

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
JEFFERSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Jefferson County Emergency Services District No. 1 (“District”) was called at 6:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026, at the 13550 River Oaks Blvd., Beaumont, Texas 77713, pursuant to notice duly posted according to law.

The roll was called of the Commissioners on the Board, to-wit:

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>Position</b>
Mark Zambardino	President
Robert “Lee” Barnett	Vice President
Wade Witt	Treasurer
Ryan Rosson	Secretary
John Johnson	Commissioner

All said Commissioners were present. In addition to the above-named Commissioners, the following persons were also present:

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Position</b>
Chief, Chris Gonzales	Administrator
Mr. Robert Ring	Administrative Assistant
Hubert Oxford, IV	General Counsel
Kenneth Galloway	Jefferson County Emergency Services District, No. 1, Inc. (“Department”)

At 6:02 p.m., President Zambardino announced that a quorum was established and then asked Chief Gonzales to lead the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Item No. 4 – Public Comment.**

President Zambardino called for public comment. There were none, and therefore, President Zambardino referred the Commissioners to Agenda Item No. 5.

**Agenda Item No. 5 – Review, discuss, and approve minutes of the February 23, 2026 Regular Meeting.**

President Zambardino then asked the Commissioners and staff to review the minutes, as submitted. In response, the Commissioners and staff responded that the minutes, as presented, were correct and ready to be signed.

There being no changes, a motion was made by Commissioner John Johnson to approve the minutes as presented of the February 23, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Ryan Rosson and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

**Agenda Item No. 6 – Review, approve, and take-action, if necessary, on approving financial statement; authorize payment of invoices; and amending the budget.**

President Zambardino then called on Mr. Robert Ring to present the financials for February 2026. Mr. Ring then informed the Commissioners that the District's beginning balance in its checking account at Stellar Bank was \$24,368.32. During the month, there was a Tax Deposit of \$67,634.27 and a withdrawal of \$50,000.00 for a transfer to the TexSTAR account that was approved at the last meeting. In addition, the checking account was reduced by (\$16,205.59) due to invoices paid in February 2026. After considering the transfer to TexSTAR and expenses paid during at the meeting, the ending balance in the District's checking account for the month was \$25,797.00. (See **Exhibit "A-1"**).

Mr. Ring then addressed the District's savings account at Stellar Bank. The beginning balance in the account as of February 1, 2026 was \$11,177.12 and after receiving an interest payment of \$1.49 during the month, the ending balance was \$11,180.44. (See **Exhibit "A-1"**).

Next, Mr. Ring referred the Commissioners to the TexSTAR account section of the report. At the beginning of February 2026, the District's balance in the account was \$362,211.37. During the month, the account earned \$1,041.77 in interest and received a \$50,000.00 transfer from the District's checking account, resulting in an ending balance for February 2026 of \$413,253.14. (See **Exhibit "A-1"**).

Combined, Mr. Ring advised that the District's funds available were \$450,230.58. However, after considering the funds reserved for the purchase of real estate and equipment, the District's unrestricted funds were \$327,230.58, which is an increase of \$52,471.94 from January 2026. (See **Exhibit "A-1"**).

Mr. Ring then presented the Department's savings account balance at Stellar Bank for February 2026. During the month, no interest was paid and the balance remained at \$15,417.84. (See **Exhibit "A-2"**).

Next, Mr. Ring reviewed the invoices to be paid during the meeting. Per Mr. Ring, the total expenses to be paid were \$20,369.09. A summary of the invoices is set forth in **Exhibit "A-3"**.

The Commissioners were then asked to review the District's Financial Statements and Check Reconciliation for February 2026. (See **Exhibit "A-4"**). Per Mr. Ring, as of the meeting, everything was in order and within the budget.

Moreover, Mr. Ring then recommended that the Commissioners not transfer any money to TexStar this month.

Lastly, the Commissioners discussed the compensation for Chief Chris Gonzales in his role as District Administrator and the need to reconcile prior compensation with the amount authorized under the District's approved budget. According to Mr. Ring, the amount needed to reconcile prior compensation and align future compensation with the Board-approved compensation structure was \$3,850.00 (\$770.00 per month for 5 months).

Upon the conclusion of the finances and necessary budget amendments, Commissioner Robert Barnett, made a motion to approve the: (i) February 2026 District and Department Account Summaries; (ii) approve the February 2026 Financial Statements and Check Reconciliation; and (iii) approve the payment of \$3,850.00 to Chief Gonzales as a reconciliation payment for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade Witt and unanimously approved by all the Commissioners present.

**Agenda Item No. 7 – Discuss and take-action, if necessary, on matters involving: 1) staffing; 2) purchases and/or 3) repair requests submitted by the Volunteer Fire Department; and 4) grant requests.**

President Zambardino then called for a report on staffing matters and equipment purchases or repair needs. Chief Gonzales informed the Commissioners that the District remained short six (6) shifts for April 2026 but was continuing to work on completing the schedule. In addition, he stated that the District would once again be applying for the Firehouse, Motiva, and Texas A&M Forest Services grants. He further reported that the District would be seeking grant funding for various

equipment needs, including a new SCBA fill station. Otherwise, no action was required by the Commissioners on this Agenda Item.

**Agenda Item No. 8 – Discuss and take-action, on the status of Jefferson County Emergency Services District No. 1, Inc and if necessary, adopt an Amended and Restated Service Agreement with the Department.**

Attorney Oxford asked that this agenda item be tabled until after such time as it takes to complete the certification process to become a regulated fire department that is being considered during a discussion of Agenda Item No. 9.

The Commissioners agreed and thereafter, a motion was made by Commissioner Robert Barnett to table this agenda item. The motion to table was seconded by Commissioner Wade Witt and unanimously approved by all the Commissioners.

**Agenda Item No. 9 - Discuss and take-action, if necessary, regarding acceptance of the regulatory memorandum and authorization of all actions necessary for Jefferson County Emergency Services District No. 1 to comply with applicable Texas Commission on Fire Protection requirements, including engagement with regulators, personnel classification, appointment of a Head of Department, and implementation of required reporting, certification, and operational procedures.**

The Board next considered Agenda Item No. 9 regarding initiating the process of becoming a certified fire department pursuant to Chapter 419 of the Texas Government Code. Attorney Oxford and Chief Gonzales outlined the need for the District to operate in compliance with Chapter 419 of the Texas Government Code and Chapter 421 of the Texas Administrative Code, including the regulatory framework governing compensated firefighters and the District's current operational structure. Attorney Oxford and Chief Gonzales explained that because the District pays off-duty firefighters to provide ongoing fire protection services, it is required to operate as a regulated fire department and must take the necessary steps to comply with the requirements established by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, including satisfying applicable certification, reporting, and administrative obligations.

Thereafter, Commissioner John Johnson made a motion to authorize the District, through Chief Gonzales, to initiate and complete all necessary steps and documentation required to become a regulated fire department in compliance with

Chapter 419 of the Texas Government Code and Chapter 421 of the Texas Administrative Code, including coordinating with the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and submitting all required applications, designations, and filings. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade Witt and unanimously approved by all Commissioners present.

**Agenda Item No. 10 – Chief’s Report.**

Lastly, the Commissioners were asked to review the February 2026 run reports set forth below. Per the Chief, in February, the District responded to twenty-one (21) calls.

<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Response Address</b>	<b>Nature of Call</b>	<b>Disposition</b>
*2/2/26 - 17:27	Yellowstone Dr.	Laceration to the eye	AEMS transported to ER
*2/4/26 - 12:33	Tram Rd.	Fall	Lift assist only
2/4/26 - 20:26	Old Sour Lake Rd.	Fall	Lift assist only
*2/5/26 - 16:32	Moore Rd.	Motor vehicle accident	AEMS transported 1 to St. Elizabeth
*2/6/26 - 15:47	Henderson Ave.	Mutual aid - hay bale fire	Assisted ESD #3
*2/6/26 - 16:48	N. China Rd.	Mutual aid - grass fire	Assisted ESD #3
**2/6/26 - 21:53	Rolling Hills Dr.	Breathing problems	AEMS transported to St. Elizabeth
2/7/26 - 03:23	Old Sour Lake Rd.	Motor vehicle accident	No injuries -AEMS obtained refusal
*2/8/26 : 14:12	Hwy 105	Diabetic episode	AEMS transported to St. Elizabeth
*2/13/26 - 12:35	Thousand Oaks Dr.	Breathing problems	AEMS transported to Baptist
*2/16/26 - 15:01	Hwy 105	Fall w/ injuries	AEMS transported to St. Elizabeth
2/17/26 - 19:30	Callais Rd.	Fall w/ injuries	AEMS transported to Baptist
*2/19/26 - 15:48	Moore Rd.	Fire alarm activation	False activation - no fire
2/20/26 - 00:31	Tallow Dr.	Fall	AEMS obtained a refusal
2/20/26 - 02:04	Hwy 105	Motor vehicle accident	AEMS transported to St. Elizabeth
2/20/26 - 20:33	Rolling Hills Dr.	Fire alarm activation	False activation - no fire
2/21/26 - 22:29	Hwy 105	Diabetic episode	AEMS obtained a refusal
*2/23/26 - 08:52	Moore Rd.	Assist AEMS with lifting	AEMS transported to ER
*2/23/26 - 13:18	Nolte Rd.	Mutual aid - grass fire	Cancelled enroute
2/25/26 - 08:49	Old Sour Lake Rd.	Fall w/ injuries	AEMS transported to Baptist
2/28/26 - 17:26	Westbury Rd.	Mutual aid - grass fire	Assisted ESD #3


\* Day FF


\*\* Night FF

*[Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature page to follow]*

There being no other matters to discuss, President Zambardino thanked the Commissioners for attending and announced that the next Regular Meeting of the District will be on April 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Thereafter, Commissioner Robert Barnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wade Witt and was unanimously approved by all the Commissioners.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Position: President  
Date: 4/27/26

  
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Position: Commissioner  
Date: 4-27-26