

Dear Mayor Evans, Mayor Pro Tem Bernardi and Members of the City Council,

RE: Special Council Session June 11, 2026

As you may be aware, we are currently in the process of establishing an Emergency Services District (ESD) to serve our region. Recently, the City of Quinlan and City of West Tawakoni recognized the long-term value of this initiative and officially approved their inclusion in the district. We are reaching out today to ensure that the City of Hawk Cove and its residents are not left behind in receiving these vital, enhanced services.

Under Texas law Health and Safety Code 775.014, creating an ESD that includes your municipality's limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) requires the written consent of the City Council. We are currently within the critical 60 day window for the City to act.

Why an ESD is the Best Path Forward for Hawk Cove

Transitioning to an ESD provides a stable, long-term solution to the growing emergency response needs of our community. Here are the primary benefits joining the ESD will bring to the City of Hawk Cove:

- **Dedicated, Stable Funding for Emergency Services:** Fire departments often struggle with fluctuating budgets and the unpredictability of donations or municipal budget constraints. An ESD provides a dedicated, reliable funding stream solely ring-fenced for fire protection and emergency medical services.
- **Transition to Reliable, Paid Professional Staffing:** Relying strictly on volunteer staffing has become increasingly unsustainable due to declining volunteer numbers and daytime availability issues. An ESD provides a pathway and the necessary funding to transition toward consistent, scheduled paid staffing, ensuring that qualified personnel are always on duty when an emergency call comes in.
- **Upgraded Equipment and Faster Response Times:** With reliable funding, we can invest in modern apparatus, life-saving equipment, and enhanced training for our personnel. This translates directly to faster response times and better outcomes during critical emergencies for Hawk Cove residents.
- **Lower Homeowner Insurance Premiums:** Enhanced fire protection capabilities directly impact our ISO (Insurance Services Office) Public Protection Classification. A better ISO rating can significantly lower property insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses within Hawk Cove, often offsetting the cost of the ESD tax itself.

- **Relieving the Burden on Municipal Budgets:** By funding fire and rescue services through the ESD, the City of Hawk Cove can redirect its own municipal funds toward other critical city infrastructure, projects, and services without sacrificing public safety.
- **Local Control and Accountability:** An ESD is governed by a local board of commissioners who are accountable to the taxpayers they serve. This ensures that the tax dollars collected are spent efficiently and transparently right here in our community. Additionally, Municipalities can enter legally binding interlocal agreements with an ESD to define and guarantee response, coverage, staffing, and service levels, providing certainty for both parties and the communities they serve.

Hawk Cove Tax Impact Summary

The proposed ESD tax rate is set at \$0.10 per \$100 of assessed property value. Based on the Certified Totals on the Hunt County CAD, for an average homestead residence in Hawk Cove, which has an average net taxable value of \$86,764, the annual ESD tax would amount to \$86.76. Distributed across the year, this breaks down to a monthly cost of approximately \$7.23 per homeowner. Collectively, across all 965 properties in the city's total net taxable property base of \$30,953,848, the tax is estimated to generate \$30,954 in annual revenue to fund local fire and rescue services.

The Cost of Inaction

If the City Council chooses not to act within the statutory 60-day window, Hawk Cove and its ETJ will be explicitly excluded from the proposed ESD boundaries.

It is crucial to understand that **Hunt County is under no obligation to provide fire rescue services**, leaving Hawk Cove entirely on its own to fund and maintain these essential operations if the city excludes itself from the ESD.

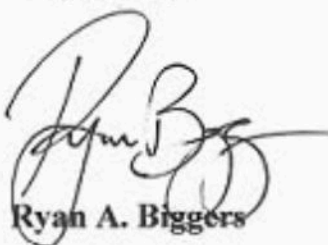
Previously, Hawk Cove relied on the Quinlan Volunteer Fire Department, which officially ceased emergency operations on January 9, 2026. While the Quinlan Volunteer Fire Department remains an active non-profit corporation on paper, it currently possesses no firefighting trucks or equipment, no County or Hospital contracts and no valid Medical Direction under the Hunt Regional Hospital District to operate as a First Responder Organization. Additionally, Hunt County has instituted a new radio system with county owned and operated radios distributed to and restricted to Hunt County qualified departments. With all these factors the QVFD would not be able to return to operation again within Hunt County.

Furthermore, once the Tawakoni South and Tawakoni Fire Departments fall under the authority of the newly formed ESD, they will be legally restricted from providing fire and rescue services to Hawk Cove. Because Hawk Cove residents would not be contributing to the ESD tax base, the only way the district could respond to emergencies within city limits would be if the City Council negotiates and funds a completely separate interlocal agreement at market rate.

While citizens *can* later petition to be annexed into the ESD to receive these services, the legal and electoral process for a citizen-led annexation is an incredibly long, difficult, and costly mountain to climb. We want to avoid putting that burden on your residents and ensure continuous, top-tier protection for Hawk Cove from day one.

I request that the City Council's written consent of Hawk Cove's city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) be placed on the City Council's next agenda to be discussed and voted on prior to the July deadline set by State law. We are fully committed to providing the highest level of service to your community. I would welcome the opportunity for us to speak with the Council directly, answer any questions you may have, and discuss how we can partner to secure the future of Hawk Cove's emergency services.

Respectfully,



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