

## UPSHUR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2

NOVEMBER 18, 2025

7:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 2 Commissioners was held on November 18, 2025, at the Ore City Fire Station, 102 S. Dogwood, Ore City, Texas 75683.

- 1) **Open meeting.** The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Gaston DeBerry, III.
- 2) **Call to order.** Gaston DeBerry, III called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Gaston DeBerry, III.
- 3) **Determine quorum present.** Gaston DeBerry, III determined a quorum with Tommie Whitaker, Gregg Price, and Rita Criswell being present. Kenny Hankins was absent.
- 4) **Public Comment.** Tommie Whitaker announced that he had been in contact with Upshur Rural Electric regarding getting a trailer for training. He asked the Chiefs to let him know a date they could schedule such training.
- 5) **Discuss and take action on the Financial Statement ending October 31, 2025.** Gaston DeBerry, III announced the balances of the checking account at \$68,186.21; savings account (FNB) at \$50,255.94; and savings account (GNB) at \$100,198.56. Motion by Gregg Price with a second by Rita Criswell to accept the Financial Statement as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
- 6) **Approve the minutes as written for the meeting held October 21, 2025.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Rita Criswell to approve the minutes as written for the meeting held October 21, 2025. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
- 7) **Discuss and take action regarding ambulance coverage in ESD 2 area.** No action.
- 8) **Discuss and take action on Active 911.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Gregg Price to continue Active 911 and E-Dispatch for a year with the understanding that the Departments will pay for their own users at \$60/user per year at this time. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Gaston DeBerry, III announced that he would put this annual fee in the next year budget.
- 9) **Update regarding dispatching services.** Continuation of E-Dispatch was considered in 8) above.

10) **Discuss and take action regarding automatic aid contract with Gilmer Fire Department.** Bradley Hill and Chief Jerry Taylor were present with Gilmer Fire Department and presented the number of calls Gilmer Fire Department made in the ESD #2 area for the previous years. Chief Taylor informed the Board that Gilmer Fire Department would send out an Engine and a tanker on structure fires. Gaston DeBerry, III made a suggestion of \$5,000.00/year for automatic aid assistance which averages out to \$280.00 per call. Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Rita Criswell to offer the City of Gilmer \$5,000.00/year for automatic aid with ESD #2. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Gaston DeBerry, III will put this in writing to the City of Gilmer for discussion.

11) **Discuss and take action on ESD #2 maps.** No action.

12) **Pay Upshur County Sheriff for dispatching services for the month of November, 2025 in the amount of \$900.00.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Gregg Price to pay the Upshur County Sheriff for dispatching services for the month of November, 2025 in the amount of \$900.00. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

13) **Pay bills for the Upshur County ESD #2 as submitted and approved.** Motion by Gregg Price with a second by Rita Criswell to pay the following bills as submitted and approved. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

Terri Ross (October Bookkeeping/Clerical)	\$ 833.33
SAFE-D (Conference Registration)	\$ 1,770.00
U.S. Postal Service (Box Rental)	\$ 78.00

14) **Discuss and take action for pre-approval expenditures, if any, over \$25,000.00 by Diana VFD or New Mountain VFD.** None submitted.

15) **Pay the City of Ore City the amount of \$14,166.00 as the monthly installment as set out in the Contract for Fire Fighting Services for the FYE 2026.** Motion by Gregg Price with a second by Rita Criswell to pay the City of Ore City in the amount of \$14,166.00 as the monthly installment for the FYE 2026. Motion carried 3 For with Gaston DeBerry, III abstaining.

16) **Pay Diana VFD the amount of \$16,583.33 as their monthly budget allotment for the FYE 2026 and any other expenses presented for approval.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Rita Criswell to pay Diana VFD in the amount of \$16,583.33 as their monthly budget allotment for the FYE 2026. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

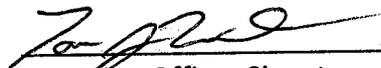
17) **Pay New Mountain VFD the amount of \$4,291.66 as their monthly budget allotment for the FYE 2026 plus \$1,500.00 as the recurring truck payment as previously approved and any other expenses presented for approval.** Matt Burnett presented additional invoices totaling the amount of \$14,289.12 and requested approval for payment. Motion by Gregg Price with a second by Tommie Whitaker to pay New Mountain VFD in the amount of

\$4,291.66 as their monthly budget allotment for the FYE 2026 plus an additional \$1,500.00 as previously approved for their truck payment plus the additional \$14,289.12 for invoices presented for approval. Motion carried 3 For with Rita Criswell abstaining.

18) Discuss and take action on budget amendments. None.

19) Items to be considered for next month's agenda.

20) Adjournment. Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Gregg Price to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

  
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Presiding Officer Signature  
Title: V.a President

Date: 12/16/25