

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday
February 26, 2026
10:30 AM**

*Heart of Texas
Council of Governments
Offices
1514 South New Road
Waco, Texas*



Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Vice-President

Mayor Protem Andrea Barefield
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MCLENNAN**

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments will meet on Thursday, the 26th Day of February 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, 1514 South New Road, Waco, Texas at which time the following subjects will be considered.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum
- II. Proof of Posting of notice in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.
- III. Introduction of Guests
- IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:
 - A. 1. Approval of the January 22, 2026 meeting minutes
 - B. New Business
 - 1. FY2025 Audit Report, Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance and HOTCOG's comments
 - 2. FY2027 HOTCOG Regional Planning Grant and Resolution Approval
 - 3. FY2027 HOTCOG Regional Emergency Notification & Resolution Approval
 - 4. FY2027 HOTCOG Regional Citizen Corps Grant & Resolution Approval
 - C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff
 - 1. Department of Administration
 - a. Financial and Personnel Report
 - 2. Regional Services
 - a. Department Activities Report

PAGE

1

8

10

12

14

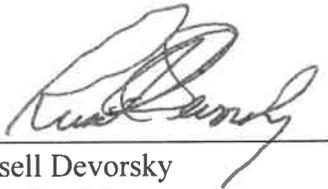
16

21

PAGE

- 31 3. Health & Human Services
 a. Department Activities Report
4. Executive Director's Report
- 42 VI. Other Reports – Law Enforcement Training Attendees Report
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Adjournment

Signed this the 20th Day of February 2026.



Russell Devorsky
Executive Director



Judge Richard Duncan
President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Secretary/Treasurer

Councilman Jimmy Rogers
Vice-President

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee, in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, met in regular session, on Thursday, the 22nd Day of January, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Waco Hilton Hotel, Grande Executive Boardroom, 113 South University Parks Drive, Waco, Texas, at which time the following subjects were considered.

Members Present

Judge Richard Duncan, *President*
Councilmember Jimmy Rogers, *Vice-President*
Judge Cindy Vanlandingham, *Sec.-Treas.*
Mayor Jim Holmes
Mayor Geary Smith
Judge Jay Elliott
Commissioner Nita Wuebker
Commissioner Jim Smith
Mayor Janice Sanders
Judge Lloyd Lane
Co. Treasurer Mandy Chavers
Judge Shane Brassell
Judge Scott Felton
Mayor Protem Andrea Barefield

Limestone County
City of Robinson
Bosque County
City of Waco
City of Mexia
Falls County
Falls County
McLennan County
City of Whitney
Freestone County
Freestone County
Hill County
McLennan County
City of Waco

Members Absent

Mr. Calvin Rueter
Commissioner Terry Townley

Special Districts
Bosque County

Staff Present

Russell Devorsky
Michelle Vasquez
John Vorderkunz
Mary McDow
Dorthy Jackson
Falen Bohannon
Kristine Hill
Wayne Stovall
Rep Pledger

Executive Director
Director of Finance and Administration
Director of Health & Human Services
HR Manager
Regional Economic Development Manager
Solid Waste/Economic Development Coord.
911 Coordinator
Homeland Security/CJ Manager
Transportation Manager

Visitor's Present:

Amy Teal, Alderman
Baylor Class

City of Whitney
Baylor University

- I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum
The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 22, 2026.
- II. Proof of Posting of notice in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Proof of posting of the January 22, 2026 Executive Committee meeting was provided by Mary McDow.

- III. Introduction of Guests – Guests and staff were introduced.

- IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:

- A. Approval of the October 23, 2025 meeting minutes
Approval of the December 18, 2025 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mayor Geary Smith to approve the October 23, 2025 and December 18, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

- B. Executive Session

1. In accordance with Chapter 551.074, Texas Government Code, as amended, the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee will convene into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

The Executive Committee convened into Executive Session at 10:03 a.m.

2. Return to Open Session to consider decisions and/or take action relating to personnel matters.

The Executive Committee returned to open session at 10:23 a.m. on January 22, 2026. A motion was made by Judge Scott Felton and seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Rogers to authorize the Executive Director to access the contingency funds or loan from the Heart of Texas Economic Development District to cover the ENS Grant application. Motion passed. The motion was amended to include the amount of \$42,000. Motion passed.

C. New Business

1. Approval of 9-1-1 Service Agreement with OnShoreIT for managed services

Mrs. Kristine Hill presented a request for authorization to approve expenditures of \$113,640 for managing and maintaining the HOTCOG 9-1-1 network infrastructure. Mrs. Hill noted that managed services play a vital role in continuously maintaining our 9-1-1 system, networks and applications to identify and address issues before they escalate into major problems; and resolve them in a timely manner. This approach minimizes downtime and helps maintain consistent performance of the overall HOTCOG 9-1-1 Network. Please note the services will be procured through Purchasing Solutions Alliance (PSA) Contract 24-204-OSI.

A motion was made by Falls County Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Freestone County Judge Lloyd Lane to approve the authorization for the Executive Director to sign the service agreement with OnShoreIT for managed services with cost expenditures totaling \$113,640. Motion passed.

2. Approval of Air Quality Contract with Consultant

Ms. Falen Bohannon stated that HOTCOG had received the Air Quality contract for FY26/27 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and an RFQ has been sent out to seek qualified consultants who are familiar with the execution of Air Quality deliverables in Texas. Ms. Bohannon noted that due to time constraints of contract requirements of TCEQ, staff request the approval of the Air Quality contract and award of qualified consultant that will be determined in early February. The contract amount is \$281,250 with consultant fee of \$253,125.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mayor Geary Smith to authorize staff to review all request for qualifications (RFQ) for an Air Quality consultant(s) that include an Air Quality Scope of Work contracted between the Heart of Texas Council of Governments and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; to seek qualified consultants who are familiar with the execution of Air Quality deliverables in Texas, for TCEQ, of the type(s) required in our Scope of Work; to approve that consultant that is best qualified in the amount of \$253,125. Motion passed.

3. Regional Broadband & Digital Opportunity Steering Committee Establishment and Resolution

Mrs. Dorthy Jackson stated that HOTCOG is expected to receive funding through the Texas Regional Broadband Program administered by the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) in partnership with the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO). The program supports regional broadband and digital opportunity planning activities. This request is to formally authorize the Executive Director to accept the funding and to establish

a Regional Broadband & Digital Opportunity Steering Committee to provide guidance and regional leadership for the development of the Heart of Texas Regional Digital Opportunity Plan through the Resolution presented.

A motion was made by Mayor Geary Smith and seconded by Mayor Janice Sanders to authorize the Executive Director and/or designee to accept funding and approve the establishment of the HOTCOG Regional Broadband & Digital Opportunity Steering Committee and authorize staff to proceed with implementation of the Regional Digital Opportunity Plan with the approval of Resolution presented. Motion passed.

4. Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Appointments

Mr. Wayne Davis presented recommendations for appointments to serve on the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee for two-year terms:

Trace Hendricks, Bosque County Sheriff
Brian Messman, Falls County
Steve Smith, Falls County Sheriff's Office
John Sutton, Freestone County
Michael Graham, McLennan County

A motion was made by Commissioner Nita Wuebker and seconded by Mayor Geary Smith to approve the recommendations above to serve on the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee. Motion passed.

5. FY2027 State Emergency Radio Infrastructure Grant Application and Resolution Approval

Mr. Wayne Stovall stated that the Governor's Office solicits applications for projects supporting emergency communications infrastructure during the state fiscal year 2027 and 2028 grant period. HOTCOG will request funds for the Heart of Texas Region to support emergency radio infrastructure projects with funds provided by this grant. Under the grant contract, the HOTCOG will be responsible for the following:

- Coordinate, plan and procure necessary communications infrastructure equipment to enhance public safety within the HOTCOG Region;
- Facilitate the building and installation of communications infrastructure equipment; and
- Transfer ownership of completed projects to the local jurisdiction.

A motion was made by Judge Scott Felton and seconded by Commissioner Jim Smith that the Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to submit an application to the Public Safety Office of the Office of the Governor for FY 2027-2028 State Emergency Radio Infrastructure funding through the following resolution. Motion passed.

6. Bomb Making Materials Awareness Grant Application and Resolution

Mr. Stovall stated the Homeland Security Division of the Governor's Office solicits applications for projects supporting the Bomb Making Materials Awareness Program during the state fiscal year 2026 grant cycle. HOTCOG will request funds in the amount of \$50,805.32 for the Heart of Texas Region BMMAP Program from September 1, 2026, through October 30, 2027. Under the grant contract, HOTCOG will be responsible for the following:

- Public Awareness training
- Attending all current BMMAP related training
- Law Enforcement training
- Emergency Preparedness training

A motion was made by Mayor Geary Smith and seconded by Commissioner Jim Smith that the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to submit an application to the Governor's Office for FY 2026 Bomb Making Materials Awareness funding through the resolution presented. Motion passed.

7. FY2027 Juvenile Justice Alternatives Grant Application and Resolution

Mr. Stovall stated the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office solicits applications for projects supporting mental health counseling services during the state fiscal year 2026 grant cycle. The Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) will request funds for the Heart of Texas Region Purchase of Juvenile Justice Alternatives Program from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027. Under the grant contract, the HOTCOG will be responsible for the following:

- preparing contracts with each of the six counties within the HOTCOG region that will be receiving grant funds to provide juvenile mental health counseling services;
- reimburse each of the six county's juvenile probation departments for juvenile mental health counseling services provided; and
- receive reporting documents and provide grant management, including submitting project quarterly and/or progress reports as required.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nita Wuebker and seconded by Councilmember Jimmy Rogers that the HOTCOG Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to submit an application to the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office for FY 2027 Juvenile Justice Program funding through the following resolution. Motion passed.

8. FY2027 State Crisis Intervention Grant and Resolution

Mr. Stovall stated that the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office solicited applications for projects supporting the State Crisis Intervention Program during the state fiscal year 2025 grant cycle. The Heart of Texas Council of

Governments (HOTCOG) requested funds for the Heart of Texas Region Crisis Intervention Training Program from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027. Under the grant contract, HOTCOG will be responsible for the following:

- Crisis Intervention / Mental Health Training
- Law Enforcement training
- Emergency Preparedness training

A motion was made by Commissioner Jim Smith and seconded by Judge Lloyd Lane that the HOTCOG Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to submit an application to the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office for FY 2027 State Crisis Intervention Grant Program funding through the resolution presented. Motion passed.

9. Recommendation of Officers and Executive Committee members for 2026

Judge Jay Elliott presented a list of recommendations for Executive Committee Officers and members for 2026:

President: Councilmember Jimmy Rogers, City of Robinson

Vice-President: Judge Cindy Vanlandingham, Bosque County

Secretary-Treas.: Mayor Protem Andrea Barefield, City of Waco

Members:

Judge Richard Duncan, Limestone County Judge

Judge Jay Elliott, Falls County Judge

Judge Lloyd Lane, Freestone County Judge

Judge Shane Brassell, Hill County Judge

Judge Scott Felton, McLennan County Judge

Commissioner Jim Smith, McLennan County

Mayor Geary Smith, City of Mexia

Commissioner Nita Wuebker, Falls County

Mayor Jim Holmes, City of Waco

Mr. Calvin Rueter, Special Districts

Mayor Janice Sanders, City of Whitney

County Treasurer Mandy Chavers

Commissioner Terry Townley

A motion was made by Mayor Geary Smith and seconded by Mayor Jim Holmes to approve the recommendations for the HOTCOG Executive Committee Officers and Members for 2026 and further recommend approval at the HOTCOG Council Representatives Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

D. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

1. Department of Administration

a. Financial, Personnel and Investment Reports

Ms. Michelle Vasquez presented the Financial, Personnel and Investment reports to the committee.

2. Regional Services
 - a. Department Activities Report

Mrs. Jackson presented the activities of the Economic and Community Development Staff report. Mrs. Jackson noted that HOTCOG staff is assisting the Cities of Hubbard, Clifton, Marlin, Hillsboro and Hill College with possible Readiness and Implementation Grants (construction) from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

3. Health & Human Services
 - a. Department Activities Report

-Mr. John Vorderkunz presented the summary of activities for the programs of the Health and Human Services division including the Area Agency on Aging, the Aging and Disability Resource Center and the Heart of Texas 2-1-1 Information and Referral.

-Mr. Rep Pledger gave a summary of activities of the Heart of Texas Rural Transportation program.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Devorsky gave a summary of upcoming activities of the COG for the year. Mr. Devorsky noted the Broadband grant program coordinated by the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) in partnership with the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) will enhance the capacity of regional councils of governments (COGs) to spearhead regional digital opportunity strategies and local broadband planning. The reimbursement grant will provide participating COGs an annual allocation of approximately \$100,000 for each of the three-year program years. HOTCOG will also have the opportunity to submit an application to receive funding to manage the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Mr. Devorsky noted that the Council Representatives Annual Meeting and Luncheon is at noon. Representative Pat Curry will be presented with the HOTCOG Freshman of Year award. It was noted that staff member Mr. John Minnix retired as of December 31, 2025 and would be presented with an award for his dedicated service of 47 years. Staff member Debbie Jones will retire from the COG, March 31, 2026 after a combined service of 17 years.

V. Other Reports - None

VI. Public Comment - None

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11 :30 a.m.

Honorable Jimmy Rogers, President
Councilmember, City of Robinson

Hon. Cindy Vanlandingham, Sec-Treas.
County Judge, Bosque County

ACTION MEMORANDUM

HEART OF TEXAS
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

February 26, 2026

SUBJECT: FY 2025 Audit Report, Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance and HOTCOG's comments

INFORMATION:

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments Fiscal Year 2025 Audit Report and the Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance received from Pattillo, Brown and Hill will be presented for your information and review. As a part of the audit process, HOTCOG is required to respond to audit findings and/or recommendations, if any, as noted in the Audit and the Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance. It should be noted that HOTCOG did not have any findings or questioned costs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee accept the FY 2025 Audit Report and the Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance and authorize the Executive Director to forward copies of said reports to the appropriate Federal and State agencies.

HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

1. Audit Report Findings and Questioned Costs (page 48)

None.

2. The Auditors Communication Letter to those charged with governance, Audit Findings or Issues

None.

ACTION MEMORANDUM

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

February 26, 2026

SUBJECT: FY 2027 HOTCOG Regional Planning Grant

INFORMATION:

The Public Safety Division of the Governor's Office solicited applications for projects supporting the State Homeland Security Grant Program during the state fiscal year 2026-2027 grant cycle. The Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) requested funds for the Heart of Texas Regional Planning Grant from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027.

ACTION:

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee authorizes the Executive Director to submit an application to the Public Safety Division of the Governor's Office for HOTCOG Regional Planning Grant funding through the following resolution.



Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Vice-President

Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Barefield
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

**Heart of Texas
Council of Governments**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the Heart of Texas Region that the Regional Homeland Security Planning Program be operated for the fiscal year 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments designates the Executive Director as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments designates the Director of Finance & Administration as the grantee's financial officer. The financial officer is given the power to submit financial and/or programmatic reports or alter a grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments approves submission of the grant application for the Regional Homeland Security Planning Program to the Office of the Governor.

Passed and approved this ____ of _____, _____.

Signed: _____
Jimmy Rogers, President
Councilmember, City of Robinson

ACTION MEMORANDUM

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

February 26, 2026

SUBJECT: FY 2027 HOTCOG Regional Emergency Notification Grant

INFORMATION:

The Public Safety Division of the Governor's Office solicited applications for projects supporting the State Homeland Security Grant Program during the state fiscal year 2026-2027 grant cycle. The Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) requested funds for the Heart of Texas Regional Emergency Notification System from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027.

ACTION:

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee authorizes the Executive Director to submit an application to the Public Safety Division of the Governor's Office for HOTCOG Emergency Notification System Grant funding through the following resolution.



Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Vice-President

Mayor Protem Andrea Barefield
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas
Council of Governments

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Government finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the Heart of Texas Region that the Regional Emergency Notification System Program be operated for the fiscal year 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments designates the Executive Director as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments designates the Director of Finance & Administration as the grantee's financial officer. The financial officer is given the power to submit financial and/or programmatic reports or alter a grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Government approves submission of the grant application for the Regional Emergency Notification System Program to the Office of the Governor.

Passed and approved this ____ of _____, _____.

Signed: _____
Jimmy Rogers, President
Councilmember, City of Robinson

ACTION MEMORANDUM

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

February 26, 2026

SUBJECT: FY 2027 HOTCOG Regional Citizen Corps. Grant

INFORMATION:

The Public Safety Division of the Governor's Office solicited applications for projects supporting the State Homeland Security Grant Program during the state fiscal year 2026-2027 grant cycle. The Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) requested funds for the Heart of Texas Regional Citizen Corps. Program from March 1, 2027, through February 28, 2028.

ACTION:

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee authorizes the Executive Director to submit an application to the Public Safety Division of the Governor's Office for HOTCOG Regional Citizen Corps. Grant funding through the following resolution.



Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
President

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Vice-President

Mayor Protem Andrea Barefield
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

**Heart of Texas
Council of Governments**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the Heart of Texas Region that the Regional Citizen Corps. Program be operated for the fiscal year 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Government assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments designates the Executive Director as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments designates Director of Finance & Administration as the grantee's financial officer. The financial officer is given the power to submit financial and/or programmatic reports or alter a grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments approves submission of the grant application for the Regional Citizen Corps. Program to the Office of the Governor.

Passed and approved this _____, _____.

Signed: _____
Jimmy Rogers, President
Councilmember, City of Robinson

Administrative Services Department

Financial / Personnel Reports

Executive Committee Meeting

February 26, 2026

**Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Balance Sheet
January 31, 2026**

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 97,841
Investments	1,457,868
Due (to)/from Grantor Agencies	661,201
Membership Dues Receivables	6,400
Aging Match Receivables	471
Other Receivables	1,174
Pre-Paid Items	-
	<u>2,224,955</u>

Fixed Assets

Building	2,867,509
Land	690,000
Furniture & Equipment	3,541,696
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(4,869,940)</u>
	2,229,265

Total Assets \$ 4,454,220

Liabilities

Current

Accounts Payable	51,795
Due to HOTEDD	1,117,263
Accrued Vacation	150,708
Deferred Revenue	73,729
	<u>1,393,495</u>

Long-term Liabilities

Notes Payable	<u>-</u>
---------------	----------

Total Liabilities \$ 1,393,495

Fund Equity

Investments in Fixed Assets, net of related debt	2,229,265
Nonspendable-prepaid items	-
Restricted for Emergency Notification System	618
Restricted for Federal & State programs	117,303
Unassigned	<u>713,539</u>

Total Fund Equity \$ 3,060,725

Total Liabilities & Fund Equity \$ 4,454,220

Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
& Changes in Fund Balance
For Four Months Ended January 31, 2026

Revenues	Year To Date	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	12 Month Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Grants administered from State/Federal	\$ 2,765,193	\$ 2,232,827	\$ 532,366	\$ 6,698,480	\$ 3,933,287
Rent-WF Bldg	161,445	\$ 161,445	(0)	484,336	322,891
Local Funds/Mgt. Fees	63,776	\$ 49,304	14,472	147,911	84,135
Membership Dues	-	\$ 20,634	(20,634)	61,902	61,902
Inkind Match/Program Income	7,464	\$ 203,667	(196,203)	611,000	603,536
Interest Income	3,427	\$ 4,031	(604)	12,093	8,666
Miscellaneous Income	2,994	\$ 8,267	(5,273)	24,800	21,806
Total Revenues	\$ 3,004,299	\$ 2,680,174	\$ 324,125	\$ 8,040,522	\$ 5,036,223
Expenditures					
Salaries	345,220	359,960	14,740	1,079,879	734,659
Fringe Benefits	187,178	200,608	13,430	601,824	414,646
Travel	12,747	21,243	8,496	63,730	50,983
Equipment	1,106,237	174,933	(931,304)	524,800	(581,437)
Supplies	1,976	12,617	10,641	37,850	35,874
Other Expenses	11,908	82,581	70,673	247,744	235,836
Delegate Agency/Contractual Costs	875,658	1,163,668	288,010	3,491,004	2,615,346
Indirect Costs	325,230	329,688	4,458	989,065	663,835
Insurance/Maintenance-WF Bldg	18,502	30,667	12,165	92,000	73,498
Inkind Match/Program Income	-	183,333	183,333	550,000	550,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,884,656	\$ 2,559,299	\$ (325,357)	\$ 7,677,896	\$ 4,793,240
Changes in Fund Balance					
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	119,643			362,626	
Transfers-Due (to)/from HOTEDD	(118,164)			(347,183)	
Net Change in Fund Balances	1,479			15,443	
Fund Balances as of October 1, 2025	831,155				
Fund Balances as of January 31, 2026	\$ 832,634				

**Heart of Texas Council of Governments
Monthly Report of Cash Transactions and Condition
As of January 31, 2026**

	<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>Short Term Investments</u>	<u>Total Cash</u>
Beginning Balance 1/1/26	\$ 211,141	\$ 1,283,517	\$ 1,494,658
Transactions			
Cash In	1,567,340	4,328	1,571,668
Cash (Out)	<u>(1,510,617)</u>	<u> </u>	<u>(1,510,617)</u>
Net Income (Outlay)	56,723	4,328	61,051
Net Transfers In (Out)	<u>(170,023)</u>	<u>170,023</u>	<u> </u>
Net Total Transactions	<u>(113,300)</u>	<u>174,351</u>	<u>61,051</u>
Ending Balance 1/31/26	<u><u>\$ 97,841</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,457,868</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,555,709</u></u>

**HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PERSONNEL STATUS SUMMARY
AS OF February 20, 2026**

NUMBER OF POSITIONS AUTHORIZED BY GRANT/FUND BUDGETS 31

NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED 31

As of February 20, 2026, HOTCOG had no vacancies as referenced by the number of positions authorized and filled. The following is a departmental breakout of the above figures:

PEOPLE EMPLOYED

<u>Department</u>	<u>Positions Authorized</u>	<u>Regular Fulltime</u>	<u>Temporary Fulltime</u>	<u>Regular & Temporary Part-Time</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Executive/ Admin. Services	6	6	0	0	0
Regional Services	8	7	0	1	0
Health and Human Services	17	17	0	0	0
<u>Totals</u>	31	30	0	1	0

REGIONAL SERVICES REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

9-1-1

HOTCOG 9-1-1 IP Network (Next-Generation 9-1-1)

Members of the TriCOG 9-1-1 Alliance (BVCOG, CTCOG and HOTCOG) continue to collaborate with network consultants and equipment vendors to maintain a robust network. The TriCOG Alliance maintains its partnership with Mission Critical Partners (MCP) for NextGen Core Services (NGCS) Consulting and Cybersecurity Support. MCP follows a scope of work identifying tasks to assist the TriCOG with technical issues to include Project/Task Management and support. Members of the TriCOG participate in regularly scheduled conference calls to discuss ongoing NGCS projects and planning for the future of the regional networks. In addition, project planning calls with Motorola Solutions Connectivity, Inc. are held weekly, and discussions include ongoing project deliverables and discussions for upcoming activities.

Enterprise Geospatial Database Management System (EGDMS)

In NG9-1-1 systems, an EGDMS (GIS map data) replaces the traditional Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) for location-based 9-1-1 call routing and location validation. An EGDMS is crucial for the transition to NG9-1-1 because it provides a means to create and maintain data critical to NG9-1-1 success. Staff participated in the Customer Focus Group (CFG) for this project. The CFG was responsible for assisting with the development of the Quality Assurance/Quality Control plan, participating in GIS Data Management collaboration meetings, and assisting in GIS data management workflow development. 9-1-1 staff exceeded the 99% data match rate as recommended by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) with a match rate of 99.99% with no critical errors remaining. HOTCOG has completed the transition to an EGDMS, and staff participants on a focus group for continued implementation across the state.

Text-to-9-1-1

Text-to-9-1-1 is available in the HOTCOG Region as an alternate means of communicating with 9-1-1 for people with a hearing and/or speech disability, or when speaking aloud would put the individual in danger. Text-to-9-1-1 also provides a silent alternative in cases such as child abduction, active shooter, or domestic abuse.

Public Education

There were 200 public education items distributed to the Region for public education and public outreach events.

Meetings/Training/Conference Calls and Site Visits

- PSAP monitoring, Region – February 4-5th
- Vendor project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – February 10th
- CSEC Open Office Hours conference call, HOTCOG – February 11th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – February 11th
- CSEC Salesforce training, HOTCOG – February 19th
- TriCOG project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – February 19th
- MVP NGCS project discussion conference call, HOTCOG – February 23rd

Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness

Grant/COG Projects

- Staff is continuing to work on communications and tower projects for bi-annual State Emergency Radio Infrastructure Program in Bosque County.
- On January 1, 2026 Civic Plus began servicing the HOTCOG Region's Emergency Notification System and staff continues to work with our region to implement the program.

Technical Assistance

- HOTCOG staff has been working with our regional partners and representatives of Civic Plus to implement the new Emergency Notification System.
- Staff attended the Governor's Public Safety Office Conference Calls and keeping updated on the latest information concerning the current SHSP Grant funds which are expected to be released soon.

Criminal Justice

Planning Grant

Lana continues work on planning for the 2026 Strategic planning meetings to update all the community plans for the region.

Lana completed one additional Grant workshop February 10th. Lana met with Limestone County Sheriff's Office to assist with the completion of a grant application for body worn cameras.

Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy Grant

Lana scheduled new courses, Basic Instructor and Intermediate Crime Scene.

Juvenile Justice Alternative

Lana reminded the Juvenile Probation departments that the funds were available for reimbursement for the FY 2026 JJDP Mental Health program.

Crisis Intervention

Lana organized a Crisis Intervention team specialized training for the Display of Hate, Identification of Texas Prison Gang Members, and Hostage Negotiation for Telecommunicators. Lana worked with the Behavior Health Network to secure facilities for Trauma Informed Care training the region.

32 students attended HOTCOG training, totaling 1088 contact training hours since September 2025.

Economic & Community Development Department Staff Report:

February 2026

Revolving Loan Fund

USDA Fund:

- Purpose: Support local businesses for growth, job creation, and regional economic diversification.
- Target: Small and emerging businesses in rural areas of Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and rural McLennan Counties.
- Criteria:
 - Private businesses employing 50 or fewer new employees.
 - Projected gross revenues of less than \$1 million.
 - Preference for businesses in specified rural counties, though exceptions may be made for businesses outside the region with a positive economic impact.
 - Job creation or retention requirement: One full-time job per \$10,000 in loan funding.
 - Ownership: 51% interest in the business must be by U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.
 - Financial necessity: Evidence required that project needs cannot be met by owner resources or commercial financial institutions.
- Available Funds: **\$247,691.00**

TDA Fund (SMRF):

- Purpose: Expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons.
- Target: Small and microenterprise businesses in Falls County.
- Criteria:
 - Microenterprises: Commercial enterprises with five or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise.
 - Small Enterprises: Commercial enterprises with 25 or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the enterprise.
- Available Funds: **\$67,578.60**

Current Loans:

- **Net1:** Received Summary Judgement on Loan.
- **KNV Investments:** Current.

U.S. Economic Development:

Key Economic Development Investments Supported by EDA

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) continues to play a crucial role in fostering economic growth, job creation, and infrastructure development. The following priority investment areas illustrate EDA's commitment to supporting communities through strategic economic initiatives:

Infrastructure and Facility Development

- **Technology-Based Facilities** – Supporting innovation and research hubs to drive economic advancement.
- **Multi-Tenant Manufacturing Facilities** – Enabling flexible manufacturing spaces that enhance industrial productivity.
- **Business and Industrial Parks** – Facilitating the development of business clusters and regional economic hubs.
- **Telecommunication and Development Facilities** – Expanding broadband and communication infrastructure to strengthen connectivity.
- **Water and Sewer System Improvements** – Enhancing critical infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth.

Business and Workforce Development

- **Business Incubator Facilities** – Providing early-stage businesses with essential resources and support.
- **Port and Harbor Expansions** – Strengthening trade and logistics infrastructure to enhance regional commerce.
- **Skill-Training Facilities** – Investing in workforce training programs to meet evolving industry demands.
- **Brownfield Redevelopment** – Restoring and repurposing underutilized or contaminated sites for economic use.

These investments reflect EDA's focus on fostering resilient, innovation-driven, and inclusive economic development across regions. By strategically aligning resources with community needs, EDA continues to enhance economic opportunities and regional competitiveness.

Priorities:

EDA's investment priorities provide an overarching framework to ensure its grant investment portfolio – ranging from planning to infrastructure construction -- contributes to local efforts to build, improve, or better leverage economic assets that allow businesses to succeed and regional economies to prosper and become more resilient. Competitive grant applications will be responsive to the evaluation criteria listed under

each individual funding announcement, including at least one of the below investment priorities.

1. **Critical Infrastructure:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.
2. **Workforce:** Economic Development planning or implementation projects that –
 - a. Support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or
 - b. Otherwise promote labor force participation.
3. **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that –
 - a. Support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure;
 - b. Promote business development and lending; or
 - c. Foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.
4. **Economic Recovery Resilience:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or economic impacts from natural disasters.
5. **Manufacturing:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

U.S. Economic Development Administration Grants

Economic Development Administration (EDA) FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program

(Excluding McLennan County Communities)

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced the **FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program**, providing **\$1.45 billion** in recovery funding. This program is designed to help communities affected by federally declared disasters in **2023 and 2024** not only rebuild but also strengthen long-term resilience and economic outcomes.

Funding Pathways

1. Readiness Path

- **Purpose:** Build capacity for future projects (non-construction).
- **Eligible Activities:** Recovery strategies, disaster coordinators, capacity-building, pre-development planning.
- **Grant Range:** \$250,000 – \$500,000

2. Implementation Path

- **Purpose:** Support immediate recovery and growth through both construction and non-construction projects.
- **Eligible Activities:** Infrastructure, business recovery, community revitalization.
- **Grant Range:**
 - Construction: \$2 million – \$20 million
 - Non-construction: \$100,000 – \$5 million

3. Industry Transformation Path

- **Purpose:** Coalition-led projects to reshape regional economies through industry development.
- **Eligible Activities:** Multi-project portfolios, workforce and infrastructure aligned with industry growth.
- **Grant Range:** \$20 million – \$50 million

Eligible Applicants

- State, local, and Tribal governments
- Economic Development Districts (HOTEDD)
- Higher education institutions
- Economic development organizations
- Public and private non-profits (in partnership with local governments)
- Public-private partnerships for infrastructure

Location Requirements

Projects must:

- Be located in, primarily serve, or benefit areas with **major disaster declarations in 2023 or 2024.**
- Eligible counties/communities in HOTCOG (excluding McLennan) should confirm their status via FEMA's disaster declarations database:
<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations>.

Matching Fund Requirements

- **Standard:** EDA funds up to **80% of project costs**.
- **Exceptions:**
 - Up to 100% for Tribal applicants or severely distressed areas.
 - Coalition projects may distribute match requirements across components.

Application Process

- **Readiness & Implementation Grants:** Accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted or the NOFO is closed.
- **Industry Transformation Grants:** Due **March 3, 2026, by 5:00 PM (ET)**.
- **Submission Portal:** [EDA EDGE Portal](#)
- **Additional Information:** [EDA Disaster Recovery Programs](#)

Recommendations for HOTCOG Region Counties (Excluding McLennan)

1. **Review FEMA Disaster Declaration Eligibility** to confirm county/community qualification.
2. **Assess Project Readiness** – determine if counties/communities are best suited for Readiness, Implementation, or Industry Transformation pathways.
3. **Engage Local Stakeholders** – involve businesses, higher education, and nonprofits to align projects with regional economic needs.
4. **Consider Coalition Applications** – maximize funding potential under Industry Transformation by building multi-county or regional proposals.
5. **Leverage HOTEDD Role** – coordinate county applications under the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Conclusion

This funding opportunity represents a significant chance for HOTCOG counties and communities (outside McLennan) to access federal resources that not only address disaster recovery but also foster **long-term resilience, economic transformation, and regional growth**.

FY 2023 PWEAA Application Submission and Program Requirements:

The FY 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) outlines the process for applying to two core EDA programs under the Public Works and Economic Development Act: the Public Works program and the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program. This NOFO replaces the FY 2020 version and includes updated application requirements.

Key Points:

- **Funding Availability:** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until a new NOFO is issued, the current NOFO is canceled, or all available funds are

allocated. A recent update adds \$5M specifically for indigenous communities and incorporates regulatory changes (2 CFR 200 updates) for new FY25 awards.

- **Program Focus:** EDA emphasizes strategies that leverage regional strengths to foster economic growth, support equity, address workforce needs, and improve climate change resilience.
- **Review Process:** The EDA reviews applications promptly upon receiving complete submissions.
- **Resource Link:** Detailed program and application information is available at <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/346815>.

EDA Planning Grant:

- **Awarded:** Three-year planning grant (2024-2026) at \$210,000 (\$70,000 per year).
- **Purpose:** Fund Economic planning division, support HOTCOG regions CEDS.
- **Administrator:** Dorthy Jackson.
- **Role:** Assists with applications, financial reports, and special conditions submissions.
- **Staff has completed the 2025-2030 CEDS with added emphasis on resiliency component compared to the previous CEDS. *EDA has approved the 2025-2030 CEDS.***

Public Works Grant:

- **2024 Allocation:** Funds expend but apply now for the 2025 allocation starting in October.
- **Requirements:** Submit Forms ED 900B for reporting business activities from the grant.
- **Application Process:** Through EDGE Portal (<https://sfgrants.eda.gov>) and instructions on <https://www.grants.gov>.

Staff helping with possible EDA Disaster grants.

- City of Hubbard
- City of Clifton
- City of Marlin
- City of Hillsboro
- Hill College

Community Development

New Broadband Program:

HOTCOG has been awarded funding through the Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP), funded by the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) and administered

by TARC. HOTCOG will receive \$107,000 per year for three (3) years to support broadband and digital opportunity planning efforts within the region.

This three-year initiative is designed to strengthen broadband access and digital opportunity planning across participating COG regions. The program supports stakeholder engagement and the development of Regional Digital Opportunity Plans aligned with statewide goals. TARC will coordinate the statewide effort, BDO will provide funding and guidance, and COGs will lead local engagement and implementation activities.

HOTCOG will utilize existing staff to administer and manage this grant.

Staff is currently working to identify and organize members for a regional Broadband Committee to guide planning and implementation efforts. Members of the Executive Committee are encouraged to submit recommendations for individuals to serve on the Broadband Committee. Please provide the name and contact information of any recommended individuals to Dorothy Jackson.

Outreach to community stakeholders and regional partners will be ongoing throughout the duration of the project.

GLO Grants:

- Purpose: Development, adoption, and implementation of resilient building codes, flood damage prevention ordinances, and land use plans.
- Current Progress:
 - **City of Mexia:** MRB group has been selected to develop the plan.

TDA Notifications:

- Staff was notified that the new fiscal year 2025-2026 funding will be \$12,476 for technical assistance work.
- HOTCOG is hosting a TDA public input meeting on February 27th at 1:00pm. This is a stakeholder feedback session on behalf of the Texas Department of Agriculture to consult with stakeholders during development of the 2026 One Year Action Plan (OYAP) and other future program updates. The OYAP identifies the intended use of funds received by the TxCDBG program for Program Year 2026. Additionally, TDA staff will provide a summary of TxCDBG program updates and upcoming funding opportunities.

Training:

Staff attended TARC training on February 2nd through the 6th.

Technical Assistance

City of Mexia City of Morgan City of Clifton City of Marlin City of Hubbard	City of Meridian City of Hillsboro Hill College
---	---

Administrative Services

Dorothy Jackson will be providing technical assistance to the City of Clifton for administrative services, primarily supporting financial operations and City Secretary functions. These services will be delivered through an interlocal agreement between HOTCOG and the City of Clifton.

The agreement term is three (3) months, with services provided two (2) days per week. The City of Clifton will compensate HOTCOG for these services in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Solid Waste

Ongoing Activities:

- The Advisory Committee met and has determined the COG Managed projects will be conducted in FY 26 and 27.
- All judges have been contacted and projects have been determined.
- Bosque County and McLennan Counties will hold the first round of Community Collection Projects. First one starts in May.

Air Quality

Ongoing Activities:

- Ramboll was chosen to conduct all technical studies for the upcoming FY26/27 biennium.
- Ramboll/HOTCOG contract is in place
- Scope of work has been sent to TCEQ for comments.

Health and Human Services Division

January 2026 Program Activity

for

Executive Committee Meeting on February 26, 2026

Health and Human Services Division

The following is a summary of the activities for the programs in the Health and Human Services Division of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND ACTIVITY

John Vorderkunz – Director

The Health and Human Services Division (HHS) is one of two divisions of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. The HHS division is made up of four different and distinct program areas 1) Area Agency on Aging; 2) Aging and Disability Resource Center; 3) Heart 2-1-1; and 4) Rural Transit District which primarily serves and works with individuals and family members who need assistance through either information or services. Below are the four program descriptions and activities.

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY COUNTY

Health & Human Services Division - Total Individuals Served by County							
	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
ALL AAA & ADRC PROGRAMS	317	253	362	293	288	3288	4801

1. Heart of Texas Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

Jan Enders – Special Programs and Outreach Manager
 Ursula Johnson - Managing Local Ombudsman
 Donnis Cowan - Contract Quality Assurance Specialist
 Rose Contreras – Senior Benefits Counseling
 Tiffany Soto – Senior Program Coordinator/Dementia Care Specialist

- 1 of 28 Area Agency on Aging contractors designated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).
- Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan.
- Provides access to needed social services, effective screening and assessment of individual needs, and advocacy for older persons (age 60 and older), their family members, or other caregivers.
- Directly administers services including benefits counseling, care coordination, caregiver support coordination, and long-term care ombudsman services.
- Contracts with service providers throughout the region to provide nutrition (congregate and home-delivered meals), homemaker care, respite care, personal assistance, minor home repairs, health education classes, and caregiver counseling to caregivers and their loved ones.
- All programs are operated under all policies and procedures.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND PROGRAM ACTIVITY

PUBLIC INFORMATION – MEDIA ACTIVITIES
John Vorderkunz

SOCIAL MEDIA DATA				
POSTS	IMPRESSIONS	AVG IMP PER POST	MOST IMPRESSIVE POST (highest imp count)	
24	481	20	157	

SPECIAL PROJECTS/OUTREACH
Jan Enders - Manager

Outreach is intended to identify vulnerable, hard-to-reach individuals. The AAA conducts outreach to people who may be eligible for Aging Services, especially older individuals, residing in rural areas, with the greatest economic or social needs.

Outreach - Individuals Reached, January 2026							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Presentations - Medicare						1213	1213
Medicare Fraud SMP						1213	1213
Resource Guides	180	180	180	180	180	300	1380
Grand Total	180	180	180	180	180	2726	3806

Executive Committee Assistance Requested: The Area Agency on Aging would like to speak to your communities regarding our programs. To schedule an event in your county please call 254-292-1855.

BENEFITS ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS
Jan Enders – Special Programs Manager
Rose Contreras - Senior Benefits Counselor

The Benefits Counseling program primarily provides financial-related assistance and Medicare/Medicaid-related services to clients through Legal Assistance (one-on-one) and Legal Awareness (groups) events. We continue to see a growing need for Benefits Counseling for the senior population and added emphasis has been placed on expanding the services of this program.

Area Agency on Aging Services - Benefits / Sept 2025							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Benefits Counseling - Medicare, Extra Help, Health Ins, & Social Security - Hours	11.06	5.81		7.66	3.12	53.42	81.07

CASE MANAGEMENT TYPE PROGRAMS

Tiffany Soto & Rose Contreras

The Care Coordination and Caregiver Support Coordination programs empower senior citizens age 60 and older and their family caregivers to maintain their independence, freedom, and dignity by identifying needs and arranging social services required for living independently. These programs include Case Management; In-Home Care – Homemaker – Personal Assistance – Caregiver Respite; REACH-TX; Rolling Walkers; Grab bars; Minor Residential Repair; and Wheelchair ramps.

Area Agency on Aging Services							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Care Coordination - Connecting Individuals to Services - Hours	5.03		3.25	5.57		41.07	54.92
Callers for Assistance	1		2		1	10	14
Personal Assistance - Hours	3.50					7.00	10.50
Residential Repair - dients						2.00	2.00

CASE MANAGEMENT TYPE PROGRAMS

Tiffany Soto – Senior Program Coordinator/Dementia Care Specialist

The Caregiver Support Coordination programs empower senior citizens age 60 and older and their family caregivers to maintain their independence, freedom, and dignity by identifying needs and arranging social services required for living independently.

These programs include Case Management; In-Home Care – Homemaker – Personal Assistance – Caregiver Respite; REACH-TX; Rolling Walkers; Grab bars; Minor Residential Repair; and Wheelchair ramps.

REACH-TX (Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer’s Caregiver Health) assists caregivers manage their health and well-being. REACH-TX is for family and friend caregivers of persons living with Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementia. With the assistance of a trained and certified Dementia Care Specialist and Caregiver’s Notebook this program is known to decrease the caregiver’s depression; decrease the caregiver’s burden, improve the level of social support, and improve the capability to take care of the caregiver’s health and well-being.

Area Agency on Aging Services							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Caregiver Support Coordination Connecting Caregivers to Services - Hours	5.03		0.67	6.20	7.17	44.82	63.89
Respite care - in-home care to caregivers loved ones - Hours						16.50	16.50
Evidence Based Intervention: REACH for Dementia Caregivers - clients						1	1

NUTRITION PROGRAMS – Congregate (CM) & Home Delivered Meals (HDM)

The nutrition program is our single largest program and impacts the greatest number of individuals in the greatest geographical coverage in our service area. We have four nutrition subrecipients that serve the nutritional needs of the elderly in the six-county service area.

Area Agency on Aging Nutrition							
Meals Funding Source	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Congregate Meals	CM	CM	CM	CM	CM	CM	CM
Area Agency on Aging	281	160	804	218	243	2056	3762
Home Delivered Meals	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM	HDM
Area Agency on Aging	873	801	1349	1085	1011	4528	9647
Grand Total	1291	1204	3123	1795	1743	12458	21614

Executive Committee Assistance Requested: The Ombudsman Program would like your assistance in locating volunteers to visit long-term and assisted living facilities in your community. Please have individuals call Lynda Mitchell at 254-313-7089.

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Ursula Johnson – Managing Local Ombudsman

- Through direct advocacy the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program utilizes volunteers and staff to achieve the best possible quality of life for approximately 4,500 residents in 35 nursing homes and 21 assisted living facilities in our service area.
- Provided ongoing support and training for certified volunteers.
- Participate in monthly HHS webinars.
- Participate in weekly activity meetings with Patty Ducayet, State Long Term Care Ombudsman, and her staff.
- Serve as a resource to inquirers regarding changing facilities or moving to facilities in our region.

Ombudsman Program							
Services	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Long Term Care Facility Visits	0	2	1	4	1	3	11
Assisted Living Facility Visits	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Surveys	0	2	1	1	0	7	11
Education & Consultations	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Resident Council Meetings	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Resident Discharge Appeal/s	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	0	4	2	8	1	14	29

2. Heart of Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Eric Hobbs – Housing Navigator
Debbie Jones – Resource Navigator

- The ADRC model is a “way of doing business” that is intended to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of individuals looking for long-term services and support.
- Provides information and assistance to individuals (including those with multiple, complex needs) about local programs and resources as they relate to aging or living with a disability, to older individuals, individuals of any age with disabilities, family caregivers, veterans, and families with children with special needs, all without regard to income levels.
- The primary purpose is to provide information to help individuals live within their community if possible.
- Operating a broad-based coalition consisting of the Area Agency on Aging, local Health and Human Services, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services, Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Heart of Texas 2-1-1, and Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Center.
- HOTCOG serves as the Lead Agency/Fiscal Agent and has the responsibility as contract administrator.
- Serves six counties including Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan.
- 1 of 25 designated ADRCs by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

ADRC Outreach Activities

Outreach is intended to identify vulnerable, hard-to-reach individuals. The ADRC conducts outreach to people who may be eligible for Aging and Disability Services.

Outreach - Individuals Reached							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Grand Total
Presentations	1	1	1	1	1	5	10
Outreach - Healthfairs	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Roundtable - Tabletalks	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Grand Total	3	3	3	3	3	7	20

ADRC Call Activity

Connecting older adults and individuals with disabilities with long-term care and support services. Callers were assisted with Community Resources. (cont'd.)

ADRC Call Activity - Jan 2026							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Freestone	Hill	Limestone	McL C	Grand Total
AAA Referrals							0
Housing				1		1	2
In Home Care	1		1	1		22	25
Medicare / medicaid/ SNAP	2	1	1	3	1	25	33
Medical Equipment	1					5	6
Minor Home Repair	1	2		2	1	3	9
Nursing Home				1			1
Rent Payment Assist						1	1
Transportation						1	1
Utilities Payment Assist						2	2
Other Community Resources	1		3	1	1	21	27
Grand Total	6	3	5	9	3	81	107

Heart of Texas Area Information Center (AIC) – (HOT 2-1-1)

John Vorderkunz – Director of Health & Human Services

Amy Rossow: Program Manager, Emergency Management & Outreach
Coordinator

Joanna Whitehouse: Resource Manager, Advocacy Specialist, Social Media
Specialist, and Emergency Management Personnel

Marcy Whiddon – Sr. Information & Referral Contact Specialist and Database
Specialist

Belinda Arocha – Sr. Bilingual Information & Referral Contact Specialist

Donnis Cowan – Quality Assurance Contract Specialist

The 2-1-1 program is a nationwide “free” social service phone helpline answered by highly trained contact specialists who listen to caller’s needs and provide resources and information to assist in meeting their needs. **The Heart of Texas 2-1-1 was recently awarded a 5-year Re-Accreditation by Inform USA.** The contact specialists attempt to identify at least 3 resources for each identified need. It is the caller’s responsibility to reach out to each agency and provide any additional information requested for consideration for assistance through their program. We always encourage all callers to call us again should they need more resources or identify another need.

We are extremely proud to announce a few staffing updates: Amy Rossow, our HOT 2-1-1 Program Manager, will now serve as the Emergency Management Coordinator along with the Outreach Coordinator for our region. Joanna Whitehouse has been promoted to our Resource Manager in charge of our HOT 2-1-1 Database along with serving as an Advocacy Specialist for callers that need more specialized or hands-on assistance, our Social Media Specialist and backup Emergency Management Personnel. As many government agencies have experienced HOT 2-1-1 also underwent a reduction in funding for our fiscal year 2026 which started September 01, 2025. As a result, Marcy Whiddon is now working 32 hours a week as our Sr. Information & Referral Contact Manager along with our Database Specialist and Belinda Arocha who is also working 32 hours a week serves as our Sr. Bilingual Information & Referral Contact Specialist.

We expect great things this coming year. I anticipate substantial growth in the number of Agencies represented in our 2-1-1 Database. We are taking a proactive approach to seeking out new agencies and will be searching high and low for resources in our region to serve the many unmet needs of our callers.

From time to time a caller will request assistance with something that unfortunately there is not a resource providing assistance, this becomes an *unmet need*. An example of an *unmet need* would be a request for assistance paying their rent, unfortunately unless you are a disabled Veteran or live in one specific zip code, 76705, there is not an agency that is assisting with rent in our HOTCOG region. Another example of an *unmet need* would be a request for assistance with paying an electric bill. There are several agencies that may be able to assist the caller with paying an electric bill if they meet eligibility criteria AND they have an approved electricity provider such as TXU, Direct Energy or Reliant. Unfortunately, if the caller does not have one of the approved providers there will not be any assistance available, and we will record this as an *unmet need*.

2-1-1 provides referral information about health and human services to all callers regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability, or other criteria. 2-1-1 is available 365 days

a year and 24 hours a day. 2-1-1 does not provide any funding, only resources to callers for non-profit, social service agencies who have voluntarily become part of our database designed to assist our callers. HOT 2-1-1 continues to take traditional calls for local social service needs, including food pantries, utility bills, rent, childcare, medication assistance, mental health, and everything from A to Z for the state of Texas, including our six-county service area. In addition, we provide assistance for disaster-related calls when such an event occurs and provide close monitoring and reporting of any resources available for those impacted by the disaster. Disaster support is provided across the state of Texas.

Our goal is to assist with as many resources as the caller needs. We also make sure to ask callers who ultimately need to be transferred to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for state benefit assistance if there is anything else we can assist them with before transferring them, and quite often they will ask for assistance in one or more areas.

Please help spread the word that 2-1-1 phone assistance is available 24/7 to everyone! All ages, all races, all socioeconomic backgrounds. We have resources from A-Z, and we are here to help. The website www.211texas.org is also available 24/7.

When you don't know who to call, CALL 2-1-1.

HTCG (Heart of Texas Council of Governments) 2-1-1 Calls							
HTCG 2-1-1 Transferred to HHSC (Health Human Services Comm)		HTCG 2-1-1 Callers Recv'd Resources			HTCG 2-1-1 Total Callers Assisted		
716		902			1618		
Texas 2-1-1 Statewide Call Detail							
Description	Bosque	Falls	Free-stone	Hill	Lime-stone	McL	Total In Region
Total Calls	60	92	62	122	69	1140	1545
Referral Calls	54	54	35	86	42	360	631
Top Needs Per County							
Electricity Payment Assistance	13	16	17	19	17	377	459
Rent Payment Assistance	3	3	0	4	5	102	117
Food Pantries	14	5	8	4	16	136	183
Area Agency on Aging	3	1	0	2	0	7	13
Housing Authorities	1	3	0	2	0	11	17
Homeless Shelter	0	0	1	1	0	32	34
Crisis Intervention Calls	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Advocacy Calls	1	0	0	2	0	9	12
Information Calls	2	7	4	4	4	118	139
Transferred Calls	27	32	15	42	18	374	508
First Time Callers	6	4	8	14	9	105	146
Callers Over 60 and Older	24	39	20	42	23	340	488

Heart of Texas Rural Transit District

Ronald E. "Rep" Pledger - Manager
Frances Ramirez – Transportation Specialist
Misty Hendon – Transportation Admin

General Information:

Funding

Staff have been notified that it will be receiving \$907,688.00 in federal funds and \$411,523 in rural state funds for FY2026. The federal funds increased by \$70,000 and our state funds increased by \$8,000.00.

Trainings, Meetings, and Outreach

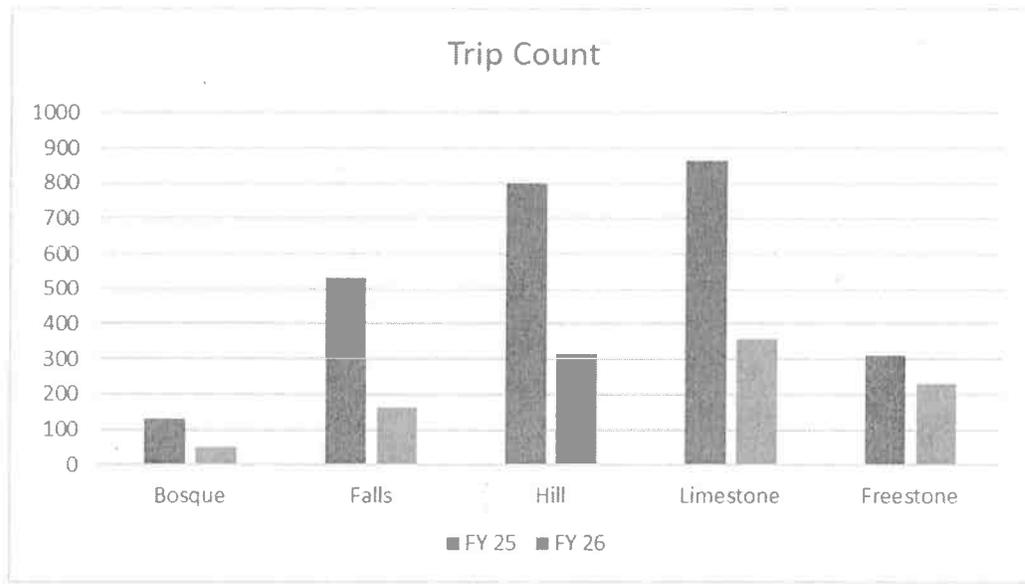
Regional Transportation Coordination Council - (RTCC)

The next meeting will be on March 26, 2026.
Rural Transit District – (Operations)

Staff continue their outreach to clients to increase ridership.

Trip activities for January 2026 are as follows:

Transportation Services – One Way Trips		
<u>Transportation Provider</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>
<u>Bosque County</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>Falls County</u>	<u>531</u>	<u>165</u>
<u>Hill County</u>	<u>799</u>	<u>314</u>
<u>Limestone County</u>	<u>865</u>	<u>358</u>
<u>Freestone County</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>232</u>
<u>Total - All 5 Counties</u>	<u>2637</u>	<u>1122</u>



Trip Type by County						
Trip Type	Limestone	Hill	Freestone	Falls	Bosque	Grand Total
Dialysis	71	174	35		9	289
Mhmr	98	15	56	50	26	245
Work	56	87	21	53		217
Shopping	37	14	46		8	105
Medical	53	21	14	10	6	104
Recreation	4		54			58
Personal	22	2	6	20		50
Education				32		32
Foster Grandparents	15					15
Veteran	2	1			2	5
Parole					2	2
Grand Total	358	314	232	165	53	1122

Thank you for reviewing the Health and Human Services program activities.

John Vorderkunz
 Director of Health and Human Services
 a division of the Heart of Texas Council of Governments

