

April 16, 2026

The meeting of the Rusk County Emergency Services District No. 1 Board of Emergency Services Commissioners was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Board President David Burks. All Board Members were present and a quorum was established. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Chief Rayford Gibson followed by the pledge to the American flag

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

Public Comments / Announcements

The Board discussed the May meeting date, which conflicts with Henderson High School graduation. After discussion among members, it was determined that a quorum would still be available, and the meeting date will remain unchanged.

An update was provided regarding the New London Volunteer Fire Department property. The survey has been completed, and plans are being finalized. It was noted that the land was donated by the school district, and the city will fund construction of a new fire station. The new location will allow for future growth and improved operational space.

No additional public comments were made.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, including corrections previously submitted.

Motion to approve the corrected minutes as presented made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.
Seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith
Motion carried unanimously.

6. Monthly Financial Reports

The Secretary/Treasurer presented financial reports for both February and March, noting February had not been previously presented. Reports included checking, money market accounts, obligations accounts, and sales tax accounts, along with interest earnings and ending balances. All beginning and ending account balances read aloud.

Additional documentation included budget vs. actual comparisons and check detail reports.

Board members discussed the reports and acknowledged receipt and review.

Motion to approve the February and March financial reports as presented.made by Board Member Wayne Griffith .

Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Monthly Payment of Bills

The Board reviewed the monthly bills and expenditures.

No significant concerns or discrepancies were raised.

Motion to approve payment of bills made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.

Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Revenue Transfers Among District Accounts

The Treasurer reported transfers made during March, including:

- Movement of sales and use tax funds into the appropriate money market account
- Transfer of property tax collections into the general money market account
- Retention of approximately \$250,000 in checking for operational expenses

Motion to approve the reported transfers made by Board Member Wayne Griffith.

Seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Monthly Financial Reports from District VFDs

The Board reviewed financial reports submitted by all district volunteer fire departments, including a summarized report comparing beginning and ending balances for the first quarter.

Board members expressed appreciation for the summary format, noting it improved clarity and review efficiency.

Motion to approve department financial reports made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.

Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Quarterly Investment Report

The quarterly investment report was presented. It was noted that due to the size of district deposits, the bank increased pledged securities coverage and added additional entities to meet collateral requirements.

The Board discussed compliance with state requirements regarding deposit coverage.

Motion to approve the quarterly investment report made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. Seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Annual Review of Investment Policy and Strategies

The Board conducted the required annual review of the district's investment policy and strategies. No changes had been made since the prior year.

It was noted this review is required by state law.

Motion to approve the investment policy and adopt the resolution as presented made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.

Seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. New Salem VFD Station Project Update

An update was provided on the New Salem station project:

- Concrete slab has been poured
- Plumbing stub-outs completed
- Project remains on schedule for building shell delivery around April 29

A construction issue was disclosed where the slab was poured approximately 10 feet off location. Rather than demolish and repour, adjustments were made:

- Driveway width reduced from 30 ft to 25 ft
- Grass buffer reduced
- Additional concrete added to rear for improved turning radius

This solution corrected the issue without increasing cost and improved rear access.

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No action required.

13. Communications / Technology Improvements

The Board revisited a previously approved communications purchase and discovered the initial quote did not include the correct equipment package with battery backup.

Revised pricing increased the cost.

Discussion included adding contingency for unknown shipping or additional costs.

Motion to approve purchase not to exceed **\$750.00** made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.
Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. ILA – Gregg County Burn Tower

The Board reviewed the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Gregg County ESD #1 regarding shared renovation costs for a burn tower in exchange for use.

Legal counsel added exit provisions for both parties.

Motion to approve the ILA made by Board Member Gloria Dooley.
Seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.

Motion carried unanimously.

15. ILA – Brush Truck Cost Share

The Board reviewed an ILA formalizing a previously approved \$114,000 cost share for a brush truck with Gregg County ESD #1.

Discussion included long-term asset ownership and reimbursement structure if the vehicle is sold or totaled.

Motion to approve the ILA made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.
Seconded Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

16. Conflict of Interest Affidavit – Wayne Griffith

The Board reviewed a conflict of interest affidavit due to Mr. Griffith's ownership of a towing company used by some departments.

It was reiterated that departments are free to select vendors and no preference is made by the Board.

Motion to accept affidavit into public record made by Board Member Curt Collins.
Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried.

Wayne Griffith abstained.

17. Rusk County Rescue Unit Reimbursement

The Board reviewed repairs to a 2012 light rescue truck.

The total repair cost exceeded district thresholds, and the reimbursable portion after department contribution was **\$3,529.81**.

Discussion included potential credit from the vendor for disputed labor charges.

Motion to approve reimbursement made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.
Seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith.

Motion carried unanimously.

18. Disposal of Church Hill Engine

The Board determined the engine was no longer usable due to pump failure and freeze damage.

Options were discussed, including auction platforms.

Motion to declare surplus and dispose via **Purple Wave auction** made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.

Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

19. Tatum VFD Reimbursement

Repairs to Tatum's brush truck totaled approximately **\$10,193.54**, including:

- Pump replacement (obsolete system)
- Fuel line corrections
- Electrical system relocation
- Work light installation

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The reimbursable portion was approximately **\$7,193.00**.

Discussion acknowledged prior installation issues and corrective work needed.

Motion to approve reimbursement made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.
Seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith.

Motion carried unanimously.

20. Eastside VFD EMT Reimbursement

Two members completed EMT training and passed National Registry.

Discussion centered on:

- Cost differences between in-house and outside programs
- Need for pre-approval for higher-cost programs

Board emphasized future requests should be pre-approved.

Motion to approve reimbursement made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.
Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

21. Carlisle VFD Reimbursement

Repair request for **\$272.50** due to barbed wire damage.

Discussion included whether small repairs should be submitted, given district guidelines.

Board ultimately approved.

Motion to approve reimbursement made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.
Seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith.

Motion carried with Board Member Gloria Dooley voting against.

22. Rescue Unit Gear Purchase

Purchase of bunker and Techgen gear totaling **\$18,706.55** was presented.

This item was previously budgeted.

Motion to approve purchase was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley.
Seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith.

Motion carried unanimously.

23. Engine Change Orders

Change orders for two new engines were reviewed, adding:

- Foam systems
- Elevated scene lighting

Cost increase approximately: **\$26,583.09 per engine**

Discussion acknowledged necessary upgrades for operational effectiveness.

Motion to approve change orders made by Board Member Gloria Dooley.
Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

24. Siddons-Martin Maintenance Pricing

Preventative maintenance pricing was presented for engines and tenders.

Discussion included:

- Whether departments run equipment enough to justify frequency
- Potential long-term savings vs repair costs
- Possible inclusion in future district budget

No action taken.

25. Garrison VFD Fire Academy Funding

Garrison requested upfront funding for five firefighters to attend academy training.

Grant funds will reimburse the district.

Discussion acknowledged current cash flow limitations.

Motion to approve upfront payment with reimbursement from grant proceeds made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.

Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

26. Reklaw VFD Skid Unit Cost Share

Discussion included:

- \$77,988 total project
- ~\$30,488 district share request
- Whether to invest in a 21-year-old truck vs future replacement

Board weighed long-term planning vs current grant availability.

Decision: proceed with project, anticipating future chassis replacement.

Motion to approve cost share made by Board Member Wayne Griffith.
Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

27. Round Table Workshop Date

Board discussed dates and availability.

Motion to set workshop for **May 16, 2026 at 9:00 AM**. Made by Board Member Gloria Dooley.
Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

Board encouraged all departments to attend for open discussion and planning.

28. HB 471 Compliance

Board discussed new state requirements related to disability compensation.

Concerns included:

- Applicability to volunteers vs paid personnel
- Overlap with workers' compensation
- Potential financial impact

Motion to authorize Board Secretary to obtain information and pricing from VFIS made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes.

Seconded by Board Member Curt Collins.

Motion carried unanimously.

29. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

President:

Secretary/Treasurer:
