

PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

August 26, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission was held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis this meeting was held in hybrid format by videoconference pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.127. Board members and individuals from the public who desired to attend in person, accessed the meeting at 415 South West Eighth Avenue, Amarillo, Potter County, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Don Allred, Oldham County Judge
- Juan Cantu, Lipscomb County Commissioner
- Steven Cortez, Hereford
- Buster Davis, Mayor, City of Gruver
- Christy Dyer, Randall County Judge
- Ronnie Gordon, Hartley County Judge
- Dr. William Hallerberg, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- Raul Hernandez, Amarillo
- John Howard, Donley County Judge
- John James, Collingsworth County Judge
- Kimberly Jones, Childress County Judge
- Harold Keeter, Swisher County Judge
- Dan Looten, Carson County Judge
- Wayne Nance, Briscoe County Judge
- Karen Price, Pampa
- Sal Rivera, Sheriff, Castro County
- Yolanda Robledo, Alderwoman, City of Bovina
- Winston Sauls, Borger
- Phillip Self, Greenbelt Municipal & Industrial Water Authority
- Tobe Shields, Mayor, City of Spearman
- Pat Sims, Commissioner, City of Dumas
- Nancy Tanner, Potter County Judge
- Ricky White, Mayor, City of Friona

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Cleo Castro, Cactus
- Ginger Nelson, Mayor, City of Amarillo
- Walter "Four" Price, Texas State Representative, District 87
- Kerry Symons, Mayor, City of Perryton

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Trent Taylor, Finance Director; Mr. Dustin Meyer, Local Government Services Director; Mr. Marin Rivas, Workforce Development Director; Mr. Mike Peters, Regional 9-1-1 Network Director; Ms. Lori Gunn, Regional Services Coordinator; Mr. Marin Rivas, Director Workforce Development, Ms. Sundee Rossi, Area Agency on Aging Director; Ms. Melissa Tye Whitaker, Managing Local Ombudsman; Ms. Paige Witthar, Community & Economic Development Program Specialist; Ms. Delaney Pruet, Regional Emergency Management Planning Program Coordinator; Ms. Cristy Henderson, Accounting Manager; Ms. Julie Lyles, Accountant II; Ms. DeShayne Hall, Executive Assistant; Mr. Kyle Ingham, Executive Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Katheryn Massey, Assistant to the Mayor, City of Amarillo

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Winston Sauls called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present. No conflict disclosure issues pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 176 were noted by Board members related to action items on today's agenda.

2. INVOCATION

Sheriff Sal Rivera gave the invocation.

8. PANHANDLE REGIONAL 9-1-1 NETWORK FY22-FY26 STRATEGIC PLAN FUNDING REQUEST APPROVAL

Mr. Mike Peters reminded the Board in concurrence with the legislative session, the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) has completed its projection of funds to be allocated to 9-1-1 statewide and provided the PRPC 9-1-1 Program with initial allocation figures. Prior to receiving funds for FY2022 and FY2023, we must submit, and have approved, a strategic planning financial plan for FY2022 – FY2026. In years past, this has been done with paper documents, it is now submitted online through the CSEC funded Salesforce program management website.

Requested funding for each of the 5 years is as follows:

	Administration	Program	Equipment
FY22	\$74,223	\$1,492,168	\$793,750
FY23	\$76,079	\$1,738,020	\$135,000
FY24	\$77,981	\$1,762,539	\$ 50,000
FY25	\$79,930	\$1,774,499	\$488,750
FY26	\$81,928	\$1,794,195	\$ 0

The strategic plan represents funding requests for the next biennium FY 2022 and FY 2023 and estimates for the following three years. The equipment totals are calculated from the PRPC equipment replacement schedule that is guided by Program Policy Statements that have recommended life cycles of each type of eligible equipment. The current schedule ranges from FY22 until FY31.

Mr. Phillip Self moved to authorize the Board of Directors to approve the FY22-FY26 Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network Strategic Plan and authorize its submission to the Commission on State Emergency Communications. Judge Harold Keeter seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

9. PANHANDLE REGIONAL 9-1-1 NETWORK FY22-FY23 SERVICES CONTRACT

Mr. Mike Peters reminded the Board the 87th Legislature appropriated funds to the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) for statewide 9-1-1 services in FY 2022-2023.

CSEC has reviewed and approved the FY2022 – FY2026 regional strategic plan for Administration and Program Funds and has allocated funding to fulfill the regional plan for most of both strategies. The following table represents each fiscal year’s allocations for the administration and program budgets of the Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network’s Strategic Plan.

Budget Component	FY 2022	FY 2023
Administration	\$ 74,223	\$ 76,079
Program	\$ 1,474,668	\$ 1,720,520
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$1,548,891	\$1,796,599
Method of Finance		
Appropriated Service Fees	\$ 1,312,574	\$ 1,326,083
Appropriated Equalization Surcharge	\$ 236,317	\$ 470,516
TOTAL METHOD OF FINANCE	\$1,548,891	\$1,796,599

Judge John Howard moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract and method of finance with the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications for the provision of 9-1-1 services for FY 2022-2023. Judge Cristy Dyer seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

PRPC has contracted with Amarillo College to operate the PRLEA since its inception. Outside of the Amarillo Police Academy, which is reserved for the training of Amarillo's police force, the PRLEA is the only other TCOLE-certified (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement) basic training academy in the region. The vast majority of officers currently employed throughout the region graduated from the PRLEA and in the course of a normal year, nearly every officer will take advantage of the Academy's in-service training opportunities.

She stated that earlier this month, PRPC staff met with Amarillo College (AC) to discuss the terms of this year's contract. Those two payment categories include the following:

- **Basic Law Enforcement Training:** TCOLE certification is a prerequisite to becoming employed as a peace officer in the State of Texas. Through this training, students attend classes and must pass an exam making them eligible to receive certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Two Basic academies will be conducted in 2022 and we've allocated enough funding for scholarships to students in each academy. For FY 2022 we have at least ten (10) scholarship positions available.
- **In-Service Training:** To maintain TCOLE certification, an officer must obtain continuing education to remain current on new laws and specialized topics pertinent to criminal justice. In-Service Training covers a wide range of training topics specifically designed to achieve this goal for licensed peace officers in the region.

The contract only pays for training delivered to TCOLE-certified officers employed by a city or county in the region.

Ms. Yolanda Robledo moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contract with Amarillo College for the operation of the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy for FY 2022. Judge Wayne Nance seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

13. **STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM/CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Ms. Lori Gunn reminded the Board each year the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office (PSO) contracts with the PRPC to administer the region's Criminal Justice Program and State Homeland Security Program. This agreement calls for the PRPC to facilitate a variety of services to agencies in the Panhandle. The contract also necessitates that PRPC aids the region's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, which oversees the Criminal Justice Grant Program. This contract also addresses the Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee, which oversees the region's Homeland Security Grant Program.

PRPC has discussed a renewal of the previous interlocal agreement which will include the same amounts as the current fiscal year. The PSO contract program will begin on September 1, 2021.

Sheriff Sal Rivera moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute the FY 2022 Interlocal Agreement with the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office. Judge Kim Jones seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

14. **2021 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (CEDS) APPROVAL**

Ms. Paige Witthar reminded the Board, for almost 25 years the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission has served as the fiscal and administrative agent of the Panhandle Economic Development District. Every three years PRPC seeks funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to facilitate the planning and implementation of economic development related strategies in the Texas Panhandle. Currently, the Economic Development District is in the final year of its current three-year grant.

Each year PRPC staff works with the membership of the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) to update the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). This document analyzes the population and economic trends of the region and its communities while identifying the needs and strategies appropriate to help sustain and expand local economies. The CEDS includes a Strength/Weakness/Opportunity/Threat (SWOT) analysis on economic trends in the region. The CEDS also identifies economic development resources and strategies available to local communities, entrepreneurs, and businesses in the region. Each EDAC member and/or representatives from distressed counties provide insight into the specific issues facing their respective counties.

The EDA requires that the EDAC review and approve the CEDS annually prior to submission. Additionally, because the economic development efforts of the region continue to become more intertwined with local government PRPC staff feels that it is appropriate for the annual updated CEDS to be reviewed by the PRPC governing body.

Mr. Bill Hallerburg moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) document. Sheriff Sal Rivera seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

15. TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES INTERLOCAL CONTRACT

Mr. Dustin Meyer reminded the Board that PRPC staff has worked with Panhandle communities to implement infrastructure improvement projects through the Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program since 1983. Since that time, PRPC staff has provided administrative assistance on over 300 TxCDBG projects totaling more than \$75,000,000 of grant funds utilized for the infrastructure improvement of Panhandle communities. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), has long been the funding agency of this program in the State of Texas, and they are in the process of holding a special grant project related to rural Para-Medicine.

Dallam County has requested that PRPC provide project administration services on a Special Project related to Para-Medicine vehicles in the Texas Panhandle funded with TxCDBG dollars through the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Mayor Ricky White moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Dallam County to provide TXCDBG administration services related to a Para-Medicine project. Mayor Tobe Shields seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.


Winston Sauls, Chairman
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
Board of Directors

ATTEST:


Tobe Shields, Secretary/Treasurer
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
Board of Directors