

QUOUM AT BROWN COUNTY MEETING
City Council
June 3, 2019

The City Council of the City of Brownwood, Texas, had a quorum present at the Brown County Commissioners Meeting on Monday, June 3, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., at the Joint Law Enforcement Center, Training Room, 1050 West Commerce, Brownwood, Texas, with the following members present:

Stephen E. Haynes	:	Mayor
H. D. Jones	:	Councilman – Ward 1
Ed McMillian	:	Councilman – Ward 2
Larry Mathis	:	Councilman – Ward 3
Walker Willey	:	Councilman – Ward 5
Emily Crawford	:	City Manager
Pat Chesser	:	City Attorney
Richard McCarter	:	Director of IT
Walter Middleton	:	Finance Director
Christi Wynn	:	City Secretary

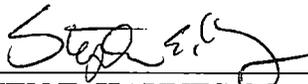
with Councilman, Draco Miller, not in attendance.

Council may participate in a discussion at the Brown County Commissioners Meeting regarding the County-wide Communications Center, equipment, and related issues.

Judge, Paul Lilley, called the Brown County Commissioners to order.

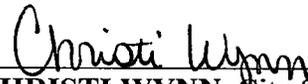
Acting Police Chief, James Fuller, led the discussion. He explained that the Brownwood Police Department handles dispatch services for the County. That includes all law enforcement agencies, the State Troopers, Brownwood Fire Department, all volunteer Fire Departments, and the transfer of all ambulance calls to Alabama where they are dispatched. The demands of all first responders in the County are exceeding current capabilities of the dispatch center equipment. The dispatching consoles have surpassed their expected life span and an upgrade is needed. Fuller spoke about some of the issues they began having and stated that there are simply too many people on one channel. In 1990, the City and County entered into an agreement with the Council of Governments that the City of Brownwood would answer all of the 911 calls. Back then, when a 911 call came in, it would be transferred to the responding agency. In February 1999, the City and County began discussions about the Joint Law Enforcement Center. In 2001 we took position of the building and hired seven additional dispatchers to help take calls. In order to serve our community better, it is time for us to work together towards updated equipment. Chief Fuller explained where some of the portable radio dead spots are and explained the City of Brownwood and Bangs have agreed to hire a radio engineering consultant to help us solve our problems. There was discussion about call volume. Last year, the City of Brownwood had over 26,000 calls for service, Early Police and Fire had nearly 5,000, Bangs 1,300, Brown County Sheriff's Department had 10,700, with all volunteer Fire Departments that number went to 11,500. Brown County Sheriff, Vance Hill, stated that the current system

is dangerous as so many calls are coming into the system that some of his deputies are not able to check out with the dispatchers. If one of them were in trouble, they would not know where to look. Chief Fuller stated that there are nine working officers to one working dispatcher. During a fire, dispatchers can get around forty calls, and we are asking our officers on the street to slow their pace until a dispatcher can log their call. We want to have a true dispatch center with a buy-in from all agencies and as a team, working together. Sheriff Hill said there is no reason to duplicate the dispatch service by transferring the calls back to the Sherriff's Office. He said it would cost at least \$250,000 per year for the County to man its own dispatch. He expressed his desire to work together. Chief Fuller stated that the City has met with the expert a couple of times, and the expert would like to meet with each agency to find out where there are problems and assess the needs. Sheriff Hill stated that he has a file an inch thick of dead spots in the area. Chief Fuller asked for a buy-in from each agency. The cost is split by the need of the agency. For Phase I, the City of Brownwood Police and Fire Departments will pay \$23,000, and we are asking for the following – City of Early and Bangs \$2,000 each, the Sheriff's Office and the County as a whole with all of the volunteer Fire Departments \$28,000. The expert will go to each agency, gauge the needs, and act as the general contractor for the sub-contractor to do the work to his specifications. The expert will look at existing equipment from all agencies to see what is needed and assure it will be compatible. Sheriff Hill spoke about DPS and the capabilities they have with their system. Richard McCarter, City of Brownwood IT Director, stated that the City of Brownwood does not own any towers like DPS and that limits us to what we can do and what we are capable of. Mr. McCarter stated that the consultant may suggest the option of renting space on existing towers or constructing a tower. Fuller stated that Phase II would be equipment. A Commissioner asked how we selected the consultant. Fuller stated that we chose a consultant that didn't also sell equipment. City Manager Crawford explained that three RFP's were sent out to radio engineering groups. Two declined because they wanted to quotes the equipment purchase. We also checked with the Council of Governments to see if they could assist with that type of expertise and they were not able to assist. City Manager Crawford explained that the timeline for the meeting seems quick, but it is so each entity could plan their equipment budgets accordingly. Brownwood has already started the process with the consultant, and he will work with other agencies if they choose. Judge Lilly asked what the target date to obtain equipment would be. City Manager Crawford stated that it will depend on the equipment that we need and the urgency of replacement. The consoles are over ten years old. We will begin with what is most urgent, work down the list, and budget accordingly from there. Likely this will be a two-year replacement process for the City of Brownwood. There was discussion about moving to a digital system. Mr. McCarter stated that the equipment we purchase will have the capability, but the expert will give us direction. There being no other discussion, the meeting was adjourned.



STEPHEN E. HAYNES, Mayor

ATTEST:



CHRISTI WYNN, City Secretary