

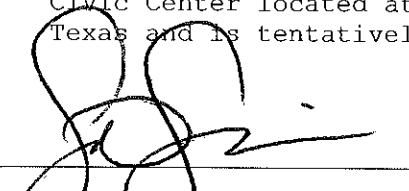
PANOLA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 met for a regular meeting on the 19th day of August 2025. The meeting was held at the Carthage Civic Center Street located at 1702 South Adams Street in Carthage, Panola County Texas at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Stuart Lipsey, Cliff Todd, Palmer Fuselier and Taylor Harris

1. Chairman Lipsey opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and established a quorum. Cliff Todd offered a prayer.
2. Board members then reviewed the minutes from the July 22, 2025 regular meeting then approved them on a motion by Harris, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following.
3. There were no citizen comments.
4. Chairman Lipsey announced the 9/11 Walk to Remember will be held on September 6, 2025, at 9:30am, starting at the Panola County Courthouse.
5. Simon VanDyk from Touchstone District Services gave a proposal for their services to assist the ESD in the upcoming sales and use tax election. The board is reviewing the proposal and will decide at the upcoming meeting on September 2, 2025.
6. The Chief's Association Mark Dawson discussed the purchase of new E-draulics to include a cutter, spreader and ram. If the purchase is made this year, there is a \$14,000 savings. He requested the purchases come out of the 2025 capital budget then adjust the budget accordingly for next year. After the discussion, on a motion by Harris, a second by Palmer, and a unanimous vote following, the board approved the purchase of the tools from the capital budget. Chadd Gray was introduced as the new Panola County Fire Marshal. Forest Service representative, Matt Burnett, presented upcoming grants for the purchase of new trucks that our VFD's will start receiving in October. These are 10% match grants. Nixon requested the Chiefs work on how much money the ESD will need to front to match the grants. The Chief's will also begin looking for the trucks they want to purchase.
7. City of Carthage Fire Marshal, Randy Liedtke presented a plan for a county wide communication grant. He explained the need to upgrade the communications systems county wide to 700-800 MHz. For a single radio the cost is upwards of \$3,000. The board recommended a committee to head this joint effort. Harris will be the ESD representative along with Liedtke as the Carthage Fire Department rep., and others from the Sheriff's Department and Carthage Police Department.
8. The board discussed needed Beckville VFD truck repairs. The estimated cost is \$16,277. After the discussion, on a motion by Fuselier, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following, the board approved the cost of repairs come from contingency.
9. The board discussed and reviewed renewals of TML and VFIS insurance policies. After the discussion, on a motion by Fuselier, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following, the board approved the insurance

renewals.

10. The board reviewed and discussed the Petition for Declaratory Judgement. A hearing will be held on August 27, 2025, at 1:30pm to determine if the documentation provided satisfies the AG's requirements. Chief Scott Yarnell spoke on the petition being a civil not criminal case and that he provided the requested records in a timely manner. Yarnell hand delivered an envelope to Robert Delconte in the audience and announced this satisfies the records request.
11. The board reviewed and discussed the 2026 budget for the ESD and VFD's. After the discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Harris, and a unanimous vote following, the 2026 budget was approved.
12. The board discussed the preliminary tax rate of 3.0 for 2026. The rate will be finally adopted at the September 2, 2025 meeting at 12:00pm. After the discussion, on a motion by Harris, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following, the preliminary tax rate was approved.
13. The board discussed adjusting Intercommunity VFD's 2025 budget to reflect a capital carryover of \$67.00 from contingency to capital. After the discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Harris, and a unanimous vote following, the adjustment was approved.
14. Leslie Wiley presented the bills to be paid. After discussion and reviewing the bills, on a motion by Harris, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following, the bills presented were approved for payment.
15. The monthly financial statements were presented by CPA Nixon, and he updated the departments on their budget items. After the discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Harris, and a unanimous vote following, the financial statements were approved.
16. Chairman Lipsey then adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM on a motion by Todd and without objection. The next meeting will be held at the Carthage Civic Center located at 1702 S. Adams Street in Carthage, Panola County Texas and is tentatively set for September 2, 2025, to start at 12:00PM.


Board Member

Dated 10/21/25