



Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Vice-President

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Mayor Protem Andrea Barefield
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting 9:00 AM, Tuesday, April 21st, 2026 HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. Call to Order and TOMA

A. Proof of Posting

- Andy Davis confirmed a proof of posting.

B. Determination of a Quorum

- A Quorum was present.

II. Welcome and Introductions

A. Guest Recognition

- Harold Ferguson (HOTCOG)
- Wayne Stovall (HOTCOG)
- Falen Bohannon (HOTCOG)
- Lana Gudgel (HOTCOG)
- Russell Devorsky (HOTCOG)
- Tim Jeske (City of Waco)
- David Mannus (Waco FD)

B. Member introductions

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| - Trace Hendricks | - Robert LaFoy |
| - Alicia Wilson | - Jeff Watkins |
| - Buffy Waldie | - Steve Smith |
| - Rob Bergerson | - Michael Graham |
| - Courtney Wallard | |

III. HOTCOG Staff Reports

A. ENS Contract Update and Funding Status

- Andy Davis gave an update on the Emergency Notification System contract with Civic Plus. He stated that Civic Plus would be willing to sever the current contract if paid at a prorated amount for the time dedicated to providing the service thus far. Additionally, he stated that the previous vendor, Everbridge, would be willing to execute a deal to bring HOTCOG back; however, uncertainty about funding remains a major roadblock to finalizing any deal. Tim Jeske asked what the pricing would be if an Everbridge Contract were signed, and Andy confirmed an updated proposal of \$52,000, which is higher than the \$42,000 for the current Civic Plus contract. Tim and Robert LaFoy explained the several issues that happened during the statewide test of emergency notification systems on the Civic Plus platform.

IV. New Business - Consideration of and/or Action On

A. Review of EPAC Scoring Procedures

A Voluntary Association of Local Governments

1514 S. New Road • Waco, Texas 76711 • 254-292-1800 • FAX 254-756-0102

- Andy Davis presented a slideshow beginning with the number of applications, the requested funding amount, and issues with a shortened timeline to apply. He proceeded to explain the programmatic changes to the SHSP funding source regarding requirements and funding minimums. Lastly, the usual scoring procedures were reviewed.

B. Scoring of Regional FY2026 State Homeland Security Program Grants

1. (9:20) HOTCOG – Regional Citizen Corp Program

- Andy Davis presented the first project with a slide show about the Regional CCP/CERT program and its functions within the region. He presented the activities of CERT in the region over the past year, and the \$31,000 budget needed to continue activities. Tim Jeske presented a question on what percentage of time is to be dedicated by HOTCOG staff to this project. Additionally, Tim questioned whether enough funding would be available to purchase CERT Kits for future City of Waco and Baylor CERT members.

2. (9:40) HOTCOG – Regional Planning

- Wayne Stovall presented the Regional Planning Grant Application. Wayne explained that a major piece of this grant was to fund the salaries of HS staff, including Wayne and Andy. He explained the various activities planning staff partake in to assist regional partners. He confirmed the budget for this project is \$196,171.05, which is \$11,000 more than last year's budget due to Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) and travel/training cost increases. Trace Hendricks and Michael Graham showed interest in the COG's ability to organize Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT). Alicia Wilson had several questions regarding the program. Alicia first questioned what specific planning assistance is being provided by the COG staff beyond what is expected and required by the State. Further, she stated that several local planning documents have expired. Additionally, she questioned what services beyond the state's scope of work for the direct allocation are being offered. She explained how an open line of communication between her office and HS Staff in the past has not been accomplished. Furthermore, she explained how these issues show discrepancies between what has been expected and what has been presented in the slideshow for this program. Tim Jeske provided additional context about the planning issue by explaining the cost for a vendor to provide similar planning services that could be offered by the HS Staff. Executive Director Russell Devorsky, Michael Graham, and several other members became involved in a discussion regarding the expectations of the HS Staff and if a more proactive approach to communication and planning efforts is the solution to many of the issues brought forward.

3. (10:00) HOTCOG – Bomb Making Materials Awareness Program

- Lana Gudgel presented a verbal presentation about the region's BMMAP grant. She explained the role of BMMAP in preventing homemade explosives, as well as a case study of a hardware store clerk who participated in the training and prevented someone from purchasing materials that would be used for bomb-making. She explained that the \$54,000 budget is to fund the salaries of trainers, which is her and Wayne. Lana mentioned that the program's future goal is to incorporate law enforcement into more of the training. Over the past year, New Mexico Tech has held a variety of training sessions. Multiple members of the committee had questions

regarding the curriculum and what is taught to the commercial store employees to ensure that homemade explosive materials are not being sold.

4. (10:20) City of Waco – CBRNE Equipment

- Captain David Mannus of the Waco Fire Department presented the CBRNE Equipment grant project, which will be used to fund the purchase of a hazardous materials reader, which replaces an older device currently being used. This device was priced at \$28,000 and will give the Waco HazMat Team the ability to analyze and determine unknown solids, liquids, and gaseous compounds. Tim Jeske had follow-up questions directed toward how the device works and if the singular equipment piece requested in the grant needed any additional items for it to work.

5. (10:40) McLennan County – 2026 Bomb Squad Grant

- Michael Graham presented the project, which is requesting \$22,426 for the purchase of a bomb suit helmet. He explained how there are currently two techs with two suits, but only one helmet, which has to be switched between the two techs. Additionally, two more bomb tech positions are being posted, which will require two more suits to be purchased. Member Steve Smith spoke about his personal experience as a retired bomb tech, having to share equipment, and advocated for the purchase of additional suit equipment. Various members, including Buffy Waldie and Steve Smith, vocalized that if additional funding should become available, it should be used to purchase more suits, considering the price is around \$50,000.

6. (11:00) HOTCOG – Emergency Notification System

- Andy Davis presented the final presentation to the committee on the ENS program. He informed the committee that the program has been in place since 2008 and acts as the primary tool for alerting the public about emergency incidents. Alicia Wilson mentioned that she is unaware of Bosque County having Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System capabilities, which each system should provide, and Andy acknowledged that a review of each county's privileges needs to be updated.

C. Review Final Scoring and Accept Priority Rank List

- A brief break in the meeting was held for HOTCOG Staff to calculate the final scores. Andy Davis presented the final score and ranking list to the committee. After discussion from the committee, Buffy Waldie suggested that a motion be made to approve the ranking list as presented. Jeff Watkins made the motion, Robert LaFoy seconded the motion, motioned carried. Further discussion was held between members on how to expend the remaining funds that would be available to the region since roughly \$70,000 was not applied for. Buffy Waldie discussed the potential of giving unapplied funding if awarded to the Bomb Squad Grant and CBRNE Grant. Michael Graham explained that previously, an additional full suit would cost closer to \$50,000. Also, he discussed how if HazMat training was the focus to spend the remaining funding, it might not apply under the CBRNE Grant since its only funding category was equipment. A discussion was held between members to place the funding recommendation under the Regional Planning Grant or the BMAP grant. Tim Jeske acknowledged that in the past, funds were distributed to the regional planning grant to execute contracts with trainers. Alicia Wilson made a motion to fully fund all projects and give any additional funding if it were available in the amounts of \$60,000 to the McLennan County Bomb Squad Grant and \$10,000 to the HOTCOG BMAP Grant. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.

- V. Public Comment**
 - No Public Comment
- VI. Announcements or Future Business Items**
 - A. ICC Sub-Committee Meeting April 29th
- VII. Next EPAC Meeting**
 - 9:30 AM, Wednesday, May 13th, 2026 at HOTCOG
- VIII. Adjournment**
 - Michael Graham made a motion to adjourn, and Alicia Wilson seconded the Motion.