

MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2026 WORKSHOP
ECTOR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1
&
ECTOR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2

A special public workshop was duly called by the Board of Commissioners of **Ector County Emergency Services Districts No. 1 & 2** on **January 17, 2026**, which was held at **Buddy West Elementary School**, located at **2225 W. Sycamore Dr., Odessa, Texas 79763**.

CALL WORKSHOP TO ORDER, AND ROLL CALL OF PARTICIPANTS.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by **John Turner**, Board President, who stated a quorum was present. Those Commissioners present included:

John Turner	Present
Kevin Searcy	Present
Randy Lighfoot	Absent
Heather Burks	Present
Patti Kappauf	Present

Also present at the meeting were representatives of the West Odessa, South Odessa, Goldsmith, and Gardendale volunteer fire departments and other members of the public attending in person.

TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Assistant Chief David Avery of the South Ector County Volunteer Fire Department spoke. He said that he would like for this meeting to be business focused and to keep personal opinions out of the conversation.

There were no other public comments.

Mrs. **Burks** requested that all the VFD's represented at the meeting please identify themselves. West Odessa, South Ector County, Goldsmith, and Gardendale representatives were identified and in attendance.

Mr. **Turner** requested that all participants stay on point and focus on the scheduled topics in interest of time.

TO HOST A WORKSHOP WITH WEST ODESSA, GARDENDALE, AND SOUTH ECTOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO DISCUSS AND ADDRESS DEPARTMENT BUSINESS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT.

Departments were asked to give a brief review of the equipment and staff they currently have, and provided the following information:

- West Odessa- Twenty (20) members but staffing depends on time and day of the week as most have other jobs. Four (4) EMTs but they do not run medical calls. Equipment: Four (4) Brush trucks, two (2) Structural engines, three (3) Tenders, one (1) Ladder truck, rescue boat, Two (2) full sets of extraction equipment, cribbing, struts, lifting

airbags, chainsaws, straps, light plants, cascade air system (trailer mounted), drone capabilities, H2S monitors, will be adding an additional crossover tender/engine.

- South Ector- Eight (8) members. Equipment: one (1) Brush truck, three (3) tankers (oldest from 1980's, another one from 2011+/-), one (1) engine, one (1) rescue truck designed for traffic accidents, two (2) large brush trucks, one (1) EMS unit, two (2) sets of extraction tools, cribbing, struts, saws, eleven (11) air packs, fill station for air packs at station, H2S monitors. EMS to provide Basic Life Support: one (1) paramedic, one (1) EMT, and one (1) EMR.
- Goldsmith- Twenty (20) members- all have full-time jobs, so daytime response is tougher. No EMS. Equipment: One (1) small brush truck, one (1) tender pumper (3500 gal), two (2) heavy brush truck and building a seven (7) ton, one (1) tender in reserve, one (1) tender due anytime (4000 gal), Utility vehicle, spare tires, brooms, shovels, two (2) sets of small jaws, one (1) set of big jaws, SCBA- 10 sets, no air capabilities, H2S monitors. Oldest truck is from 1985.
- Gardendale- Ten (10) active members with one Junior Firefighter. No EMS. Equipment- one (1) brush truck new in 2025, One (1) tanker new in 2025 with 2000-gal capacity, reserve truck (military) with 1000-gal capacity, one (1) set of jaws, H2S monitors, No SCBA.

TO HOST A WORKSHOP WITH WEST ODESSA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, GARDENDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND SOUTH ECTOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY OF THESE DEPARTMENTS PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE DISTRICT.

All volunteer departments reported the following average number of calls for last year and the challenges they face.

- West Odessa- Six hundred (600) calls a year with challenges to include testing equipment, volunteer staff, cost and time needed for training, and facilities.
- South Ector- Four hundred fifty (450) calls a year. Challenges include the equipment being exposed to weather and the new building (to be built) will not have living quarters.
- Goldsmith- Seventy-two (72) calls a year, and challenges are no EMS and aging population along with staffing.
- Gardendale- One hundred (100) calls a year. The challenges are outfitting trucks, especially hoses, keeping up with medical advances and the transient nature of the oil field that leads to staffing issues.

TO HOST A WORKSHOP WITH WEST ODESSA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, GARDENDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND SOUTH ECTOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE SERVICES THE DISTRICT WANTS TO PROVIDE TO THE COMMUNITY.

All volunteer departments receive funds from the county. However, these funds are minimal in relation to costs of operations. Fundraising events are necessary to maintain operations, training, and facility maintenance. The District will explore the possibility of a local training facility in a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business brought before the Boards, Mr. **Turner** made a Motion, seconded by Mrs. **Burks**, to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 a.m. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

The foregoing minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners on April 13, 2026.

ECTOR COUNTY EMERGENCY
SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1

By: Patti Kappauf
~~Heather Burks~~ Acting Secretary
District Secretary

ECTOR COUNTY EMERGENCY
SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2

By: Patti Kappauf
~~Heather Burks~~ Acting Secretary
District Secretary