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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS**



# PRESS RELEASE

ETCOG Board to Vote on \$42.4 Million Budget, Honor Senator Kevin Eltife, and Recipients of New Regional First Responders Award

*93rd Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting Held in Henderson Next Week*

**Henderson, TX, September 23, 2016:** The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) will host its 93rd Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, September 29, at the Civic Center in Henderson, TX, located at 1005 TX-64 from 11:45 am to 2:00 pm. In addition to regular business of considering the FY 2017 \$42.2M budget, this year's event will also present two regional awards: ETCOG's Regional Statesmanship Award and the first ever Regional First Responders Award.

## **REGIONAL STATESMANSHIP AWARD**

*Recipient – Senator Kevin Eltife*

The Regional Statesmanship Award recognizes a local, state, or federal official that has demonstrated valuable dedicated service to regional cooperation. Senator Kevin Eltife has been selected as the recipient of this annual award by the ETCOG awards committee.

## **REGIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS AWARD**

*Recipients - City of Palestine EMC, EMS, Fire and Police Departments & Anderson County EMC, EMS, and Sheriff's Office*

The newly created Regional First Responder Service Award is designed to honor first responders who have rendered extraordinary service while performing their duties as a peace officer, fire fighter, telecommunicator or EMS provider within the East Texas Region. ETCOG accepted award nominations from the public by online survey and all submissions were reviewed and voted upon by the ETCOG awards committee.

*“East Texas first responders are special men and women who not only willingly stand in the line of fire every day for all of us, but often run into the crisis, wherever and whatever it may be, to ensure we remain safe and healthy” said ETCOG Executive Director David Cleveland. “In recognition of their daily sacrifice and devotion to our respective communities, we wanted to establish this annual award in their honor. We are excited to honor officials in Palestine and Anderson County for risking their lives to serve their community during devastating floods this year.”*

The meeting includes other business items: approval of the March 17, 2016 Minutes; election of new Chairman and Executive Committee members; an appointment of Camp County Board of Director's member to the Executive Committee; recommendations for Executive Committee Officers; discussion and approval of the FY 2017 Budget; presentation of the Chairman's Service Award; and recognition of the chairman's service.

ETCOG's Board of Directors is comprised of elected officials representing the ETCOG membership of cities, counties, special districts and school districts in the 14 county East Texas region. You may view an agenda for the Board of Director's Meeting [here](#). For more information, contact ETCOG's Executive Director, David Cleveland at (903) 218- 6423.

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**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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