

INGRAM EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 18, 2026

Location: Ingram, Texas

Called to Order: 5:05 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:03 p.m.

Preparation note: These minutes were drafted from the submitted audio recording. Where the recording did not clearly state a full name, title, date, or venue detail, the missing item has been identified for verification rather than guessed. Before adoption as the final official record, reconcile attendee spellings, officer titles, and the meeting date/location against the agenda, sign-in sheet, and prior board records.

Attendance

Board attendance as called: All members were present except Bill Aycock

Individuals clearly identified during discussion: Keith Anderson, Kathy Simmons, James Wood, Chris Hughs and Diana Bacuss, , Ryan (vendor representative by speakerphone),

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. The chair announced that all board members were present except Bill Aycock. No citizen comments were presented later in the meeting.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes

Approval of Minutes

The board reviewed the regular minutes from March 16 and April 20. Corrections were noted for the April 20 minutes:

Grants & Funding: Corrected to "Ruby and Perry Stevens Foundation" and "SCVA" (formerly S-E-D).

Vendor Payees: Corrected to "VFIS of Texas."

Action Items: Corrected "Karfun" to "KARFA."

Personnel: Corrected spelling of Diana's last name to "Baccus."

Motion: To approve the minutes as corrected.

Action: Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

3. Chief's Report – Ingram Volunteer Fire Department

Department account balances reported:

- Current bank balance: **\$150,317.98**
- Savings account: **\$70,324.35**
- Fundraising account: **\$40,703.50**
- Donations as of the meeting date: **\$90,025.96**

The chief reported that the department had responded to an additional **46 calls** since the last meeting, bringing the year-to-date total to **203 calls**. The board briefly discussed recent structure and brush fire responses, including one structure fire believed to have originated from stain rags left in a bucket on a porch, causing spontaneous combustion.

The department continues its gun-raffle fundraiser, with the drawing scheduled for **September 19**. The department also received publicity recognition related to the flood response and participated in a Vanity Fair magazine interview and photography session at the station on **May 10**. The department also planned to assist with the Ingram Elementary fifth-grade graduation parade on **May 21 at 9:00 a.m.**

An investment account was established through **Talarico and Associates**, and **\$120,000** was placed into that account as a reserve-growth strategy. The chief stated that the funds are intended to remain invested and untouched unless needed for future department demands.

As to FEMA matters, the department remains due additional payments, although reimbursement activity has slowed following the government shutdown.

4. Grants and Funding Update

The chief reported the following grant activity and funding status updates:

Grant Source / Funding Item	Status / Date	Amount	Purpose / Notes
State grant	Submitted May 5, 2026	\$10,000	If approved, to purchase hose for the new tender.
UGRA grant	Submitted May 12, 2026	\$15,000	If approved, to offset the cost of the water catchment project.
LCRA grant	Approved; funds not yet received	\$14,847	For completion of the parking structure at the fire department, including electrical work.
Sterling Turner Foundation operations grant	Approved; check received May 8, 2026	\$20,000	Operating funds.
Scripps Foundation	Unsolicited grant received	\$10,000	Operations support.

Grant Source / Funding Item	Status / Date	Amount Purpose / Notes
Ruth and Perry Stevens Foundation	Approved; check received the morning of the meeting	\$100,000 To purchase new SCBAs.

The board discussed the positive impact of the grant awards and the timing of pending receipts. The chief also noted that the department continues to carry the monthly Stryker bill and that no material change in the billed amount had occurred.

5. Operations, ISO Review, Equipment, and Personnel

ISO review and hydrants

The chief reported that a representative from San Antonio had recently visited regarding the department's **ISO assessment**. The last ISO assessment for Ingram was completed in **2006**. The department has since provided requested information and expects the reviewing officer to return in approximately two weeks. The department reported improvements in water resources, personnel, fire prevention, and training.

As part of the ISO review, the department is working with **Aqua Texas** regarding hydrants that are difficult to see at night because they are painted black. The department requested permission to paint hydrant caps a bright color at the department's expense for paint and labor, if approved by Aqua Texas.

The chief further reported an order of nearly **\$25,000** in hose, with delivery delayed until the first week of July because the product is on backorder.

Truck maintenance

Ray presented the truck maintenance report. He stated that oil changes, oil filters, fuel filters, and related servicing had been completed across the fleet and that the apparatus are generally in top shape. One unit, described on the recording as the "555," had not yet been completed but remained on the maintenance schedule.

Ray also reported that truck manuals and filter information are being compiled into a more organized maintenance system. Cost data for a complete filter and maintenance list was still being assembled. Board members commented favorably on the move toward documentation, scheduling, and accountability.

Personnel changes

The chief reported on recent officer elections and staffing actions within the fire department. The chief and Jason retained their respective positions. Jeff Ross had been elected deputy chief but declined due to workload, after which Brandon retained the position temporarily. At the following membership meeting, Brandon's position was recalled due to a stated lack of confidence, and **Ray became deputy chief**. The chief also reported that **Mr. Year** had been dismissed from the department for cause and that Brandon was on a **90-day leave of absence**.

Because Goodall Day's Garage relocated and was unable to continue serving the department during the transition, the department shifted truck-related work to **Reed Graham** for the time being, while continuing appropriate in-house work where qualified personnel are available.

6. CARFA / Active911 Operational Update

The chief reported that the department is currently receiving calls for service through **Active911** while continuing to rely on radio tones and portable radios. The department paid CARFA for approximately **35 slots**, with the annual subscription paid in a single fee rather than monthly installments.

The board discussed the continuing operational tension surrounding the CARFA arrangement. As summarized during the meeting, CARFA is retaining the Active911 subscription while Ingram and Hunt are being allowed access to the system because dispatch operations are not being split into separate alerting platforms. The department reiterated that its primary concern is public safety and uninterrupted response capability, not organizational conflict.

The chief stated that if members need to be added or removed from the Active911 roster, the present working plan is to contact **Adam**, identified on the recording as the chief in Comfort, until a more formal process is clarified. The chief also referenced guidance from **Commissioner Harris** and Don regarding current access arrangements.

Board members discussed concern over CARFA's prior nonprofit-status issues and agreed that the district's best course is to remain focused on compliance, operational continuity, and limiting unnecessary exposure to outside organizational problems.

7. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report as presented:

- Beginning balance: **\$349,176.46**
- Deposits: **2 deposits totaling \$3,926.43**
- Checks cleared: **4 checks totaling \$45,508.25**
- Ending checking balance: **\$307,594.64**
- Truck account balance: **\$308,040.45**

Motion: A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report. A second was made.

Vote: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

8. Bills Approved for Payment

Vendor / Payee	Description	Amount
Vendor name not clearly captured on recording	Front door repair	\$130.00
State / county registration office	Vehicle registration	\$7.50
Kerr County Appraisal District	Quarterly payment	\$491.25

Subtotal approved: \$628.75

The recording also referenced a year-to-date total for fire department support/reimbursements of **\$54,557.96**. Because the speaker audio was partially unclear at that point, that figure should be matched against the treasurer's ledger before final filing.

Motion: A motion was made to approve payment of the bills listed. A second was made.

Vote: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

9. National Tanker Delivery, Financing, and Payment Authorization

The board received a detailed update on the delivery status and final financial structure for the national tanker purchase. The starting quoted price from March 22, 2023, was reported as **\$463,710**. The most recent final invoice dated April 27 reflected a final total of **\$492,425**, representing an increase of **\$28,715**.

The change orders were attributed to additional equipment and finishing items, including a full-width front bumper capable of holding a trash line, related plumbing work from the pump to the front of the truck, and complete lettering, logos, and decals. One speaker estimated the change-order package at roughly an additional **\$25,000** overall.

The district reported that approximately **\$308,040.45** was being held in escrow / financing through **PNC Bank**. Based on the then-current figures, the estimated balance due to **Sid Martin** upon delivery was approximately **\$184,385**, subject to minor fluctuation based on the escrow account at delivery time. The board also discussed a lease payment of nearly **\$57,000** due in August, for total near-term financing activity of approximately **\$241,000**.

Using the district's current cash position, the board concluded that the district had sufficient cash flow to make the delivery payment and August lease obligation, although cash on hand would be reduced significantly until reimbursement is received. The board further noted that, after delivery and submission of paid receipts through the fire department to **Texas A&M Forest Service**, the district expects reimbursement of approximately **\$300,000**.

Vendor delivery update by speakerphone

Ryan, speaking by phone, stated that two delivery issues were being corrected under warranty at no cost to the district: (1) a pump discharge imperfection discovered during make-ready inspection, and (2) a hose-bed cover that blew off during transit between Boise and Indianapolis. He estimated that the truck should be ready within the next **one to two weeks**, with the board indicating hope that delivery could occur before a **May 26** heavy-water class and, in any event, preferably before **June 15**.

Ryan explained that, upon delivery, the district should expect standard delivery paperwork sufficient for registration, while title-related paperwork would follow later through the normal state process after payment is completed.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the increased final truck price difference of **\$28,715** and to authorize Keith to issue the final payment check upon delivery.

Second: A second was made.

Vote: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

10. Annual Audit Update

The board briefly discussed the annual audit. Members stated that the draft had effectively been approved at the prior meeting and that the watermark would be removed before the audit was transmitted. The expectation expressed during the meeting was that the final audit would be in the commissioners' hands before **June 1**. Bill was identified as the person to follow up and confirm completion.

11. KCAD Totals and Tax Rate Discussion

The board reviewed preliminary information from the **Kerr County Appraisal District (KCAD)**. Although the initial numbers appeared slightly higher than the prior year's roll, the speaker noted that the figures remain preliminary and do not yet fully reflect flood-related valuation losses, exemptions, and later adjustments. Board members agreed that the overall tax base is still expected to decline.

The board revisited the earlier decision to use a **no-new-revenue rate** in the prior tax cycle because of the flood's impact on the community. Members stated that such a position is unlikely to remain sustainable. The board indicated that some future rate increase will likely be necessary, but emphasized that any adjustment should be reasonable and mindful of taxpayers already under financial pressure.

During the same discussion, a board member reported that a custom base-model engine to replace **Engine 502**, described as roughly 30 years old, would now start at approximately **\$1.1 million**. That figure was cited as further evidence of long-term capital pressures facing the district.

12. UGRA Flood Warning Siren System Update

The board received an update on the **UGRA flood warning siren system**. Tara Bushnow was unable to attend because of a scheduling conflict, but the board stated that UGRA had installed **six of the planned eight sirens** and was still working through siting issues for the remaining locations.

Board members announced a public presentation scheduled for **Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** at the Hunt Community Center regarding the flood warning system. The board also discussed the existence of an emergency-management dashboard and a public-facing website intended to support broader public information once the system is fully operational.

It was reported that activation consoles are expected in the chief's office and at the sheriff's office. UGRA had also requested permission to place a transmission box on the district's siren pole, and the district agreed. In addition, **LCRA** is reportedly installing **320-foot towers** expected to improve general communications capability.

The board discussed whether the district's existing local siren could be incorporated into the UGRA system. The chief stated that compatibility is uncertain because the existing siren is a **World War II-era siren**. The department is separately working with **American**

Communications on remote activation capability through a phone application. The board also discussed the importance of having flood-warning tones that are clearly distinct from fire-call tones, together with broad public education through radio, social media, news, and other channels.

13. Action Items

- Verify the official meeting date, location, and complete attendee roster against the posted agenda and sign-in documentation before final adoption of these minutes.
- Chief / department to continue follow-up with **Aqua Texas** on permission to paint hydrant caps for visibility.
- Chief / department to continue procurement of ordered hose and monitor first-week-of-July delivery timing.
- Department leadership to use approved grant funds for designated purposes, including SCBA purchase and project-cost offsets.
- Chief / board leadership to coordinate with **Ryan** and vendor staff on tanker delivery timing and provide treasurer advance notice for payment execution.
- **Keith** to prepare for issuance of final tanker payment upon delivery, as authorized by board action.
- After tanker delivery, department and district personnel to submit paid receipts for the anticipated Texas A&M reimbursement process.
- **Bill** to confirm that the annual audit is finalized and submitted before June 1.
- Board leadership to review final KCAD values and calculate reasonable tax-rate options for the next budget cycle.
- Chief / designated contact to continue coordination with UGRA and local emergency-management partners regarding flood siren integration, notification protocols, and public outreach.
- Department leadership to use the current interim process for Active911 roster changes and document any operational problems that arise.

14. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting date was not expressly announced on the recording. However, the board referenced upcoming deadlines and projects that should appear on the next agenda, including tanker delivery and reimbursement processing, tax-rate planning following updated KCAD figures, annual audit confirmation, hose procurement status, and continued flood-warning coordination.

15. Adjournment

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made.

Vote / Result: The meeting adjourned at **6:03 p.m.**

Board Secretary
Kathy Simmons

Board President
Chris Hughes