

March 6, 2026

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 8:04 a.m. for a Special Called Workshop with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Gloria Dooley, Jiffy Dukes, Curt Collins and Wayne Griffith.

Board President Burks explained that the purpose of this workshop was to have an open, informal exchange between all the Board Members that would serve as an orientation for our newest Board Member, Curt Collins and help him find out where the ESD had been, where it is today and where we hope to be in 5 years or more. Between the Board Members we discussed where the Board had been 17 years ago only collecting less than \$0.0267 per \$100 valuation and where we are now collecting \$0.0768 per \$100 valuation in property taxes and where we were at in the collection of sales and use tax revenue. While sales tax revenue had increased dramatically since July of last year, we knew this was due to a very specific construction project that was on the way to be finished so this was a temporary increase in revenue. While there are other projects in the works in the county, we had been cautioned by HdL (our consulting firm on sales tax) to not count on this revenue being a long term thing.

We all talked extensively about the revamping of the District's vehicle inventory and how this had been the number one priority for many years with the departments. We also talked about the replacement of gear across the county as well as SCBAs, radios (hand held and mobile), rescue tools, wildland gear, gas monitors and thermal imaging cameras. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley explained that while every department turns in a yearly budget, they do not always include all of the grants or items needed and that we still struggle in getting them to understand that the Board needs to know these things for us to properly build our budget every year. She pointed out that departments had turned in a total in cost share grants for 2026 of \$53,000.00 and this was only short by over \$900,000.00 after grants started being awarded in October of 2025. While the ESD had the funds to cover these unexpected cost shares, had we planned on using that money then departments would have had to leave money on the table and walk away from grants. We also talked about our communications system and how we had been forced to change from our VHF system to the UHF 7/800 system and the cost associated with that. We talked about the new tower site in Laneville and the possible tower site in the Carlisle area and maybe being able to increase our coverage from the Mt. Enterprise tower site. We also touched on the training program the ESD had set up for the year in addition to the training that each individual department had scheduled for the year. We also touched on the working relationships we had with the county, cities and other ESDs in the areas and how everyone was working to reduce costs in an economy that was seeing steady increases on a daily

March 6, 2026

Page -2-

basis. The discussions were informal and meant to be informative and a sharing of information.

Board Member Jiffy Dukes requested that an item be put on the next meeting agenda for the Board to discuss having a quarterly Round Table Workshop where Board Members and department members could just discuss any topic or concern in an open, informal setting where no decisions could be made but everyone could be heard for longer than 5 minutes if need be.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Board Member David Burks, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. On a unanimous vote of the Board the workshop was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Secretary

President