Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting
9:00 AM, Wednesday, February 19th, 2025
HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. **Welcome and Introductions**
   A. Guest Recognition –
   - *Russell Devorsky (HOTCOG)*
   - *Andy Davis (HOTCOG)*
   - *Wayne Stovall (HOTCOG)*
   - *Lana Gudgel (HOTCOG)*
   - *Falen Bohannon (HOTCOG)*
   - *Harold Furguson (HOTCOG)*

   - *Robert Walker (Waco OEM)*
   - *Chris Jackson (Hill County)*
   - *Davis Pruitt (Hillsboro OEM)*
   - *Cody Witt (Waco PD)*
   - *Joshua Fischer (Waco PD)*
   - *Brent Weatherby (Waco FD)*

   B. Member introductions –
   - *Rob Bergerson*
   - *Phillip Cantrell*
   - *Ryan Dirker*
   - *Michael Graham*
   - *Matt Groveton*
   - *Danny Guerra*
   - *Tom Hemrick*
   - *Trace Hendricks*

   - *Robert LaFoy*
   - *Madison Pigg*
   - *Buffy Waldie*
   - *Jeff Watkins*
   - *Heather Wheeler*
   - *Alicia Wilson*
   - *Courtney Wollard*
   - *Jeremy Shipley*

II. **Determination of Quorum**
   - Tom Hemrick confirmed a quorum was present.

III. **Proof of Posting**
   - Andy Davis confirmed proof of posting.

IV. **Public Comment**
   - None

V. **Sub-Committee Reports**
   - None

VI. **Chair's Report**
   - None

VII. **HOTCOG Staff Reports**
   A. SHSP Application/Scoring Overview
   - Andy Davis provided a presentation for the EPAC committee members on the scoring procedures and general flow of the meeting. He addressed which projects will be scored as well as how to consider bonus points and conflict of interest when scoring.

VIII. **New Business - Consideration of and/or Action On**
   A. **State Homeland Security Grant Presentations, Scoring, and Prioritization**
      1. HOTCOG – ENS

- The first presentation of the applications was given by Andy Davis for the Emergency Notification System sponsored by the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. His presentation included the number of notifications and users of the system for the year 2024. Discussion was held between Tom Hemrick, Matt Groveton, and Michael Graham on the cost effectiveness and use case of the current software provider Everbridge. Possible changes to a lower cost system were brought up due to the limited funding available.

   2. City of Waco - Waco SWAT Team Robot
- Cody Witt from Waco PD presented for the Waco SWAT Robot application. According to Officer Witt, the arm for the SWAT robot is nonfunctioning which essentially renders the entire robot useless. Waco PD has attempted to fix the robot but due to the old equipment this is no longer an option. Waco SWAT is a regional asset and will respond out in the region if needed. Discussion was held between board members, guests, and presenters on the credibility of the company that the new robot would be purchased through. Consensus is that the robot Waco SWAT is looking to purchase is high quality and widely used.

   3. Bosque County - Bosque County EOC Physical Security Enhancements
- Alicia Wilson from Bosque County OEM presented the application, which focused on the improvement of security for the County EOC by installing a comprehensive security camera system and an 8ft. perimeter fence for the facility. Tom Hemrick questioned the price of the cameras and explained how Hill County uses the same vendor for a variety of locations.

   4. HOTCOG – Regional Planning
- Wayne Stovall from HOTCOG provided a presentation highlighting the various planning activities that the COG HS Department are able to organize locally and through training with state and federal agencies. Matt Groveton praised the work that HOTCOG does and explained the significance they have in the local jurisdictions. Tom Hemrick and Wayne Stovall discussed the reasoning behind the increase in application amount for this year with Wayne citing the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and indirect rate increases.

   5. HOTCOG - Regional Citizen Corps Program
- Andy Davis from HOTCOG presented the Regional CCP Program, more specifically the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) component of that program. He explained what the region has been able to accomplish in the past year for expanding and bolstering local teams. Matt Groveton sparked a conversation with Buffy Waldie about the success of CERT in her program. Buffy as well as Ryan Dirker, and Tom Hemrick explained the success they have had in organizing CERT Teams.

   6. HOTCOG - Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program
- Lana Gudgel from HOTCOG presented the BMAP presentation that COG has sponsored for the past 3 years. BMAP has provided public outreach opportunities for preventing the sale of bomb making materials. Additionally, BMAP has brought specialized training to the region. Multiple members and guests explained the importance of having programs like this to prevent bombing incidents in the region. Michael Graham, who is also a part of the McLennan County Bomb Squad explained the significance this program has.

   7. City of Waco - CBRNE Equipment

- Brent Weatherby from Waco Fire HAZMAT presented the City of Waco Fire application for a new RedWave gas and chemical analyzer. This equipment allows Waco's HAZMAT Team to analyze Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TICs) and determine what exact hazard they are facing. Tom Hemrick questioned the end of life for such equipment.

   8. McLennan County – Bomb Squad Grant

- Michael Graham presented the McLennan County application for a new x-ray panel for bomb detection and a year's worth of access to WMD Tech online training. The WMD Tech platform will allow bomb technicians to access an expansive catalog of training online that helps meet the required training minimums set by the state and federal government. Many board members asked how the training platform would operate and why the cost seems expensive for the relatively small group of users. Michael also explained that between the two items listed in the grant that online training is preferred to be funded over the x-ray panel.
- After the final presentation, a short recess was held as COG staff computed the final rankings of the applications according to scoring. Andy Davis proceeded to present the final ranking of the following:
  - o 1. HOTCOG – ENS (96.5)
  - o 2. HOTCOG – CCP (93.07)
  - o 3. McLennan County – Bomb Squad Grant (91.62)
  - o 4. HOTCOG – Regional Planning (89.07)
  - o 5. HOTCOG – BMAP (88.67)
  - o 6. City of Waco – SWAT Robot (87.62)
  - o 7. City of Waco – CBRNE Equipment (85.33)
  - o 8. Bosque County – EOC Security (72.54)
- Jeremy Shipley made a motion to accept the ranking of the applications according to their respective score and recommend for each at full funding. Trace Hendricks Seconded the motion, a vote was held and the motion passed.
- Tom Hemrick went on to stress the importance of finding ways to remain fiscally responsible as the funds for this specific grant program shrink year after year.

IX. **Announcements or Future Business Items**
- None

X. **Next EPAC Meeting**
Wednesday, March 12th, 2025, 9:30 AM at the HOTCOG Office

XI. **Adjournment**

- Tom Hemrick made a motion to adjourn, Danny Guerra seconded the motion. Motioned passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.