UPSBI is designed to provide emergency first responders and school staff with the skills and knowledge to plan and respond to school bomb threats and bombing incidents through lectures and exercises.

The SBIE provides school personnel with the skills and knowledge necessary to perform critical life-saving actions in the immediate aftermath of a bombing incident, a critical moment where those who wish to help can perform life-saving actions.

Sixty (92) students attended HOTCOG training, totaling 2832 contact training hours since November 2023.

Economic & Community Development Department Staff Report

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

HOTEDD currently administers two revolving loan funds: One through USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and one through TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture).

The USDA fund is to support our local businesses so that they can grow, create jobs, and diversify our regional economy. Specifically, the HOTEDD RBEG RLF Program seeks to assist qualified small and emerging businesses in the rural Heart of Texas including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and rural McLennan Counties. Any private business that will employ 50 or fewer new employees and has less than \$1 million in projected gross revenues located in the rural (as defined by USDA) Heart of Texas region including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and rural McLennan Counties (McLennan County communities that are not contiguous to the City of Waco). On a case by case basis, the Loan Committee may waive this requirement and provide loan funds to a business located outside the region if the committee determines doing so will have a positive economic impact on the community to be assisted with RLF funds. The project will create or retain one full-time job per each \$10,000.00 in loan funding. At least 51 percent of the interest in the business (applicant) must be owned by those who are either citizens of the United States or reside in the United States after being legally admitted for permanent residence certifiable by HOTEDD and USDA. HOTEDD RLF's financial assistance is necessary to the viability of the project: There must be evidence presented by the applicant that demonstrates that the projects financial requirements cannot be met from owner resources or a commercial financial institution.

Texas CDBG funds provided under the TCF SMRF program are required to comply with the national objective of principally benefiting persons of low and moderate income. The objective

of the program is to expand economic opportunities that create or retain jobs, principally for low-and moderate-income persons. The SMRF program provides resources for an eligible applicant to support qualified small and microenterprise business(es) (a for-profit entity) to create or retain jobs for Texans. The CDBG regulations provide the following definitions: **Microenterprise Definition, A** "microenterprise" is a commercial enterprise that has five or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise. "Persons developing microenterprises" means persons who have expressed interests in and who are, or after an initial screening process are expected to be, actively working toward developing businesses, each of which is expected to be a microenterprise at the time it is formed. 24 CFR §570.201(o)(3): **Small Enterprise Definition** is an enterprise" or "small business" is a commercial enterprise that has 25 or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise. Falls County is the only county under the SMRF fund. The funding period through TDA and regulations is over but once TDA closes out the contract with Falls County then HOTEDD can lend the revolving funds back into Falls County without the stricter requirements of TDA. At this time Falls County has not received closeout information.

HOTEDD is currently seeking applicants for approximately \$247,691 in USDA revolved funds.

SMRF has \$53,953

Currently loans are out to:

Net1 is now delinquent even on new terms. Staff is working with legal on calling note.

KNV Investments is current.

U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANTS

EDA sent notification that the 2024 allocation has been passed and are able to process the EDD three grants at the full normal amount of \$210k

EDA prefers to use HOTCOG as the grant administrator of all projects within the HOTCOG region. EDA helps fund the Economic planning division of HOTCOG. All EDA funding projects must support the HOTCOG regions CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies). Dorthy Jackson administers all of the grants at this time. This includes help with applications and once grant has been award then all financial reports and special conditions are fielded through Dorthy Jackson and then submitted to EDA.

EDA is seeking new public works grants. Please contact Dorthy Jackson if you have a need that we can fit into the national objective of the EDA.

EDA is working on a rolling bases for the funds they receive. Even if funds are not available now they say to still submit applications and they will award eligible projects when they receive more funds. Make sure to contact me prior to sending in application!

Current EDA funding opportunities:

Key points for this report on EDA 2024 Allocation of public works grant conveyed by EDA Representative:

- The Economic Development Administration (EDA) recently announced the receipt of the 2024 funding allocation for public works projects.
 - A portion of the allocated funds has already been committed to specific projects.
 - The EDA anticipates allocating all remaining funds by summer, indicating a timesensitive opportunity for potential applicants.
 - To enhance competitiveness and be considered for a grant, applicants must submit Forms ED 900B.
 - Forms ED 900B are crucial for reporting business activities resulting from the grant, such as new ventures, expansions, or job retentions.
 - Timely completion and submission of Forms ED 900B are essential to demonstrate the tangible impact of the grant on applicants' operations.

Make sure to get with Dorthy Jackson quickly so that we can discuss any potential project with EDA Representative for our region.

Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Application Submission and Program Requirements

Application deadline

There are no application submission deadlines. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new PWEAA NOFO, cancellation of this PWEAA NOFO, or all available funds have been expended. EDA intends to review applications expeditiously upon receipt of the complete application.

EDA intends to review applications expeditiously upon receipt of the complete application. There are no application submission deadlines. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new PWEAA NOFO, cancellation of this PWEAA NOFO, or all available funds have been expended.

This NOFO sets out EDA's application submission and review procedures for two of EDA's core economic development programs authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 3121 et seq.) (PWEDA): (1) Public Works and Economic Development Facilities (Public Works) and (2) Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA).

EDA supports bottom-up strategies that build on regional assets to spur economic growth and resiliency. EDA encourages its grantees throughout the country to develop initiatives that present new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.

Through this NOFO EDA intends to advance general economic development in accordance with EDA's investment priorities, but also to pursue projects that, where practicable, incorporate specific priorities related to equity, workforce development, and climate change resiliency so that investments can benefit everyone for decades to come.

EDA Investment Priorities

Each project funded under this NOFO must be consistent with at least one of EDA's Investment Priorities:

- 1. Equity
- 2. Recovery & Resilience
- 3. Workforce Development
- 4. Manufacturing
- 5. Technology-Based Economic Development
- 6. Environmentally-Sustainable Development
- 7. Exports & Foreign Direct Investment

Public Works

Through the primarily construction-oriented Public Works program, EDA provides catalytic investments to help distressed communities build, design, or engineer critical infrastructure and facilities that will help implement regional development strategies and advance bottom-up economic development goals to promote regional prosperity. The Public Works program provides resources to meet the construction and/or infrastructure design needs of communities to enable them to become more economically competitive. Examples of projects that have been funded previously include, but are not limited to:

- acquisition and development of land and improvements for use in public works or other types of development facilities;
- design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of public works, public service, or related development facilities, including related machinery and equipment;
- water and sewer system improvements;
- creation or expansion of industrial parks;
- creation or expansion of business incubator and accelerator facilities;
- expansion of port and harbor facilities;
- construction or expansion of facilities for workforce development;
- redevelopment of brownfield sites;
- expansion, construction, or improvements of technology-based facilities and research and development commercialization centers, including the procurement of necessary equipment;
- construction, expansion, or improvement of wet labs, including the procurement of necessary equipment;
- construction of multi-tenant manufacturing facilities;
- · expansion or improvement of research, business and science parks; and
- expansion or enhancement of public facilities with higher quality fiber optic cables and telecommunications infrastructure and broadband infrastructure deployment.

Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA)

Through the EAA program, EDA provides investments that support a wide range of construction and non-construction activities in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. Supported activities include construction and non-construction such as sectoral partnerships for workforce training, design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and capitalization or re-capitalization of Revolving Loan Funds

(RLF). EDA utilizes EAA investments to provide resources that help communities experiencing or anticipating economic dislocations to plan and implement specific solutions to leverage their existing regional economic advantages to support economic development and job creation. Like Public Works investments, EAA investments are designed to help communities catalyze public-private partnerships to foster collaboration, attract investment, create jobs, and foster economic resiliency and prosperity. Examples of projects that have been funded previously include, but are not limited to:

- construction or upgrading of public infrastructure;
- design and implementation of sectoral partnerships (see section 3.a.);
- activities necessary to strengthen cluster acceleration and expansion;
- capitalization or recapitalization of revolving loan funds (RLFs);
- development and implementation of long-term disaster recovery and resiliency plans;
- enhancement of infrastructure to make it more resilient to natural disasters;
- implementation of military base realignments and closures (BRAC) responses;
- development or expansion of commercialization and proof of concept centers;
- procurement of equipment for workforce training programs;
- market or industry research and analysis for larger hard or soft economic projects;
- creation or expansion of foreign direct investment, trade, or export initiatives;
- economic development projects that enhance density in the vicinity of other economic development;
- "strategy grants" to develop, update, or refine a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as described in EDA's regulations at 13 C.F.R. § 307.3; and
- development of projects that provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of key economic development actors in the region to promote the region's locally owned strategies.

Current EDA projects Administrated by HOTCOG/HOTEDD:

<u>TSTC Project through the Cares Act funding</u>: The EDA investment is for the renovation of building space within the 30,877 sq ft Technical Studies Center (TSC) building and 41,223 sq ft Electronics Center (EEC) building. Major components for both buildings include:

- Conduct abatement,
- Conduct demolition,
- Installation of electrical, plumbing and IT infrastructure,
- Renovate interior lab and classroom space,
- Equipment purchase of technology equipment to support on-line lecture distribution

The investment is for \$3,500,000 from EDA and original budget for total project was for \$6,083,594.

Construction has started at TSTC. Dorthy Jackson has conducted employee interviews and will continue through project to conduct interviews because prime contractor is subcontracting out a lot of the work.

<u>Fairfield project</u>: The EDA investment is for roadway improvements of approximately 3,750 feet of the existing Old Mexia-Fairfield Road (County Road 946). The roadway reconstruction includes upgrading from a variable width (18-20 feet) asphalt concrete paved roadway to a formalized 24-foot-wide concrete paved roadway with stabilized subgrade and base and includes

a culvert replacement. Other components include sitework, traffic control (permanent and temporary), curbing and inlets, driveway approach, erosion control measures and a minor utility relocation.

EDA investment is \$950,000 with total project estimated cost at 1,577,410. On last report the board was informed that the Engineers for Fairfield EDC had determined the project was at 50% more than estimations when this project first started. Neither Fairfield EDC nor the City of Fairfield has the funds to cover that cost. Fairfield EDC decided to move forward with accepting bids with alternate scope of work to reduce the amount of road coverage to see how much the actual cost is and to give EDA an option to allow the reduction of scope of work. EDA did come back allowing alternative items on the bid manual. The bids were opened on February 15.

Staff and Engineers are now working on vetting the lowest bid contractor and will submit to EDA for approval. Engineers and the Fairfield EDC Director, David Fowler, worked on adjustments of bid tabulations to ensure that the project remains within financial capabilities of the EDC.

<u>Training:</u> Staff attended NADO Washington DC Conference on 10th through 13th. Main goal was to help EDA get reauthorized. Take away learning sessions: Ai and how to make it work for us.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Staff is forwarding information to the community that comes down from Federal partners on upcoming grants.

Dorthy Jackson is continuing to work with the City of Mexia and City of Lacy Lakeview for GLO Grants.

The overview of the GLO grant will be continued in these reports for reference of the Executive Committee Board and HOTEDD Board members.

Dorthy Jackson has been working with the City of Mexia and the City of Lacy Lakeview, on grant through the Texas General Land Office (GLO) who have allocated up to \$100 million in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for the Resilient Communities Program (RCP). RCP funds the development, adoption, and implementation of resilient building codes, flood damage prevention ordinances, zoning ordinances, comprehensive plans, and land use plans. Additionally, RCP funds an array of public service activities related to resilience. The maximum grant amount is \$300,000 per applicant. HOTCOG will be the grant administrator for the City of Whitney on this grant. The City of Whitney will be eligible for funds up to \$100,000 due to population. Please see Dorthy Jackson if there is an interest in your community to apply for this grant.

Mexia application has been submitted. GLO sent request for clarifications that Dorthy Jackson submitted back to the GLO specialist. The grant at time of this report is still under review.

TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture)

Dorthy Jackson is sending out notifications of TDA announcements as they come in.

TDA is allowing \$12,253 to the COG for this year's technical assistance work.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Community and economic development technical assistance was provided to:

- Fairfield EDC
- TSTC
- City of Mexia
- City of Lacy Lakeview
- City of Clifton
- City of Whitney
- City of Marlin
- City of Mart

Solid Waste

The SWAC determined that FY24 and FY 25 would be conducting COG Managed Projects. Three Counties will be funded in each of the Fiscal Years. The projects will be determined by each County Judge or whomever they assign to the task. Staff will work directly with each entity to arrange and follow through on each project. There will be Code Enforcement training for all 6 counties that will be separate from the other projects. We are anticipating having 2 code enforcement trainings in FY24. There will be a total of 3 community collection events in FY 24. Bosque, Falls, and Freestone will all be doing a project that will involve both tire trailers and roll off dumpsters.

Air Quality

Staff remains in communication with consulting firm and works directly with them on a variety of issues and questions. Staff makes sure that all correspondence is documented, all invoices have PO's and Reqs attached, and are paid on time. Ramboll has just completed the new Statement of Work for FY24/25. TCEQ has opted to extend the last biennium contract to incorporated new years of data collection for ambient monitoring. Work in FY24 will begin as soon as TCEQ approved the new Statement of Work.

Health and Human Services Division Program Activity

February 2024

Executive Committee Meeting March 28, 2024

Health and Human Services Division

The following is a summary of the activities for the programs in the Health and Human Services Division of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND ACTIVITY

Donnis Cowan - Director

The Health and Human Services Division (HHS) is one of two divisions of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. The HHS division is made up of four different and distinct program areas 1) Area Agency on Aging; 2) Aging and Disability Resource Center; 3) Heart 2-1-1; and 4) Rural Transit District which primarily serves and works with individuals and family members who need assistance through either information or services. Below are the four program descriptions and activities.

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY COUNTY

Health and Human Services – Individuals Served										
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total			
Area Agency on Aging, ADRC, 211, and Transportation	306	1024	480	962	1371	2892	7035			

1. Heart of Texas Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

Jan Enders – Special Programs and Outreach Manager
Ursula Johnson - Managing Local Ombudsman
John Vorderkunz - Contract Quality Assurance Specialist
Destiny Zavala – Senior Care Coordinator
Rose Contreras – Senior Benefits Counseling
Tiffany Soto – Senior Program Coordinator/Dementia Care Specialist

- > 1 of 28 Area Agency on Aging contractors designated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).
- > Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and McLennan.
- Provides access to needed social services, effective screening and assessment of individual needs, and advocacy for older persons (age 60 and older), their family members, or other caregivers.
- > Directly administers services including benefits counseling, care coordination, caregiver support coordination, and long-term care ombudsman services.
- > Contracts with service providers throughout the region to provide nutrition (congregate and home-delivered meals), homemaker care, respite care, personal

assistance, minor home repairs, health education classes, and caregiver counseling to caregivers and their loved ones.

All programs are operated under all policies and procedures.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND PROGRAM ACTIVITY

John Vorderkunz - Contract Quality Assurance Specialist

 Contract Quality Assurance negotiating and managing contracts; reporting; reimbursement; accounting; auditing; monitoring; procuring services funded with federal and state funds and providing quality assurance to ensure compliance with contracts. Validation of complete and accurate data in the HHS statewide system for quarterly and annual reports.

Jan Enders – Special Programs Manager

Outreach is intended to identify vulnerable, hard-to-reach individuals. The AAA conducts outreach to people who may be eligible for Aging Services, especially older individuals, residing in rural areas, with the greatest economic or social needs.

Out	treach - Indi	viduals	Reached,	Februar	y 2024		
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total
Presentations - Medicare		-	-	-	18	139	157
Medicare Fraud SMP					18	139	157
Resource Guides							ti .
Grand Total					36	278	314

Executive Committee Assistance Requested: The Area Agency on Aging would like to speak to your communities regarding our programs. To schedule an event in your county please call 254-292-1855.

BENEFITS ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS Jan Enders – Special Programs Manager Rose Contreras - Senior Benefits Counselor

The Benefits Counseling program primarily provides financial-related assistance and Medicare/Medicaid-related services to clients through Legal Assistance (one-on-one) and Legal Awareness (groups) events. We continue to see a growing need for Benefits Counseling for the senior population and added emphasis has been placed on expanding the services of this program.

See next page for more information.

Area Agency on Aging Services - Benefits											
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total				
Benefits Counseling - Medicare, Extra Help, Health Ins, & Social Security - Hours	5.30	3.51	6.12	4.38	4.16	98.71	122.18				

CASE MANAGEMENT TYPE PROGRAMS Destiny Zavala – Senior Care Coordinator

The Care Coordination and Caregiver Support Coordination programs empower senior citizens age 60 and older and their family caregivers to maintain their independence, freedom, and dignity by identifying needs and arranging social services required for living independently. These programs include Case Management; In-Home Care – Homemaker – Personal Assistance – Caregiver Respite; REACH-TX; Rolling Walkers; Grab bars; Minor Residential Repair; and Wheelchair ramps.

A	rea Agency	on Aging	Services				
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total
Care Coordination - Connecting Individuals to Services - Hours	3.65	1.34	3.56	3.03		104.23	115.81
Health Education Classes - Falls Prevention # of sessions							0
Callers for Assistance	78	5	3	3	8	104	201
Health Maintenance - assistive devices wheelchairs, walkers, etc Individuals						1	1
Homemaker in-home care - Hours						2.00	2.00
Personal Assistance - hands on in-home care. Hours		6.00				114.75	120.75
Residential Repair grab bars, minor home repair - # of clients				-		6	6
Grand Total	81.65	12.34	6.56	6.03	8.00	331.98	446.56

CASE MANAGEMENT TYPE PROGRAMS Tiffany Soto – Senior Program Coordinator/Dementia Care Specialist

The Caregiver Support Coordination programs empower senior citizens age 60 and older and their family caregivers to maintain their independence, freedom, and dignity by identifying needs and arranging social services required for living independently.

These programs include Case Management; In-Home Care – Homemaker – Personal Assistance – Caregiver Respite; REACH-TX; Rolling Walkers; Grab bars; Minor Residential Repair; and Wheelchair ramps.

REACH-TX (Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health) assists caregivers manage their health and well-being. REACH-TX is for family and friend caregivers of persons living with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia. With the assistance of a trained and certified Dementia Care Specialist and Caregiver's Notebook this program is known to decrease the caregiver's depression; decrease the caregiver's burden, improve the level of social support, and improve the capability to take care of the caregiver's health and well-being.

	Area A	Agency o	n Aging S	ervices			
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	HiII	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total
Caregiver Support Coordination Connecting Caregivers to Services - Hours	5.17		5.03	11.43	0.67	93.06	115.36
Health Maintenance - assistive devices wheelchairs, walkers, etc Individuals						2	2
REACH-TX coping skills for caregivers caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or other dementias. # of sessions						10	10
Residential Repair grab bars, minor home repair - # of clients						1	1
Respite care - in-home care to caregivers loved ones - Hours	1.50	8.00	6.25	3.00	9.00	67.50	95.25
Grand Total	6.67	8.00	11.28	14.43	9.67	173.56	223.61

Executive Committee Assistance Requested: The Area Agency on Aging would like to speak to your community regarding our programs. Please let us know how to best reach your community or have someone contact us at 254-292-1855.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS – Congregate (CM) & Home Delivered Meals (HDM)

 The nutrition program is our single largest program and impacts the greatest number of individuals in the greatest geographical coverage in our service area. We have four nutrition subrecipients that serve the nutritional needs of the elderly in the six-county service area.

See next page for more information.

	Aı	rea Agen	cy on Agir	g Nutritio	on		
Meals Funding Source	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total
Congregate Meals	CM	CM	СМ	CM	CM	СМ	СМ
Area Agency on Aging	299	223	251	278	208	1522	2781
Other Local Donations County & Cities	0	0	568	0	0	0	804
Home Delivered Meals	HDM		ном	нрм	ном	нрм	HDM
Area Agency on Aging	915	1184	1145	1659	970	5024	10897
Other Local Donations County & Cities	126	240	402	466	360	5807	7401
Grand Total	1340	1647	2366	2403	1538	12353	21647

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM Ursula Johnson – Managing Local Ombudsman Lynda Mitchell – Part-Time Ombudsman

- Through direct advocacy the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program utilizes volunteers and staff to achieve the best possible quality of life for approximately 4,500 residents in 35 nursing homes and 21 assisted living facilities in our service area.
- Provided ongoing support and training for certified volunteers.
- Participate in monthly HHS webinars.
- Participate in weekly activity meetings with Patty Ducayet, State Long Term Care Ombudsman, and her staff.
- Serve as a resource to inquirers regarding changing facilities or moving to facilities in our region.

Ombudsman Program										
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total			
Long Term Care Facility Visits	3	1	1	3	1	26	35			
Assisted Living Facility Visits	1			1		3	5			
Complaints						9	9			
State Surveys						1	1			
Education & Consultations	2			1	1		4			
Resident Council Meetings		1				4	5			
Resident Discharge Appeal/s						2	2			
Grand Total	6	2	1	5	2	45	61			

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2. Heart of Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Eric Hobbs – Housing Navigator Debbie Jones – Resource Navigator

- > The ADRC model is a "way of doing business" that is intended to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of individuals looking for long-term services and support.
- ➤ Provides information and assistance to individuals (including those with multiple, complex needs) about local programs and resources as they relate to aging or living with a disability, to older individuals, individuals of any age with disabilities, family caregivers, veterans, and families with children with special needs, all without regard to income levels.
- > The primary purpose is to provide information to help individuals live within their community if possible.
- ➤ Operating a broad-based coalition consisting of the Area Agency on Aging, local Health and Human Services, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services, Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Heart of Texas 2-1-1, and Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Center.
- > HOTCOG serves as the Lead Agency/Fiscal Agent and has the responsibility as contract administrator.
- > Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan.
- > 1 of 25 designated ADRCs by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

ADRC Outreach Activities

Outreach is intended to identify vulnerable, hard-to-reach individuals. The ADRC conducts outreach to people who may be eligible for Aging and Disability Services.

Outreach - Events										
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Grand Total			
Presentations	1	1	1	1	1	5	10			
Outreach - Health fairs	1	1	1	1	1	1	6			
Roundtable - Tabletalks	1	1	1	1	1	3	8			
Grand Total	3	3	3	3	3	8	24			

ADRC Call Activity

Connecting older adults and individuals with disabilities with long-term care and support services. Callers were assisted with Community Resources

See next page.

	A	DRC Call	Activity - I	Feb			
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL C	Grand Total
AAA Referrals	2	3	2	2	5	75	89
Housing						3	3
In Home Care	3	1	3	2	2	27	38
Medicare / medicaid/ SNAP			1	1		13	15
Medical Equipment				1		6	7
Minor Home Repair				2		10	12
Nursing Home	2					8	10
Rent Payment Assist						2	2
Transportation				1	2	3	6
Utilities Payment Assist	1		1		1	2	5
Other Community Resources	7		5		3	50	65
Grand Total	15	4	12	9	13	199	252

3. <u>Heart of Texas Area Information Center (AIC)</u> – (HT 2-1-1)

Amy Rossow – Call Center Manager

Marcy Whiddon – Resource Database Manager/Information & Referral Specialist

Belinda Arocha – Information & Referral Call Specialist

Joanna Whitehouse – Information & Referral Call Specialist

Norma Nearhoof – Information & Referral Call Specialist – Part-Time

The 2-1-1 program is a nation-wide "free" social service phone help line answered by highly trained call specialists who listen to help-seeker's needs and provide resources and information to evaluate and make the choice as to which referral sources best fit their needs. The help-seeker can then reach out to the resources that they choose. It is the help-seeker's responsibility to reach out to each agency and provide any additional information requested for consideration for assistance through their program. 2-1-1 does not provide any direct funding, only referrals to non-profit, social services agencies who have voluntarily become part of our database designed to assist our help-seekers. We always encourage all help-seekers to call back to 2-1-1 at any time should they need more resources or identify another need. 2-1-1 provides referral information about health and human services to all callers regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, or any other criteria. 2-1-1 is available 365 days a year and 24 hours a day.

HOT 2-1-1 (HT) continues to take traditional calls for local social service needs including food pantries, utility bills, rent, childcare, and medication assistance plus mental health and everything from A-Z for the state of Texas including the six-county service area. In addition, we take disaster related calls when such an event occurs and provide close monitoring and reporting of any resources available for those impacted by the disaster.

- During the month of February 3100 calls came into our Area Information Center Heart of Texas Council of Governments 2-1-1. Thankfully we remain on the Finesse Software and are receiving our local HOTCOG calls as a priority. However, if a call comes in from our HOTCOG area and all local Call Specialists are on the phone the call will go into a holding queue for 2 minutes, and then if the call is unable to be released into our local queue it will roll over to the statewide queue and be answered by the next available Call Specialist.
- Out of 3100 calls 1526 calls were transferred to Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC) Option 2. Your Texas Benefits. After the help-seeker shares their need to communicate with HHSC the Call Specialist obtains the demographic information from the help-seeker and location where they are calling from, and the call is transferred to an automated system prior to reaching a representative from HHSC. The help-seeker is required to confirm their identity prior to being connected with a representative. The majority of calls being transferred to HHSC are for assistance with their Medicaid Benefits or SNAP Food Stamp Benefits. HHSC can also assist the help-seeker with questions about the status of their accounts, reset their password for on-line access, and apply for coverage or inquire about a denial.
- When help-seekers indicate that they need referrals for community assistance the call specialists try to identify at least 3 referral resources for each identified need. There is no limit to the time of each call, or the number of needs discussed. Most of the community resource phone calls can be characterized as needing help with two or more services, such as rent and electricity or prescription assistance and food pantries. Our goal is to provide as many resources as the help-seeker needs. We also make sure to ask help-seekers who ultimately need to be transferred to HHSC if there is anything else we can help them with prior to transferring them, and quite often they will ask for assistance in one or more areas.

Our Call Specialists also offer follow-up calls for help-seekers, primarily in our local HOTCOG area that they believe are in need of follow-up. We ask permission to make a follow-up call within a few days or possibly a week to check to see if the help-seeker was able to contact the agencies provided and if they were able to receive the assistance requested. The follow-up process allows us to check in with our help-seekers and allows us to get feedback regarding the agencies we have recommended they contact. We can address any concerns the help-seeker may have with a particular agency, and we are able to give kudos when applicable to our partner agencies. In the event the help-seeker was not able to receive assistance from the agencies previously provided we are able to search for additional resources that might be available in the area and then set a new follow-up date to check on the help-seeker.

Continued next page.

	Texas 2	2-1-1 \$	Statew	ide C	all Det	ail		Total I	HT211 (Calls
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Total In Region	HT211 Referrals	HT211 HHSC	HT211 Total
Total Calls	63	98	77	149	117	1197	1701	1526	1475	3001
	T	op Ne	eds Pei	r Cou	nty					
Electricity Payment Assistance	17	31	28	56	41	449	622	\times	X	X
Rent Payment Assistance	1	2	1	3	1	67	75		X	X
Food Pantries	9	8	4	7	1	151	180		X	X
Area Agency on Aging	5	4	5	2	1	40	57			X
Housing Authorities	1	1	0	7	3	16	28		\times	\times
Homeless Shelter	0	0	0	0	1	28	29		X	X
Intentionally left blank									X	X
		Coun	ty Stat	istics	3					
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free- stone	Hill	Lime- stone	McL	Total In Region	HT211 Referrals	HT211 HHSC	HT211 Total
First Time Callers	5	9	16	18	13	140	201	\times	X	X
Transferred HHSC	27	47	29	62	47	480	692		\supset	

A new statistic that we will be providing is the number of help-seekers who indicate they are calling 2-1-1 for the first time. For the month of **February, we had 201 total first time callers**. We work very hard to inform our communities about 2-1-1 and all the services that we can offer. We look forward to watching these numbers grow and grow.

Please help spread the word that 2-1-1 phone assistance is available 24/7 to everyone! All ages, all races, all socioeconomic backgrounds. We have resources from A-Z, and we are here to help. The website www.211texas.org is also available 24/7.

4. Heart of Texas Rural Transit District

Ronald E. "Rep" Pledger - Manager Frances Ramirez – Transportation Specialist Misty Hendon – Transportation Admin Rachel Braswell - Transit Dispatching and Scheduling Technician

General Information:

HOTRTD Staff is happy to announce that our four new Blue buses are in production.

Funding

Nothing new to report currently.

Trainings/Meetings

February 21st – 10:00 A.M. RPTCP metrics webinar February 29th -1:00 P.M. Dear colleague bus manufacturing webinar April – 2nd-4th National Drug and Alcohol Conference April – 8th eclipse

Regional Transportation Coordination Council - (RTCC)

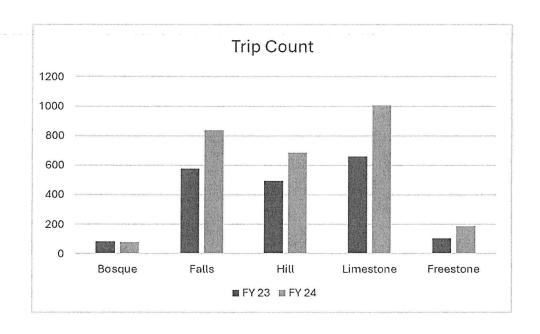
The next meeting will be on March 21st.

<u>Rural Transit District</u> – (Operations)

Staff continue their outreach to clients to increase ridership.

Trip activities for February 2024 are as follows:

Transportation Services – One Way	r Trips	
Transportation Provider	FY 2023	FY 2024
Bosque County	85	79
Falls County	576	836
Hill County	494	684
Limestone County	658	1008
Freestone County	106	188
Total - All 5 Counties	1919	2795



Trip Type by County						
TripType	Limestone	Falls	Hill	Freestone	Bosque	Grand Total
Work	207	271	150	14	8	650
Dialysis	246	48	214	99	5	612
Medical	212	59	164	34	20	489
Education	1	294	10		12	317
Mhmr	76	122	40	2		240
Personal	103	16	39	8	34	200
Shopping	82	20	65	31		198
Foster Grandparents	40					40
Recreation	26					26
Parole	6	6	X			12
Veteran	9		2			11
Grand Total	1008	836	684	188	79	2795

Thank you for reviewing the Health and Human Services monthly activities.

Donnis Cowan

Director of Health and Human Services

a division of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments

FY 2023 Law Enforcement Training Attendees by Agency

Course	Date	Agency	Attendees	Total
Basic Instructor	11/6-10/2023			
		TDJC		
		Bosque County Sheriff's Office	4	
		Meridian PD	1	
240				9
Basic Instructor	11/13/17			
		Waco PD	4	
		DPD	_	
240		Lorena PD	1	9
Crisis Intervention Training	11/13-17/2023	McLennan CO Const. Pct 2	2	
		Fairfield PD	2	
		Killeen PD	_	
		Travis CO Const.	_	
		Limestone Co SO	_	
		Private	3	
		Waco PD	2	
480				12
De Escalation	1/18/24	Woodway	9	
		Travis CO Const.	1	
		Private	က	
		Waco PD	_	
88				-
NCIC/TCIC	2/6-8/2024			
		Hill County Sheriff's Office	10	
		Horseshoe Bay	1	
		Attorney General Office	1	
		Somervell Co SO	1	
		Bosque Co SO	9	
		Hubbard PD	1	
		Leander PD	1	
		Lacy Lakeview PD	1	

FY 2023 Law Enforcement Training Attendees by Agency

		Erath County SO		
		Corsicana PD	_	
		Hillsboro PD	1	
		McLennan CO SO	3	
		Kosse PD	_	
		Stephenville	_	
		DPS	_	
		Caldwell PD	_	
		Washington County SO	4	
864				36
Intermeidate Crime Scene	3/11_15/2024			
	170701	Hill Co SO	0	
		Waco PD	1 5	
		McLennan Co SO	1	
		Private	2	
		Bellmead PD	_	
		Franklin PD	_	
		Temple PD	1	
		Travis Co Const.	1	
		Crawford PD	1	
009	2			15
Basic Instructor	3/4-8/2024			
		McLennan County SO	2	
		Woodway PSD	3	
		Bellmead PD	1	
		Temple PD	1	
		Lacy Lakeview PD	1	
320	2		1	∞
Mental Health Peace Officer	4/15-19/2024			
47				