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## CITY OF PORT LAVACA

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**COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 11, 2025**

**DATE:** 05.08.2025

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**FROM:** JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** MOU with TDEM for TEMAT programs

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**Background:**

As you recall in June of 2025 Council executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Emergency Management Assistance Teams (TEMAT) Program Administrator and Public Works Director Wayne Shaffer and Grants and CIP Coordinator Kateryna Thomas to participate in TDEM's Incident Support Task Force.

Last year individual MOU's were executed for each participating employee. TDEM has changed their system now such that a single MOU is executed between TDEM and TEMAT and the participating City. TDEM reports that this new MOU helps them streamline the process of adding approved members to teams.

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

To review the information about the program, which was shared with Council last June, 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.

Last year, Johnathan Esquivel, the ISTF Regional Coordinator with TDEM, recruited Wayne and Kateryna, who both showed interest in the IST. They each received the required training and were accepted as members. As stated above, two MOU's were executed at the June 2025 meeting – one for Wayne and one for Kateryna. With the execution of these MOU's they are available for deployment to other areas when needed and if their schedule allows. How it works ...

- 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 Disaster Deployment compensation policy and travel policy.**
- Our adopted policy for Disaster Deployment Compensation states that compensation will be at a rate of 1.5 x their base rate for all hours worked during a deployment.

More information is available at <https://www.tdem.texas.gov/recovery/incident-support-task-force>

Or by emailing [Jonathan.esquivel@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:Jonathan.esquivel@tdem.texas.gov)