

UPSHUR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2

MARCH 17, 2026

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 2 Commissioners was held on March 17, 2026, at the New Mountain Fire Station, 9871 State Hwy. 155 N, 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, Gregg Price and Kenny Hankins being present.
- 4) **Public Comment.** None.
- 5) **Hear from Christus EMS regarding ambulance coverage in the Upshur County ESD #2 area and consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding between Christus and Upshur County ESD #2 and take action as needed.** Shawn Salter with Christus EMS discussed the current ambulance coverage in the Upshur County ESD #2 area and the issues they are working through to get better coverage in the area. He said that they had put in a new CAD system and once they get fully trained on the new system, they will be able to run reports to indicate the number of runs made in the area.
- 6) **Discuss and take action on the Financial Statement ending February 28, 2026.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Gregg Price to accept the Financial Statement as presented. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
- 7) **Approve the minutes as written for the meetings held February 19, 2026.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker to approve the minutes as written for the meeting held February 19, 2026. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
- 8) **Pay Upshur County Sheriff for dispatching services for the month of March, 2026 in the amount of \$900.00.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Rita Criswell to pay the Upshur County Sheriff for dispatching services for the month of March, 2026 in the amount of \$900.00. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 9) **Pay bills for the Upshur County ESD #2 as submitted and approved.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker to pay the following bills as submitted and approved. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

Terri Ross (February Bookkeeping/Clerical)	\$ 833.33
Terri Ross (Reimbursement – Office supplies)	\$ 98.29
Upshur County Appraisal District (2 nd qtr)	\$ 5,167.02
VFIS (Insurance renewal)	\$14,166.00

- 10) **Discuss and take action for pre-approval expenditures, if any, over \$25,000.00 by Diana VFD or New Mountain VFD.** Dwayne Leach, Diana VFD, informed the Board that the department will be receiving grants in the upcoming months for equipment, PPE, training, and slip on units. He will be requesting funding up front for those as awarded.
- 11) **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 Gregg Price 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 and Tommie Whitaker abstaining.
- 12) **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 For with Kenny Hankins abstaining.
- 13) **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.** Chief Matt Burnett presented an invoice for approval in the amount of \$2,477.23 to Mullens Automotive and Diesel Works for repair to the brush truck. Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Gregg Price 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 \$2,477.23 as presented. Motion carried 4 For with Rita Criswell abstaining.
- 14) **Discuss and take action on budget amendments.** None
- 15) **Items to be considered for next month's agenda.** Kenny Southwell from Upshur County ESD #1 to speak in regards to repeaters.

Michael Cole with TEEX announced several schools that were coming up. He also asked all of the departments to get with their elected officials and advise them that fire departments are in need of funding so that the State can continue to hold trainings and schoolings for firemen across the State.

- 16) **Adjournment**. Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Rita Criswell to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.


Presiding Officer Signature

Title: President

Date: 4-22-26