

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**SUBJECT:** Staff Report

**INITIATED BY:** Administration

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**Legislative Update:** The Governor has vetoed the property tax bills that came through this year. It is anticipated that next year's session will include more discussions regarding property taxes that could be equally or more restrictive than the bills that were presented this year. What this means for us is that we are going to start having tough discussions about capital planning and service levels.

**EMS Funding:** Harvey County established a grant in 2024 to fund EMS providers throughout the county as a stop gap measure. 2026 should have been the first year Sedgwick was eligible for the funds, however do to administrative oversight outside of our control we will not be a recipient. This does not have an effect on our 2026 budget as the position that would have been created will remain unfilled.

Cities have continued to have discussions with County leadership on the possibility of raising the funded amount to better serve the providers equitably. We have scheduled meeting with County leadership on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. I will report back with any information that comes from this meeting.

**Rep'd:** The City and USD 439 will be partnering to move forward with a software purchase that will allow for both agencies staff to prepare scripted videos for output to the community regarding a variety of topics. This software will also integrate with our current websites to provide a chatbot for citizens to ask questions and find information more easily on the sites.

This system will allow both agencies to fulfill a goal of being more communicable – part of which was in our strategic plan. The financial split will be 50/50 and is expected to cost each agency \$3,000 for the remainder of the year. Go live will be in May, with the contract ending in December. Both agencies will have the opportunity to renew and discuss financial obligations at the end of the contract term. We are grateful for the partnership and ability to continue to collaborate on things that make our operations more efficient.