



Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority  
Special Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2026, at 1:30 PM

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1. Call to order, roll call, and determination of a quorum.

Adam Griffith	Chrissy Brown
Belinda McGhie	Josh Huffines
Brandon Reynolds	Mark Sharpton
Chris Palmer	Nick Carrao
Shaun Barnett	

*A quorum was made with nine members in attendance.*

2. Call to order, roll call, and the determination of a quorum.

The Special meeting was called to order by Ms. Brown.

3. The 9-1-1 Management Authority (“Authority”) has been convened in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

If an Authority member would like to add an agenda item to the next regularly scheduled meeting, please contact the 9-1-1 Coordinator and the Authority Chair at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting.

Ms. Brown read the statement and noted that no Authority member made any comments or requested any agenda items before the Authority meeting.

4. Welcome to members of the Authority and guests in attendance.

Ms. Brown welcomed the Authority members and the guests in attendance and asked the guests to introduce themselves.

5. Possible discussion, revision, and vote to provide direction to the 9-1-1 Management Authority Legislative Liaison to support, not support, or be neutral, and also make recommendations for changes for Oklahoma House Bill 2710, Oklahoma Emergency Communications Act.

Mr. Terry explained that House Bill 2710 is a holdover from last year. This bill went through the process last year during the 2025 legislative cycle. It passed two committees with minor changes, but failed to meet the timeline to be presented on the House floor. Representative Ford came back in January and told him that he was going to reintroduce this bill and make an attempt to move the bill forward. At that time, Mr. Terry told Representative Ford that last year the Legislative Committee chose not to support the bill, and highly recommended that he meet with the Executive Committee of the 9-1-1 Management Authority, along with the Chair of the Legislative Committee, about the bill to hear any concerns that we may have.

Mr. Terry met with the Executive Committee and Chair of the Legislative Committee, Mr. Barnett, and Representative Ford directly after the last 9-1-1 Management Authority meeting in February, and had a very lengthy discussion with Representative Ford about our concerns, which primarily circled around funding. We wanted to ensure that 9-1-1 funding was protected, and that 9-1-1 funding would remain the primary use, or the use would be for 9-1-1 specifically; Mr. Terry explained the Authority had contracts that needed to be signed this year, and wanted to make sure there was no mission creep if we move forward.

Mr. Terry continued stating that the bill is going to have a pretty major overhaul when it's presented on the House Floor. The bill, as written today, creates a new office of Emergency Communications, and our funding and the 9-1-1 Management Authority would reside within that office. The office would have an Executive Coordinator and an Executive Director, per se, who would answer to an Executive Board. The Executive Board is made up of five members of the 9-1-1 Management Authority and five members of a new Communications Authority that would oversee radio. You'd have ten members at the top that the Executive Coordinator would report to. Then you'd have two Authorities underneath that, one for 9-1-1, as it is today, with our own revolving fund, with our own protected funds, and then you would have the radio portion of it, which would be another authority with funding coming from another source.

As Representative Ford has been pushing this through, he was advised by leadership within the House that there would not be funding to fund this bill, so funding would not be made available in order to fund the radio portion, half of the Director, and all the things that are in the bill. Representative Ford reached out to Mr. Terry two weeks ago and went back to the original discussion I had with him two years ago, where he said he wants this new body to reside under the now 9-1-1 Management Authority, so state radio would be under the 9-1-1 Management Authority, and I basically said that doesn't meet our business model. We deal with 9-1-1, we deal with dispatch, we deal with citizens to 9-1-1, we don't necessarily deal with 9-1-1 to the field. We're not subject matter experts when it comes to radio, that is not our mission. He replied by basically accepting that we're not going to move this Authority over to us.

Mr. Terry met with Representative Ford on the same day of this meeting (Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority Special meeting, March 9th). There's been a new draft of House Bill

2710, the new draft that's currently being sent over to legal and the people who write the bills for the House, strips out from the current bill all of the office language, so no Emergency Communication Office. There won't be a new office created within the government. It removes everything related to the 9-1-1 Management Authority from the bill. Sections 10, 11, and 12 were removed from the bill. It creates some additional language as it relates to the quorum for the Emergency Communications Authority. It moves that Authority under The Department of Public Safety, so DPS would be the holding department or office for this Emergency Communications Authority in the bill or in the draft of the bill that he's changing, it requests DPS to assign a resource to this new Authority to carry out the duties the new Authority would oversee all infrastructure, all radio infrastructure, procurement, for public safety within the state, for the state offices or state agencies. A lot of discussion about that, a lot of things revolving around, grant dollars. The only thing that ties this new language back to the 9-1-1 Management Authority is that he's requested that the State 9-1-1 Coordinator or designee have a position on this new Emergency Communications Authority. The only thing that ties us to that would be a position on the new Authority, which would be my position or my designee. We could request that it be changed to the 9-1-1 Management Authority or designee. As it relates to my position, it is the best one to occupy because of the general knowledge of what's going on around the state as we go out and have meetings. But again, if you choose to make those changes, we could do that. The process will be House Bill 2710, as it's written within your packet, will be presented to the House Floor to go on the House Floor. Representative Ford said, within 48 hours of that notice of it going on the House Floor, he will make the modification to remove the language from the 9-1-1 Management Authority, create an authority within DPS, remove the office language, and do everything I mentioned.

With any legislative cycle, you have to trust that that's what's going to happen, but regardless of the fact or regardless of the direction of where we're at, I need direction from you as your Legislative Liaison. I need direction on what this body wants to do. My recommendation would be that you can either support, not support, or remain neutral. These are your three options. But I think we're going to have to continue to track this through, and we're going to have to continue to keep our finger on the pulse to make sure things don't change, and we have mission creep into 9-1-1, so my recommendation is that we would again either support, not support, or remain neutral. That's up to you, but then empower the Legislative Committee to work with the Legislative Liaison to review language and ensure that we protect the mission of the 9-1-1 Management Authority as this bill moves through the cycle. That would be my recommendation.

Mr. Terry asked Mr. Barnett to ensure that all topics were covered.

Mr. Barnett confirmed that yes, that covers everything that has been brought up to this point, from the Legislative Committee standpoint, this board can decide to support or oppose or remain neutral, but I think the key piece is that the Liaison, which is Mr. Terry and the Legislative Committee, be involved; but that needs to come from this board to do that, to not

have to come back to the board every week or two weeks, allow us to work to get the language corrected, if we want to see it going forward. I believe we understand where we want to be. The main piece is to make sure that our 9-1-1 element is still what it is today, and that there's a creep into that, and Representative Ford has been very supportive of that approach, and he contacts Mr. Terry regularly to check language. Mr. Terry then sends that to me, we look over it, and we have discussions. It makes it easy for us to call our Committee meeting together, really quickly, to have a discussion. If you have questions, we'd like to answer them as we can, and we'll move forward.

Mr. Sharpton commented, "Doesn't this deal, in general, expand and make government larger, create a whole other department?"

Mr. Barnett explained It's just going to create under DPS as another element under DPS, and won't be a whole other department. This language today does change; it will not.

Mr. Terry responded that he thought Mr. Barnett was correct, the bill language that you read as part of the packet does create more government. You could say that an Authority creates more government, too, because you have more people making decisions. However, I think that from what he hears around the state is the challenges that he believes we're facing with radio specifically, or emergency communications data is the next thing, data interoperability. There are all kinds of things related to operational issues in public safety, for communications, but one of the overarching problems that we have right now is that we do not have enough local input into the direction the State's going. And I think that's where the Authority steps into this. Before 2016, before this Authority existed, we had a very difficult time pushing 9-1-1 initiatives forward, because you had a handful of people doing it, but not enough people doing it. And I think what the Authority does is it creates that local state partnership to help move things forward, both legislatively, and funding loss as we move forward.

Ms. McGhie asked about the changes and what the funding sources are going to be for the changes.

Mr. Terry responded that no additional funding will be used. What we've been told is that no additional funding will be provided for state radio systems above and beyond what they already have. However, this new Emergency Communications Authority will not reside in the same department that we reside in. Our funds will remain within Emergency Management and will not be within the Department of Public Safety. There's a clear separation between what we're doing and what they're doing, or what they'll be doing, and that's the reason why we push back.

When meeting with Mr. Barnett and meeting with the Executive Committee, when Representative Ford called me two weeks ago and said they're not going to fund the bill as written, I said, Then we cannot support it as written, period, and we can't, because we know what will happen. There'll be mission creep there, and right now, our rules don't even allow us to be able to pay for radio infrastructure or anything radio-related, other than radio consoles. It would be a major overhaul to even get to that point, and it would definitely be disruptive, I think, to what we're working on here as the 9-1-1- Management Authority, and that's why I believe we should support the movement towards an Authority for Emergency Communications, because I think that does help 9-1-1, we do have to get the call to the field, and I believe we should support that Authority being created within Department of Public Safety. As that relates to funding, we will be clearly separated between the two. In Sections 10, 11, and 12 of the bill, which are towards the end, it's probably in the last third of it. Sections 10, 11, and 12 are the sections that basically make changes or modifications to the 9-1-1 Management Authority Act, and all of those sections will be removed, as I was told by Representative Ford this morning. That removes all elements related to this body.

Mr. Griffith stated that he was fearful of approving this, and there's a chance this could change again. What kind of standing does our vote today have for two weeks or two months?

Mr. Terry replied, "great question." The Legislative cycle, if it is approved by the House floor, and let's say it's approved with the title off, which makes a difference. Title off, Title on, Title off, basically saying, we're open to changes if you want to change it. It'll go to the Senate. It'll have to go through committees within the Senate. It'll probably go through at least a couple of committees at the Senate level, then be asked to go to the Senate floor to be approved, then it's going to come back to the House to be approved again. There are multiple different steps along the way where this bill could be changed, modified, questions to be asked, things of that nature, before it ever gets to the point where it even goes to the Governor's office, and then at that point, the Governor can veto it. Every step along the way is an opportunity for change, which is good and bad, and that's why we need to stay engaged. It's very difficult for us to stay engaged if we don't assign the Legislative Committee to do so, because of the way that we had to conduct business.

Mr. Griffith replied that he agreed with that from an outside view, but are we approving engagement, can we be neutral but also approve a vote to you being engaged?

Mr. Barnett replied, Yes, and that would be my recommendation, that we allow the Liaison and the Legislative Committee to be engaged, continue having conversations, and be a part of that. It may come down to a point, if things fall by order, we may come back to this Authority

and say, do you support it now or not? But I don't know that we have to do that right now. And I think having our voice in it will be extremely important, and that's where I think today this board would just allow that interaction throughout the process.

Mr. Sharpton asked, "What are the odds that we get moved and consolidated anyway?"

Mr. Terry said it would take an act of legislation to do that. We've been talking about the consolidation of emergency communications for a decade now. There was a group of us that went to Arizona eight years ago, and we had discussions about consolidation, and so there's always going to be an opportunity that we would be moved, or something could change. There's no doubt about that. The key to it is, number one, I want to protect myself. I want to make sure that whenever I'm speaking, I'm speaking on behalf of this body and not making assumptions, and that's why I want a clear path with whatever I'm able to say or do. An example of that would be that this bill, as written, goes to the House floor, and this is what you see published for the House floor. But we know in 48 hours, it's going to be changed. I promise you, my phone is going to blow up, and I'm going to have to give answers to people, because they're going to want to know what the 9-1-1 Management Authority wants. And, I've got to have some clear answers. But you know, is there a possibility? Absolutely, we could be, but it's going to take legislation to move us. I guess the Governor probably could do it; he's done it before, when he's done an Executive Order. He's done Executive Orders and moved people around within the state, but it would take a lot of work to unprotect our funds. Let's put it that way.

Mr. Barnett asked this Board to make a motion if there were no more questions, that we allow our Liaison, Mr. Terry and the Legislative Committee to continue working with board being involved through the changes, and to be able to speak forward against changes, so that anything that comes up that would affect us and we can oppose it if they continue on the right path. That is, Mr. Terry and the Authority to continue to support, and would allow us to work daily as this evolves each day without having to come back to this Board to get a new direction, then we can bring it where it's headed through some of these Committees, giving us the ability to work on that daily. Then, if there is a need to come back to this Board and either support the language that's there or not

Mr. Barnett made a motion to allow Mr. Terry and the Legislative Committee to continue working with them, with Representative Ford and the other Representatives and Senators, who will have questions and continue to look at it daily.

Mr. Griffith added while remaining neutral at this time.

Mr. Griffith asked how the authority will be updated. Will this be an update in the bimonthly meetings, or will there be a special meeting to update us?

Mr. Barnett stated that there is a schedule, and we always have our regular meetings. However, we do have a schedule and could meet monthly in four weeks and meet again if we need to.

Mr. Terry stated he can also, and he has done this on occasion, by providing a blind copy to the Authority on an email giving an update and requesting feedback. It doesn't necessarily need to be held to an all Management Authority meeting, but the Legislative Committee needs feedback related to certain changes or whatever it may be. We can request individual feedback, as long as the Legislative Committee has the power and ability to be able to take that and move that forward.

Ms. Poole asked if the original motion could be modified to begin neutral unless further directions are received from board members.

Mr. Barnett replied that the motion would be to allow the Legislative Committee to work, continue working on this Bill while the Board remains neutral at this point, and then we can always bring it back to the Board as needed.

Ms Poole explained that unless further directions are received from the Board. Regarding Mr. Terry's comment, because, again, it is a Legislative session, things can happen quickly, even though you meet once a month. To Mr. Terry's point, yes, the Board at this point is neutral. The Legislative Liaison or the Legislative Committee receives further direction from the Board members.

*A motion was made to allow Mr. Terry and the Legislative Committee to continue working with the Committee, with Representative Ford and the other Representatives and Senators, who will have questions and continue to look at it daily, while remaining neutral unless further direction is received from the Authority members, by Mr. Sharpton; a second by Mr. Barnett. The motion passed with nine ayes and zero nays.*

6. Adjournment.  
2:00 PM



The minutes of this Special meeting dated March 9, 2026, of the Oklahoma 9-1-1 Management Authority have been reviewed and approved on this date, April 2, 2026



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Ben Curry  
Authority Chair