



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



“Never doubt that a
small group of
thoughtful, committed
citizens can change the
world; indeed, it’s the
only thing that
ever has.”

– Margaret Mead



PANHANDLE
REGIONAL
PLANNING
COMMISSION



2025
STAFF PHOTO

REGIONAL POPULATION

434,358

06 SPECIAL DISTRICTS

94 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

PRPC CITIES

Adrian, Amarillo, Bishop Hills, Booker, Borger, Bovina, Cactus, Canadian, Canyon, Channing, Childress, Clarendon, Claude, Dalhart, Darrouzett, Dimmitt, Dodson, Dumas, Estelline, Farwell, Follett, Friona, Fritch, Groom, Gruver, Happy, Hart, Hedley, Hereford, Higgins, Howardwick, Kress, Lake Tanglewood, Lakeview, Lefors, McLean, Memphis, Miami, Mobeetie, Nazareth, Palisades Village, Pampa, Panhandle, Perryton, Quitaque, Sanford, Shamrock, Silverton, Skellytown, Spearman, Stinnett, Stratford, Sunray, Texhoma, Texline, Timbercreek, Tulia, Turkey, Vega, Wellington, Wheeler, White Deer

PRPC COUNTIES

Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler

PRPC SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, Greenbelt Municipal and Industrial Water Authority, Mackenzie Municipal Water Authority, Palo Duro River Authority, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, Red River Authority

The Planning Commission is an organization of, by, and for local governments. The PRPC was created based on the concept that more can be accomplished by local governments acting cooperatively rather than alone.



PRPC is a voluntary association of cities, counties, and special districts in the Texas Panhandle. Established in 1969, the Planning Commission assists local governments in planning, developing, and implementing programs designed to improve the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens in the Texas Panhandle.

Since 1969, the Planning Commission has been involved in a wide range of projects and programs. Activities currently include initiatives in the areas of workforce development, aging, local government services, economic development, dispute resolution, 9-1-1 services, criminal justice, solid waste management, emergency preparedness, transportation planning, water planning, regional services, and technical assistance to the local governments of the Panhandle.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Judge Nancy Tanner
Board Chair | Panhandle Regional Planning Commission

As I write this, I cannot help but reflect on my life up to this point. I was born in September of 1950, which makes me 75.

I had a great childhood, wonderful Christian parents and memories of that time of my life that hopefully will never fade. My parents are no longer here, but I have 4 siblings, various nieces and nephews, and of course, my own kids and grandkids.

I started this journey of mine way back in 1969, right out of high school. I wanted a car, so I had to get a job. My first job was at the City of Amarillo Tax Office and I hated it. I was the youngest one there and was sent home one day because my skirt was too short. I have been 5'11" since I was twelve, so I told them my skirt was fine, my legs are just too long. I had to go home anyway.

My second job was with some lawyers, where I learned that there are a lot of bad people out there and the pay is not that great. I then went to the County Attorney's office, where I saw my first dead body. Our office tried the murder case of a businessman who was murdered by his own business partner. He ended a man's life for the insurance money. It was unbelievable. A new county attorney was elected and I wasn't fond of him, so I found something else. I went to work for an orthopedic surgeon, where part of my job was taking X-rays to the hospital so the doctor would have them for surgery. Surgery was every Friday afternoon after lunch and a couple of margaritas. Yes, you read that right.

Finally, in 1994, I applied for a job at the County Judge's office in Potter County. Many things happened in those 20 years as an assistant to the Judge. As luck or life would have it, I ended up running for that position in 2014 and became the first female county judge in the history of Potter County. I love this job even with all the trials and tribulations that go with it.

I can honestly say that the PRPC Board is perhaps the most professional, the most exact, the most organized board I have ever had the pleasure of serving. The camaraderie with this organization is unsurpassed by anything or any office I have ever encountered. The friendships with all the other Judges, Mayors, Sheriff's and other members, as well as the staff, will never be forgotten. It has been my pleasure not only to be a member, but also your Board Chairman this year.

May God's love continue to shine on each and every one of you and I sincerely hope that after I am gone, you will remember me with either a shake of your head or with a smile.

Judge Nancy Tanner
Board Chairman | Panhandle Regional Planning Commission

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Nancy Tanner, Chair
Judge, County of Potter



Pat Sims, Vice Chair
Mayor, City of Dumas



Kim Jones, Secretary/Treasurer
Judge, County of Childress



Shawn Ballew
Judge, County of Oldham



Juan Cantu
Commissioner
County of Lipscomb



Rank Cogdell
Judge, County of Briscoe



Mitchell Locke
Judge, Roberts County



Christy Dyer
Judge, County of Randall



Aldo Gallegos
Citizens Representative
Cactus



Ronnie Gordon
Judge, County of Hartley



Mac Smith
Canadian River Municipal
Water Authority



Dr. John Howard
Judge, County of Donley



Daniel Jackson
Manager, City of Dimmitt



Michael Clawson
Judge, County of Swisher



Greg Lewellen
Mayor, City of Friona



Dan Looten
Judge, County of Carson



Oscar Ostos
Citizens Representative
Amarillo



Lt. Moses Campa
Citizens Representative
Pampa



Salvador "Sal" Rivera
Sheriff, Castro
County



Isabel "Izzy" Carrasco
Judge, Parmer County



Pat McDowell
Judge, County of Wheeler



Winston Sauls
Citizens Representative
Borger



Phillip Self
Greenbelt Municipal and
Industrial Water Authority



Tobe Shields
Mayor, City of Spearman



Cole Stanley
Mayor, City of Amarillo



Kerry Symons
Mayor, City of Perryton



Michael J. Peters
Executive Director
Panhandle Regional
Planning Commission

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To the Board of Directors and the citizens of the
Texas Panhandle,

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, PRPC, has had another successful year in serving you. Leading our exceptional staff is both an honor and a privilege. Their dedication, expertise, and passion inspire me daily as we work to enhance the quality of life across our 26 counties.

We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with you and the elected officials of our cities and counties. This document serves as a summary of the many ways we assist the Texas Panhandle and the great people who call it home. Together, we are united in a shared mission to enhance the quality of life for every resident in our region. The collaborative spirit and commitment to progress within our communities fuel our efforts to address challenges and seize growth opportunities.

The PRPC looks forward to continuing its work in support of the citizens of the Texas Panhandle. We are committed to developing innovative solutions, enhancing regional partnerships, and enhancing the well-being of our residents. Our collective vision is to build a brighter, more prosperous future for all who call this vibrant region home.

Thank you for your trust and support as we strive to make a meaningful difference in the Texas Panhandle.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Michael J. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Michael J. Peters
Executive Director
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission

PRPC EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

The Executive Department provides administrative support for Board members, committee members, and the PRPC staff as they serve the Texas Panhandle, conducting a wide range of leadership and supervisory functions directly benefiting all of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission programs and projects.



Left to right: Lori Woolf, Michael Peters (Executive Director), Melissa Whitaker, Julie Arvello not pictured



Left to right: Terrie Campbell, Jaime Sharp, Felicia Shaffer, Debbie King (AAA Director), Kathryn English, Dana Hoyler, Isabell Villareal (Panhandle Aging and Disability Resource Center), and Anna Ojeda

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle (AAA) is committed to enhancing the lives of older adults in the Texas Panhandle communities. The AAA aims to ensure that individuals aged 60 and above have access to essential support, resources, and services that are vital for aging well and maintaining their independence.

The AAA serves as a link between the region's older adult population, including Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers, helping them connect with various state and federal programs, local assistance, and relevant information. The AAA provides a wide range of services tailored to the unique needs of older adults, including providing nutritious meals, in-home services, and organizing social engagement through community activities and educational gatherings. Additionally, the AAA offers valuable information and assistance to help older adults and their family caregivers navigate the often complex aging-related resources landscape.

The AAA also collaborates with local partner organizations to bring programs and services to the community, enhancing communities and improving the well-being and independence of older adults across the counties they serve. This helps consumers to age with independence and thrive in their communities.

TRANSPORTATION

The Area Agency on Aging's Transportation Program helps older adults maintain independence and stay connected by providing free, accessible rides through partnerships with Amarillo City Transit (ACT) and the Amarillo Wesley Community Center. These services support a wide range of needs from medical appointments and grocery shopping to social outings, volunteer opportunities, and enrichment activities. The program makes a concerted effort to support older adults with complex needs, including those undergoing regular dialysis treatments and individuals who use wheelchairs. ACT-Connect buses are equipped with ramps to ensure safe and dignified access for all riders. This accessible, citywide service is available to anyone age 60 or older, enabling older adults to age in place and remain actively engaged in the community.

Jacqueline Harrison, Transit Contract Specialist with ACT, shared that she frequently hears stories of appreciation, thankfulness, and relief from older passengers. "Our 60-plus group comes from a variety of backgrounds, and all of them have shown so much appreciation for this service," she said. "We have so many clients that tell us that without our transportation service, they would lose the independence that they cherish so much."



In addition to rides, the AAA also funded ACT's grocery cart initiative through the Melissa Carter Memorial Grant. These carts have been distributed to older adults to help them carry food, laundry, and other items safely.

The AAA is also deeply grateful to the Senior Ambassador Coalition, whose generous \$5,000 donation this year helped support ongoing transportation services through ACT-Connect. Thanks to the ongoing collaboration between the AAA and local partners, the Transportation Program continues to be a lifeline for older adults across Amarillo.

NUTRITION SERVICES

The Area Agency on Aging's Nutrition Program supports the health, independence, and social connection of older adults by providing nutritious meals through both congregate and home-delivered services. Across the region, 13 providers serve meals at 17 different locations, offering older adults consistent access to food, social interaction, and wellness checks. These meals do more than address hunger and food insecurity; they help reduce social isolation, foster community, and support aging in place.



169,862
Meals
Served

2,077
Participants

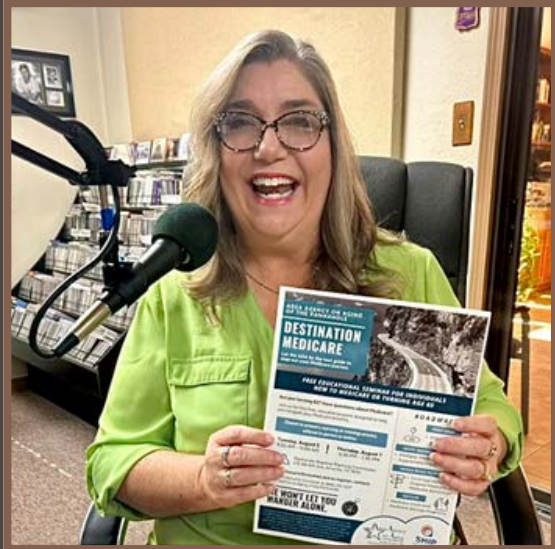
17 Senior
Food
Sites

83-year-old Rodolfo Ochoa, a participant of the Amarillo Wesley Community Center, is one of many older adults who benefit from the program. A member of the center for seven years, Rodolfo immigrated from Cuba and has found comfort and companionship through the daily meal program. As Wesley staff shared, "He is very grateful and he feels very blessed to be part of the program... It is such a blessing that programs like Area Agency on Aging can assist seniors in so many ways." His experience highlights the deeper impact of nutrition services in the lives of older adults across the Panhandle.



BENEFITS COUNSELING

Benefits Counselors continue to offer Destination Medicare seminars and provide information to our "New to Medicare" population through both in-person and online courses across 26 counties. Attendance at these seminars has been growing each year. In September, we hosted a Legal Awareness seminar titled "Empowering Older Adults." Our guest speaker, Paul Zambie, an attorney from the Texas Legal Service Center in Austin, addressed topics such as estate planning, legal documents, Medicaid eligibility, and Qualified Income Trusts (QIT), and advance directives.



Benefits Counselors have partnered with churches, senior caregiver support groups, and other healthcare agencies to raise awareness and educate older adults on the importance of advance directives. AAA provides Advanced Directives presentations to Heal the City patients. We have also welcomed WTAMU Social Work Interns, one of whom completed the training and casework to become a Certified Benefits Counselor Volunteer. Our program focuses on providing information and education to empower older adults.

HOME CARE OPTIONS

Home Care Options Program assists older individuals by assessing their needs and effectively planning, arranging, coordinating, and assisting with in-home provider services, health maintenance supplies, and minor residential repairs. The services administered through this program are essential in helping functionally impaired older individuals to prevent or postpone institutionalization as well as promote or maintain their independence, health, and safety. In-home provider services assist individuals with their daily activities or personal care. Health maintenance services assist with costly incontinence supplies, nutritional supplements, or small durable medical equipment not covered by health insurance. Residential repair services may assist with minor repairs or modifications of dwellings or building home ramps for individuals with mobility issues to exit their home safely.



These short-term services have been proven to be a viable asset in the process of individuals receiving assistance until they are able to access other forms of long-term services or assistance available to them, and still be able to maintain their independence within their community.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Our public information and outreach efforts continue to promote quality of life for older adults in the Texas Panhandle through meaningful partnerships and innovative programs. This year, we proudly launched an **eight week Digital Bootcamp** in collaboration with the Goodwill Career Resource Center, aimed at empowering older adults with essential digital skills. Learning technology can often feel intimidating, but through our partnership with OATS (Older Adults Technology Services), we were able to offer the Senior Planet program, making digital learning easy, engaging, and accessible.



OATS, the nonprofit arm of AARP, has been a national leader in digital education for older adults, helping them stay connected, access critical online resources, and explore new opportunities for learning, creativity, and independence. Through their Senior Planet programming, we're bridging the digital divide and helping older adults live fuller, more connected lives.

CAREGIVER SERVICES



The Family Caregiver Support Program offers essential assistance to caregivers who are experiencing burnout or stress related to their caregiving responsibilities. This program provides education, training, emotional support, and respite care to help caregivers maintain their own well-being while caring for a loved one. This year alone, the respite program delivered over **5,000 hours of free respite to families in need**, giving caregivers valuable time to rest and recharge. In addition, the program distributed more than **\$5,000 in health maintenance supplies**, helping reduce the financial burden often placed on caregivers. To further support caregivers, the program hosts a monthly educational support group on the first Wednesday of every month at Central Church of Christ. These meetings offer a safe space for caregivers to connect, share experiences, and gain valuable knowledge.

Each November, in recognition of National Family Caregivers Month, the Area Agency on Aging hosts an Annual Caregivers Conference. This past year, we were honored to welcome Samantha Young-Cervantes, who shared practical strategies for staying organized as a caregiver. Additionally, the agency hosted its first-ever Dementia Symposium, featuring Dr. Tam Cummings as the keynote speaker. **The event was a great success, drawing over 150 attendees.**



The Family Caregiver Support Program continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of caregivers and the individuals they support, ensuring that no caregiver has to face their journey alone.



OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

The AAA Ombudsman Program is essential for protecting the rights and well-being of residents in long-term care facilities. It advocates for quality care and ensures that residents have a say in decisions that impact their lives. Ombudsmen work to ensure that clients receive fair treatment and have access to the assistance they need to navigate the system effectively.



Left to right: Melissa Whitaker, Virginia Keys Chris Murdoch, Ross Wellesley, Steve Akeroyd, Wanda Fowler, Dana Hoyler (MLO), Lisa Hancock, and Pam Ashraf

In 2024, the Ombudsman Program doubled from the previous year to a total of seven volunteers. Currently, in 2025 there are 8 Certified Volunteer Ombudsmen and 2 interns. Ombudsman volunteers have been instrumental in recruiting additional volunteers, and their recruitment efforts were rewarded through the American Recovery Program over the past three years. The program continues to receive applications for volunteers who want to advocate and protect facility residents.



"I love my ombudsman! She brightens my day when she comes to visit. Over the past few years, we have had many wonderful conversations. About three years ago, the facility had no Wi-Fi and was stringing the residents along about getting it restored. None of us had access to internet or even TV. Dana came in and addressed it, and we had Wi-Fi in short order. I know I can come to her with anything, and I know I can trust her to take care of it quickly. She has addressed several resident rights issues for me with great success."

- Linda Powell



Working with the Ombudsman is a partnership. We identify issues and work together to resolve issues. We love our ombudsman.

Elizabeth Sullivan
Administrator, Castro County
Nursing & Rehabilitation



*Lisa Hancock, honored for 15 years of committed service to the Ombudsman Program.

*Dana Hoyler, MLO, honored for 5 years of committed service.

7,734
Total
Contacts

282
Nursing
Facility
Visits

200
Assisted
Living
Facility
Visits

209
Resolved
Complaints

2024-2025 Ombudsman Program Statistics

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH CELEBRATION

May is a time to recognize the contributions of older Americans, highlight trends in aging, and reaffirm our commitment to serving older adults in our communities. The 2025 theme, "Flip the Script on Aging," focuses on transforming how society perceives, discusses, and approaches aging.



The Older Americans Month event emphasized the purpose, exploration, and connection that come with aging.

The Area Agency on Aging welcomed 150 attendees.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PRPC's Workforce Development division, through Panhandle Workforce Development Board (PWDB), assists Texas Panhandle employers in recruiting, hiring, and retaining qualified workers while helping job seekers find and keep stable employment. Workforce Development receives funding from the Texas Workforce Commission, which provides structured oversight of workforce program services in the 26-county region of the Panhandle. These services are performed by the Workforce Solutions Panhandle (WSP).

The PWDB is a business-led group, the majority of which is comprised of employers from the private sector, as well as representatives from labor, economic development, child care, workforce, secondary and post-secondary education, adult and continuing education, literacy, vocational rehabilitation, community-based organizations, public employment services, and the State Department of Human Services.



Left to right: Heather Reid, Ana Gonzalez, Yvette Gayton, Marin Rivas (WFD Director), Kathy Cabezuela, Amanda Leal, Gracie Aragon, Leslie Hardin

The volunteer members of the PWDB are appointed by the Panhandle Workforce Development Consortium's Governing Body (PWDCGB), comprised of six county judges, chosen by their peers from among the Panhandle's Chief Elected Officials, and the Mayor of the City of Amarillo.

The mission of the PWDCGB, the PWDB, WSP, and the staff of the Workforce Development Division is to establish and enhance a workforce delivery system that connects local employers with resources to find and develop the talent they need. We invest in skills development to increase workers' career opportunities and self-sufficiency. This supports economic growth by promoting collaboration among stakeholders, creating partnerships with other community organizations, and focusing on workforce development issues.



HIGH DEMAND JOB TRAINING

High-Demand Job Training (HDJT) programs utilize Economic Development Corporations' regional tax dollars to bring matching federal grants to the region through TWC. The combined funding is then used to purchase equipment and supplies for eligible educational institutions to develop career and technical education courses. For the Fiscal Years of 2018-2024, PRPC has partnered with the Economic and Community Development Corporations in Amarillo, Borger, Childress, Clarendon, Dalhart, Pampa, Perryton, and Shamrock. Together, we assisted Clarendon College, Frank Phillips College, and the Independent School Districts (ISDs) of Amarillo, Bushland, Canyon, Highland Park, and River Road. These projects have invested more than **\$2,175,000** in students – the future workforce of the Panhandle.

- ◆ **\$490,000** from the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation for the Amarillo ISD at Amtech Career Academy, Bushland ISD, Canyon ISD, Highland Park ISD and River Road ISD
- ◆ **\$375,000** from the Dalhart Economic Development Corporation for Frank Phillips College
- ◆ **\$247,000** from the Borger Economic Development Corporation for Frank Phillips College
- ◆ **\$150,000** from the Perryton Community Development Corporation for Frank Phillips College
- ◆ **\$21,000** from the Childress Municipal Development District, Clarendon Economic Development Corporation, Pampa Economic Development Corporation, and Shamrock Economic Development Corporation for Clarendon College

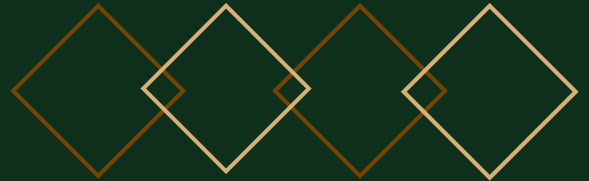
CHILD CARE SERVICES

Workforce Solutions Panhandle Child Care Services (CCS) provides financial assistance for child care to low or moderate-income families who are working, in training, or attending school. The program is designed to support family self-sufficiency and ensure access to stable, high-quality child care across the Texas Panhandle.



In 2025, CCS served **1,824 families**, with an average of **2,607 children** receiving care each day.

On average, **2,112 children** were placed in Texas Rising Star (TRS) certified child care centers, reflecting the program's continued focus on promoting quality early learning environments.



\$212,099 - Curriculum Kits & Training
\$10,000 - Professional Development
\$41,000 - TRS Program Bonuses
\$20,725 - Wage Supplements



TEXAS RISING STAR

The Texas Rising Star program is a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for child care programs participating in the CCS program. Texas Rising Star certification is available to licensed centers as well as licensed and registered child care home facilities that meet certification criteria.

The Texas Rising Star program offers three levels of quality certification (Two-Star, Three-Star, and Four-Star) to encourage child care and early learning programs to attain progressively higher levels of quality.

\$36,339
182 Teachers

Training

\$303,684
24 Providers

Learning
Materials



20 New providers received initial
Texas Rising Star certification.

2 - Star Certification = 10
3 - Star Certification = 5
4 - Star Certification = 5

103 Total providers
73% are TRS Certified

CHILD CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

In 2025, Workforce Solutions Panhandle Child Care Services invested in multiple quality initiatives aimed at improving early learning environments, enhancing curriculum resources, supporting professional development, and promoting staff retention.

Scholarship support for child care teachers and directors remained a key priority. In 2025, WSP awarded \$174,217 in scholarships to 80 individuals, 30 of whom were new recipients (38%). 14 teachers/directors graduated with certifications or degrees through this initiative.

Workforce Solutions Panhandle dedicated \$212,099 toward curriculum materials and training to support structured, developmentally appropriate instruction in early learning programs.

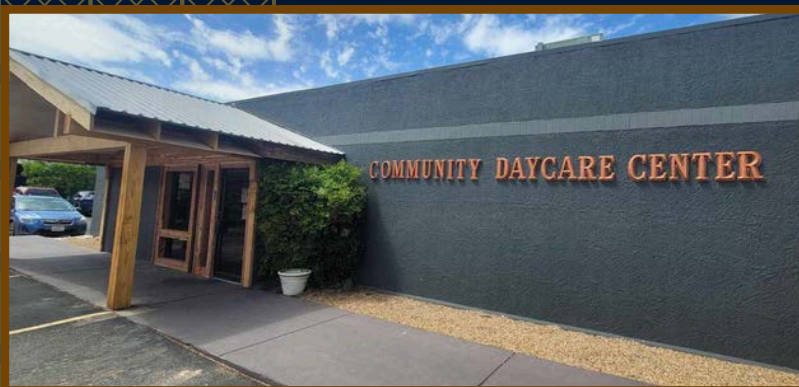
To incentivize and sustain participation in the Texas Rising Star (TRS) program, Workforce Solutions Panhandle awarded \$41,000 in program bonuses. These funds supported onboarding and reward programs based on TRS certification level.



CHILD CARE TEACHER RETENTION AND RECOGNITION

To support teacher retention in the early childhood education workforce, Workforce Solutions Panhandle implemented a targeted initiative to recognize and reward qualified child care professionals. In 2025, a total of \$20,725 was expended on wage supplements and teacher recognition.

One crucial initiative supporting early childhood educators is the Panhandle ECE STARS Wage Supplement Program, funded by Workforce Solutions Panhandle. This program provides financial supplements to early childhood professionals working with low-income families.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To support continued improvement of early childhood education practices, Workforce Solutions Panhandle invested \$10,000 in professional development training. A total of 103 participants attended sessions focused on infant/toddler curriculum, lesson planning, classroom management, and program operations.

"After a long and challenging road, I finally reached a personal goal. I earned my associate's degree in early childhood education from Amarillo College! It was a moment filled with pride and joy, and it's motivated me to seek more education to become an occupational therapy assistant. Reaching this milestone has lit a new spark in me. I'm so thankful for the support from Workforce Solutions scholarships. Their financial assistance allowed me to concentrate fully on my education instead of worrying about bills and daily expenses. I am currently working at Opportunity School as a preschool lead teacher, working with children aged 3 to 4 years old. The journey isn't over yet, so if you see me with my head in a book, just know I'm still chasing my dreams."
- Francheska Alexander



TRAINING SERVICES

The WSP Training Services team aims to enhance workforce development by providing individuals with access to training and employment services. It helps job seekers gain the skills needed for in-demand occupations through funding for training programs, career counseling, and support services.

Out of 431 applications, Training Services enrolled 327 individuals in Adult & Dislocated Worker programs, reflecting a strong enrollment rate of 75.87%.

TOTAL ENROLLED 327

Adults 278

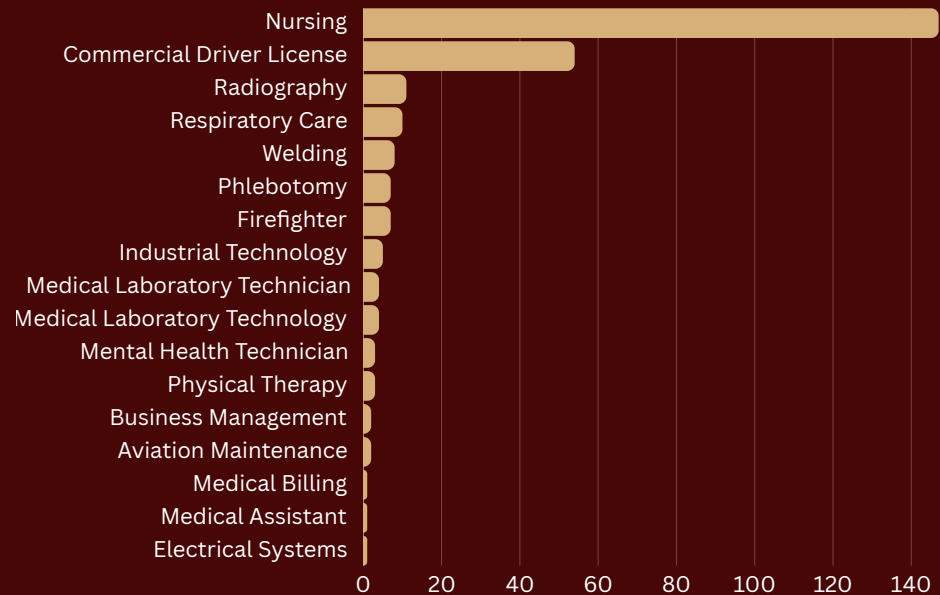
Dislocated Worker 57

Enrollment Rate 75.87%

Applications 431



Training Services were concentrated in three high-demand sectors: healthcare, transportation, and advanced manufacturing. Healthcare saw the highest participation with 188 individuals trained. Transportation followed with 54 participants, and advanced manufacturing and technical fields accounted for 16.



SKILLUP PANHANDLE

Skillup Panhandle (Metrix Learning) benefits the community by providing Texas Panhandle residents with valuable skills, enhancing the local workforce and driving economic growth. With over 7,000 courses available 24/7, individuals can learn flexibly, improving their job prospects through more than 300 skills tracks and badges. Engaging 490 participants, adding more than 200 participants in the past year, in general and certification courses, the platform promotes continuous learning and prepares users for the job market with industry-recognized certifications.

490 Total Participants

General Metrix Courses

280 Participants

Certification Courses

10 Participants

Radiography	Nursing	
Firefighter	Computer Information Systems	
Law Enforcement	Respiratory Care	Welding

YOUNG ADULT TRAINING SERVICES

Young Adults who are 24 years old or younger and experiencing difficulties or challenges are eligible for workforce benefits and qualify for the Young Adult Services Program.

Training Services can assist motivated Young Adults who are authorized to work in the United States, registered with the Selective Service (if required). The Young Adult Training program offered a diverse range of training opportunities for young adults in 2025, serving 113 young adults, with 63 participants, 35 of whom participated in workforce-paid internships.



SUMMER EARN & LEARN

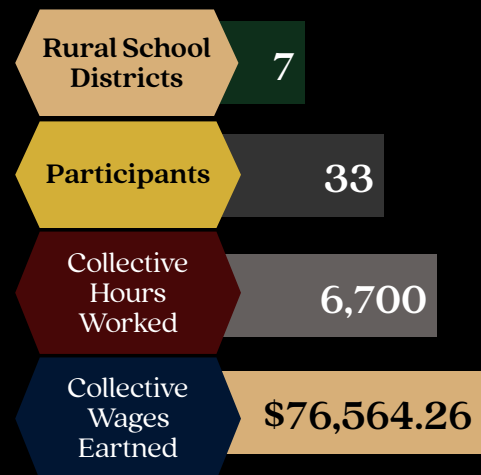
The Summer Earn & Learn (SEAL) program is a statewide initiative that provides students with disabilities, aged 14-22, with work readiness training and paid work experience.

Out of 46 referrals, 39 participants were placed at worksites, achieving a placement rate of 84.62%. They completed work readiness training at a rate of 79.62%, working a total of 5,582 hours and earning \$65,499.76. This not only supports their financial independence but also enhances their employability. With 36 participating worksites, the program strengthens community connections and prepares students for successful futures, fostering greater opportunities and economic stability in the region.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

A total of 33 TANF participants were placed at 7 rural school districts. Students collectively worked over 6,700 hours and earned a total of \$76,564.26 in wages. This not only supports the participants' financial needs but also fosters a strong work ethic and essential job skills that will benefit them in future employment.



CHOICE PROGRAM AND SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The Choices Program helps TANF applicants and recipients transition from welfare to work through job searches, readiness classes, and support services like childcare and transportation. Workforce Solutions Panhandle Career Specialists provide personalized support to meet individual needs.

Similarly, the SNAP Employment and Training program connects recipients to work-based activities and educational services, with specialists creating tailored plans to address barriers to employment. Together, these programs enhance job security and economic stability in the Texas Panhandle, fostering a more self-sufficient community.



Choices & SNAP E&T Services

	Choices	SNAP E&T
TOTAL SERVED	78	303
EMPLOYED	53	156
SUPPORT SERVICES	50	237



VETERAN SERVICES

Recognizing the unique needs of veterans transitioning into civilian careers, Workforce Solutions Panhandle provides specialized support to veterans, including job placement assistance, skills translation, and access to resources tailored to their military experience.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

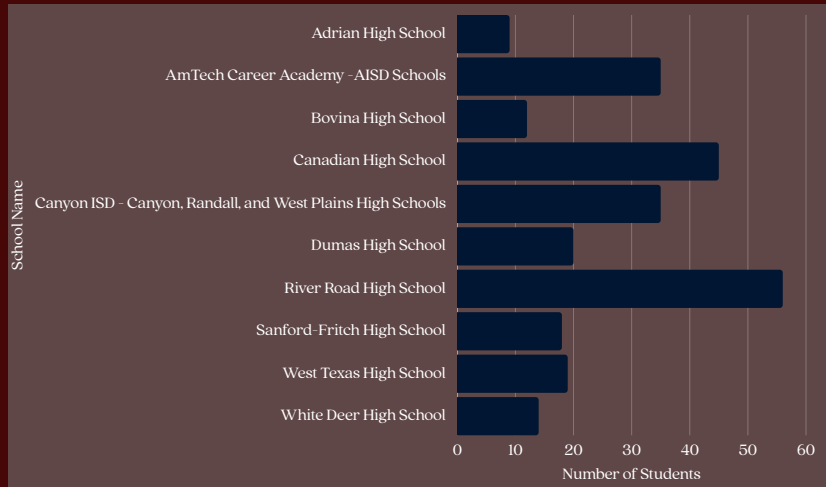
Workforce Solutions Panhandle (WSP) is committed to connecting job seekers with employers in the Texas Panhandle. Our Employment Services department offers a range of programs and services designed to enhance the skills and employability of individuals in our region.

Services Include:

- **Career Counseling:** Personalized guidance to help individuals identify career goals and develop effective job search strategies.
- **Resume and Cover Letter Writing:** Assistance in creating professional resumes and cover letters that highlight skills and experience.
- **Interview Preparation:** Training and practice sessions to improve interview skills and build confidence.
- **Job Search Workshops:** Workshops on job search techniques, including online job searching, networking, and resume writing.
- **Skill Upgrade:** Access to training programs and workshops to acquire new skills or upgrade existing ones.
- **Job Placement Services:** Direct connections with employers and assistance with job applications and interviews.
- **Follow-up and Support:** Ongoing support to help individuals maintain employment and achieve career goals.

TEXAS PANHANDLE CAREER SIGNING DAY

Workforce Solutions Panhandle is proud to support Texas Panhandle Career Signing Days, an initiative that connects local high school students with in-demand careers. By partnering with schools, employers, and community organizations, we equip students with the resources to explore diverse career paths and gain hands-on experience, while also addressing the skills gap and fostering a strong workforce for the region. The Texas Panhandle Career Signing Day held 12 events in partnership with regional schools, serving 264 students.



CAREER AND EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Career and Education Outreach Program serves students in the Texas Panhandle. The program is designed to provide students with information about educational opportunities, local labor market information, career exploration, and Workforce Solution Panhandle Services.

Through this program, students can explore different careers using Virtual Reality (VR) technology. Career options available for exploration include registered nurse, electrician, welder, pharmacy technician, carpenter, and automotive service technician.

CAREER COACH

A Workforce Readiness Outreach Career Coach provides tailored in-school services to regional school districts, delivering engaging presentations and workshops to over 6,100 students in grades 6-12. Topics include labor market trends, employability skills, work-based learning, and postsecondary pathways. Using Texas Workforce Commission resources and virtual reality headsets, the coach enhances student engagement with immersive career simulations in fields like manufacturing, health sciences, and IT, available in English and Spanish. In FY2025, the program partners with over 20 Texas Panhandle school districts, Region 16 Education Service Center, and WTAMU's Upward Bound program.



Students Served - 6,120

Virtual Reality (VR) Career Explorations - 4,555

Career Exploration Workshops - 1,612



EDUCATION OUTREACH SPECIALIST

The Education Outreach Specialist (EOS) delivers customized in-school services to regional school districts, offering engaging presentations and workshops to over 5,800 students in grades 6-12. Topics include labor market trends, employability skills, work-based learning, and postsecondary pathways, tailored to each district's student needs.

Texas Panhandle school districts - 15

Virtual Reality Explorations - 2,555

Students in workshops - 3,346

Students Reached - 5,800

JOB FAIRS, HIRING EVENTS & CAREER FAIRS

During 2025, the BSU hosted a substantial number of job fairs and hiring events, totaling 113 in number. The locations of these events were strategically distributed throughout the Texas Panhandle area, catering to a diverse range of job seekers and employers. The events encompassed both large-scale job fairs and more intimate hiring events, aiming to provide comprehensive employment opportunities and support to the local workforce.

Career Fairs - are crucial for linking students' exploration in post-secondary and career planning during middle and high school with their future career goals. In 2025, key events included the EPIC High School Career Fair and the AmTech Career Fair.

Employment Services - Delivered **43,579** services to **8,734** unique individuals, with **25,287** internal and **13,918** external job referrals, resulting in **1,550** job placements.

Large Scale Job Fairs - Conducted 12 events, serving 472 employers, with 688 job postings, 4,516 job seekers, and 1,205 reported hires.

Hiring Events - Organized 95 events, serving employers with 198 job postings, 2,058 job seekers, and 917 reported hires.



TEACHER EXTERNSHIPS

In collaboration with the Region 16 Education Service Center (ESC) and the Panhandle Community Partnership, Workforce Solutions Panhandle will provide teacher externships during the summer of 2025, with the program set to conclude in August 2025. These externships enable educators to immerse themselves in local workplaces, gaining direct insight into industry trends and essential skills relevant to their teaching subjects. By fostering connections between education and industry, the initiative strengthens the Texas Panhandle's educational landscape, empowering teachers to develop lesson plans that align with real-world career pathways and enhance student learning. To date in 2025, the program has achieved the following:

- Outreached **3,407** educators
- Initiated matching of educators with local employers
- Enrolled **65** educators
- Placed **14** educators on a waitlist
- Prioritized educators from new and rural school districts



THE TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION JET GRANT AWARD

The JET program provides grants to buy and install equipment for career and technical education (CTE) courses. These courses must lead to a license, certificate or post-secondary degree in a high-demand occupation.

Award Recipients

- Amarillo College: \$311,476 to train 120 Emergency Medical Technician students
- Clarendon College: \$97,025 to train 11 Nursing Assistant students
- Frank Phillips College: \$331,298 to train 100 Licensed Vocational Nursing students



EMPLOYERS UTILIZING WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS PANHANDLE OFFICES

In 2025, Workforce Solutions Panhandle offices supported a variety of workforce and community activities for employers and job seekers, including onboarding, testing, interviews, meetings, and provided space in the Amarillo facility for:

- Panhandle Human Resources Association (PHRA) held 12 monthly board meetings
- Market Street held several new employee orientation sessions
- HomeGoods conducted two full-day orientation sessions
- Pantex hosted five pre-employment testing and interview events
- West Texas Healthcare Association (WTHA) hosted regular luncheons
- Carpenters Union held one on-site meeting
- Off-Base Transition Training (OBTT) welcomed 80 job seekers for a workshop

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

As the challenges facing local governments grow increasingly complex, the Local Government Services (LGS) Department continues to assist cities, counties, and special districts across the Texas Panhandle in addressing critical infrastructure, community development, and economic growth needs. While our team remains deeply involved in the delivery of traditional improvements such as water and wastewater systems, park enhancements, street and sidewalk construction, and infrastructure supporting industrial development, this year marked a strategic shift toward broader technical services and funding diversification.

Recognizing that traditional funding streams are no longer as accessible or sufficient, LGS expanded its role to provide a wider range of technical and professional services. Beyond our longstanding work with grant-funded infrastructure, we've assisted numerous entities with regulatory compliance, environmental documentation, and grant reporting, which are areas that often strain the limited capacity of small communities.

Rather than relying solely on conventional approaches, we've positioned ourselves as a flexible, solution-oriented partner helping local governments adapt, plan proactively, and access the tools and partnerships needed to deliver meaningful, lasting outcomes.



Left to right: Abby Sanders, Jarian Fred, Ally Hubbard, Alex Guerrero (LGS Director), Paige Goodell, Sandra Arjona, Max Seymour not pictured

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE PANHANDLE

The Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) program continues to be a cornerstone of rural resilience in the Panhandle. Administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture, the program provides essential funding that allows communities to address pressing infrastructure needs, especially in areas where local budgets are often stretched thin. These investments are designed not only to meet immediate public health and safety requirements but to position small communities for long-term economic sustainability. Whether replacing failing water systems or revitalizing downtown areas, TxCDBG projects remain vital tools for enhancing the quality of life and ensuring our region remains a place where families and businesses can thrive.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CD) A LONG-AWAITED LIFELINE FOR WAKA

In rural Ochiltree County, the small unincorporated community of Waka faced an ongoing struggle: access to a stable and sufficient water supply. Without a sustainable public water system, residents relied on aging infrastructure and limited resources, resulting in conditions that threatened both public health and the community. In 2021, the Waka Water Supply Corporation worked with Ochiltree County, and in 2024, it became a reality. With the help of Ochiltree County and TxCDBG's Community Development Fund, Waka constructed a 29,000-gallon standpipe to serve as a dedicated and dependable source of water for its residents.

This project not only addressed years of uncertainty surrounding water access but did so through strategic collaboration between county leadership and a community-driven utility. The result is more than just infrastructure; it's peace of mind for local families, a foundational investment for future development, and a model for how unincorporated areas can pursue meaningful change. This project demonstrates the impact that targeted infrastructure dollars can have when combined with local determination and regional support.

Downtown Revitalization Program (DRP)

\$500,000

1 project was funded during the past year to support downtown infrastructure enhancements.

Community Development (CD) Fund

\$3,500,000

7 projects were funded over the past year to address essential water and wastewater infrastructure in addition to a new building for a volunteer fire department.



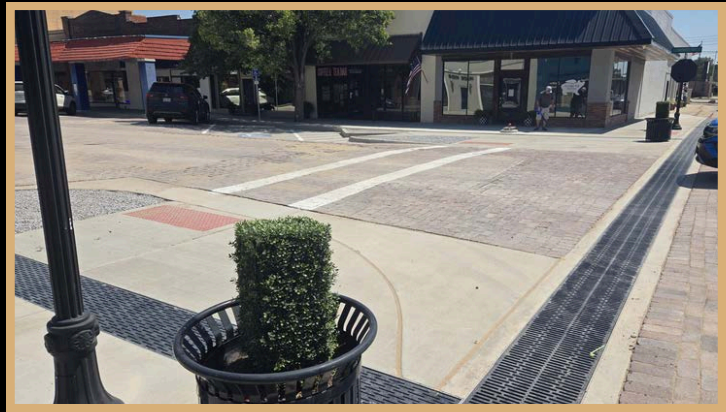
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

REVIVING THE HEART OF DALHART AND CLARENDON

In the last year, the cities of Dalhart and Clarendon made major strides in restoring the vitality of their historic cores through the Downtown Revitalization Program (DRP), each securing \$500,000 in federal funding to replace aging infrastructure and create safer, more accessible spaces for residents and visitors alike.

In Dalhart, the project targeted long-overdue improvements to sidewalks, curbs, and ADA accessibility in the downtown corridor, which has supported foot traffic to local businesses and helped the city put its best foot forward to both residents and visitors.

Meanwhile, in Clarendon, similar improvements transformed deteriorated streetscapes into welcoming and compliant public spaces that promote both economic activity and community gathering. With new concrete, ramps, curbs, gutters, and lighting installed, downtown Clarendon is now better positioned to attract investment, support local shops, and continue growing. Together, these projects demonstrate the power of strategic investment in downtown infrastructure not only to improve safety and accessibility but to drive long-term economic vitality and reinforce the small-town charm that makes communities like Dalhart and Clarendon unique.



2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES SUMMIT

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

On July 17th, 2025, PRPC hosted its second annual Local Government Services (LGS) Summit at the Amarillo Civic Center, bringing together 70+ local officials, planners, and key state and federal agencies for a day of collaboration and problem-solving. Organized by PRPC's LGS staff, the Summit focused on equipping communities across the Texas Panhandle with the tools, partnerships, and funding opportunities needed to advance critical infrastructure.

This year's event featured presentations from the USDA Rural Development, the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas Rural Water Association, and Shums Coda Associates, offering direct insight into programs and educational frameworks that address the region's most pressing needs. The Summit reaffirmed PRPC's commitment to supporting rural and small-town communities through education, access, and strategic planning. LGS staff were in attendance to provide one-on-one support and showcase ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of local governments.



FIRE, AMBULANCE, & SERVICES TRUCK FUND & FEMA'S ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT

Delivering Critical Equipment to Rural Panhandle Communities

Through the Fire, Ambulance, and Services Truck (FAST) Fund, the communities of Adrian and Quitaque were awarded funding to significantly enhance their local emergency response capacity. Adrian is waiting on the manufacturer for two fire trucks, while Quitaque has received delivery of a fire truck and an ambulance. The new and modern units will provide much-needed equipment to better serve these rural communities in times of need. Improvements related to fire and medical capacity will be substantial when all vehicles are delivered.

Meanwhile, another major success story comes from the Village of Timbercreek Canyon, which received nearly **\$450,000** through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to replace a severely outdated fire engine that had long been at the end of its service life. This new apparatus will significantly improve fire suppression capability in this small community and represents the type of targeted investment that strengthens rural public safety infrastructure. These projects highlight the importance of targeted federal and state funding in ensuring rural communities can respond swiftly to emergencies, whether medical, structural, or wildfire-related, and that the people in these regions are not left behind when it comes to safety and emergency preparedness.



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING & EXECUTIVE SEARCHES

The Local Government Services (LGS) Department continues to broaden its scope of support by providing tailored professional services to cities and counties across the Panhandle. In addition to our longstanding work in grant and loan administration, LGS now plays a more proactive role in helping local governments secure funding, comply with state and federal procurement standards, and build long-term strategic frameworks.

LGS has also expanded its support for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) compliance, assisting additional communities with critical annual reporting, procurement documentation, budgeting protocols, and project file management. These services ensured that ARPA funds were tracked correctly and used effectively, helping cities avoid risk while meeting federal standards. This expanded service portfolio reflects LGS's evolving role as a full-service partner for local governments, providing not only project oversight but also strategic and administrative capacity that small communities often lack in-house.



Strategic Planning: City of Hereford



Grant & Loan Application Support:

Farwell & White Deer – Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) loan applications

Spearman – TxDOT Transportation Alternatives grant application



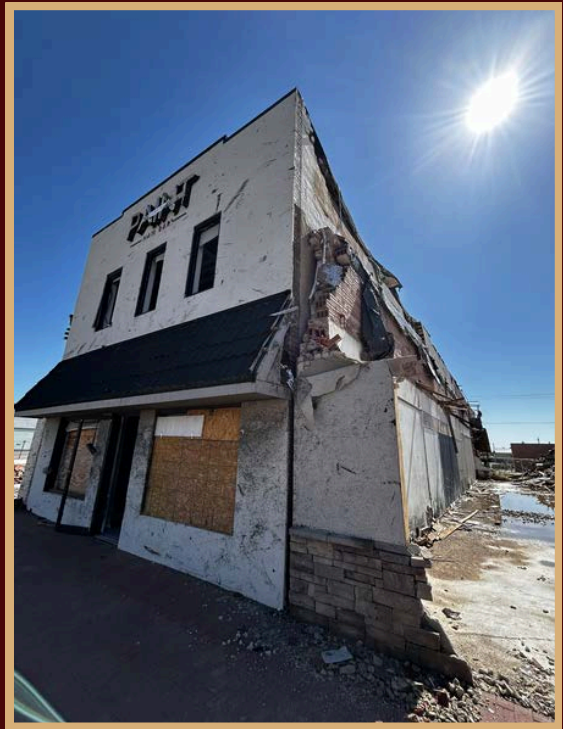
Professional Recruitment Searches: City Manager for Dumas and Wellington; Finance Director for Dalhart



Procurement and Compliance Assistance: Donley County (procurement guidance), multiple cities (procurement file reviews, ARPA compliance, budgeting support)

STATE URGENT NEED FUND PERRYTON TORNADO RECOVERY

In June 2023, an EF3 tornado devastated Perryton, Texas, resulting in three fatalities, over 100 injuries, and the destruction of approximately 200 homes and numerous businesses. The Local Government Services (LGS) Department promptly secured a \$500,000 State Urgent Need (SUN) grant through the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) program. This funding facilitated the demolition of eight unsafe and uninhabitable buildings on Main Street, a critical step that enabled the city to proceed with a \$2.68 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. The EDA investment is being used to construct the Rebuild Perryton Incubator, aimed at revitalizing the downtown area and supporting local businesses in their recovery efforts.



TEXAS COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PROGRAM: TIMBERCREEK CANYON SENIOR FACILITY

Funded through COVID-19 relief legislation and administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), the Texas Community Resiliency Program (TCRP) was designed to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of the pandemic. The Village of Timbercreek Canyon, with assistance from the Local Government Services Department (LGS), successfully applied for these HUD-directed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds in 2022.

The project aimed to construct a senior center to support the area's aging population with a dedicated space for socially distanced programming and essential services. Despite several bid challenges and escalating construction costs, the Village was ultimately awarded \$1,764,950.66, a rare 100% grant-funded award. This funding covered the full construction of the senior facility, along with associated site work, including a new parking lot and on-site water and sewer infrastructure.

Construction was launched in early 2025 and brought to completion within the year. The facility now stands as a long-term asset to the community, enhancing access to safe, resilient spaces for Timbercreek Canyon's senior residents. It also represents a milestone in LGS's ability to navigate complex federal funding channels and deliver impactful, no-cost infrastructure for a rural community.

TRANSPORTATION

This past year marked a pivotal moment in how the PRPC approaches transportation planning and infrastructure development. As our region faces growing safety and mobility challenges, we've broadened our strategy, expanding beyond traditional planning efforts to include public health access, competitive application support, and strategic planning that aligns with evolving federal priorities.



TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM: RECLAIMING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEDESTRIANS

Recognizing the increasing need for safer, more accessible pedestrian infrastructure, PRPC has supported multiple communities across the region in applying to TxDOT's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program. This program funds shared-use paths, ADA-compliant sidewalks, curb ramps, and crossing improvements within TxDOT right-of-way. In 2021, the City of Wheeler was awarded funding through a TxDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) application to reconstruct a portion of Main Street. The project included enhancements such as widened, ADA-accessible sidewalks, curb extensions, and upgraded lighting. Despite facing a few challenges during the beginning of the project, the City successfully completed construction, delivering impactful improvements to walkability, mobility equity, and the overall revitalization of its small town core.

TxDOT 5-Year Transportation Planning Program

In partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, PRPC continues to lead long-range transportation planning for the Texas Panhandle. This year, we have secured \$215,000, an increase from previous planning cycles, to develop the next iteration of a 5-Year Comprehensive Transportation Plan. A technical consultant has been selected to assist this effort, which will include a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis across all planning areas and incorporate elements from the previous plan. The PROMPT Committee remains an essential partner in guiding this process and ensuring stakeholder needs are reflected in all stages of plan development.



Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A): Building a Foundation for Safer Roadways

After months of preparation and coordination, PRPC was awarded a \$1,500,000 SS4A Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. With the contract finalized, we're now initiating the selection of a consultant to lead the development of a region-wide Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. This plan will bring together stakeholders from across the Texas Panhandle to identify our most dangerous roadways and explore data-driven, design-forward solutions that reduce roadway fatalities and injuries. The SS4A effort not only opens the door for future federal infrastructure funding but also ensures our communities are positioned to pursue implementation grants for identified safety projects.

PARKS

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Local Park Grant Program had a strong impact across the Texas Panhandle this year, awarding funding to three communities: Perryton, Stinnett, and Spearman. Projects included the redevelopment of Murphy Park in Perryton, featuring the replacement of soccer and baseball fields destroyed by the June 2023 tornado, and the installation of new playground equipment in Stinnett and Spearman, addressing key quality-of-life improvements identified by local residents. Additionally, PRPC's Local Government Services staff partnered with the City of Friona on a grant application initially submitted in 2020 through the Small Community Grant Program. That project reached successful completion this year, further advancing outdoor recreation access in the region.

FRIONA COMMUNITY CENTER

The Community Center is located within the 60-acre Friona Community Park. This project focused on much-needed outdoor renovations adjacent and to the Community Center, which is a vital space that serves as a hub for public gatherings, social events and regional festivals such as their Cheeseburger Festival. The improvements provide accessible and functional outdoor gathering areas designed to serve residents of all ages and abilities while supporting increased use of the park for both local and regional visitors.

The upgraded space complements the existing RV Park, playground, and walking trails, enhancing the park's overall usability and safety while maintaining its role as a welcoming destination along the Ports-to-Plains corridor.



MICRO-LOAN PROGRAMS

PRPC has served two micro-loan programs since the early 2000s. The Amarillo MSA Micro-Loan Program was originally capitalized by four local banks and is open to small businesses in Potter and Randall counties. The Rural Micro-Loan Program was originally capitalized by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is open to small businesses in the other twenty-four counties in the Panhandle region.

The Panhandle Micro-Loan Committee approved two new Amarillo MSA Micro-Loans in 2025, enabling the small businesses to expand operations, improve efficiency, reduce costs, and boost sales. Slicks Fabworks—a fabrication shop specializing in customized, wood-burning, outdoor cooking stoves and grills that ship nationwide—has used the capital to hire more employees and purchase equipment. Tir Bluen Farm is purchasing equipment and fencing to reduce the cost of its hog production and expand its poultry operation.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Administration (EDA) projects flourished across the Texas Panhandle in 2025, with support from the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) in its role as the region's designated Economic Development District and grant administrator.

Panhandle Regional Planning Commission received a **\$2.5 million EDA grant** in 2021 to purchase the Workforce Solutions Panhandle building on Eddy Street in Amarillo, refurbish the building's primary parking lot, and coordinate with Amarillo City Transit (ACT) to make Workforce Solutions a stop on ACT's fixed route. PRPC purchased the building in Spring 2024, and the client parking lot is currently under construction. The additional parking and access on Amarillo City Transit's bus route ensure job seekers and employers in the region are able to take advantage of the services and events offered by Workforce Solutions.



Phase II of the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation and the City of Amarillo's **\$2.4 million EDA project** is also under construction. The final phase of the project is widening South Georgia Street, from Loop 335 north to Augustus Drive, which will improve access to the South Georgia Business Park and enhance travel on South Georgia Street.

Ecolomondo anticipates breaking ground on its flagship U.S. facility in Shamrock by the end of 2025. The Canadian-based cleantech company selected Shamrock for this milestone investment, thanks in part to a recently completed **\$1.2 million EDA-funded** infrastructure project that provided the essential sewer system upgrades needed to support industrial development in the area.



WATER AND FLOOD PLANNING

OGALLALA COMMONS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On March 27th-28th, Ogallala Commons hosted the Ogallala Commons Rainwater Harvesting Conference at the Amarillo Area Foundation. The event drew approximately 70 attendees who had the opportunity to listen to a diverse range of speakers covering various rainwater-harvesting-related topics and network with numerous event sponsors. Attendees were able to visit locations around the City of Amarillo where rainwater harvesting systems are implemented and learn actionable steps for determining the feasibility of implementing such systems for personal use. PRPC staff attended the event and had the privilege of educating attendees regarding regional water planning and flood planning efforts, encouraging public participation in the planning process, and introducing possible sources of state funding for water and flood infrastructure projects available to public entities.



REGION I CANADIAN-UPPER RED REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

The second cycle of Regional Flood Planning is now underway, led by the Region I Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG), with PRPC serving as the sponsor and administrative agent. On March 20, 2025, the RFPG adopted the Second Amended 2023 Regional Flood Plan to add new Flood Management Evaluations and Projects, making them eligible for state funding through the Texas Water Development Board's Flood Infrastructure Fund. At the same time, work continues on the second regional flood plan, expanding opportunities for the 44-county region to secure funding and technical assistance for flood management and prevention.



AMERICAN GROUNDWATER TRUST CONFERENCE

Alex Guerrero represented the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission at the 2025 American Groundwater Trust Conference, moderating the session "Councils of Governments at the Forefront: Regional Water Planning Across Texas."

The panel, featuring leaders from the South Plains Association of Governments, the Rio Grande Council of Governments, and the High Plains Groundwater Conservation District, highlighted the vital role of COGs in advancing long-range water planning in rural and under-resourced areas. Discussion focused on challenges such as aging infrastructure, drought, and workforce limitations, and emphasized how COGs provide critical support through funding access, stakeholder engagement, compliance, and grant strategy.



NUMBER OF MEETINGS OCTOBER 2024 TO 2025



GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 1

The Groundwater Management Area-1 (Joint Planning Committee) has worked in conjunction with the PRPC (Sponsor) and INTERA, Inc. (Technical Consultant) in the joint planning for the development and adoption of Desired Future Conditions. The data and modeling collected and developed through this process help shape the regulation of groundwater use within the region and are incorporated in the Region A Regional Water Plan.

\$773,270

WATER PLANNING

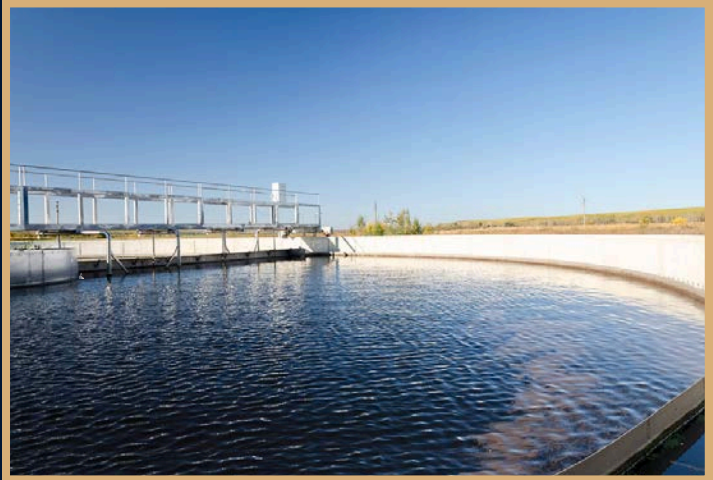
6th Cycle Funding
TWDB Contract



\$2,305,100

FLOOD PLANNING

2nd Cycle Funding
TWDB Contract



REGION A PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP

On February 18, 2025, the Region A Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) adopted its Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) and submitted it to the Texas Water Development Board by the March 3 deadline. The IPP serves as the official draft of the 6th Regional Water Plan, which will undergo a public comment period before final adoption in Fall 2025.

Throughout this process, the PWPG evaluates population and water demand projections, water supplies, and needs through 2080. These findings inform the State Water Plan, updated every five years, and help position local communities for eligibility in TWDB Financial Assistance Programs to support water infrastructure planning and construction.

In 2023, the 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 30, authorizing a one-time **\$1 billion appropriation to the newly created Texas Water Fund (Proposition 6, approved by voters in November 2023)**. Regional Water Planning plays a vital role in ensuring Panhandle communities can access these funds by incorporating regional data and strategies to address both current and future water needs.

REGIONAL SERVICES

The Regional Government Services staff operates from the perspective of Walter Payton's quote, "We are stronger together than we are alone." In the vast wide open it becomes increasingly helpful to work as a region to accomplish similar goals. The staff of regional services sees this need in each of our jurisdictions and we do our best to assist them with overcoming challenges through guidance, resources and programs. Within Regional Government Services is Emergency Preparedness, Solid Waste Management, Criminal Justice and Homeland Security. By working together on a regional level, we are able to support the Panhandle through workshops, seminars, facilitation of round-table discussions, table top exercises, grant writing assistance, project administration and more.

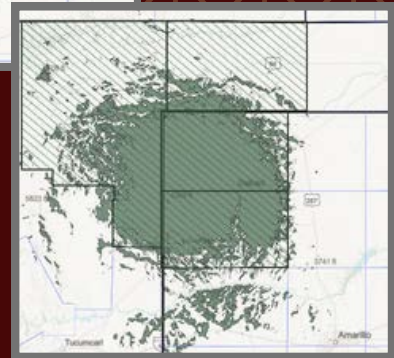
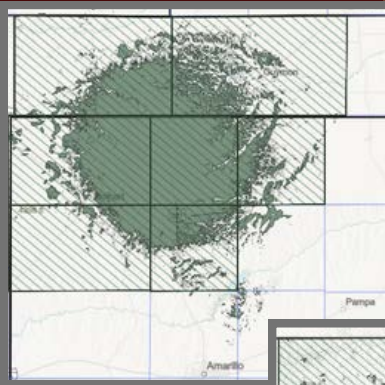


Left to right: Shane Brown, Arwin Lohony, Lori Gunn (RGS Director), Delaney Pruett, and Cullin Knutson

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WEATHER RADIO TRANSMITTERS

PRPC staff facilitated a conversation between local officials and NOAA on the lack of radio coverage for residents to receive weather alerts. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24/7. RGS staff worked with both Dallam and Sherman Counties on logistics to have transmitters installed. The new equipment has provided weather coverage for an additional 12,942 people in the Texas Panhandle, Northeastern New Mexico, and Oklahoma Panhandle.



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS

PRPC staff facilitated ten meetings to review and update Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for jurisdictions. Most of the region had minor updates to their EOPs, however Ochiltree and Deaf Smith were up for their 5-year update. Those counties plans were reviewed with local officials, approved and submitted to TDEM. All 22 plans were reviewed and maintained for 23 of the 26 counties.

HAZARD MITIGATION

RGS staff have updated hazard mitigation plans, conducting 18 planning meetings with 175 stakeholders across 13 counties. Seven plans are approved pending adoption, four are submitted to FEMA, one is under TDEM review, and five are in draft/review stages. Staff assisted 20 of 26 counties with 40 hazard mitigation project applications submitted to TDEM. They also manage six awarded projects worth over \$2.5 million, reducing risks and damage. PRPC's staff involvement in planning ensures smoother project administration for jurisdictions.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office contracts with the Councils of Government to oversee criminal justice matters within the region. This year, the criminal justice program was able to host 6 workshops for interested grantees, provide technical assistance throughout the grant writing process, as well as after award and through project close-out.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee oversaw the evaluation and prioritization of grant applications from the region. In 2025, the region had the following criminal justice projects:

8 - VICTIM SERVICE PROJECTS FUNDED	\$1,672,402.34
1 - FELONY DV PROSECUTOR PROJECT	\$98,894.60
1 - TRUANCY PREVENTION PROJECT FUNDED	\$95,865.65
6 - LAW ENFORCEMENT PROJECTS FUNDED	\$371,058.68



EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The criminal justice program includes the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy (PRLEA). The PRLEA has been ongoing since PRPC received our TCOLE license in January 1971. While the landscape of law enforcement has changed quite a bit over the years, we continue to have recruits graduate from the regional academy who go on to serve in the region, the state, and beyond. PRPC awarded eight scholarships to recruits to attend the basic peace officer academy. In 2025, we saw the 130th class graduate 18 recruits and the 131st class graduate 8 peace officers. All are fully TCOLE licensed and were already signed to an agency upon graduation.

In addition to the academy, PRPC contracts with Amarillo College to provide ongoing continuing education to our region's TCOLE officers to maintain their licensure. To date, we have had 6,318 hours of In-service courses for 265 of the region's TCOLE officers. PRPC approved and covered half the costs for 5 officers for specialized training out of region that was not available locally.

The contract with Amarillo College is not limited to TCOLE peace officers; we also hosted a regional TCOLE Basic County Corrections Course where 13 newly minted jailers graduated after passing their 120 hours of coursework.

- 2 - Officers sent to specialized training outside of the region
- 8 - Scholarships awarded for the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy
- 120 - Basic county correction hours completed
- 6,318 - Hours of law enforcement in-service classes completed

HOMELAND SECURITY

The Amarillo Police Department (APD), the only bomb squad in the Panhandle, received an updated Explosive Detection K-9 (EDK9) truck to safely transport its EDK9 for dispatch. The next closest squads are in Lubbock or Oklahoma City, so APD provides mutual aid across the Panhandle for incidents requiring bomb squad capabilities.

The EDK9 detects explosive residue before robots assess suspect packages, and the new truck ensures quick, safe deployment. As a Type 1 squad, this upgrade helps APD maintain its status and serve the region effectively.



THE PANHANDLE REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

PRPC staff hosted our annual PREP Conference at the Amarillo Civic Center, where we had 250 attendees, including emergency management coordinators, law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, public works, industry partners, volunteers, local government officials, as well as state agencies. The conference included keynote speakers followed by breakout sessions, more individualized to each discipline. The annual conference continues to draw in attendees who learn from speaker experiences, whether incidents at a local or national level.



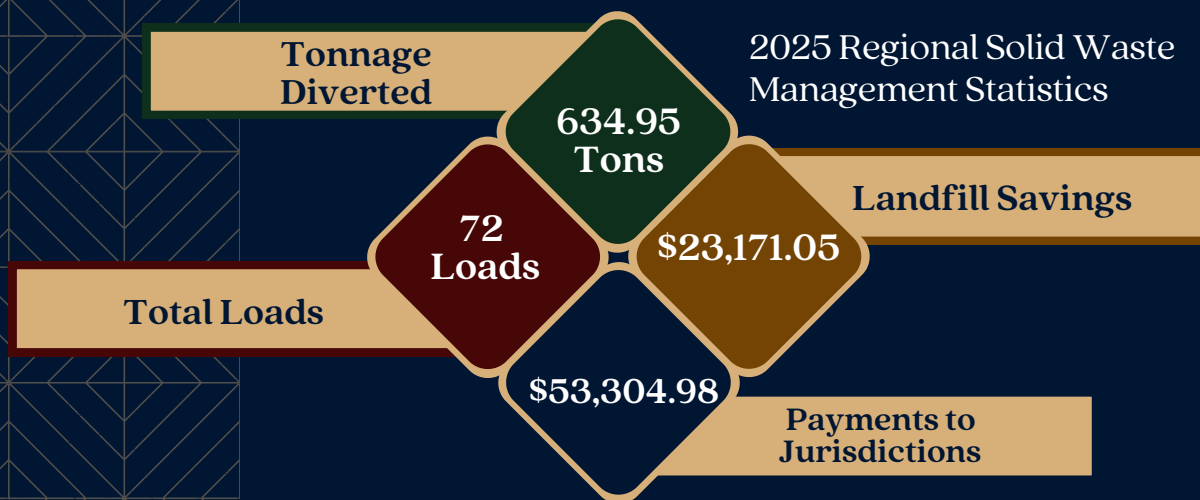
ICS 300 & ICS 400

PRPC hosted both the ICS 300 and ICS 400 training courses. These classes are part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS). Providing training for first responders that builds on foundational knowledge. ICS 300 is an intermediate course for expanding incidents. ICS 400 is an advanced course for senior personnel who may lead or manage both major and complex incidents. The training was opened to our regional stakeholders, allowing them to continue building their skillsets and knowledge.



REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Each year, through funding made available by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the region is able to expand its diversion efforts. Efforts that lead to fewer materials ending up in any of the landfills around the region. We have seen some of our jurisdictions increase the types of materials that they are accepting at the recycling locations. In fact, this past year, we had a push to remove plastics from our landfills. Through a partnership with Keep Texas Recycling, we have begun a pilot project to recycle plastics. While we do not yet have feedback on tonnage removed, we are receiving positive feedback at the local levels from residents. In 2025, the Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee approved new recycling projects, new equipment purchases, and continued efforts at diversion to the tune of **\$96,162.01**.



In FY2025, the following received solid waste grants to implement projects in their cities:

- The **City of Gruver** received a grant for a new baler for baling cardboard, office paper, or newsprint that is received at the city's drop-off location.
- The **City of Higgins** received a grant for a new wood chipper. The city is cleaning up old, dead limbs that have fallen since the last winter storm and ensuring that woodchips are then used in flower beds and gardens across town.
- The **City of Perryton** received a grant to assist with the crushing of concrete. Following the devastating tornado, the city has seen a lot of debris cleanup and demolition of damaged structures. The project enables the city to crush the concrete, then turn around and utilize the crushed mixture on the city's alleys.





MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION CENTER

The region's Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) was activated twice this year for a local grain elevator explosion and a high-wind event. A MACC is a physical facility and the associated personnel and processes used to coordinate resources and information across multiple agencies during an incident. It serves as a central hub for integrating and coordinating response efforts, supporting local emergency operations centers (EOCs), and making resource allocation decisions. In both incidents, our jurisdiction's EMCs contacted RGS staff at the MACC requesting assistance.

During the high-wind event that caused major and widespread brown-out conditions, RGS was asked by County Judges to send evacuation notices to residents within their jurisdictions. We were also tasked with sending mass notifications about road closures or electrical lines getting powered down as a proactive approach known as public safety power shutoff.

PANHANDLE REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

PANCOM is a state-of-the-art VHF repeater infrastructure that consists of a network of 62 tower sites interconnected by microwave radio to provide the 26-county, region-wide P25 standards-based communications. **PANCOM provides backup communication and rerouting capabilities for the region's 21 PSAPs, ensuring that when a resident needs a first responder, the call is connected. RGS staff have conducted over 80 trips for maintenance with repairs at \$65,700. RGS staff is on call 24/7 and responded to 25 after-hours calls.**

Staff is working to expand the communication capabilities throughout the region, whether that is more towers or moving equipment to achieve the best connection. RGS staff have facilitated over 10 meetings with jurisdictions and landowners to evaluate possible solutions for our first responders.



PANHANDLE AREA REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

PARIS continues to grow in usage for communications. In 2025 we had over **807,300 messages** launched around the region. RGS staff provided **8 PARIS trainings** to the region's EMCs in addition to the monthly testing to keep local officials current on how to launch messaging. There were **42 IPAWS messages sent**. IPAWS is the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System that provides authenticated emergency and/or life-saving information to the public via smartphones, radio, television and NOAA.



DISASTER HOME PROGRAM

Staff are assisting homeowners affected by the EF-3 tornado in Perryton with a Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs loan program to purchase mobile homes or build single-family residences. RGS staff helped 27 homeowners apply, with five deemed eligible in the first round. Alongside Perryton's long-term recovery committee (Suzie Estrada, Susie Najara, Lori Dollar, Mayor Symons), staff reviewed architectural firms, renderings, and updated homeowners on application status. They are now obtaining builder bids based on the renderings, which the committee will evaluate next.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

RGS staff reached out to the fire departments across the region about the Assistance to Firefighters Grant opportunity from FEMA. RGS staff assisted the two agencies that expressed interest in developing their narratives and budgets to ensure complete submission. Both applications totaled more than \$746,000.

RGS staff had two fire departments contact us about getting smoke detectors in more homes in their cities, as well as training for residents. RGS worked with our local Red Cross on their initiative, which coincides with the goals of these fire departments. Between the two cities, we are estimating that 1,200 new smoke detectors will be installed in homes. Giving life-saving devices to residents.



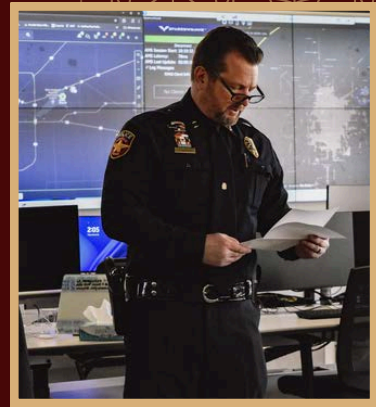
The City of Canyon is building its fire department in response to the growth the city has experienced. Chief Gwyn contacted RGS staff to round out narratives that he had worked on. Working together, their application was submitted to FEMA under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER).

If awarded this grant, the addition of three full-time positions will enable us to transition to 24 hour, full-time staffing, meeting NFPA 1720 staffing requirements, while improving our ISO rating, providing real, actualized benefits to the entire community.

2025 HOMELAND SECURITY PROJECTS

Amarillo Regional Crime Center

ARCC opened in 2025. The relationship between criminal activity in Amarillo and the rest of the Panhandle is the same. Opening the ARCC allows for regional coordination in addressing a number of criminal justice issues, including those that may involve violent extremism, that can't easily be stamped out at the agency level. This project will help to facilitate local, regional, state, and federal collaboration on addressing a host of public safety threats that may have implications at both the local, state, and national levels. In 2025, the ARCC received funding for license plate readers, which have aided officers in solving multiple crimes.



"The technology in the Amarillo Regional Crime Center, including the use of license plate readers, is fundamentally changing the way we do law enforcement. These tools give our officers and analysts the ability to connect information quickly, allowing us to solve crimes that in the past we might never have had the opportunity to investigate. This technology not only strengthens our work here in Amarillo, but also enhances the ability of our regional partners to keep communities safer across the Panhandle." - Jimmy Johnson, Interim Chief of Police



The regional Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), expanded since FY2021, was recently updated with **new workstations at Borger PD, Dalhart PD, and Childress County SO, totaling 11 workstations**. The system enhances law enforcement's information sharing through a dual-submit process, uploading prints/photos to both DPS and the regional database. It includes advanced facial recognition, supporting searches from hard copies, digital media, and automatic face captures from video.

The upgrade has helped solve thousands of crimes in the Panhandle, recovering **140 stolen vehicles, resolving 670 incidents, arresting 245 suspects, and identifying 195 individuals via facial recognition**, boosting public safety and aiding in combating organized crime and terrorism.

REGIONAL 9-1-1

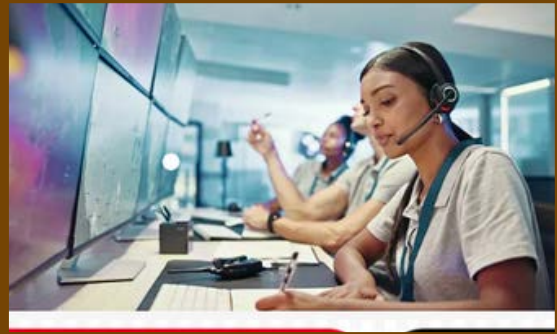
The Regional 9-1-1 Network is responsible for the maintenance and ongoing improvement of the network, equipment, and software needed to deliver every 9-1-1 call in the Texas Panhandle. The 9-1-1 Network also assists public safety professionals with software and equipment training, certification requirements, and intra-regional collaboration. In support of emergency responders in the Texas Panhandle, the Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network provides enhanced location capabilities through the rural addressing program. Using state-of-the-art Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and digital aerial photography, the program provides physical addresses for homes and businesses in the unincorporated areas of the 24-county program.



Left to right: Craig Wolf, Becky Blair, Mandi Jones, John Schaumburg (9-1-1 Director),
Melissa Devenport and Khasi Campos

9-1-1 CALL HANDLING EQUIPMENT

As technology continues to evolve, the Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network has been taking strides to stay in sync with the ever-changing demands. The Regional 9-1-1 Network is transitioning to a new 9-1-1 call-handling solution that aims to bridge the gap between recent technological advances and legacy operations. The new equipment uses AI integration to transcribe and translate language to assist dispatchers with non-English speakers. The new interface allows a caller to share live video, photographs, and intelligent location information with the call-taker, which can then be forwarded to first responders in the field. The technology within the region is truly becoming "Next-Generation 9-1-1."



6,742
Total
Texts

101,050
Total
9-1-1
Calls



The Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network educates the public on all aspects of 9-1-1, from using mobile devices effectively to understanding how calls are transmitted and routed, to knowing what to expect when calling for help, and when to use non-emergency numbers.



DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

The PRPC Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) offers individuals and organizations the opportunity to resolve conflicts through mediation. It is a cost-effective solution to litigation and other disputes by utilizing trained volunteer mediators and the Program Coordinator for mediations, allowing the DRC to offer its services at well below market rates and sometimes free of charge. The DRC was started in 1989 by a group of community leaders who could be classified as the "who's who" in Amarillo. Names such as Elisha Demerson, Bill Thomas, Judge David Gleason, Judge Darrell Carey, Judge E. J. Hail, Judge Cliff Roberts, Danny Hill, Randall Sherrod Charles Warford, Harold Hook, Judge Janis Thorn, Richard Darmon, Dr. George Miller, Nancy Garms, Linda Craven and Rev. Jacinto Alderete served as the first Advisory Board Members.



Left to right: Trenton Taylor and Jerri Glover

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER BOARD MEMBERS

Board members see the value of having a service available to provide citizens of the Texas Panhandle with an opportunity to settle disputes outside the judicial system.



Attorney Dave Kemp
CHAIRMAN



Judge Dale Rabe Jr.



Attorney Vaavia Rudd



Dr. Tacy Gamel



Judge Phil Vanderpool



Judge Nancy Tanner



Commissioner H.R. Kelly



Judge Joanne Garcia-Flores



Judge Dee Johnson

MEDIATION OR ARBITRATION

“Mediation involves the intervention of a third person, or mediator, into a dispute to assist the parties in negotiating a jointly acceptable resolution of issues in conflict.”

“Arbitration is a formal dispute resolution process where parties agree to have a neutral third party, the arbitrator, decide their case instead of going to court. The arbitrator's decision, called an arbitration award, is typically legally binding.”



Pre-trial diversion cases from Randall County Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 for minor in possession and minor consuming alcohol have seen over **100 cases in the last 24 months**. Those who participate in the program agree to complete three required components as well as any additional components required by their parents. The client and at least one parent or guardian meet with the DRC Program Coordinator to learn about the program's requirements. When the minor completes all components of their program, the Program Coordinator notifies the court, and the court processes the case in a manner that ensures the minor has no court record, fine record, or evidence of guilt. This allows the client a clean slate. The program requires the minor to:

- Pay an administrative fee of \$250
- Complete an eight-hour online drug and alcohol course
- Complete eight hours of community services with a 501(c)(3) organization.
- Parents may then add any additional components they wish, and the pre-trial diversion client must complete those within the same 90-day timeframe.

Family law cases, including Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS/CPS) continue to be the primary focus of cases referred to the DRC. However, referrals are increasing from the courts in the areas of contract disputes and small claims.

**81 CASES WERE MEDIATED FROM
JUNE 2024 – MAY 31 2025.**



DISPUTE RESOLUTION TRAINING

The DRC continues to host basic mediation training (40 hours) and advanced family law mediation training (30 hours). The previous trainings offered by the DRC have resulted in the addition of new mediators to the volunteer pool for the DRC, as well as providing valuable skills for conflict resolution to a number of individuals in the workforce.

This year, the Dispute Resolution Center added new services, increased the number, type, and self-referred cases. The program has added new volunteers to the list of mediators and arbitrators who are available to assist clients of the DRC. In October 2024, Program Coordinator Jerri Glover attended Arbitration and Advanced Arbitration Training. This training expands the services the DRC can offer to the Panhandle Community. It was in this training that Jerri met several new mediators who were willing to offer mediation and arbitration services as volunteers for the DRC. Community outreach is still underway for arbitration services. We expect growth with increased awareness of the program's benefit.



The DRC-hosted trainings take a great deal of dedication from those who are attending. They also require volunteer commitment and time from our instructors. Attorneys, mental health professionals, domestic violence experts, and conflict resolution/negotiation experts create a unique curriculum and offer hours of their time to provide quality instruction.

The trainings provided by the DRC comply with the guidelines from the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association (TMCA). This is important because TMCA provides a clear and direct outline for the training and sets the mediators up for credentialing through their association. This offers mediators additional credibility as volunteers and conflict resolution professionals.

Once the newly trained volunteer mediators have completed their programs, the staff encourages them to observe a few mediations, then co-mediate. Thereafter, they will mediate or co-mediate as their time allows. Mediations can last an hour or can take several hours. DRC volunteers are so gracious and generous with their time. The Planning Commission is fortunate to have each of them as volunteers for the Dispute Resolution Center.



Jerri and other staff presented to County Commissioners Courts throughout the region. We helped County Judges and Commissioners understand the services offered by the DRC. We appreciate the continued support from court referrals and their participation in the program.

OUTREACH

Jerri continues outreach for the DRC by attending community meetings with regional school districts and interacting and supporting the public at resource fairs of other program providers around the region.



OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

In January 2025, DRC named Michele Agostini Volunteer Mediator of the Year. Michele mediated over 100 hours for the center since completing her training. She has also served as a representative for the DRC at outreach events to increase awareness of the DRC across the Panhandle.

Colten Hibbs was presented with the Early Excellence in Mediation award. This award is given to volunteer mediators who have been mediating for less than 18 months since their training and have shown a commitment and aptitude for the practice.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Jerri maintains the current programs offered by the DRC to the Texas Panhandle communities and also seeks ways to offer more services that will be of value to people in the PRPC service area.

The Dispute Resolution Center is currently applying for a grant with the Texas Bar Association Foundation, which if awarded, will allow the DRC to host a part-time clinic whereby pro-bono attorneys and support staff can offer assistance to pro-se parties filing legal cases (whether in family court or civil) with completing their forms and preparing to file with the Courts. This service will assist the courts and support staff by having fewer errors in the filings and making cases easier for courts to adjudicate without having to wade through inaccurate or poorly completed documents.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jerri achieved the Credentialed Advanced Mediator through the TMCA in January 2025, completing a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education, a minimum of 50 mediations (or 300 hours), and adhering to the standards of practice of the organization.

She also joined the TMCA Board of Directors as the representative from the Dispute Resolution Center Council. (A group comprised of the DRC directors across the state to share resources, opportunities, and ideas.) In October of 2024, she attended the TMCA virtual Symposium, an event that provided education on topics including Artificial Intelligence in Mediation and updates from the Texas Supreme Court Justices.

Jerri received a scholarship to attend the Expanding Infrastructure for Community Conflict Resolution Conference held in Columbus, Ohio. The conference brought together conflict resolution professionals from all across the country, as well as a variety of community sizes, to discuss conflict resolution in communities. These discussions included: what conflict resolution professionals need to create and expand infrastructure for conflict resolution in our communities.

DRC volunteer, Michele Agostini, and staff attended the Texas Association of Mediators Conference in El Paso in March 2025. The conference included education on ethics in mediation, conflict coaching, and issues from marginalized communities in mediation.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance staff provides professional accounting services necessary to establish and maintain financial policies, practices, and controls, ensuring the highest degree of financial accountability and safeguarding all funds entrusted to PRPC.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. This was the 39th consecutive year that the PRPC has achieved this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.



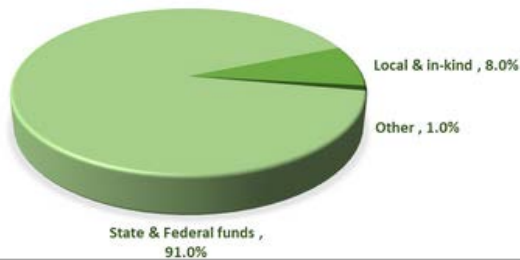
Left to right: Heike Todd, Jaden Eder, Trenton Taylor (Finance and Deputy Director), Cristy Henderson, and Diana Green

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the Fiscal Year Ending in September 30, 2024

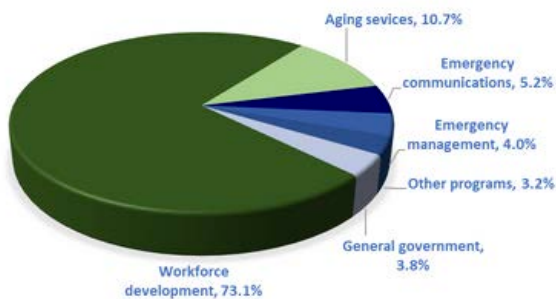
- Financial accountability to the public, Board of Directors, membership, state and federal agencies.
- Development of Annual Budget.
- Assist in multiple monitoring reviews
- Completion of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
- Completion of annual independent audit.
- Management of all organizations fixed assets and expendable equipment.
- Provision of timely financial trends and opportunities
- Management of employee benefits.
- Prepare payroll and related tax forms.
- Maintain financial integrity
- Ensure adherence to all federal/state fiscal policies, rules and regulations.
- Development of cost allocation plans.
- Maintain an adequate system of internal controls

SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024
REPRESENTING OVER 90 FUNDING STREAMS



SOURCE OF REVENUE	PERCENTAGE	AMOUNT
State & Federal Funds	91.0%	\$33,957,887
Local & In Kind	8.0%	\$2,996,583
Other	1.0%	\$358,737
		Total: \$37,178,907

EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024
REPRESENTING 70 + PROGRAMS



EXPENDITURES BY DIVISION	PERCENTAGE	AMOUNT
General Government	3.8%	\$1,262,794
Workforce Development	73.1%	\$24,541,796
Aging Services	10.7%	\$3,591,487
Emergency Communications	5.2%	\$1,758,903
Emergency Management	4.0%	\$1,327,309
Other programs	3.2%	\$1,083,758
		Total: \$33,566,047

2025 STAFF SERVICE AWARDS

MICHAEL PETERS

Executive Director

25 years

Over the past 25 years, Mike has developed a diverse skill set encompassing project management, city infrastructure and planning, computer technology, administration, building maintenance, and grant writing, with a focus on serving the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) membership. As the manager of the Regional 9-1-1 Network, he has led critical initiatives to enhance emergency communication systems, ensuring reliable and efficient services for communities across the region. His work has provided him with a comprehensive understanding of PRPC's multifaceted operations, from supporting local governments with infrastructure planning to securing grants that drive regional development.

One of his greatest challenges and privileges has been communicating the broad scope of PRPC's mission to deliver impactful solutions for the people and governments the Planning Commission serves. Through collaboration with dedicated colleagues and stakeholders, Mike has built strong professional relationships that have enriched his career and strengthened the collective efforts. His commitment to public service and ability to adapt across diverse functions have positioned him to continue making a meaningful difference in the Panhandle region.



LESLIE HARDIN

Workforce Development Program Manager

25 years

Among the many duties that Leslie has been asked to perform over the last 25 years in the Workforce Development Division, one of which she is most proud, is the responsibility of developing the Panhandle's Strategic and Integrated Board Plan. Her first position with PRPC was the Workforce Development Planner, which allowed her to be a part of all of the activities that the Panhandle Workforce Development Board oversees for the benefit of the area. The Planner expects to convey vital information, along with the Board's goals and strategies, in a four-year Plan for all stakeholders in the region.

She advanced to the position of Workforce Development Program Manager and is currently completing the preparation of the base documents and updates that are regularly required by the Texas Workforce Commission. This has enabled her to continue in the role of Planner and serve as the spokesperson for the broad range of services that comprise the Workforce Solutions Panhandle's contributions to the Texas Panhandle. She is an important and dedicated employee and an asset to the organization she serves.

JOHN SCHAUMBURG

Regional 9-1-1 Director

15 years

John Schaumburg joined PRPC in 2010 to assist the Regional 9-1-1 Network with data integrity prior to the migration to the Next Generation 9-1-1 Enterprise Geodatabase Management System (EGDMS) for more accurate call routing. John has added tens of thousands of data points to the 9-1-1 Geographic Information System (GIS) map.

Throughout his tenure with PRPC, John has embraced learning the dynamics of the Regional 9-1-1 Network and has adapted to new challenges as they arise within the program. As a native Californian, John has grown an affinity for the people and the spirit of the Texas Panhandle and is thankful that he can help such an extraordinary region during his career at the Planning Commission.



BECKY BLAIR
Regional 9-1-1
Geographic Information Administrative Assistant

10 years

Becky Blair has dutifully represented the Regional 9-1-1 department as the Geographic Information Systems Administrative Assistant for the last 10 years. Becky ensures the accuracy, security, and integrity of geographic data within the system. She completes pertinent information, assigning addresses to 24 of our counties for first responders to accurately locate our citizens quickly and effectively.

Becky is proud to assist the residents of the Texas Panhandle. It has been a privilege to work with them and help 9-1-1 work more efficiently. Working with 9-1-1 makes her feel like she makes a difference in her career.



KATHY CABEZUELA
Workforce Development Program Coordinator

10 years

Kathy Cabezuela started her career with Workforce Solutions Panhandle (WSP) in 2006. She became part of the PRPC Workforce Development team's oversight of WSP in 2015. Up to that time, the Panhandle Workforce Development Board (PWDB) had been outsourcing Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Program Monitoring to an external contracting agency. Her role is to establish and to bring this function in-house, with the objective of becoming a full-time Internal Program Monitor and achieving TWC Certification—demonstrating that internal monitoring systems are reliable enough for TWC to depend on the results, therefore, eliminating the need for annual direct testing.

Since assuming the role, she has created and implemented the local program monitoring system from the ground up, successfully achieving initial certification and recertification, as required every three years. Demonstrating the ongoing integrity and reliability of our local monitoring process has positioned the PWDB as trusted to ensure program compliance, accountability, and continuous improvement.

MARIN RIVAS
Workforce Development Director

10 years

Marin Rivas oversaw multi-million-dollar grant funds supporting the delivery of child care services, employment assistance, and job training across the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. Marin supported PRPC's successful pursuit of a \$2.5 million EDA grant to purchase a permanent facility for Workforce Solutions Panhandle, saving grant funds and allowing more resources to be directed toward serving customers and building the local workforce. He also pursued strategic partnerships in education and economic development, resulting in \$2.47 million in investments in high-demand job training programs at local high schools and community colleges.

These efforts strengthened the region's talent pipeline and supported long-term economic growth. Marin assisted in launching the Panhandle Career Signing Day initiative in collaboration with multiple high schools across the region, celebrating students as they commit to career pathways leading to in-demand occupations. These efforts strengthened the region's youth candidate pool and supported long-term economic growth.



ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

Brandon Knapp, Chair - Perryton

Tracie Bogart - Stratford
Marcus Castillo - Wheeler
Anju Chalise - Austin
Brittany Crawford - Amarillo
Manuel Cruz - Dalhart
Greg Dankworth - Amarillo
Leander Davila - Friona
Tanner Davenney - Canyon
Kevin Gomez - Canyon
Ramsay Hamm - Amarillo
Spenser Harvey - Amarillo
Donny Hooper - Amarillo
Daniel Jackson - Dimmitt
Jarrod Moore - Amarillo
Javier Morales - Sunray
David Morris - Memphis
Justin Parker - Spearman
Russell Proctor - Tulia
Isidro Renteria - Dumas
Cary Rushing - Pampa
Stephen Skipper - Booker
Mike Story - McLean
Britney Taylor - Fritch
Eddie Taylor - Childress
Johnny Torres - Hereford
Johnnie Williams - Gruver

Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council

Desha Butler, Chair - Amarillo

Shana Beaty - Borger
Pamela Bell - Amarillo
Elvire Blakemore - Amarillo
Warren Coble - Amarillo
Andy Crocker - Amarillo
Shirley Harrold - Amarillo
Ludell Hill - Amarillo
Marci Leffler - Amarillo
Cherrie Miller - Amarillo
Ameka Mobley - Amarillo
Shannon Parker - Amarillo
Isabell Villarreal - Amarillo
Brad White - Amarillo

Dispute Resolution Center Advisory Board

Dave Kemp, Chair - Amarillo

Vaavia Edwards Rudd - Amarillo
Joanne Flores - Amarillo
Tacy Gamel - Amarillo
H.R. Kelly - Amarillo
Dee Johnson - Amarillo
Dale Rabe - Childress
Nancy Tanner - Amarillo
Phil Vanderpool - Pampa

Panhandle Workforce Development Consortium Governing Body

Cindy Irwin, Chair - Hutchison County

Isabel Carrasco - Parmer County
Kim Jones - Childress County
Alicia Law - Sherman County
Dan Looten - Carson County
Chris Porter - Gray County
Cole Stanley - Amarillo

Panhandle Workforce Development Board

David Parker, Chair - Amarillo

Francisco Apodaca - Pampa
Betty Bara - Amarillo
Heath Bentley - Pampa
Wanda Boatman - Amarillo
Texas Buckhaults - Clarendon
Kevin Caddell - Dalhart
Sonja Clark - Amarillo
Amy Collie - Amarillo
Edward Dominguez - Hereford
Jill Goodrich - Amarillo
Michelle Griffin - Borger
Kristi Hanes - Amarillo
Crystal Hermesmeier - Shamrock
Chad Huseman - Amarillo
Lisa Lillard - Borger
Jahnel McClain - Amarillo
Amy Rambo - Amarillo
Charlie Rivas - Amarillo
John Roberts - Amarillo
Paul Salazar - Amarillo
Frank Sobey - Amarillo
Geneva Tiller - Amarillo
Jason Vaden - Austin
Lisa White - Amarillo
Magi York - Amarillo

Rolling Plains Organization for Rural Transportation

Kim Jones, Vice Chair, Childress County

Kevin Brendle - Dickens County
Mark Christopher - Foard County
Rank Cogdell - Briscoe County
Duane Daniel - King County
Karl Holloway - Cottle County
John Howard - Donley County
Ronnie Ingram - Hardeman County
Scot Martindale - Collingsworth County
Pat McDowell - Wheeler County
Jim Meador - Motley County
Ray Powell - Hall County
Stan Wojcik - Knox County

Canadian Upper Red - Regional Flood Planning

Shawn Ballew, Chair - Oldham County

Layne Chapman - Vernon
Carolann Corado - Bowie
Don Davis - Nocona
Glen Green - Amarillo
Kimberly Hamlin - Amarillo
Fabian Heaney - Wichita Falls
Nathan Howell - Amarillo
Kyle Miller - Wichita Falls
Joseph Shehan - Canyon
Tyson Traw - Wichita Falls
Jeff Watts - Iowa Park

Panhandle Water Planning Group

Ben Weinheimer, Chair - Amarillo

Brent Auvermann - Amarillo
Joe Baumgardner - Wellington
Herman Berngen - Dalhart
Britney Britten - White Deer
Spencer Cave - Borger
Jason Coleman - Lubbock
Vernon Cook - Miami
Dean Cooke - Borger
Megan Eikner - Amarillo
Rusty Gilmore - Dalhart
Glen Green - Amarillo
Janet Guthrie - Dumas
Floyd Hartman - Amarillo
Nathan Howell - Amarillo
Danny Krienke - Perryton
David Landis - Perryton
Gary Wayne Marek - Bushland
Christa Perry - Canadian
Jason Shubert - Amarillo
Drew Satterwhite - Sanford
Janet Tregellas - Booker
Whitney Wiebe - Wellington

Groundwater Management Area #1

Bob Zimmer, Chair - Dumas

Britney Britten - White Deer
Jason Coleman - Lubbock
Janet Guthrie - Dumas
Thomas Isaacs - Canadian
Danny Krienke - Perryton
Christa Perry - Canadian
Devin Sinclair - Wheeler
Lynn Tate - Amarillo

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Regional 9-1-1 Network Advisory Committee

Vicki Groneman, Chair - Vega

Melissa Anderson - Claude
Rebekah Baucom - Farwell
David Calabrese - Amarillo
Johnny Carter - Wheeler
Vance Easley - Childress
Reeves Easley-McPherson - Amarillo
Ben Eggleston - Lipscomb
Rafael Gonzalez - Perryton
Robin Grice - Dumas
Diann Guffy - Dalhart
Tom Heck - Memphis
Kris Hogan - Canadian
Sydney Jordan - Borger
Robert Mahaffee - Spearman
Jessica Mann - Pampa
Kalee Massey - Panhandle
Cheryl Phillips - Clarendon
Tim Reeves - Wheeler
Kent Riley - Wellington
Salvador Rivera - Dimmitt
Jeannie Rogers - Tulia
Kim Weatherly - Stratford
Kirsten Williams - Hereford

Panhandle Regional Organization to Maximize Public Transportation

Travis Muno, Chair - Amarillo

Kacie Bell - Amarillo
Shane Brown - Amarillo
Kathryn English - Amarillo
Kimberly Ford - Amarillo
Dan Looten - Carson County
Trent Morris - Amarillo
Robin Moseley - Amarillo
Richard Neill - Amarillo
Chris Quigley - Amarillo
Laura Reyher - Canyon
Jason Riddlespurger - Amarillo
Joe Rogers - Amarillo
Chris Sharp - Amarillo
Garrett Spradling - Borger
Lylene Springer - Canyon
Grace Strait - Lubbock
Nancy Tanner - Potter County
Sridevi Veeramachaneni - Amarillo

Texas Revenue Recovery Association (TRRA) Board of Directors

BJ Potts, Chair - Tulia

Ellie Blasingame - Perryton
Jennifer Gonzalez - Amarillo

Economic Development Advisory Committee

Kristen Moudy, Chair - Wheeler

Kathy Allen - Stratford
Brian Barboza - Clarendon
Ryan Bradley - Pampa
Juan Cantu - Lipscomb
Wendy Carthel - Friona
Brandon Cox - Dumas
Remelle Farrar - Canadian
Amy Fesser - Borger
Daniel Jackson - Dimmitt
Brittany Janssen - Vega
Kurt Jones - Hereford
Michael Kitten - Canyon
Doug Nelson - Amarillo
Sheabree Nix - Childress
BJ Potts - Tulia
Woody Richardson - Memphis
Brenda Robinson - Panhandle
Alexandra Sharon - Claude
Kay Swart - Miami
Bonnie Thompson - Spearman
Colby Waters - Perryton
Guy Young - Quitaque

Panhandle Rural Planning Organization

Wes Ritchey, Chair - Dallam County

Shawn Ballew - Oldham County
Kit Black - TxDOT
Christy Dyer - Randall County
Adam Ensey - Armstrong
Aldo Gallegos - Cactus
Tim Glass - Hansford County
Ronnie Gordon - Hartley County
Cindy Irwin - Hutchinson County
Blair Johnson - TxDOT
Lisa Johnson - Hemphill County
Charles Kelly - Ochiltree County
Brandan Knapp - Perryton
Alicia Law - Sherman County
Mitchell Locke - Roberts County
Dan Looten - Carson County
Travis Muno - Amarillo
J.J. Oznick - Dalhart
Chris Porter - Gray County
Rowdy Rhoades - Moore County
Dori Roots - Lipscomb County
Garrett Spradling - Borger
Nancy Tanner - Potter County
DJ Wagner - Deaf Smith County
Russell Washer - TxDOT

Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee

Cindy Irwin, Chair - Stinnett

Jason Anderson - Borger
Nikolas Baucom - Friona
Kyle Brack - Canyon
Tommy Brooks - Dumas
Harold Cave - Amarillo
Jacob Clifton - Pampa
Joanne Culin - Amarillo
Ken Daughtry - Wheeler
Leander Davila - Friona
Max Dunlap - Amarillo
Paul Dutcher - Perryton
Chris Forbis - Amarillo
Steve Fuston - Dumas
Chad Grange - Amarillo
Howard Heath - Canyon
Alex Henderson - Amarillo
Robert Howell - Spearman
Daniel Jackson - Dimmitt
Ashley Johnson - Amarillo
Kim Jones - Childress
Wallace Jones - Vega
Joseph Loftus - Amarillo
Stephen Malley - Amarillo
Kevin McClaran - Amarillo
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Landon Swan - Hereford
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IN LOVING MEMORY

October 16th, 1959 - July 3, 2025



Today, take a moment of your time to remember a good and loyal servant, Buster Davis, of Gruver. Buster served on the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors and worked with many of you.

Buster possessed some qualities that made him an excellent choice to work on our community's economic development plans. He was a good listener, no corrections, an exceptional listener. Whether you were a friend, a customer, or someone with an idea or problem, Buster would sit still and turn his face towards you and listen, really listen. If it was advice you wanted, he was willing to put some thought into what you said and give his opinion. Far too many plans are made without first listening to all the parties who could be impacted.

Buster would give an honest opinion, not what he thought you wanted to hear. He was also strong enough to say no. When Buster offered his opinions, he never forgot his first priorities were to his God and to his community, which included his family, neighbors, school, business owners and employees, employers, customers, and partners.

He sought to make decisions for others, not himself. He started each day with prayer, often the rosary, a perfect meditative prayer that helps you to listen to God, put things before God, and accept God's will. Buster did his best not to let his own will get in the way of God and worked deliberately to place his faith in God and in the people he loved and served.

But Buster wasn't a man to just attend meetings and talk about things; no, he was a doer. He put his time and sweat equity into what he believed was good for the community. Usually, these were little things, done year after year, like grilling burgers for the elementary track meet, the Fourth of July barbecue, basketball tournaments, and other community events. It included working hard to help students receive scholarship assistance, to do whatever needed to be done that he believed was his to do. This wasn't simply a duty; he did it with lifelong friends who loved the community just as much as he.

Working with Buster was a joy most time. He made you laugh, and he knew when to laugh with you. He had a ready grin, and when you shared private thoughts, he knew how to keep them private. He was at the ready to lend a hand when it was appropriate and required.

Buster was called a pillar of strength in his recent obituary, and he certainly was. But Buster knew this strength came from his God and the friends and family that he gathered and worked with, ones who also felt a need to serve their community. Maybe Buster was a bit too frugal at times, but he understood the true and real investments that needed to be made, the ones that required time and sweat equity. This was a driving force behind his nearly 40 years of serving on the City Council and a career in local banking, part of Buster being a faithful son, brother, husband, father, friend, and neighbor.

Buster walked most comfortably in boots, with a bit of a slouch, an ever-present twinkle in his eye, and devoted his time to spending on what we needed. He wasn't perfect and never thought he was. In fact, he probably just thought of himself as a simple cowboy. For this moment today, let us remember that simple cowboy and what his life reminds us to do and be.

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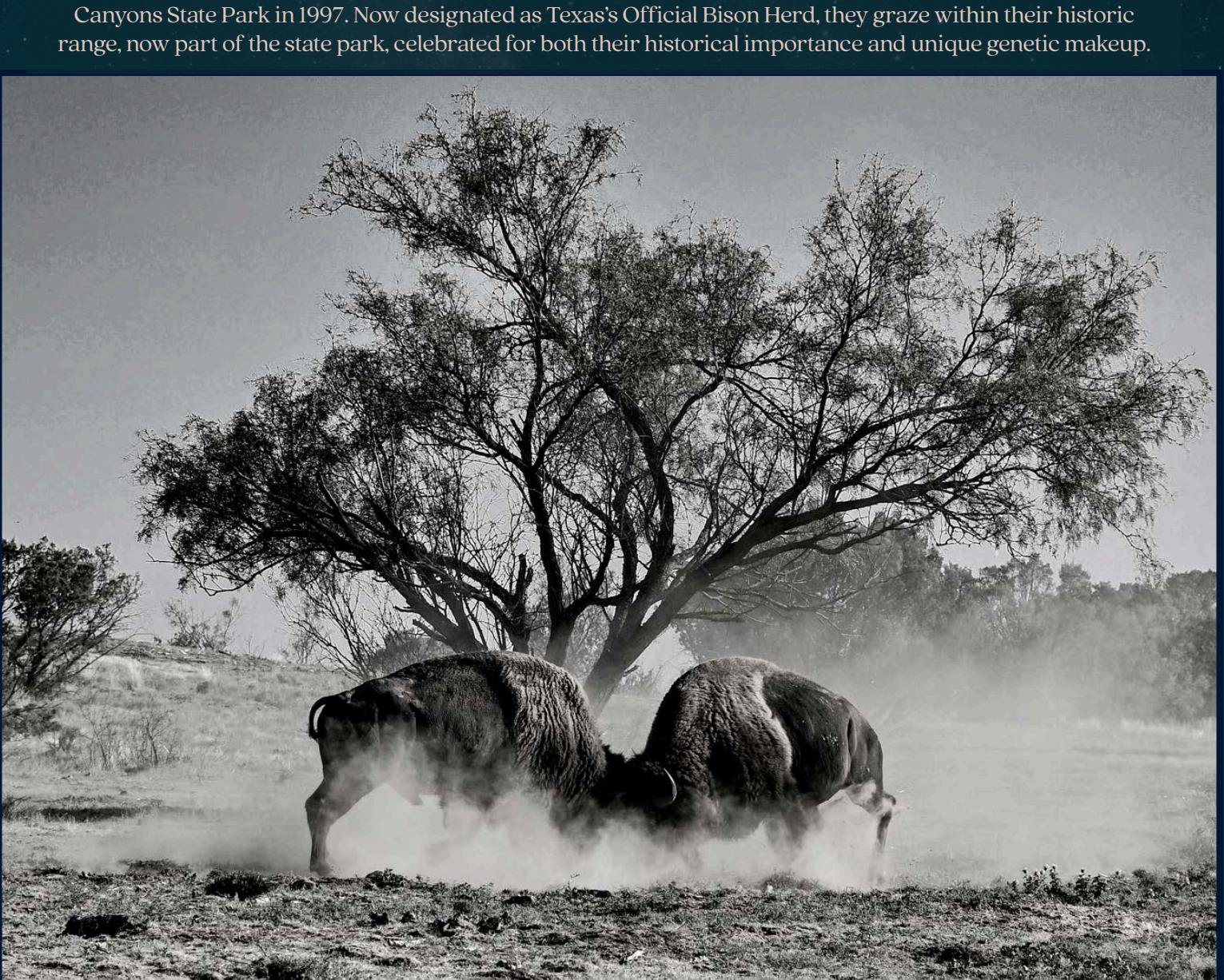
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THE TEXAS STATE BISON HERD

Originally part of the JA Ranch, the herd dwindled in prominence after the Goodnight family's passing until rediscovered by conservationist Wolfgang Frey in the 1990s. Frey noticed around 50 remaining bison, and he alerted Texas authorities in 1994. Genetic testing revealed a rare marker, suggesting these bison could be the last of the southern plains variety. The JA Ranch donated the herd to the state, which relocated them to Caprock Canyons State Park in 1997. Now designated as Texas's Official Bison Herd, they graze within their historic range, now part of the state park, celebrated for both their historical importance and unique genetic makeup.



MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Texas State Bison Herd is a vital component of both Texas heritage and bison conservation. Located at Caprock Canyons State Park, the herd is managed with three primary objectives: restoring bison as a keystone species within their ecosystem, maintaining genetic purity through a selective breeding program, and supporting the broader conservation of bison across North America. To ensure genetic diversity, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department conducts annual DNA testing each winter, alongside health evaluations for every bison. Habitat management involves vegetation studies, controlled grazing, and prescribed burns to sustain a healthy environment for the herd.