
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 9, 2025

DATE: 06.05.2025

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: MOU with TDEM for TEMAT programs



Background:

Following Hurricane Harvey and recommendations from the 2018 **“Eye of the Storm” report** of the Governor’s Commission to Rebuild Texas, the Disaster Recovery Task Force (DRTF) was developed through House Bill 6 from the 86th Legislative Session. The DRTF was established by TDEM in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.0553, “to operate throughout the long-term recovery period following natural and man-made disasters by providing specialized assistance for communities and individuals to address financial issues, available federal assistance programs, and recovery and resiliency planning to speed recovery efforts at the local level.”

Today, the **Disaster Recovery Task Force** is one of many components of TDEM's Incident Support Task Force, consisting of local government employees who deploy to assist other local jurisdictions through the disaster recovery process.

Johnathan Esquivel is the ISTF Regional Coordinator with TDEM. He shared with me that TDEM is recruiting individuals from local jurisdictions to support their counterparts throughout Texas providing support to other emergency operations centers (EOCs) during disasters. The ISTF helps bridge response and recovery efforts. The task force has received positive feedback, not only from all over Texas, but also with regard to last year’s out-of-state deployments to North Carolina. Their scope of work is determined by the needs of the particular EOC in need and the capabilities are determined by the variety of expertise. The ISTF is constantly looking to grow their bench of great individuals.

Recently both Kateryna Thomas and Wayne Shaffer showed interest in the ISTF and received the required training and were accepted as members. With the execution of the attached MOU between TDEM, the City and the employee, they will be available for deployment to other areas when needed and if their schedule allows.

- When a natural disaster occurs, if the effected EOC could benefit from the short-term assistance (typically 2 weeks +/-) of Wayne and/or Kateryna, the TDEM will let us know of this potential deployment.
- If the City of Port Lavaca is dealing with our own disaster or there are other things/projects going on that would suffer if Wayne or Kateryna were gone for a couple weeks, then the deployment would not occur. If however, their absence for this couple of weeks would be acceptable by both the City and the employee then the deployment will be initiated. Bottom line, the City does not have to agree to send the employee to any potential deployment, however if such a deployment would not be an undue

hardship on City operations, then the City of Port Lavaca, through this program, would be in a position to help other communities in their time of need. In addition, this program will be there to assist us in our time of need when that occurs.

- All costs associated with the deployment, including travel, pay, benefits, food, lodging are reimbursed by FEMA, in accordance with the City's emergency pay policy and travel policy.

Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to execute an MOU each for Wayne Shaffer and Kateryna Thomas.

More information is available at <https://www.tdem.texas.gov/recovery/incident-support-task-force>
Or by emailing Jonathan.esquivel@tdem.texas.gov