AUSTIN COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

September 9, 2026

The regular meeting of Austin County Emergency Communications District of Austin County, Texas, was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 9:03 a.m. The following board members were present:

Russell Grimes - President

Roy Mercer – Vice President

Walter Morrow – Treasurer

Dana Garcia - Board Member

Bobby Rinn – Board Member

Jason Hammons - Non-Voting Member; AT&T

Ray Roberson was absent. Donna Pier and Donna Cerny were not present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Quorum was declared by roll call.

Consideration of Agenda – Bobby Rinn requested that the bank statement reference be corrected from Cadence Bank to Huntington Bank. Bobby Rinn made a motion to approve the agenda as corrected; second made by Walter Morrow – Motion carried.

Public Forum – No one was signed up to speak – No Motion Needed.

Consideration of Minutes – The Board reviewed prior meeting minutes and clarified that the applicable meeting was the July 22, 2026 meeting and that the August item was a Treasurer's Report rather than a separate meeting. Roy Mercer made a motion to accept the minutes as presented/corrected; second made by Bobby Rinn – Motion carried.

Consideration of Treasurer's Report – The July and August 2026 financial reports were presented. The Board discussed outstanding invoices being located and forwarded for payment, along with the transition to Huntington Bank. The reports were approved – Motion carried.

Consideration of Invoices (Profit & Loss Reports) – The June through August 2026 Statement of Activity was reviewed. The discussion reflected net revenue of approximately negative $23,117, total assets of approximately $606,000, and total liabilities of $66,142.38. Contract and AT&T expenses were identified as significant expenses, with the current equipment contract expected to be paid off in November 2026. The reports were approved – Motion carried.

Old Business

a. **Update on AT&T Equipment and Fiber Link –** The Board reviewed AT&T equipment upgrade information and discussed the need for a clear itemized proposal showing exactly what equipment and services would be provided and the monthly cost. The proposal discussed was approximately $1.5 million overall and approximately $25,000 per month, subject to verification. The Board also discussed call-handling positions, future expansion, copper-to-fiber transition issues, and avoiding unnecessary relocation costs. Additional information will be obtained before action is taken – No Action.

b. **Inventory of Current Assets –** The Board discussed completing an inventory of District equipment using the existing asset list, including items required by the Auditor's Office. Staff/Board representatives will coordinate completion of the inventory – No Action.

c. **Setting Up Auto-Bill Pay –** The Board discussed recurring payments but agreed that final setup should wait until banking access and account administration issues with Huntington Bank are resolved – Tabled / No Action.

d. **Zoom Meeting Participation –** The Board discussed allowing remote participation for members unable to attend because of illness or travel, while maintaining the required in-person quorum. The Board agreed to verify applicable requirements for public access, posting, voting, and compliance before proceeding – Tabled / No Action.

e. **Server / Microsoft Azure Review –** The Board discussed replacing the existing server and compared a physical server, estimated at approximately $20,000, with Microsoft Azure/government cloud services. Preliminary discussion indicated a cloud option of less than approximately $400 per month and potential benefits related to Microsoft 365, cybersecurity, and reduced server maintenance. Additional cost and service information will be brought back to the Board – No Action.

f. **Courthouse Fiber / Starlink Backup –** The Board discussed the planned fiber service to the Courthouse and the need for an independent, continuous internet connection for 9-1-1 operations. A Starlink backup connection was discussed for automatic failover after fiber installation. The Board is awaiting confirmation/installation information – No Action.

New Business

a. **Consideration of FY 2026-2027 Budget –** The proposed budget had been distributed to the cities and emergency service entities and presented to Commissioners Court in August. The Board discussed reduced operating costs, the projected deficit, equipment needs, and the need to continue seeking legislative and grant support. A motion was made to approve the FY 2026-2027 budget; second made and vote taken – Motion carried.

b. **Banking / Huntington Bank Account Administration –** After reviewing banking alternatives, the Board discussed remaining with Huntington Bank and improving administrative access to the district account. The Board discussed adding Roy Mercer as an additional account administrator with the Treasurer and continuing research into the bank's governmental/business account services – Action approved as discussed; further banking details to be completed.

c. **Credit Card / Purchasing –** The Board discussed obtaining a replacement District credit card associated with the new Huntington Bank account for necessary and time-sensitive purchases. The Board expressed a preference for a credit card rather than a debit card and discussed secure storage and account controls. Additional bank information will be obtained – No Final Action.

d. **Microsoft 365 for Office Use –** The Board discussed purchasing Microsoft 365 for the District office and coordinating the purchase through BIS or the District's purchasing method once account/credit card access is finalized. The expense was generally supported as an operational need – No separate motion recorded.

e. **Website / CivicPlus –** The Board discussed the transition from Streamline to CivicPlus, including

ADA compliance, website security, and future use of a .gov domain. Information was shared for planning purposes – No Action.

Concluding Items (Information Only & Adjournment)

Report from rural addressing: The Board discussed the two-point addressing process, with one point placed on the roadway and one on the structure, and the need to review prior addresses where both points may not have been completed.

Report from AT&T – Jason Hammons and the Board discussed ongoing AT&T service and copper-to-fiber coordination. Follow-up with Billy Blankenship was planned.

Consider Action – No additional action recorded.

Items from Board Members/Announcements – The Board discussed scheduling the next regular meeting in November around other county and LEPC commitments.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; second made by Bobby Rinn – Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Russell Grimes

Russell Grimes, President
Austin County Emergency Communications District

911 meeting 9-9-26

Final Audit Report 2026-09-21

Created:	2026-09-21
By:	Roy Mercer (staff@austincounty911.net)
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