

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday
March 20, 2025
10:30 AM**

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



Judge Richard Duncan
President

Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
Vice President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
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 20th Day of March 2025, at 10:30 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.

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

- PAGE
- IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:
 1. Approval of the February 27, 2025 meeting minutes
 - 1
7
10 B. New Business
 1. TexPool Resolution Amending Authorized Representatives
 2. Authorization-Purchase of Communications Equipment from Nalcom Wireless Communication
 - C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff
 - 13 1. Department of Administration
 - a. Financial and Personnel Report
 - 18 2. Regional Services
 - a. Department Activities Report

PAGE

- 28 3. Health & Human Services
 a. Department Activities Report
4. Executive Director's Report
- 38 VI. Other Reports – Law Enforcement Training Attendees Report
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Adjournment

Signed this the 13th Day of March 2025.



Russell Devorsky
Executive Director



Judge Richard Duncan
President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Secretary/Treasurer

Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
Vice President

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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 27th Day of February 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, at which time the following subjects will be considered.

Members Present

Judge Richard Duncan, <i>President</i>	Limestone County
Judge Cindy Vanlandingham, <i>Sec.Treas.</i>	Bosque County
Judge Justin Lewis	Hill County
Judge Jay Elliott	Falls County
Judge Scott Felton	McLennan County
Mayor Jim Holmes	City of Waco
Judge Linda Grant	Freestone County
Mayor Geary Smith	City of Mexia
Councilmember Alice Rodriguez	City of Waco
Mr. Calvin Rueter	Special Districts
Commissioner Jim Smith	McLennan County
Commissioner Terry Townley	Bosque County
Mayor Janice Sanders	City of Whitney
Commissioner Nita Wuebker	Falls County

Members Absent

Councilmember Jimmy Rogers, <i>Vice-President</i>	City of Robinson
Mayor Protem Andrea Barefield	City of Waco
County Treas. Mandy Chavers	Freestone County

Staff Present

Russell Devorsky	Executive Director
Michelle Vasquez	Director of Finance-Administration
Mary McDow	HR Manager
Dorothy Jackson	Regional Economic Development Manager
Rep Pledger	Transportation Manager
Andy Davis	Emergency Preparedness Planner
John Vorderkunz	Health & Human Services Director
Lana Gudgel	Criminal Justice Planner/Trainer

Guests:

Amy Teal
Cody Witt
Ethan Surdy
Shane Brassell

Waco PD
Rep. Pat Curry Office
Hill County

- I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 27, 2025.

- 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 27, 2025 Executive Committee meeting was provided by Mary McDow.

- III. Introduction of Guests

- IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:
 - A. 1. Approval of the January 23, 2025 meeting minutes
A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Judge Scott Felton to approve the January 23, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

 - B. New Business
 1. FY2024 Audit Report, Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance and HOTCOG's comments

Ms. Vasquez stated the HOTCOG Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Report and the Auditors Communication Letter to the committee was provided to the committee for their information and review. Ms. Vasquez noted that as a part of the audit process, HOTCOG is required to respond to audit findings and/or recommendations, if any, as noted in the Audit and the Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance. Ms. Vasquez introduced Ms. Renee Olvera from Pattillo, Brown & Hill (PB&H) to present the audit to the committee. Ms. Olvera noted that PB&H was engaged to perform a single audit for HOTCOG which includes two separate components, audit of financial statements and a compliance of HOTCOG's federal and state grant awards programs. Ms. Olvera gave a review and summary of the audit to the committee. Ms. Olvera noted there were no findings or questioned costs.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mayor Jim Holmes that the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee accept the FY 2024 Audit Report and the Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance and authorize the Executive Director to forward copies of said reports to the appropriate Federal and State agencies. Motion passed.

2. Criminal Justice Advisory Committee new member recommendation

Mrs. Lana Gudgel presented the recommendation of Ms. Tiffany Douglas, Mental Health, Director of Clinical Services to serve on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Judge Justin Lewis to approve the appointment of Ms. Tiffany Douglas, Mental Health, Director of Clinical Services to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. Motion passed.

3. FY2025 Revised Resolution for State Crisis Intervention Program

Mrs. Gudgel presented the revised resolution for the State Crisis Intervention Program for FY2025. It was noted that HOTCOG requested funds for the Heart of Texas Region Crisis Intervention Training Program from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. HOTCOG applied for and was awarded a grant for this program to be operated in FY 2025 and following the application the Office of the Governor decreased the amount of the award from \$34,831.02 to \$20,898.61. Under the grant contract, HOTCOG will be responsible for the following: -Crisis Intervention / Mental Health Training, -Law Enforcement training and -Emergency Preparedness training.

A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the authorization of the Executive Director to accept the award of \$20,898.61 of the Governor's Office for FY 2025 State Crisis Intervention Training Program funding through the resolution as presented. Motion passed.

4. Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Rankings and Recommendations for Funding for FY 2026

Mrs. Gudgel stated the Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Criminal Justice Advisory Committee met on February 20, 2025, to evaluate and score the applications submitted for funding under the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Violent Crimes Against Women (VAWA), Truancy Prevention (TP), State Fund 421 (SF421), and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office. Recommendations for funding was made based on the Reasonable Budget Expectations (RBE) provided by CJD.

Mrs. Gudgel presented the CJAC rankings and recommendations for funding as recommended by the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee as presented.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mayor Geary Smith to approve and accept the rankings and recommendations for funding as allowed in the ranking order, as presented and attached to the minutes. Motion passed.

5. Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Appointment

Mr. Andy Davis stated that City of Mexia Assistant Chief Leonard Stewart, was recommended to replace Mexia Chief Heath Crossland to serve on the HOTCOG Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee. As approved by Limestone County Judge Richard Duncan, Leonard Stewart will serve the remainder of the two-year term, which is set to expire on December 31, 2025.

A motion was made by Mayor Geary Smith and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the replacement appointment of Leonard Stewart to fill the respective position on the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee. Motion passed.

6. Homeland Security Grant application-ENS Information Sharing Program Resolution

Mr. Davis stated that HOTCOG has submitted a grant application through the State Homeland Security Grant Program to continue the HOTCOG ENS Information Sharing Program. A resolution was presented for approval as a requirement of the Office of the Governor.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Judge Justin Lewis to approve the resolution as presented for the HOTCOG ENS Information Sharing Program for submission to the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office. Motion passed.

7. FY2026 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) HOTCOG Regional Projects Funding Recommendations

Mr. Davis stated that the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (EPAC) met on February 19th to review 8 applications and rank the submitted projects based on cumulative scores. The Texas Office of the Governor (OOG) provided HOTCOG with a Reasonable Budget Expectation (RBE) amount of \$430,00.00 for this coming year. The committee ranked the projects from 1 to 8 on the list presented. The 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.

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 amounts in the ranking order as presented.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mayor Geary Smith to approve the 2026 SHSP Project List as presented in the scored and ranked order, and approve the funding order set by the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee. The Executive Committee authorizes the submission by COG staff to the OOG the regional distribution recommendation as presented and attached to these minutes. Motion passed.

8. Heart of Texas Rural Transit District Section 5311 funding-purchase of Type 7 Bus and preventive maintenance

Mr. Rep Pledger stated that staff were notified on February 7th by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) that HOTCOG would be receiving an additional \$180,000 in Section 5311 funds. Staff initiated and submitted an amendment for the FY24 5311 PGA in IGX to add the awarded funds. The amendment will also include a request for an extension as directed by TXDOT. Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) have been requested as match for these funds. The federal funds and TDCs will be used for project preventive maintenance, and the purchase of one Type 7 bus (minivan). The minivan will be for service expansion due to continual growth in ridership.

A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the use of these funds for preventive maintenance and purchase of the above-mentioned minivan. The minivan will be purchased from Model 1 Commercial Bus Sales through the Oklahoma State contract. Motion passed.

C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

1. Department of Administration

a. Financial and Personnel Report

Ms. Vasquez presented the Financial and Personnel Reports to the Executive Committee for review.

2. Regional Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mrs. Dorthy Jackson gave a report on the activities of the Economic and Community Development division. Mrs. Jackson noted that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has been reauthorized and strengthens its role in economic development, job creation, disaster recovery, and infrastructure investment. Mrs. Jackson noted the Regional Services & Economic Development department is organizing a Brownfields Technical Assistance

Training in collaboration with Kansas State University. Other speakers may include the Texas Water Development Board, Fair Housing Training, Legislative updates, etc. The proposed date for the training is June 10th depending on speaker availability.

3. Health & Human Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mr. John Vorderkunz gave a report on the activities of the Area Agency on Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Center and 211 Information and Referral. Mr. Vorderkunz noted that staff will be working on the process of re-accreditation for the 211 Information and Referral System.

Mr. Rep Pledger gave a summary of the Heart of Texas Rural Transit District activities for the month.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Russell Devorsky gave a summary of activities:

- An updated version of the Acronym document was given to the committee.
- Judge Justin Lewis was complimented on his appointment as the 66th District Court Judge.
- Mr. Devorsky and staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) meeting and training held earlier this month and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) will be held in March and attended by the Executive Director and staff Dorothy Jackson.
- The Area Agency on Aging statewide conference will be held for the first time in Waco in June. HOTCOG and TARC staff are working with the City of Waco to coordinate activities for Conference attendees.
- The TARC Executive Director's council and TARC Board members will meet in June in Waco. City of Waco Mayor Jim Holmes will be the incoming President for TARC.
- The March Executive Committee meeting was moved to Thursday, March 20, 2025.

V. Other Reports

- a. Law Enforcement Training Attendance Report – For review.

VI. Public Comment – None.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned.

Honorable Richard Duncan, President
County Judge, Limestone County

Honorable Cindy Vanlandingham, Sec-Treas
County Judge, Bosque County

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 20, 2025

SUBJECT: TexPool Resolution Amending Authorized Representatives

INFORMATION:

The attached resolution is to amend authorized representatives who can authorize and transmit funds for investment in TexPool. Michelle Vasquez will now have primary responsibility for performing transactions and receiving confirmations and monthly statements under the Participation Agreement.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments review and adopt the attached Resolution Amending Authorized Representatives as presented.



Resolution Amending Authorized Representatives

Please complete this form to amend or designate Authorized Representatives. *This document supersedes all prior Authorized Representative forms.*

*** Required Fields**

1. Resolution

WHEREAS,

the HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS | 77954
Participant Name* | Location Number*

("Participant") is a local government of the State of Texas and is empowered to delegate to a public funds investment pool the authority to invest funds and to act as custodian of investments purchased with local investment funds; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Participant to invest local funds in investments that provide for the preservation and safety of principal, liquidity, and yield consistent with the Public Funds Investment Act; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Local Government Investment Pool ("TexPool / Texpool Prime"), a public funds investment pool, were created on behalf of entities whose investment objective in order of priority are preservation and safety of principal, liquidity, and yield consistent with the Public Funds Investment Act.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

- A. That the individuals, whose signatures appear in this Resolution, are Authorized Representatives of the Participant and are each hereby authorized to transmit funds for investment in TexPool / TexPool Prime and are each further authorized to withdraw funds from time to time, to issue letters of instruction, and to take all other actions deemed necessary or appropriate for the investment of local funds.
- B. That an Authorized Representative of the Participant may be deleted by a written instrument signed by two remaining Authorized Representatives provided that the deleted Authorized Representative (1) is assigned job duties that no longer require access to the Participant's TexPool / TexPool Prime account or (2) is no longer employed by the Participant; and
- C. That the Participant may by Amending Resolution signed by the Participant add an Authorized Representative provided the additional Authorized Representative is an officer, employee, or agent of the Participant;

List the Authorized Representative(s) of the Participant. Any new individuals will be issued personal identification numbers to transact business with TexPool Participant Services.

1. Russell Devorsky | Executive Director
Name | Title
2542921825 | 2547560102 | russell.devorsky@hot.cog.tx.us
Phone | Fax | Email
[Signature]
Signature

2. John C. Minnix | Deputy Executive Director
Name | Title
2542921824 | 2547560102 | john.minnix@hot.cog.tx.us
Phone | Fax | Email
[Signature]
Signature

3. Michelle Vasquez | Director of Finance and Administration
Name | Title
2542921831 | 2547560102 | michelle.vasquez@hot.cog.tx.us
Phone | Fax | Email
[Signature]
Signature

1. Resolution (continued)

4.
 Name Title

Phone Fax Email

Signature

List the name of the Authorized Representative listed above that will have primary responsibility for performing transactions and receiving confirmations and monthly statements under the Participation Agreement.

Michelle Vasquez
Name

In addition and at the option of the Participant, one additional Authorized Representative can be designated to perform only inquiry of selected information. *This limited representative cannot perform transactions.* If the Participant desires to designate a representative with inquiry rights only, complete the following information.

Brad Wyatt Assistant Director of Finance
Name Title

2 5 4 2 9 2 1 8 2 9 2 5 4 7 5 6 0 1 0 2 brad.wyatt@hot.cog.tx.us
Phone Fax Email

D. That this Resolution and its authorization shall continue in full force and effect until amended or revoked by the Participant, and until TexPool Participant Services receives a copy of any such amendment or revocation. This Resolution is hereby introduced and adopted by the Participant at its regular/special meeting held on the 2 0 day of March, 2 0 2 5.

Note: Document is to be signed by your Board President, Mayor or County Judge and attested by your Board Secretary, City Secretary or County Clerk.

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Name of Participant*

SIGNED

Signature*

Richard Duncan, Judge Limestone County
Printed Name*

President
Title*

ATTEST

Signature*

Cindy Vanlandingham, Judge Bosque County
Printed Name*

Secretary-Treasurer
Title*

2. Delivery Instructions

Please return this document to **TexPool Participant Services:**

Email: texpool@dstsystems.com

Fax: 866-839-3291

ACTION MEMORANDUM

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS'
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

March 20, 2025

SUBJECT:

Authorizing the purchase of communications equipment from Nalcom Wireless Communications.

INFORMATION:

HOTCOG has received funding from the Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant to purchase Tait radio repeaters/voters, corresponding radio equipment, and installation as upgrades for the current outdated Tait technology. This equipment will improve the radio infrastructure for Bosque County first responder services. Currently, Nalcom Wireless Communications is the only approved Tait radio vendor for the HOTCOG region and have priced a majority cost of the quote at HGAC procurement contact pricing.

ACTION:

The HOTCOG Executive Committee approves the purchase and installation of radio communication equipment in the amount of \$252,318.61 using the SERI grant for Bosque County.



Equipment Proposal

Quote# 34535

2200 S. Royall St Palestine Tx. 75801
 (903) 729-6300 Fax (903) 723-2858

Sales Rep: Eddie Crockett

Job#

Prepared For:
 HOTCOG
 1514 S. NEW ROAD
 WACO, TX, 76711

Date: 3/5/2025
Contact: HAROLD FERGUSON
Phone No: 254-292-1800
Phone Cell:

PO Number:

Quantity	Part No	Description	Cost Each	Total
1	DB224-A/88874	150-160MHZ 6DBD OMNI/9DBD OFFSET GAIN, DIPOLE, N(M)INCLUDES THE WIRING HARNESS AND THE DB365-OS MOUNTING CLAMP KIT	\$1,957.00	\$1,957.00
1	TOWER CLIMB	TOWER CLIMB	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
2	HG-78L	PRE-LACED HOISTING GRIP FOR 7/8 INCH COAX	\$28.56	\$57.12
7	TCOA	TRIP CHARGE	\$344.41	\$2,410.87
150	LABOR	LABOR	\$120.00	\$18,000.00
8	SF300-24	CISCO SF300-24, 24 PORT MANAGED SWITCH WITH GIGABIT UPLINK	\$275.00	\$2,200.00
1	Staging and Optimization	Staging and Optimization of System	\$7,200.00	\$7,200.00
3	TB9435B1M00000J4CE (HGAC)	TAIT 100 WATT REPEATER WITH CENTRAL VOTER AND IP NETWORKING WITH CAI P25	\$18,315.74	\$54,947.22
8	TB9444B110B310J4BH(HGAC)	TAIT VOTER DUAL RECEIVER UNIT WITH CAI P25	\$12,970.72	\$103,765.76
1	360091	7FT X 19IN EQUIPMENT RACK BLACK	\$564.45	\$564.45
4	TB9435B1M00000J4AA(HGAC)	TAIT 100-WATT VHF REPEATER WITH CAI P25	\$13,468.00	\$53,872.00
1	SHIP	SHIP	\$895.00	\$895.00
125	EC5-50-A	EUPEN 7/8 INCH COAXIAL CABLE PER FOOT	\$4.95	\$618.75
1	NM50V78MA	N-TYPE MALE MONOBLOCK CONNECTOR FOR 7/8INCH, EUPEN A SERIES CABLE	\$45.00	\$45.00
8	11840	4 outlet AC line filter. Provides spike protection and surge protection. Diagnostic indicators alert you of line conditions. 125 VAC.	\$110.54	\$884.32
1	NF50V78MA	N FEMALE MONOBLOCK CONNECTOR FOR 7/8IN A SERIES CABLE	\$39.00	\$39.00
1	IS-50NX-C2-MA/58966	POLYPHASER 125-1000MHZ. N MALE ANTENNA/ N FEMALE EQUIPMENT.	\$93.40	\$93.40
1	477944	24 INCH STAND OFF	\$396.76	\$396.76
8	MCA104M	HF Receiver Multicoupler - 500 kHz to 50 Mhz - 4-ports	\$336.00	\$2,688.00
1	SEC1212/30918	Samlex America SEC1212 switching power supply no radio hood included	\$183.96	\$183.96

	\$252,318.61
	Tax: \$0.00
	Total: \$252,318.61

Quotes Valid For 30 Days

Notes:

This quote is replacing the TB9100 These are dual voter cabinets. replacing the requested repeaters, cleaning up extra in building. NO microwave covers or ip dishes included here. This includes voters at Brazos Point.

Printed Name : _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I agree that all work has been performed to my satisfaction. **30 Day warranty** on installations/repairs except as specified below: Accident, misuse, abuse, neglect, modification, repair, attempted repair, installation, or removal by anyone other than a Nalcom employee.

Administrative Services Department

Financial / Personnel Reports

Executive Committee Meeting

March 20, 2025

**Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Balance Sheet
February 28, 2025**

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 153,000
Investments	1,036,028
Due (to)/from Grantor Agencies	685,579
Membership Dues Receivables	67,592
Aging Match Receivables	471
Other Receivables	1,174
Pre-Paid Items	-
	<u>1,943,844</u>

Fixed Assets

Building	2,867,509
Land	690,000
Furniture & Equipment	3,567,828
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(4,213,623)</u>
	2,911,714

Total Assets

\$ 4,855,558

Liabilities

Current

Accounts Payable	55,541
Due to HOTEDD	872,211
Accrued Vacation	142,459
Deferred Revenue	145,135
	<u>1,215,346</u>

Long-term Liabilities

Notes Payable	<u>-</u>
	-

Total Liabilities

\$ 1,215,346

Fund Equity

Investments in Fixed Assets, net of related debt	2,911,714
Nonspendable-prepaid items	-
Restricted for Emergency Notification System	618
Restricted for Federal & State programs	128,419
Unassigned	<u>599,461</u>

Total Fund Equity

\$ 3,640,212

Total Liabilities & Fund Equity

\$ 4,855,558

**Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
& Changes in Fund Balance
For Five Months Ended February 28, 2025**

	Year To Date	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	12 Month Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Revenues					
Grants administered from State/Federal	\$ 2,959,783	\$ 3,559,815	\$ (600,032)	\$ 8,543,556	\$ 5,583,773
Rent-WF Bldg	201,807	201,807	0	484,336	282,529
Local Funds/Mgt. Fees	68,626	68,886	(260)	165,327	96,701
Memberships Dues	61,757	25,847	35,910	62,032	275
Inkind Match/Program Income	21,584	206,542	(184,958)	495,700	474,116
Interest Income	3,401	6,250	(2,849)	15,000	11,599
Miscellaneous Income	37,553	2,500	35,053	6,000	(31,553)
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 3,354,511</u>	<u>\$ 4,071,646</u>	<u>\$ (717,135)</u>	<u>\$ 9,771,951</u>	<u>\$ 6,417,440</u>
Expenditures					
Salaries	459,106	483,688	24,582	1,160,850	701,744
Fringe Benefits	232,878	253,075	20,197	607,379	374,501
Travel	20,677	26,554	5,877	63,730	43,053
Equipment	662,369	484,067	(178,302)	1,161,761	499,392
Supplies	12,131	9,979	(2,152)	23,950	11,819
Other Expenses	36,018	130,652	94,634	313,565	277,547
Delegate Agency/Contractual Costs	1,222,547	1,760,848	538,301	4,226,036	3,003,489
Indirect Costs	458,603	524,167	65,564	1,258,001	799,398
Insurance/Maintenance-WF Bldg	25,184	35,833	10,649	86,000	60,816
Debt Service-WF Bldg	38,861	24,034	(14,827)	57,681	18,820
Inkind Match/Program Income	-	206,542	206,542	495,700	495,700
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 3,168,374</u>	<u>\$ 3,939,439</u>	<u>\$ 771,065</u>	<u>\$ 9,454,653</u>	<u>\$ 6,286,279</u>
Changes in Fund Balance					
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	186,137			317,298	
Transfers-Due (to)/from HOTEED	(119,496)			(290,817)	
Net Change in Fund Balances	66,641			26,481	
Fund Balances as of October 1, 2024	663,031				
Fund Balances as of February 28, 2025	<u>\$ 729,672</u>				

**Heart of Texas Council of Governments
 Monthly Report of Cash Transactions and Condition
 As of February 28, 2025**

	<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>Short Term Investments</u>	<u>Total Cash</u>
Beginning Balance 2/1/25	\$ 179,506	\$ 948,694	\$ 1,128,200
Transactions			
Cash In	756,915	3,105	760,020
Cash (Out)	<u>(699,192)</u>	<u> </u>	<u>(699,192)</u>
Net Income (Outlay)	57,723	3,105	60,828
Net Transfers In (Out)	<u>(84,229)</u>	<u>84,229</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Total Transactions	<u>(26,506)</u>	<u>87,334</u>	<u>60,828</u>
Ending Balance 2/28/25	<u><u>\$ 153,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,036,028</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,189,028</u></u>

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PERSONNEL STATUS SUMMARY
AS OF MARCH 20, 2025**

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AUTHORIZED BY GRANT/FUND BUDGETS 32

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED 32

As of March 20, 2025, HOTCOG had one vacancy 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>	<u>Positions Authorized</u>	<u>Regular Fulltime</u>	<u>Temporary Fulltime</u>	<u>Regular & Temporary Part-Time</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Executive/ Admin. Services	7	5	0	1	1
Regional Services	8	7	0	1	0
Health and Human Services	17	17	0	0	0
<u>Totals</u>	32	29	0	2	1

Vacancy:
Accountant

REGIONAL SERVICES REPORT

March 2025

9-1-1

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 the 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 participants on 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.

Meetings/Training/Conference Calls and Site Visits

- Vendor project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – March 6th
- Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC) call, HOTCOG – March 7th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – March 10th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – March 24th
- 9-1-1 Grantee Workshop, Austin – March 25th
- CSEC Commission Meeting, Austin – March 26th

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

Lana continues updating the 2025 Strategic plans for the region.

SART - the Heart of Texas Sexual Assault Response Team subcommittee formations have begun the subcommittees Lana attended the Limestone County SART meeting and conducted a short training with member regarding the mandated SART report that will be due December 1, 2025.

State Crisis Intervention Grant Program – HOTCOG was awarded \$20,898.61 for the development of a Heart of Texas Regional Crisis Intervention Team. The first team meeting with interested parties was held. This meeting included members from the Behavioral Health Network, Family Abuse Center, Waco Police Department, Freestone County Constable Pct. 2, Hill County Juvenile Probation, McLennan Community College, and the Texas Peer to Peer Network. The Team has started the process of creating protocols for how the team will operate going forward.

New members for the CJAC were approved and the board now meets the new requirements set forth by the Office of the Governor.

Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy Grant

Lana continued working on the training schedule for FY 2025. Lana was able to add the new mandated ALERRT I class to the schedule and completed two classes the month a total of 28

officers from our region attended and successfully completed this course. Plans for another class in May are under way. The ALERRT I classes are being offered at no cost.

BMMAP

Lana has been in contact with several agencies regarding BMAP in FY 2025 training for the BMAP program is set to begin in May. Lana contracted with New Mexico Tech to bring the Homemade Explosives: Awareness, Recognition and Response training to Waco in August. This training is free for all first responders.

311 students attended HOTCOG training, totaling 7684 contact training hours since November 2023.

Economic & Community Development Department

Revolving Loan Fund

USDA Fund:

- Purpose: Support local businesses for growth, job creation, and regional economic diversification.
- Target: Small and emerging businesses in rural areas of Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and rural McLennan Counties.
- Criteria:
 - Private businesses employing 50 or fewer new employees.
 - Projected gross revenues of less than \$1 million.
 - Preference for businesses in specified rural counties, though exceptions may be made for businesses outside the region with a positive economic impact.
 - Job creation or retention requirement: One full-time job per \$10,000 in loan funding.
 - Ownership: 51% interest in the business must be by U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.
 - Financial necessity: Evidence required that project needs cannot be met by owner resources or commercial financial institutions.
- Available Funds: \$247,690.79

TDA Fund (SMRF):

- Purpose: Expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons.
- Target: Small and microenterprise businesses in Falls County.
- Criteria:
 - Microenterprises: Commercial enterprises with five or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise.

- Small Enterprises: Commercial enterprises with 25 or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise.
- Available Funds: \$60,197.98

Current Loans:

- **Net1:** Delinquent, staff working with legal on calling note.
- **KNV Investments:** Current.

U.S. Economic Development News:

EDA's Reauthorization

The reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) strengthens its role in economic development, job creation, disaster recovery, and infrastructure investment. The following are the key benefits of this legislative update:

1. Strengthening Tools to Support EDA's Role in Job Creation and Workforce Development

- **Industry-Led Workforce Training Partnerships** – Codifies EDA's role in fostering workforce training initiatives that invest in innovative workforce development approaches, ensuring job opportunities for American workers.
- **Alignment with Department of Commerce Priorities** – Enhances EDA's ability to support critical economic priorities, including:
 - **Supply Chain and Manufacturing** – Incorporates elements of *The ONSHORE Act* to facilitate site development for industries with national security implications.
 - **Broadband Expansion** – Modernizes EDA's capacity to implement broadband infrastructure projects through provisions of the *E-BRIDGE Act*.

2. Modernizing EDA's Authorities for Critical Grants and Resource Delivery

- **Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience** – Establishes a dedicated office within EDA to coordinate federal support for regional disaster recovery efforts. This office will leverage EDA's existing network of Economic Development Districts (EDDs), University Centers, and other key stakeholders.
- **Enhanced Grantmaking Eligibility Criteria** – Expands and updates eligibility considerations, allowing for the use of additional statistical factors to support grant allocation and economic development strategies.

3. Improving EDA Operational Efficiency and Transparency

- **Pre-Development Assistance for Distressed Communities** – Codifies a formal definition of "pre-development," enabling EDA to provide assistance to

economically distressed areas in preparing for large-scale infrastructure investments.

- **Permanent Disaster Hiring Authority** – Ensures EDA can quickly mobilize and respond to future disasters by permanently authorizing its disaster hiring capabilities.
- **Strengthened Regional Collaboration** – Formalizes the relationship between EDA and Regional Commissions to improve the coordination and effectiveness of regional economic development programs.

Legislative Context

EDA's reauthorization is a critical component of the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024*, which passed with bipartisan support in Congress. This legislative update enhances EDA's ability to foster economic resilience, infrastructure modernization, and workforce development nationwide.

This reauthorization strengthens EDA's role in driving economic growth and ensuring that communities—particularly those facing economic distress or disaster impacts—have the necessary tools and resources for long-term prosperity.

Key Economic Development Investments Supported by EDA

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) continues to play a crucial role in fostering economic growth, job creation, and infrastructure development. The following priority investment areas illustrate EDA's commitment to supporting communities through strategic economic initiatives:

Infrastructure and Facility Development

- **Technology-Based Facilities** – Supporting innovation and research hubs to drive economic advancement.
- **Multi-Tenant Manufacturing Facilities** – Enabling flexible manufacturing spaces that enhance industrial productivity.
- **Business and Industrial Parks** – Facilitating the development of business clusters and regional economic hubs.
- **Telecommunication and Development Facilities** – Expanding broadband and communication infrastructure to strengthen connectivity.
- **Water and Sewer System Improvements** – Enhancing critical infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth.

Business and Workforce Development

- **Business Incubator Facilities** – Providing early-stage businesses with essential resources and support.
- **Port and Harbor Expansions** – Strengthening trade and logistics infrastructure to enhance regional commerce.
- **Skill-Training Facilities** – Investing in workforce training programs to meet evolving industry demands.

- **Brownfield Redevelopment** – Restoring and repurposing underutilized or contaminated sites for economic use.

These investments reflect EDA's focus on fostering resilient, innovation-driven, and inclusive economic development across regions. By strategically aligning resources with community needs, EDA continues to enhance economic opportunities and regional competitiveness.

New Priorities:

EDA's investment priorities provide an overarching framework to ensure its grant investment portfolio – ranging from planning to infrastructure construction -- contributes to local efforts to build, improve, or better leverage economic assets that allow businesses to succeed and regional economies to prosper and become more resilient. Competitive grant applications will be responsive to the evaluation criteria listed under each individual funding announcement, including at least one of the below investment priorities.

1. **Critical Infrastructure:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.
2. **Workforce:** Economic Development planning or implementation projects that –
 - a. Support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or
 - b. Otherwise promote labor force participation.
3. **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that –
 - a. Support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure;
 - b. Promote business development and lending; or
 - c. Foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.
4. **Economic Recovery Resilience:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or economic impacts from natural disasters.
5. **Manufacturing:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

U.S. Economic Development Administration Grants

FY 2023 PWEAA Application Submission and Program Requirements:

The FY 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlines the process for applying to two core EDA programs under the Public Works and Economic Development Act: the Public Works program and the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program. This NOFO replaces the FY 2020 version and includes updated application requirements.

Key Points:

- **Funding Availability:** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until a new NOFO is issued, the current NOFO is canceled, or all available funds are allocated. A recent update adds \$5M specifically for indigenous communities and incorporates regulatory changes (2 CFR 200 updates) for new FY25 awards.
- **Program Focus:** EDA emphasizes strategies that leverage regional strengths to foster economic growth, support equity, address workforce needs, and improve climate change resilience.
- **Review Process:** The EDA reviews applications promptly upon receiving complete submissions.
- **Resource Link:** Detailed program and application information is available at <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/346815>.

The HOTCOG/HOTEDD boards may consider these opportunities to support regional economic development initiatives aligned with EDA's priorities.

EDA Funding Priorities: waiting on those changes to be published.

EDA Planning Grant:

- **Awarded:** Three-year planning grant (2024-2026) at \$210,000 (\$70,000 per year).
- **Purpose:** Fund Economic planning division, support HOTCOG regions CEDS.
- **Administrator:** Dorthy Jackson.
- **Role:** Assists with applications, financial reports, and special conditions submissions.
- **Staff is working on the 2025-2030 CEDS with added emphasis on resiliency component compared to the previous CEDS. Staff is planning on presenting draft of CEDS in March and final approval May with public hearing between that timeframe.**

Public Works Grant:

- **2024 Allocation:** Funds expend but apply now for the 2025 allocation starting in October.
- **Requirements:** Submit Forms ED 900B for reporting business activities from the grant.

- Application Process: Through EDGE Portal (<https://sfgrants.eda.gov>) and instructions on <https://www.grants.gov>.

New inquires staff helping with possible EDA grant.

- City of West
- City of Hillsboro
- City of Meridian

EDA Project Highlights:

- **TSTC Project:**
 - Investment: \$3,500,000 from EDA.
 - Purpose: Renovation of Technical Studies Center and Electronics Center buildings.
 - Progress: Construction started, ongoing employee interviews. This project is getting close to completion.
- **Fairfield Project:**
 - Investment: \$950,000 from EDA.
 - Purpose: Roadway improvements on Old Mexia-Fairfield Road.
 - Progress: Contract approved; construction started on May 13, 2024. Construction completed, working with contractor and subcontractor in getting full compliance with paperwork for EDA to close out.

Community Development

Hosting Training Event:

The Regional Services & Economic Development Department is organizing a Brownfields Technical Assistance Training in collaboration with the Kansas State University - Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) team. This training is intended to provide valuable information and resources to community members regarding brownfields redevelopment, funding opportunities, and regulatory considerations.

Tentative Details:

- Proposed Date: June 10, 2025 (subject to change based on speaker availability)
- Location: HOTCOG training room
- Target Audience: Local government officials, economic development professionals, community planners, and other stakeholders interested in brownfields redevelopment.

Planned Speakers & Topics:

We are coordinating with various state and regional agencies to ensure a comprehensive training program. Tentative speakers include:

- Kansas State University

- Texas Water Development Board
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) & Railroad Commission:
- Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Fair Housing Training (CDBG Focus)
- Legislative Updates: If the primary speaker is unavailable, Matthew Wright has agreed to assist with providing relevant legislative updates.

Next Steps:

- Finalize the list of confirmed speakers.
- Secure a venue for the training event.
- Develop promotional materials to encourage participation.
- Coordinate with partner agencies for logistical support and resources.

GLO Grants:

- Purpose: Development, adoption, and implementation of resilient building codes, flood damage prevention ordinances, and land use plans.
- Current Progress:
 - **City of Mexia:** Application submitted, Kick off meeting Oct 15 2024.

Staff working on RFP and requirements from GLO. Concern is how the program will move forward with changes in the Federal Government allocations.

TDA Notifications:

- Current Funding: \$12,253 for technical assistance work.

Training:

- Russell Devorsky and Dorothy Jackson attended NADO Washington DC conference March 9-12

Technical Assistance

Recipients:

- Fairfield EDC
- TSTC
- City of Mexia
- City of Whitney
- City of Marlin
- City of Meridian
- City of Morgan

Solid Waste

FY24 and FY25 Projects:

- Managed by COG, funded for three counties each fiscal year.
- Next Code Enforcement Training will be in FY 25
- City of Meridian conducted their event on September 21st.
- McLennan County has started making plans to hold all their collection events in March.
- Falls County will start their event in February.

Air Quality

Ongoing Activities:

- Tested the regridded daily available nitrogen data from fertilizers in the MEGAN model.
- Reviewed soil NOx emissions for the contiguous U.S., compared them with published data, identified discrepancies, and implemented corrections in the source code.
- Continued drafting sections of the final report.

Health and Human Services Division

February 2025 Program Activity

for

Executive Committee Meeting on March 20, 2025

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

John Vorderkunz – 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 & Human Services Division - Total Individuals Served by County							
Programs	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
211, AAA, ADRC & RTD	131	81	179	111	130	1469	2101

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

Jan Enders – Special Programs and Outreach Manager
 Ursula Johnson - Managing Local Ombudsman
 Donnis Cowan - 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

PUBLIC INFORMATION – MEDIA ACTIVITIES

John Vorderkunz

HOTCOG WEBSITE VIEWS					
211	ADRC	AGING	RESOURCE GUIDE	TRANSPORTATION	Grand Total
16	128	284	184	278	890

SOCIAL MEDIA DATA				
POSTS	IMPRESSIONS	AVG IMP PER POST	MOST IMPRESSIVE POST	
10	133	13.3	20	

SPECIAL PROJECTS/OUTREACH

Jan Enders - 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.

Outreach - Individuals Reached, February 2025							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Presentations - Medicare		-	-	-	-	254	254
Medicare Fraud SMP						254	254
Resource Guides							0
Grand Total		0	0	0	0	508	508

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.

Area Agency on Aging Services - Benefits /February 2025								
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Other	Grand Total
Benefits Counseling - Medicare, Extra Help, Health Ins, & Social Security - Hours		2.75		6.06		77.19		86.00

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.

Area Agency on Aging Services - Care Coordination							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Care Coordination Connecting Individuals to Services - Hours	5.40	1.55	4.25	10.70	4.84	76.46	103.20
Callers for Assistance	2			4		24	30
Grand Total	7.40	1.55	4.25	14.70	4.84	100.46	133.20

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 Agency on Aging Services - Caregiver Support							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Caregiver Support Coordination Connecting Caregivers to Services - Hrs	5.03	5.62		12.15		43.26	66.06
Health Education Classes - Falls Prevention, Stress Relief for Caregivers, and REACH-TX coping skills for caregivers caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or other dementias. # of sessions						2	2
Grand Total	5.03	5.62	0.00	12.15	0.00	45.26	68.06

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.

Executive Committee Assistance Requested: The Ombudsman Program would like your assistance in locating volunteers to visit long-term and assisted living facilities in your community. Please have individuals call Lynda Mitchell at 254-313-7089.

Area Agency on Aging Nutrition							
Meals Funding Source	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Congregate Meals	CM	CM	CM	CM	CM	CM	CM
Area Agency on Aging	251	235	834	220	303	2055	3898
Other Local Donations County & Cities							0
Home Delivered Meals	HDM		HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM
Area Agency on Aging	1043	822	1356	1335	1228	5546	11330
Other Local Donations County & Cities							0
Grand Total	1294	1057	2190	1555	1531	7601	15228

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	1	1	1	1	8	13	25
Assisted Living Facility Visits				1		3	4
Complaints						5	5
State Surveys			1			2	3
Education & Consultations				1			1
Resident Council Meetings	1				3	1	5
Resident Discharge Appeal/s						1	1
Grand Total	2	1	2	3	11	25	44

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 - Individuals Reached							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Round Table Talk	1	1	1	2	2	6	13
Presentations / Housing / LCA	1	1	1	1	1	4	9
Housing Authority	3	5	2	3	4	7	24
							0
							0
							0
Grand Total	5	7	4	6	7	17	46

ADRC Call Activity

Connecting older adults and individuals with disabilities with long-term care and support services. Callers were assisted with Community Resources. (cont'd.)

ADRC Call Activity - Feb 2025							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL C	Grand Total
AAA Referrals	2			4		29	35
Housing							0
In Home Care	1		6	7		36	50
Medicare / medicaid/ SNAP	1			1		27	29
Medical Equipment						1	1
Minor Home Repair	1		1	1		14	17
Nursing Home						1	1
Rent Payment Assist							0
Transportation	1			1		1	3
Utilities Payment Assist			1	1		3	5
Other Community Resources	1			6	4	35	46
Grand Total	7	0	8	21	4	147	187

3. Heart of Texas Area Information Center (AIC) – (HTCG 2-1-1)

Amy Rossow – Contact Center Manager
 Marcy Whiddon – Resource Manager/Emrg. Management Coordinator/I&R Contact
 Joanna Whitehouse – Information & Referral Contact Specialist
 Belinda Arocha – Information & Referral Contact Specialist
 Dave Gray – Community Outreach Coordinator

The 2-1-1 program is a nationwide “free” social service phone helpline answered by highly trained contact specialists who listen to help-seeker’s needs and provide resources and information to assist in meeting their needs. The contact specialists attempt to identify at least 3 resources for each identified need.

2-1-1 provides referral information about health and human services to all callers regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, or other criteria. 2-1-1 is available 365 days a year and 24 hours a day. 2-1-1 does not provide any funding, only resources to help-seekers for non-profit, social service agencies who have voluntarily become part of our database designed to assist our help-seekers

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.

Total HTCG 211 Calls							
HTCG 211 Transferred to HHSC Benefits		HTCG 211 Callers Recv'd Resources			HTCG 211 Total Callers Assisted		
1129		1042			2171		
Texas 2-1-1 Statewide Call Detail							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Total In Region
Total Calls	69	77	61	111	84	984	1386
Top Needs Per County							
Electricity Payment Assistance	20	31	27	41	30	361	510
Rent Payment Assistance	6	10	7	9	1	54	87
Food Pantries	9	10	2	20		94	135
Area Agency on Aging	2	2	3	5	3	9	24
Housing Authorities	2	1	2	2	2	15	24
Homeless Shelter	1					14	16
Other Statistics							
First Time Callers	8	9	8	10	11	112	158
After Hours Calls (After 8-5 M-F) Answered by United Way Greater Houston	10	16	9	14	14	184	247

4. Heart of Texas Rural Transit District

Ronald E. "Rep" Pledger - Manager
Frances Ramirez – Transportation Specialist
Misty Hendon – Transportation Admin

General Information:

Funding

Staff were notified by TXDOT that they would be receiving an additional \$180,000, in Federal funds. The Program Grant Agreement (PGA) has been amended allowing staff to proceed with the purchase of a minivan.

Staff have been notified that it will be receiving \$873,672.00 in federal funds and \$403,185 in rural state funds for FY2025. The federal funds increased by \$70,000 and our state funds decreased by \$26,000.00. **The reduction in state rural funds leaves HOTRTD with a \$113,879.00 shortfall in funding for FY2025.**

Trainings, Meetings, and Outreach

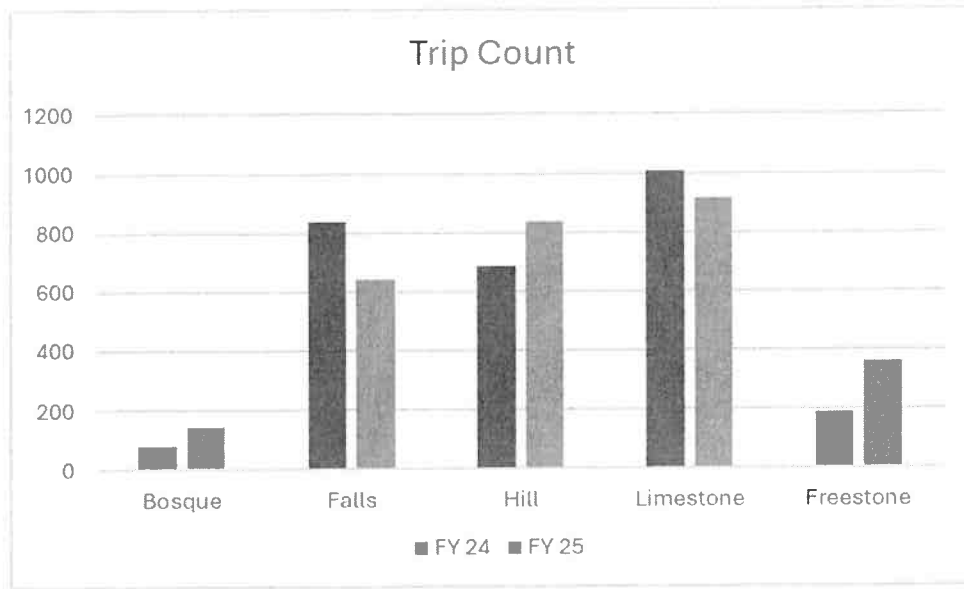
Regional Transportation Coordination Council - (RTCC)

The next meeting will be on March 20, 2025, immediately following HOTCOG's Executive Board Meeting.

Rural Transit District – (Operations)

Staff continue their outreach to clients to increase ridership.
Trip activities for February 2025 are as follows:

Transportation Services – One Way Trips		
Transportation Provider	FY 2024	FY 2025
Bosque County	79	146
Falls County	836	644
Hill County	684	839
Limestone County	1008	917
Freestone County	188	361
Total - All 5 Counties	2795	2907



Trip Type by County						
Trip Type	Limestone	Hill	Falls	Freestone	Bosque	Grand Total
Work	204	266	176	65	41	752
Dialysis	278	269	44	113	23	727
Medical	94	127	41	59	10	331
Education		36	224		41	301
Mhmr	89	34	92	41	4	260
Personal	98	73	36	7	17	231
Shopping	76	29	29	33	10	177
Recreation	29			41		70
Foster Grandparents	25					25
Parole	14	5	2			21
Veteran	10			2		12
Grand Total	917	839	644	361	146	2907

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

John Vorderkunz
 Director of Health and Human Services
a division of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Course	Date	Agency	Attendees	Total
Basic Instructor	11/6-10/2023			
		TDJC	1	
		Bosque County Sheriff's Office Meridian PD	4 1	6
Basic Instructor	11/13/17			
		Waco PD	4	
		DPD Lorena PD	1 1	6
Crisis Intervention Training	11/13-17/2023			
		McLennan CO Const. Pct 2	2	
		Fairfield PD	2	
		Killeen PD	1	
		Travis CO Const.	1	
		Limestone Co SO	1	
		Private Waco PD	3 2	12
De Escalation	1/18/24			
		Woodway	6	
		Travis CO Const. Private Waco PD	1 3 1	11
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	6	
		Hubbard PD	1	
		Leander PD	1	
		Lacy Lakeview PD	1	
		Erath County SO Corsicana PD	1 1	2

			Hillsboro PD			1
			McLennan CO SO			3
			Kosse PD			1
			Stephenville			1
			DPS			1
			Caldwell PD			1
			Washington County SO			4
	864					36
Intermeidate Crime Scene		3/11-15/2024	Hill Co SO			2
			Waco PD			5
			McLennan Co SO			1
			Private			2
			Bellmead PD			1
			Franklin PD			1
			Temple PD			1
			Travis Co Const.			1
			Crawford PD			1
	600					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					8
Mental Health Peace Officer		4/15-19/2024	Woodway Public Safety			7
			Robinson PD			3
			Hamilton County			1
	440					11
Intermeidate Child Abuse		5/6-8/2024	Cancel			

Resilient Response Policing Trauma	5/7/24	McLennan Community College PD	2
		Teague PD	1
		DPS	1
		Lacy Lakeview PD	1
		Tom Green Co SO	1
		Private	1
56			
Advanced Report Writing	5/21/24	Fairfield PD	4
		Freestone County SO	4
		Hill County	1
80		Temple PD	1
			10
Intermediate Crime Scene	6/3-7/2024	Lorena PD	1
		Woodway DPS	3
		Killeen ISD	4
		Waco PD	2
		Bosque County SO	1
		Hill Co SO	1
		Copper Canyon PD	1
		Temple Fire Rescue	3
		Cottle CO SO	1
		Bruceville Eddy PD	1
		Clifton PD	1
760			19
Basic Instructor Course	6/10-14/2024	McLennan Co SO	4
		Marlin PD	1
		Waco PD	1
		Office of Inspector General	3
360			9
LGBTQ+	6/17/24	McLennan Community College	3
		Hill Co SO	1
		Waco PD	3
		Waco ISD	1
		Fairfield ISD	1
72			9

Resilient Response Policing Trauma	6/18/24	McLennan Community College	3
		Waco PD	3
		Hill Co SO	1
		Fairfield ISD	1
		Waco ISD	1
	72		
Basic Instructor (Fairfield)	7/8-12/2024	Fairfield PD	2
		Killeen ISD	2
		McLennan Co SO	1
		Falls Co SO	1
	240		6
Special Investigative Topics	7/15-17/2024	Waco ISD	1
		Waco PD	1
		McLennan Co SO	1
		DPS	1
		Hillsboro PD	1
		Pas CRDMAC	1
	144		6
Basic Instructor	7/22-26/24	HOTCOG	1
		Coryell County	1
		Fairfield ISD	1
		Baylor PD	1
	200	TPWD	1
			5
Bosque County SO CPR	7/19/24		
		Bosque CO SO	12
	48		12
De Escalation	8/8/24	DPS	2
		Freestone Co SO	1
		Hill Co Juvenile Probation	2
		Baylor PD	1
		Waco PD	1
		Private	1
		McLennan CO SO	1
		Robertson CO	1

			McLennan Community College	1
			Hewitt PD	1
			Waco PD	1
			TPWD	1
			Fairfield ISD PD	1
			Bellmead PD	1
			West ISD PD	1
	28		Connally ISD PD	2
				14
Intermediate Child Abuse		9/23-25/24	Baylor PD	3
			Waco Fire	1
			McLennan Co SO	2
			Waco PD	4
			Hillsboro PD	1
	312		Hewitt PD	2
				13
Advanced Instructor		9/30-10/4/24	Lacy Lakeview PD	2
			Office Of Inspector General	1
			Grand Prairie PD	1
	200		DPS	1
				5
TCIC/ NCIC		10/22-24/24	Mexia PD	1
			Waco ISD PD	1
			Temple PD	1
			Walnut Springs ISD	1
			McLennan County SO	1
			Falls County SO	1
			Robinson PD	1
			Milam CO	2
			McGreggor PD	1
			Corsicana PD	1
			Limestone County	2
	336		Baylor PD	1
				14

