



# PRESS RELEASE

## ETCOG Grants \$87,623 to Continue CodeRed Emergency Notification System for an Eighth Year

**Kilgore, TX, November 14, 2016:** On November 3rd the ETCOG Executive Committee approved an eighth year of funding CodeRED, a reverse emergency notification system, for the East Texas region as a part of its public safety program. The CodeRED system, funded by a Homeland Security grant, is a telephone communication service that allows the county/city Emergency Management Coordinator to quickly notify citizens about emergency situations such as:

- o Tornadoes and storm events;
- o Drinking water contamination;
- o Utility outage;
- o Evacuation notice and route;
- o Missing person;
- o Fires or floods;
- o Bomb threat;
- o Hostage situation;
- o Chemical spill or gas leak; and
- o Other emergency incidents where rapid and accurate notification is essential.

The CodeRED system has been contracted through the Emergency Communications Network since 2009 for all of the counties served by ETCOG, with the exception of Henderson County, due to their 9-1-1 district already providing them a reverse notification system. A total of eight years of billing with a sum of \$985,310 has been granted by ETCOG, to date, to provide East Texas with CodeRED. The new service agreement is for the period of January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017 and was approved for \$87,623. A breakdown of the 2017 contract for the East Texas region is as follows:

AGENCY	COST PER YEAR	MINUTES
Anderson County	\$4,785	22,500
City of Palestine	\$3,828	15,000
Camp County	\$2,871	9,375
Cherokee County	\$4,785	25,000
City of Jacksonville	\$2,871	9,375
Gregg County	\$4,785	22,500
City of Longview	\$9,569	50,000
Harrison County	\$4,785	22,500
City of Marshall	\$3,828	15,000
City of Athens	\$2,000	4,500
Marion County	\$2,000	4,500
Panola County	\$2,500	10,000
Rains County	\$2,871	9,375

Rusk County	\$5,742	25,000
City of Tyler/Smith County	\$12,462	62,500
Upshur County	\$3,000	16,000
Van Zandt County	\$3,828	15,000
City of Canton	\$2,871	9,375
Wood County	\$5,742	25,000
*IPAWS Submission for Smith County, under the City of Tyler, account	\$2,500	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$87,623</b>	<b>372,500</b>

\*IPAWS is an Integrated Public Alert & Warning System. For more information, please go to the following website - <https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>.

All citizens and business are encouraged to register for CodeRED via their cell phones. This can be done by visiting their county websites and looking for the CodeRed link or by contacting their county Emergency Management Coordinator. For more information, contact ETCOG's Director of Public Safety, Stephanie Heffner, at 903.218.6461.

**About ETCOG**

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.

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