

UPSHUR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 2 Commissioners was held on February 19, 2026, 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, Rita Criswell, and Kenny Hankins being present. Gregg Price was absent.
- 4) **Public Comment.** Tommie Whitaker announced that the new repeater was in and Leo with Inter County Communications will be out next week to install.
- 5) **Discuss and take action on the Financial Statement ending January 31, 2026.** Motion by Kenny Hankins 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 meetings held January 20, 2026.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Rita Criswell to approve the minutes as written for the meeting held January 20, 2026. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
- 7) **Discuss and take action to reimburse Tommie Whitaker for his travel and meal expenses incurred as a result of his trip to the SAFE-D Conference.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Rita Criswell to reimburse Tommie Whitaker for his travel and meal expenses incurred as a result of his trip to the SAFE-D Conference as follows: Mileage @ \$510.40 and Meals @ \$259.00 for a total of \$769.40. Motion carried 3 For with Tommie Whitaker abstaining.
- 8) **Discuss and take action regarding acquiring a credit card for the Upshur County Emergency Services District #2.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker to allow Terri Ross, Administrative Assistant, to inquire about a credit card for the Upshur County Emergency Services District #2. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

9) **Discuss and take action to authorize Terri Ross, Administrative Assistant, to move \$300,000.00 from the checking account at First National Bank to the savings account at Gilmer National Bank.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Rita Criswell to authorize Terri Ross, Administrative Assistant, to move \$300,000.00 from the checking account at First National Bank to the savings account at Gilmer National Bank. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

10) **Pay Upshur County Sheriff for dispatching services for the month of February, 2026 in the amount of \$900.00.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Kenny Hankins to pay the Upshur County Sheriff for dispatching services for the month of February, 2026 in the amount of \$900.00. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

11) **Pay bills for the Upshur County ESD #2 as submitted and approved.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker 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 (January Bookkeeping/Clerical)	\$ 833.33
Gilmer Mirror (Ad for Physical Address)	\$ 10.00
Arnold, Walker, Arnold & Co. (1099 & 1096)	\$ 48.37
Inter County Communications (Repeater)	\$19,467.44

12) **Discuss and take action for pre-approval expenditures, if any, over \$25,000.00 by Diana VFD or New Mountain VFD.** Diana VFD submitted invoices totaling \$95,666.66 for note payments. Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Rita Criswell to pay Diana VFD the amount of \$95,666.66 for these payments. Motion carried 3 For with Kenny Hankins abstaining.

13) **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 Kenny Hankins 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.

14) **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 3 For with Kenny Hankins abstaining.

15) **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.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Kenny Hankins 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. Motion carried 3 For with Rita Criswell abstaining.

16) **Discuss and take action on budget amendments.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Kenny Hankins to make the following budget amendments as presented:
Move \$3.00 from Retained (304) to P.O. Box Rental;
Move \$275.50 from Retained (304) to Active 911. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

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

18) **Adjournment.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.



Presiding Officer Signature
Title: President

Date: 3-17-14

ESD#2 Bills to be Paid:

1)	Upshur County Sheriff (February dispatching)	\$ 900.00
2)	Terri Ross (January Bookkeeping/Clerical)	\$ 833.33
3)	Gilmer Mirror (Ad for Physical Address)	\$ 10.00
4)	Arnold, Walker, Arnold & Co. (1099 & 1096)	\$ 48.37
5)	Inter County Communications (Repeater)	\$ 19,467.44
6)	City of Ore City	\$ 14,166.00
7)	Diana VFD	\$ 16,583.33
8)	New Mountain VFD	\$ 5,791.66

Diana VFD

\$ 95,666.66