

THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF ARCHER COUNTY, TEXAS

met in Special Session on Friday, August 25, 2023 at 8:45 A.M.

Those present:

Randall C. Jackson
Wade Scarbrough
Darin Wolf
Pat Martin, III
Todd Herring
Karren Winter

County Judge
Commissioner, Precinct 1
Commissioner, Precinct 2
Commissioner, Precinct 3
Commissioner, Precinct 4
County Clerk

Jack Curd
Conner Deen
Shane Wright
Patricia Vieth
Paul O. Wylie, Jr.
Dawn Vieth

Sheriff
County Attorney Assistant
EMC
Treasurer
Auditor
Tax Assessor/Collector

Public in attendance:

Nathan Lawson with Archer County News
Jake Truette, Debra Haehn, Kim Whitsitt, Paula Bradley, Billy Burks, and Megan Randall with the City of Archer City
Kelvin Green, Scottie Buerger, Michael Carriger, and Brett Baugh with Archer City Volunteer Fire Department
Pete Wolf and Kenny Hoffman with AMR
Citizens in attendance: Jackie Ditto, Larry Holloway, Patricia Hardy, Barbara Geis, Fern Starnes, Hutch Tasker, Michael Bradshaw, and Susie Wallace

A. CALL TO ORDER

Greeting, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum
Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas Flags
Registration of Attendees by the County Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Randy Jackson, and a quorum was noted.

B. Approve Final Agenda:

No items were removed from the agenda.

ORDER TO APPROVE FINAL AGENDA

The motion was made by Darin Wolf and seconded by Wade Scarbrough to approve the Final Agenda. Voting yes 1-2-3-4-Judge

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS, MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS OR PRESENTATIONS AGENDA:

No comments were received by the Court.

D. ACTION AGENDA:

1. Discuss financial assistance to Archer County VFDs and responding VFDs.
Shane Wright informed the Court that all of the Volunteer Fire Departments would be able to apply for a grant through the Texas A&M Forest Service after the local grass fires for their individual department. Randy Jackson stated that each department would be responsible for applying for their own grant. No action taken.

2. Discuss and/or take action on Archer City Ambulance service area for FY 2024. Randy Jackson reported that Jake Truette came last week to ask the court to join into a partnership with City of Archer City for the ambulance service. At the time the Court discussed forming a corporation that would manage the ambulance service. Conner Deen reported that he gave a memorandum for setting up a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to the Court and Mayor Truette. Deen stated as for as liability goes, his advice for the County would be to seek an outside party to pursue setting up the

501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If that were to happen then the County could subsidize the ambulance service if they saw the need. Randy Jackson stated that his understanding was that the County could provide assistance for the legal side of forming the organization by subsidizing the attorney cost from \$3,000.00 to \$10,000.00. Truette asked if that included the appointing leadership for the organization. Todd Herring questioned who would do the hiring of an attorney to start the process for a 501(c)(3) organization. Randy Jackson asked Pete Wolf if he was familiar with a 501(c)(3). Wolf replied that he was not familiar with this type of organization. Jackson stated he thought representatives from all parts of the county would need to be a part of the board. He stated that the county can promote the 501(c)(3) organization but can't vote on it. Todd Herring asked Pete Wolf if a commissioner for the county could have a seat on the contract negotiation or was it strictly between City of Archer City and AMR. Pete Wolf responded that it would be up to the city. Wolf stated that the contract could be between whomever; the City of Archer City had put out the RFP for bids, that is why it only listed the City. Todd Herring asks to hear from the City of Archer City Council. Jake Truette responded that the council has had the same discussion as the commissioner's court has had. The ambulance service as it stands, the city cannot withstand the cost alone. The council is asking the court to fund 50-50 with the city. Randy Jackson stated that subsidizing the legal services for an attorney to start moving forward to a long-term solution for the ambulance service. Billy Burks questioned how long would the county would be willing to commit to a 50-50 partnership. Megan Randall asked Conner Deen the difference between an Emergency Service District and a 501(c)(3). Conner Deen discussed how the 501(c)(3) could be funded. Randy Jackson replied that a ESD would be a taxing district and a 501(c)(3) would not be. Jake Truette explained how the board for a 501(c)(3) could be set up. Paul O. Wylie, Jr. asked if the 501(c)(3) could pay to reimburse the city and county once it was established. Wade Scarbrough discussed the different subsidies that the county is paying. Scarbrough said at this time the county subsidized \$45,000.00 to the different areas that the ambulances service. Scarbrough questioned why it is so much more to cover the least populated part of the county. Wolf discussed that City of Lakeside City and City of Holliday are considered to be a suburb of the City of Wichita Falls. Scarbrough asked the Archer City VFD if it was prepared to step up and be the first responders' care like the VFD in Holliday, Lakeside, Windthorst or Scotland. Kelvin Green explained that the Archer VFD has 7 certified men at this time. Green replied that Archer City always had an ambulance service and the Archer VFD never had to be certified. Green believes that the city needs an ambulance in Archer City. Darin Wolf asked if money was the issue in getting the department certified. Green does not believe that money is the issue, his firemen didn't sign up to be certified EMTs. Jackie Ditto asked why the ambulance service couldn't work like the VFDs. Mike Carriger stated there is not enough people that will volunteer now. Pete Wolf responded with why people don't volunteer anymore. Scarbrough discussed that the regulations have become so burdensome for a volunteer service to work. Jack Curd discussed that the city cannot go a year without the ambulance. He stated the Sheriff's Office is not prepared and the Archer City VFD is not prepared. Randy Jackson stated that the first responders will still be the first on a scene and their training is a necessity to make it work. Michael Bradshaw stated that the EMT program is a two-year program. Pat Martin, III asked the city if they had a cost for the county. Truette stated it would be \$250,000.00, and the discussion would need to be reviewed again until the 501(c)(3) is up and operational.

ORDER TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion was made by Darin Wolf and seconded by Wade Scarbrough to convene into Executive Session per Texas Government Code 551.071(1). Voting yes 1-2-3-4-Judge

Executive Session convened at 10:07 a.m.

Executive Session adjourn at 10:56 a.m.

ORDER TO ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion was made by Randy Jackson and seconded by Todd Herring to adjourn from Executive Session. Voting yes 1-2-3-4-Judge

ORDER TO SUPPLEMENT LEGAL SERVICES

The motion was made by Randy Jackson and seconded by Todd Herring to supplement the legal services for a 501(c)(3) organization or a standalone ambulance service for FY2024. Voting yes 1-2-3-4-Judge

ORDER TO SUPPLEMENT AMBULANCE SERVICE

The motion was made by Pat Martin, III and seconded by Darin Wolf to supplement the City of Archer City for the ambulance service in the amount of \$250,000.00 for FY2024, which includes the City of Archer City's current contract with AMR. Voting yes 2-3-4-Judge; no 1

Having no further business to consider, the Court adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

For informational purposes only:

Mayor Jake Truette called the City of Archer City Council to order. Paula Bradley made a motion and Billy Burks second the motion to supplement the ambulance service with \$250,000.00. Voting yes Debra Haehn, Paula Bradley, Billy Burks, Megan Randall. Motion passed.

I, Karren Winter, County Clerk of Archer County, and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, Archer County, Texas do hereby certify that the foregoing Commissioners Court Minutes are a true and correct record of the proceedings.

ATTEST: *Karren Winter*

Karren Winter, Archer County Clerk