# RUSK COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1
## DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

*October 15, 2026 | 1515 Whippoorwill Avenue, Henderson, Texas*

### 1. Call to Order and Quorum
The regular meeting of the Board of Emergency Services Commissioners of Rusk County Emergency Services District No. 1 was called to order at 6:54 PM CDT. The chair stated that all board members were present and a quorum was established. Board Members present were David Burks, Gloria Dooley, Curt Collins, Wayne Griffith and Jeff Harman.

### 2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
An invocation by Cecilia Besson and the Pledge of Allegiance were conducted.

### 3. Roll Call of Departments
Department roll call was conducted.

Departments in attendance included: Carlisle, Church Hill, Crims Chapel, Eastside, Elderville-Lakeport, Garrison, Henderson, Kilgore, Kilgore Rescue, Laneville, Mount Enterprise, New London, New Salem, Overton, Rusk County Rescue, and Tatum.

Departments absent included Reklaw and the Texas A&M Forest Service.

### 4. Public Comments and Announcements
The Board expressed appreciation to participating departments for providing vehicles and personnel for National Night Out. The final cost of the Laneville Tower project was reported as approximately $1,234,136.61, which was under the estimated $1.3 million dollar budget by $65,863.39. Chief Jeremy Bozeman reminded everyone of the Eastside VFD annual Fish Fry on Oct. 24th starting at 11 a.m.

A request was made for Board members' shirt sizes and preferences in advance of an upcoming state meeting. Scott McCoy of Laneville VFD provided an update on their new rescue vehicle, stating that a radio mount and some equipment remained outstanding and that the vehicle was nearly 100% in service.

### 5. Statement and Oath of Office for Appointed Commissioner
A motion was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley and seconded by Wayne Griffith to accept the statement and oath of office signed by Jeffrey Harman and County Judge Joel Hale on October 1, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

### 6. Election of Board Officers
The Board considered the annual election of officers and amending the signature cards at Texas Bank. A motion to nominate by acclamation was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley and and seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith to approve the following slate: President — David Burks; Vice President — Wayne Griffith; Secretary/Treasurer — Gloria Dooley; Assistant Treasurer — Curt Collins. The motion carried unanimously.

### 7. Executive Director Candidate — Executive Session

The Board convened in executive session under Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code at 7:06 p.m. to consider an employment offer for the Executive Director candidate. The Board closed executive session at 7:34 p.m. and reopened the meeting. It was announced that the District had offered the Executive Director position to Michael Searcy and that he had accepted. The appointment was to be effective November 1, 2026.

### 8. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board considered minutes from September 17, September 29, and October 3, 2026. A motion was made by Curt Collins and seconded by Wayne Griffith to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### 9. Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly financial reports were presented by Secretary/Treasurer Gloria Dooley:

- District checking account: beginning balance reported as $427,698.40; ending balance following disbursements reported as $410,607.50.
- General money market account: Beginning balance of $1,548,796.89 with a $250,000 transfer out and interest earned of $2,313.09 were reported; for an ending balance of $1,301,109.98
- Sales and Use tax money market account: the beginning balance was $9,898,696.43, a deposit of $552,139.96 and interest earned of $16,695.39 were reported and the ending balance was reported as $10,467,531.78
- Obligations money market account: Beginning balance of $313,081.32 with interest earned of $514.66 and an ending balance reported as $313,595.98.
- Year-to-date budget, department breakdown, and budget-versus-actual reports were also provided.

A motion was made by Wayne Griffith and seconded by Jeff Harman to accept the monthly financial reports. The motion carried unanimously.

### 10. Monthly Payment of Bills

The Board reviewed the detailed check report. No questions or concerns were raised. A motion was made by Curt Collins and seconded by Wayne Griffith to approve payment of bills. The motion carried unanimously.

### 11. Revenue Transfers Among District Accounts

The Board reviewed transfers made during September: $250,000 from the general money market account to checking for annual insurance payments to VFIS (including property, liability, and vehicle insurance) and department run checks; and $552,139.96 from checking to the Sales and Use tax interest-bearing money market account. A motion was made by Wayne Griffith and seconded by Jeff Harman to accept the transfers. The motion carried unanimously.

### 12. Monthly Summary Financial Reports from District Volunteer Fire Departments

The monthly summary reports for September were provided to the Board and were available with the meeting documents on the District website. No questions or concerns were raised. A motion was made

by Wayne Griffith and seconded by Curt Collins to accept the reports. The motion carried unanimously.

### 13. Quarterly Investment Report

The third-quarter investment report was reviewed. The report compares the market value of bonds securing District deposits with bank balances at month-end. It was noted that additional accounts had been added to the collateral coverage and that the collateral value must remain greater than the deposits. A motion was made and seconded to accept the quarterly investment report. The motion to approve was made by Curt Collins and seconded by Wayne Griffith. The motion carried unanimously.

### 14. New Salem VFD Station Project

The Board discussed pending items relating to the New Salem VFD station project, including landscaping/matting to prevent erosion. No response had yet been received from Chilo's regarding the landscaping matter, and staff was to follow up and bring an update back to the Board. The Board also discussed changing the front exterior finish to stone rather than the originally contemplated brick. An additional cost of approximately $1,880 was discussed. Bill Ruby of New Salem added that they could not find a suitable brick and decided with department leadership to switch to a stone front. A motion was made by Curt Collins and seconded by Wayne Griffith to approve the change order. The motion carried unanimously. The building update included that insulation, ductwork, wiring, and water service were in place.

### 15-1. Communications Technology Improvement – Radio ID Loan to Christus EMS

The Board considered lending seven TxWARN radio IDs to Christus Flight-For-Life who were awaiting resolution of radio-ID issues. The radio IDs would be loaned temporarily, with no cost to either party, for a period modeled on a prior six-month arrangement with Panola County. The radio IDs would be returned or reprogrammed once the Flight-For-Life equipment and IDs were corrected by TxWARN/Harris County. A motion was made by Jeff Harman and seconded by Curt Collins to approve the temporary loan. The motion carried unanimously.

### 15-2. Communications Technology Improvements — Radio Headset for Carlisle Brush/Attack Truck

The Board discussed a wireless radio headset and interface for the Carlisle Attack 1 truck due to excessive noise and related safety/communications concerns. The quoted cost from Firecom was $5,062.90. The District already had a radio available for installation. Discussion included checking that the truck's existing emergency alert/contact feature remained operational. A motion was made by Curt Collins and seconded by Wayne Griffith to accept the bid for the headset installation. The motion carried unanimously. Michael Searcy also requested lending Christus EMS 6 radio IDs for a period of 6 months until they had theirs in place. A motion was made by Jeff Harman, and seconded by Curt Collins, to allow this usage. The motion carried unanimously.

### 16. Eastside Air Compressor Repair

The Board considered a $4,948.06 repair estimate for the Eastside refill-station air compressor, described as an older unit acquired from the Elderville-Lakeport VFD. Chief Bozeman included discussion on the availability of parts from CASCO, Curt Collins asked about the lack of a conventional warranty, and the possibility that a new compressor could cost substantially more (quotes discussed ranged from approximately $55,000 to over $80,000). The vendor reportedly offered to buy

back certain parts if the repair did not last, and written confirmation was to be obtained on the repairs. Brian from Vallen Safety Services contacted Bauer concerning the compressor and described parts would not be available for the compressor and mentioned that replacement would be needed if the repairs do not hold. Curt Collins made a motion to accept the repair estimate, Jeff Harman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

17. Election of Officers-As this was a duplicate agenda item, the Board passed on this item.

### 18. Sale of Surplus Property

The Board considered a resolution authorizing the sale of a 2003 Ford light rescue truck which was replaced by a new rescue truck for Laneville VFD. Discussion noted the vehicle's engine and potential resale value, and that photographs were being prepared for Purple Wave's website. A motion was made by Gloria Dooley to approve the resolution and was seconded by Jeff Harman authorizing the sale of the surplus vehicle. The motion carried unanimously.

### 19. Reimbursement for Department Fuel Costs

The Board discussed possible reimbursement to departments whose fuel costs exceed their projected 2026 budget amounts, citing increased fuel prices and additional fire activity. Departments would be required to provide receipts and records supporting eligible costs. The proposal was to review documented overages and reimburse qualifying differences, with the matter to be handled after year-end. A motion was made by Jeff Harman and seconded by Curt Collins to approve reimbursement of qualifying fuel-cost overages subject to approval of presented documentation. The motion carried unanimously.

### 20. Comprehensive Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease Detection Program

The Board discussed a proposed screening program for first responders at a stated cost of $360 per participant. The proposed services included cardiovascular and cancer-related screening, with reports and follow-up for abnormal findings. The provider sought use of the District operations facility and would recruit participants from local and neighboring departments. Board members requested additional information, including comparison with other screening options and possible reimbursement/coverage. A motion was made by David Burns to table and seconded by Jeff Harman pending further logistics and cost breakdown. The motion carried unanimously.

### 21. Purchase of SWR16 Rescue Boat and Trailer

The Board compared an SWR16 rescue boat with a double-stack trailer for $52,288.65 from Fluid Marine in North Carolina, included in the 2026 Rescue Unit budget, with an alternate option for a single-stack trailer at $36,858.00 from Triad Marine in Kemah, Texas. Further board discussion favored the double-stack option due to limited storage space, faster deployment, and the ability to easily bring two boats to an incident. Availability and delivery considerations were discussed. The motion was made by Gloria Dooley and seconded by Jeff Harman to proceed with the double-stack trailer option at the quoted price. The motion carried unanimously.

### 22. Service Provider Agreements for 2027

The Board tabled consideration of the 2027 service provider agreements because the agreements were not ready for consideration. A motion was made by Gloria Dooley and seconded by Wayne Griffith to table the item. The motion carried unanimously.

### 23. Holiday Schedule for 2027

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027 holiday schedule for District employees. Members discussed the number and selection of holidays. A motion was made by Wayne Griffith and seconded by Curt Collins to approve the proposed schedule which includes 12 days through the year. The motion carried unanimously.

### 24. Transfer of Titles for Brush Trucks 2 and 3

The Board considered transferring title to Brush Trucks 2 and 3 from Eastside Volunteer Fire Department back to Rusk County ESD No. 1. Discussion identified the vehicles as a 1993 Ford and a 2012 Ford, with one serving as a county backup. A motion was made by Gloria Dooley and seconded by Curt Collins to accept transfer of ownership titles for both vehicles. The motion carried unanimously.

### 25. Engagement of Auditor for 2026 Audit

The Board discussed engagement of an auditor for the 2026 audit. The Secretary/Treasurer reported having communicated with CPA Morgan LeGrone by email and requested an engagement letter. A motion was made by Wayne Griffith and seconded by Curt Collins to engage Morgan LeGrone's firm to perform the District's annual audit. The motion carried unanimously, subject to completion/confirmation of the engagement letter.

### 26. Required Training Hours for Commissioners

The Board was reminded that commissioners are required to complete six hours of training every two years. The hours may be completed in different combinations across the two-year period. As an informational item, no action or motion was required.

### 27. SAFE-D Annual Safety Conference

The Board considered the list of participants for the SAFE-D annual safety conference at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock, Texas, scheduled for February 11–13, 2027. Members attending will include David Burks, Wayne Griffith, Gloria Dooley, Curt Collins, and Jeff Harman. Newly appointed Executive Director Michael Searcy will also attend. Also attending from the RCFFA will be Scott McCoy and Randy Coe. A motion was made by David Burks and seconded by Curt Collins to approve the participant list and authorize Secretary/Treasurer Gloria Dooley to register all participants and make room reservations. Spouses will also be attending with attendees. The motion carried unanimously.

### 28. Interlocal Agreements

The Board reviewed two interlocal agreements, one with the City of Henderson and one with the City of Kilgore. The agreements were described as substantially identical except for the city name. Discussion addressed execution and routing of the agreements for the cities' signatures and legal review, and the need to correct or complete highlighted language before final execution. A motion was

made by Gloria Dooley and seconded by Wayne Griffith to accept the interlocal agreements as presented by counsel, subject to the noted completion/correction process. The motion carried unanimously. Amounts were written in on the highlighted areas of both ILAs.

### 29. Conflict of Interest Affidavit

The Board considered a conflict-of-interest affidavit relating to construction related services provided by Board Member Jeff Harman to certain volunteer fire departments on request. The affidavit required notarization, but a notary was not available at the meeting. The Board approved execution of the affidavit, and arrangements were to be made to complete notarization after the meeting. A motion was made by Gloria Dooley and seconded by Wayne Griffith to approve the affidavit. The motion carried unanimously. Affidavit will be notarized on Friday, October 16, 2026.

### 30. Adjournment

With no further business being brought before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Griffith and seconded by Curt Collins. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM CDT.

**Submitted by:** Gloria Dooley, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved by the Board on: _____

President: _____