



Regular Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2026 • Scheduled time 18:00 p.m.

Jasper County Sub-Courthouse

33625 U.S. Highway 96 South, Buna, Texas 77612

Prepared for review and approval by the Board of Emergency Services Commissioners.

09_1.0 Call to Order and Quorum

The regular meeting was convened at 18:00. Roll was called. The five commissioners were identified in the roll call; attendance and the presiding officer are to be confirmed as noted below.

Commissioner	Office	Attendance
Steve Hyden	President	Present
Mark Mueller	Vice President	Present
Billy Ted Smith	Secretary/Treasurer	Present
Todd Walters	Commissioner	Present
Tracy Shipley	Commissioner	Present

Quorum: All commissioners are present. Allegiance representatives participating included Amanda Baum, Allegiance Chief of Operations for Texas, and John Stef Allegiance Mobile Health, Matthew Schnaider – Allegiance Mobile Health. Buna Volunteer Fire Department representatives included Larry McBride; Randall Clark; Allan Crips; also participated were Gary Barlow – President ESD #3 and Steven Sowder – Kirbyville VFD.

09_2.0 Citizen Comments

No citizen signed up to speak, and no separate citizen comment was recorded during this item.

09_3.0 Approval of August 25 Minutes

Motion by Tracy Shipley, second by Todd Walters, to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026 regular meeting. The motion carried by voice vote; ayes were heard and no opposition was recorded.

09_4.0 through 09_4.4 Treasurer Reports and Bill Approval

Secretary/Treasurer Billy Ted Smith presented the financial reports, receipts, bills and investment report. The Board clarified that its approval covered the entire 09_4 series, including the financial reports and payment of bills. The investment report was then read and included in the combined approval. A motion carried by voice vote; ayes were heard and no opposition was recorded. Motion was made by Todd Walters and seconded by Tracy Shipley.

The cash report read at the meeting began with \$811,925.71. Receipts consisted of ad valorem taxes of \$2,140.97, a Liberty Mutual refund of \$4,944.00, and sales tax of \$120,055.28, totaling \$127,140.25. The resulting subtotal was \$939,065.96. The spoken expense total and ending balance was verified the Treasurer's cash report.

Bills discussed included Starlink service, water testing, janitorial supplies, vehicle repairs, BVFD and Allegiance contractor payments, appraisal district charges, insurance, accounting, utilities, website services, sales tax consulting and legal services. The budget-to-actual report was referenced during the review.

Written report	Amount
August 31 ESD financial statements — total assets	\$4,338,417.38
Total liabilities	\$153,217.31
Total equity	\$4,185,200.07
August revenue	\$141,469.38
August operating expenses	\$256,390.20
August net loss	(\$113,926.57)
Year-to-date net income through August	\$262,643.87

These financial statement amounts are separate from the cash report read at the meeting and do not replace its balances.

09_4.3 Investment Report Detail

Holding as of August 31	Ending balance
Operating account, per investment report	\$811,925.71
Education First CD 280698	\$113,577.13
Education First CD 280699	\$221,885.33
Combined CDs	\$335,462.46
Total operating balance and CDs	\$1,147,388.17

The written report lists CD maturities of March 8, 2027 and March 8, 2028, with annual rates of 3.56%. The report's bank naming and quarter-summary figures require reconciliation as listed in the confirmation checklist.

09_5.0 Executive Session

No executive session was held.

09_6.0 and 09_6.1 Allegiance Ambulance Report

John presented the monthly service report: 57 calls, 42 transports and a 74% transport rate. The primary Buna unit responded to 44 calls and made 31 transports, approximately 70%, with a reported response time of 9 minutes 43 seconds. Mutual-aid units responded to 13 calls and made 11 transports, approximately 85%, with a reported response time of 18 minutes 46 seconds. Allegiance reported that the lower call volume had been checked against its records.

A motion to approve the Allegiance report was made by; Billy Ted Smith seconded by Mark Mueller. The motion carried by voice vote; ayes were heard and no opposition was recorded. Exact vote count: Four (4).

09_6.1A Proposed EMS Dispatch Move to Woodville

The Board discussed Allegiance's proposal to move EMS dispatch from the Jasper County Sheriff's dispatch facility to Allegiance's new communications center in Woodville. Allegiance representatives stated that the Sheriff's Office requested additional space for dispatch staffing. They described reducing call transfers by placing emergency medical call takers and dispatchers together, providing direct supervision and backup coverage, and continuing access to ambulance locations and call information.

Commissioners questioned the contract requirement for dispatch in Jasper, current VHF coverage in southern Jasper County, compatibility with the future 800 MHz system, possible agreements needed for radio access, local address familiarity, testing during adverse conditions, internet reliability, ambulance availability and direct radio contact with responding units. The Board also discussed delayed installation/programming of the Buna ambulance radio.

Amanda Baum stated that any proposed January move would depend on the new radio system becoming active and successful testing. Allegiance agreed to investigate communications feasibility, keep the Board informed and provide access options for the Sheriff's Office and first responders. Potential access through Logis, RapidSOS and Teams was discussed.

Outcome: The item was tabled pending further study and communications testing. No authorization to relocate dispatch or amend the contract was recorded. A formal tabling motion, seconder and vote were not identifiable in the transcript; no formal motion occurred.

09_6.2 Buna Volunteer Fire Department Report

BVFD presented its response and financial reports. The written August run report lists 88 calls for the month and 699 year to date, including 62 medical calls, 11 grass fires, two structure fires, one vehicle fire, two wrecks, three false alarms, one hazardous-material call, one landing-zone call, one storm-related call and four other calls. The written report lists zero mutual aid calls for August.

The oral report stated operating account balances of \$39,783.47 at the beginning and \$125,072.98 at the end, and fundraiser balances of \$12,928 and \$11,928. The written statements show total assets of \$133,517.93 and no liabilities.

A motion and second to approve the BVFD reports were acknowledged. The motion carried by voice vote; ayes were heard and no opposition was recorded. Motion was made by Billy Ted Smith and seconded by Todd Walters.

09_7.0 Rolling Stock and Apparatus Maintenance

BVFD reported Brush 11 back in service. Engine 3 had received one sensor and was awaiting another, expected within the next few weeks. Tankers 4 and 5 and Brush 12 were reported operational. A medical/response vehicle identified in the transcript as “Med 1” was in the shop for recurring battery discharge, reportedly associated with the factory AM/FM/navigation unit. Replacement was quoted at \$1,025.

The Board’s discussion reached consensus to disconnect the radio, or remove its fuse only after checking other functions on the circuit, and determine whether the battery drain stopped. No formal purchase approval or recorded vote for a replacement radio was identified.

09_8.0 Station and Construction Report

The Board discussed Cairo Springs Station 2 at 9800 FM 1004. Doors were reported repaired and the building substantially ready for apparatus use. Remaining matters discussed included the ice machine and water-test results, cameras/Starlink work, the north-side awning and possible caulking at gaps. The status of the camera work should be confirmed; the discussion referenced both installation and remaining work.

Commissioner Smith reported obtaining air-conditioning quotes. Discussion included a proposed 7.5-ton, three-phase system, placement on the mezzanine, limited ducting to the rooms, building insulation and height, potential shelter occupancy and temperature settings intended to reduce windshield fogging. These were discussion points; no HVAC size, temperature policy, expenditure or installation contract was approved in the recorded discussion. The opening date remained undecided, with ice-machine operation and air conditioning discussed as considerations.

09_9.0 Communications and Dispatch Matters

No separate action was recorded under this item. Related dispatch and radio matters were discussed under 09_6.1A and the commissioner reports.

09_10.0 Facilities Maintenance and Insurance Renewal

No separate facilities project authorization was recorded. During this portion of the meeting, the Board considered vehicle coverage for District vehicles and renewal of the commercial insurance package. A renewal amount of \$37,288 was stated. A motion to approve the renewal carried by voice vote; ayes were heard and no opposition was recorded. Motion made by Mark Mueller and seconded by Todd Walters, four (4) voted in favor, total premium of \$37,288.00 for policies covered and the insurance from VFFIS was approved.

09_11.0 Sales Tax Report

The Treasurer discussed HdL’s recovery of approximately \$13,000 in previously unpaid sales taxes during the finance review. The September sales tax report was referenced again later in the meeting. No separate vote under 09_11.0 was recorded. The written September report lists a net payment of \$120,055, a 4.3% increase from September 2025, and year-to-date net payments of \$1,123,598, up 6.6%.

09_12.0 and 09_12.0a Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Smith reported on the September 16 meeting with County jurisdictions and discussion of sharing projected 911 PSAP costs to fund two additional dispatchers. The Board discussed previous District support for County communications infrastructure and radios. The cost-sharing proposal remained under discussion; no funding commitment was recorded. The posted report also included alert-receipt issues, CAD integration with eDispatch and uniform radio numbering; no distinct decision on those topics was identifiable.

09_12.0b SAFE D Training

Commissioners noted attendance at the September 19 SAFE-D training in Orange and the usefulness of the training. No action was recorded.

09_15.0 and 09_16.0 Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next regular meeting was identified as October 27, 2026. No additional agenda request was clearly recorded. The presiding officer declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The transcript marks adjournment at approximately 58 minutes 20 seconds into the recording; this is not a verified clock time.

Approval and Signatures

Approved by the Board on _____.

Corrections adopted, if any: _____

Steve Hyden, President



Billy Ted Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

Record attachments: posted September 29 agenda; meeting transcript; ESD August financial statements and general ledger; Education First transaction history; August investment report; BVFD August financial statements, general ledger and run totals; September sales tax report. Detailed reports remain separate supporting records. Details and documents available from Secretary/Treasurer Billy Ted Smith