

February 19, 2026

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 7 p.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Wayne Griffith, Jiffy Dukes, Gloria Dooley and Curt Collins. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Brian Besson followed by the pledge to the American flag.

A roll call of departments present was recorded as follows: Carlisle, Church Hill, Crims Chapel, Eastside, Elderville, Garrison, Henderson, Laneville, Mt. Enterprise, New London, New Salem, Overton, Reklaw, Rusk County Rescue and Tatum. Departments recorded as absent were Texas Forest Service, Kilgore and Kilgore Rescue.

Under Public Comments/Announcements: Board President Burks welcomed our newest Board Member representing Pct.1, Curt Collins; Board Member Gloria Dooley informed the Board that the interest rate on our building loan had been reduced from 6.75% to 6%, that PPE and training grants had been awarded to the Church Hill VFD, Tatum VFD, Eastside VFD, Carlisle VFD and Overton VFD and the Reklaw VFD had received a grant for training aids. On the PPE grants departments must spend a minimum of \$26,250.00 and the ESD would pay any difference and would direct pay any of the vendors upon request from the department. She also asked if the Board would like to discuss at the next meeting increasing the postings on the District's website due to the current political climate in the county. The Board asked that it be put on the March agenda. Bill Ruby reported that Lake Striker might be selling water to the City of Henderson in the future and Chief Pearson asked for guidance on fire hydrants near the city and county lines in the Church Hill area. Board Member Jiffy Dukes apologized to everyone present for endorsing a county candidate and immediately requesting that the endorsement be rescinded. He cautioned all departments to not engage in endorsements and/or campaigning for any candidates as we were all public servants and not allowed to do so. Board Member Wayne Griffith thanked all of the many fire departments that had helped out with the fund raiser for his wife and how much they appreciated the support and prayers.

The first agenda item was to consider and possibly approve the minutes from the previous meeting as emailed. On a motion made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, the minutes were approved as emailed by a unanimous vote of the Board.

The financial report was then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval by Board Administrative Assistant Dawn Taylor. She reported a beginning balance in the Sales Use account in the amount of \$4,102,674.36 and with interest earned in the amount of \$7,216.63 and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of

\$3,826,176.11; the Obligations Account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$308,943.51 with interest earned in the amount of \$524.78, for an ending balance in the amount of \$309,468.29; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$1,008,910.46, with a deposit of \$187,188.05 and one disbursement in the amount of \$582,000.00 and interest earned in the amount of \$614,098.51; and the District's checking account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$525,510.73 and after deposits and disbursements an ending balance in the amount of \$630,004.98. Also included with the report was an updated budget, department breakdown, profit and loss versus actual and check detail report. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The payment of bills was then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval by Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley. All Board Members were asked if they had any questions concerning the check detail report. There were no questions or discussion. A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve monthly transfer of funds between accounts. Board Treasurer presented the report showing two transfers moving funds from the checking account into money market accounts. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve monthly financial reports and RMS reporting from the District VFDs. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley reported that all departments were in compliance and had submitted reports. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve communications/technology improvements and repairs in the District. The following items were discussed and voted on: the purchasing of antennas and coax for the Laneville tower site at a cost not to exceed \$6,500.00 with a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith and passed with a unanimous vote; mini-split heat pump a/c units for the Laneville tower site at a cost of \$5,290.52 to Simmons A/C & Heating, LLC with a motion made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes and passed with a unanimous vote; fencing for

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the Laneville tower site at a cost of \$6,975.00 to Creel Fencing with a motion made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins and approved with a unanimous vote; reimbursement to Michael Searcy for the purchased of a radio cart , microphone filter and lectern at cost of \$565.69 on a motion made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes and approved with a unanimous vote of the Board; purchase of a StarLink internet kit not to exceed \$300.00 and a monthly fee of \$50.00 only when used with a motion made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes and passed with a unanimous vote; installation of an IceBridge at the Laneville tower at a cost of \$4,250.00 with a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith and passed with a unanimous vote; update on negotiations with Tillman Tower on the south tower site and an update on negotiations with Vertical Bridge for a tower site behind the Carlisle VFD.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve replacement tires on the Crims Chapel VFD engine at a cost of \$5,298.28. As the item was part of their 2026 budget submitted to the ESD, a motion to approve was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the New Salem VFD for 2 sets of gear at a cost of \$8,703.46 for new members. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Carlisle VFD for repairs to Engine 2 at a cost of \$2,594.48 with the department paying \$3,000.00. Curt Curtis presented the request with a copy of the invoice and check. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve a maximum not to exceed cost for the moving of a donated water tank from Waskom, piping of tank to Minden-Brachfiled Water supply, dirt work and any other associated costs. Chief Bozeman presented the request and the need by the department to have a water source to fill up their engine and tender. A motion to approve a not to exceed amount of \$10,000.00 was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Wayne Griffith abstaining.

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The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve providing 2 water hydrants to the Minden-Brachfield Water Supply. Chief Bozeman with the Eastside VFD made the request as hydrants were needed at CR 355 and CR 317. The water company had tabled the item at their February meeting so they could determine the cost to install the hydrants. A motion to approve, if requested, was made by Board Member David Burks, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve adding to the tender ISO list a low level strainer for current tenders in delivery and all future tenders. Chief Bozeman with the Eastside VFD made the request for the \$592.12 item and the Board discussed the need versus want status of the item. After discussion, a motion to deny the request was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to set a date for a Strategic Planning Workshop in March. After looking at the calendar it was determined that the month of March was already booked and a date of April 4th or 11th would have to be used. Board Member Gloria Dooley will check with Mike Montgomery on which Saturday would work for him and set the definite date after that. The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and lunch will be provided. A motion was made by Board Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, to set a date in April. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve issuing a Quit Claim Deed to the City of Henderson returning property to the City of Henderson due to misrepresentation of Gift Deed property to the Rusk County ESD #1. The Board discussed that the Gift Deed accepted by the ESD for the property where the Rusk County Rescue department sits had various other pieces of property attached to the Gift Deed that were not legally owned by the City and the Board had not been informed of the additional properties prior to accepting the Gift Deed. On advice of legal counsel, the property should be returned to the City. A motion to execute the Quit Claim Deed was made by Board Member David Burks, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve a cost share with the Crims Chapel VFD on a VFIS grant for an extractor at a cost to the ESD of \$738.00 plus shipping with direct payment to the vendor. A motion to approve the request was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The

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motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve emergency replacement of the generator at the Reklaw VFD. Assistant Department Chief Paul Patterson presented the request and 2 bids for a replacement generator. After review of the bids, a motion to approve the low bid was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve assignment of two Rapid Response engines on order with Siddons-Martin. The Board reviewed the current vehicle inventory and a motion was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley, to assign the engines to the New Salem VFD and the Overton VFD. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve repairs to the generator at the Eastside VFD at a cost of \$1,841.16. Chief Bozeman presented the request and estimate from Blazer Electric. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the New London VFD for items not covered under grant reimbursement in the amount of \$675.00; replacement of failed hose at a cost of \$684.00 and bunker gear for new members at a cost of \$5,519.20. The Board reviewed each of the requests and asked if the city of New London would pay for the hose and Chief Nichols said they would. A motion to approve the grant reimbursement and gear was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve the 2025 Annual Report to the Commissioners Court. Board President David Burks presented the report on February 3th and it was accepted and approved by the Court. A motion to approve the report by our Board was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve increasing annual funding to the Elderville/Lakeport VFD. This item was tabled last month and Board Members David Burks and Wayne Griffith had questions for Chief Harding and discussed his needs and those of the department. After discussion, Board Member David Burks made

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a motion to compromise and increase, at this time, the department's funding by \$10,000.00. The motion was duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Jiffy Dukes voting against.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve any requests from the Rusk County Firefighters Association committees for funding assistance. Association President Bozeman reported that there were no requests at this time. No action taken.

The last item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve submission of the annual Special District Report to the Texas Comptroller's Office. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley informed the Board that this was a standard report that she did every year and would complete before the April 1st deadline with their approval. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Secretary

President