Robertson County Emergency Services District Board of Commissioners
Budget Workshop/Special Meeting
August 25, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.
RCESD/EMS Office
287 Cooks Lane, Franklin, TX 77856

1. ***Call Meeting to Order***
   President Robert Yezak called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm and noted a quorum present, with executive director and no legal counsel. The Board of Commissioners met at RCESD Conference Room, 287 Cooks Lane, Franklin, Texas.

   The following were present:

   RCESD COMMISSIONERS
   Robert Yezak, President
   Carla Barker, Vice President
   Toni Mathews, Treasurer
   Jerry Henry, Asst. Treasurer
   Kayla Sanders, Commissioner

   Hope Zeig, Executive Director

   VISITORS
   Cole French, RCESD
   Erin Rodriguez, RCESD
   Adam Gallagher, RCESD
   William Houston, RCEMS
   Mika Isbell, CHP

2. ***Public Comments***
   None

3. ***Consideration and discussion of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budgets***
   Overall proposed total for all volunteer fire departments is $1,344,276

   - ***Blackjack VFD***
     Proposed FY2027 Budget total $242,337
     Removing $27,000 for bay expansion and adding a place holder
     Building Maintenance may need to be reduced if it is part of the expansion
     Average members responding to calls is 4 to 5 members

     New total: $215,338

   - ***Bremond VFD***
     Proposed FY2027 Budget total $218,127
     Allowing one instead of 2 and dropping to $10,000 for Emergency Services Equipment
     Remove LED sign allowance of $5,000; No LED signs for departments; total $20,000
     Add $500 for janitorial because EMS supplies are being used
     Mechanical Supplies/Tools were taken back to last year of $250

     New Total: $197,277

   - ***Calvert VFD***
     Proposed FY2027 Budget total $203,675

Lower Computer/Office Equip & Furniture $400 for chairs; Appliances purchased in FY2026
Free garbage cans paying $178 for dumpster, remove
Water meter is being installed for data collections only but will eventually lead to billing; CVFD does not pay City water
Remove $1,000, Vehicle Fuel total $4,500
Market Ladder cost?

New Total: $188,375

- ***Easterly VFD***
  Proposed FY2027 Budget total $96,220
  Equipment testing raise to 2500
  Remove Electric Doors new total is $17,000
  Lower Mechanical Supplies/Tools to $250

  New Total :$79,970

- ***Franklin VFD***
  Proposed FY2027 Budget total $154,804
  Same as last year for Communications, $1,250
  Radios: switched September 1, are 10 needed?
  Rental Income for utilities and maintenance?
  Utilities: First Net Cell through ESD

  New Total: $153,053

- ***Hearne VFD***
  Proposed FY2027 Budget total $189,806

  No changes

- ***Seale VFD***
  Proposed FY2027 Budget total $103,380
  Emergency Service Equipment, remove signage – new total $6,000
  Utilities reduced cellphone moved to IT & based on projections, new total $4,000
  Mechanical Supplies/tools same as last year

  New Total: $93,680

- ***Wheelock VFD***
  Proposed FY2027 Budget total $135,927
  Vehicle Maintenance based on projections
  Average members responding to calls is 4 to 5 members

  New Totals: 133,426

The Board took a break at 6:55 pm

Run totals submitted to as of 8/24/2026

Hearne Volunteer Fire Department	20	27	33	29	21	24	42	
Seale Round Prairie		5	5	11	6	7	5	5
Calvert Volunteer Fire Department	11	2	3	5	10	9		
Easterly Volunteer Fire Department	7	14	18	8	12	6	11	
Franklin Volunteer Fire Department	8	8	16	12	4			
Bremond Volunteer Fire Department	23	23	24	13	14	12	17	4
Wheelock Volunteer Fire Department		6	5	5	1	2	1	
Blackjack Volunteer Fire Department	18	17	15	12	12	12		

FY2027 Loan totals for all volunteer fire departments: $375,908.74

4. ***Consideration and Discussion of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Robertson County Emergency Services Administrative***

Proposed 2026 Tax rate is $0.07278/$100 valuation to include debit tax rate of $0.00585/$100 valuation.

Certified values are $4,550,358,056.

Total Collections for property tax in FY2025 were $3,049,869.38 and $4,230,448.71 in Sales Tax.

Current FY2026 collections for M&O is $2.976,870.07 and I&S is $258,781.45 and Sales tax is $3,515,996.29.

Administrative Proposed Budget for FY2027 is $5,499,171.01 which is $223,742.87 lower

The number for Insurance is going to go up because Franklin VFD vehicles will need to be insured, Erin is going to submit inventory.

- ***Tower***

  Proposed Budget for FY2027 is $53,400 which is $10,200 higher.
  The increase includes lease increase of $2100 and items for Limestone totaling approximately $5900. Old building needs to be removed, and the lights need to be moved, quote is $3,500

- ***RCEMS***

  Proposed Budget for FY2027 is $1,190,261 which is $119,939 lower.

  $350,000 HB 3000 Grant will cover most of FY2027 Ambulance. Total cost of ambulance is $365,000 which leave a difference of $15,000.

  Executive Director asked the Board to consider and expansion at EMS Station 1(Franklin) to accommodate growth is employees and monthly meeting attendees.

  Board asked that quotes be submitted.

  Chief Gallagher asked to keep in mind items on Strategic Plan list such as generator for Station 2 in Hearne, ballistic vests, tacticle vest, and powerloaded stretchers, etc.

  Hearne Generator was added to budget totaling $40,000

  Expansion added totaling $350,000 pending quotes

  New Total: $1,540,261

- ***CHP***

  Proposed Budget for FY2027 is $193,900 which is $72,200 increase

  This include a second CHP Position to cover the new partnership with Health Point which makes CHP visits billable.

- ***IT***

  Proposed Budget for FY2027 is $894549.80. This budget is new and is a combination of all departments – ESD, EMS and VFDs.

5. ***Consideration and Discussion of FY2026-2027 Contracts Between Robertson County Emergency Services District and Volunteer Fire Departments***
   Listed was presented by Executive Director that kept throughout FY2026

   - All VFD accounts on QB and accessible to ESD (ESD Board)
   - Deadline to submit request moves to 1st of the month (ER/HZ)
   - Logistics Coordinator paying all VFD bills (HZ/CB/JM)
   - No reimbursements, only direct payments (RY)
   - Limit or Remove all Credit/Debit Cards usage (JM)
   - Limited Preapprovals to Quarterly (HZ/ER)
   - Submitting ALL account statements and reconciliations including credit card statements to ESD monthly (ESD Board)
   - Reserve Funding Request included in Budgets as Line Item, not separate budget (HZ/Bookkeeper/CPA)
   - Required training for VFDs: CPR, First Aide and Stop the Bleed (AG/Medical Director)
     - PIA Training
   - Action regarding procedures and protocols regarding EMS including dispatching and cancelling EMS and procedures and protocols of VFDs regarding medical procedures and protocols (July Agenda Item)
   - All IT goes through IT Department: Tower, Radios, Computer, Software, IT Hardware, Subscriptions, etc (ESD Board/CF)
   - ESD having authority to suspend VFD members such as chiefs (RY)
   - Procedure to return to duty for VFD (Medical Director)
   - Limit POV use by VFDs — no equipment & unprepared on scene (ER/HZ/AG)
   - Define Active Fire Fighter

   Suggestion that no department allow family member to be signors on the same check

   These will be sent to legal to be considered and worded for FY2027 Contract

6. ***Consideration, Discussion and Any Approval of <u>Appropriate Expenditures</u> for Volunteer Fire Departments, payment of approved expenditures for FY 2025-2026 expenditures (Action Item)***
   Franklin VFD USDA Loan payment is due August 21, 2026 so a check was issued for $5,916 and approved in order not to default on loan by Commissioner Yezak and needs to be ratified.

   Commissioner Barker makes a motion to approve ratification of Franklin VFD check for Station 1 loan totaling $5,916. Commissioner Mathews seconded, no discussion, motion carries.

7. ***Consideration Discussion and Any Approval of Robertson County Emergency Services District Updating Employee Handbook (Action Item)***
   Move to next meeting

8. ***Consideration, Discussion and Any Approval of Robertson County Emergency Services District Funding Volunteer Fire Department for Texas Forest Service Grants to Purchase Approved Apparatus (Action)***

- ***Bid Requirements and Requests***

  Bid documents prepared and presented by Legal Counsel. Board approved legal send out bids to financial institutions.

9. ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

   Closed meeting (Executive Session) pursuant to Section §551.071 of the Texas Government Code – Consultation with Attorney; to wit: Consultation with Attorney; §551.074 of Texas Government Code - Personnel Matters

   Announcement of time and date closed meeting (executive session) for this matter ends and reconvenes in open session.

   The Robertson County EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above as authorized by the Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultations with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Properties), 551.073 (Deliberations regarding Gifts and Donations), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.087 (Deliberations regarding Economic Development Negotiations)

10. ***RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION***

    The Robertson County EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT will reconvene in a public meeting to discuss and take action on related matters.

No Executive Session

11. ***Adjourn***

Commissioner Mathews makes a motion to adjourn at 8:28 pm and with no opposition the meeting adjourned.

The Robertson County Emergency Services District Board reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above as authorized by the Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultations with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Properties), 551.073 (Deliberations regarding Gifts and Donation), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.087 (Deliberations regarding Economic Development Negotiations).

Next Monthly Board Meeting, Emergency Services District September 8, 2026