

Fire Service Districts

November 11, 2024

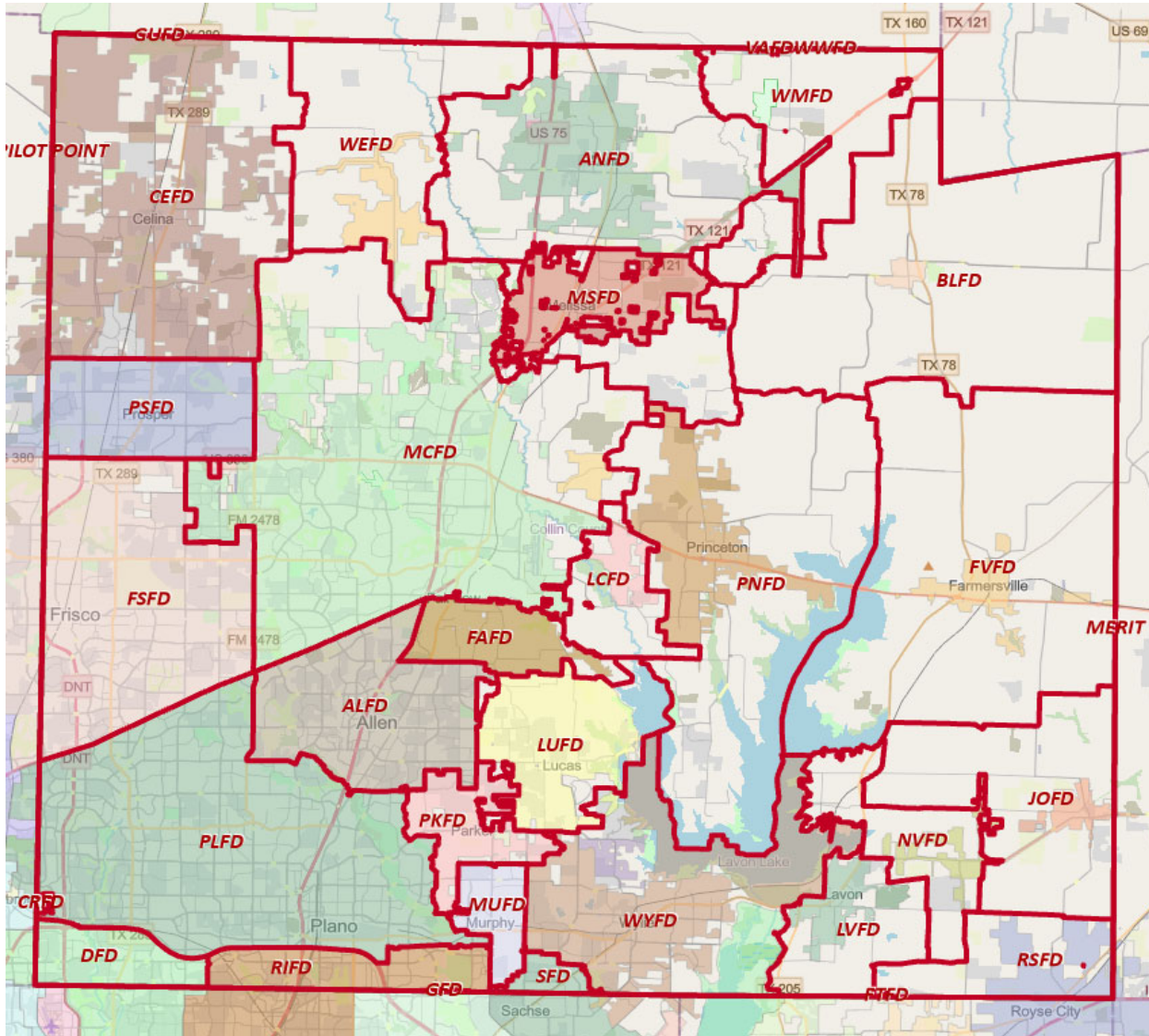
Collin County Commissioners Court

Collin County Fire Services Agreements

- Originally signed Oct. 1, 2013
- Provide firefighting and fire protection services to unincorporated areas
 - 2013 – pop. 37,468 in unincorporated (no MUDs)
 - 2023 – pop. 55,207 in unincorporated (no MUDs)

Collin County Fire Services Agreements

- County funds \$950,000 annually, BUT
- We provide \$980,975 subsidy to *fire* departments for dispatch
- 21 cities contracted with to cover Fire Districts
- MUDs are not included
- AMR provides EMS (5 cities)
 - City of Princeton is holder of AMR contract
 - County spent \$379,444 in FY2024



Why did we enter into fire service agreements?

- Sec. 352.001, Tex. Local Gov't Code:

“The Commissioners Court of a county may furnish fire protection or fire-fighting equipment to the residents of the county...”

- Collin County does NOT have a fire department.

Why did we enter into fire service agreements?

- Safety and Protection: protect lives and property.
- Preventing Property Loss: mitigate damage and potentially save properties from being completely lost.
- Wildfire/grassfire Management
- Community Development: Make unincorporated areas more attractive for residents and businesses, encouraging growth and development.
- Regulatory Compliance: Regulations requiring fire protection services for insurance purposes and public safety standards.

Cities have terminated the agreement

- Started with 22 Cities in 2013
- As of October 1, 2024, City of Melissa no longer contracted with the County (21)
 - City of Weston is covering Melissa's fire district
- As of October 1, 2025, City of McKinney and City of Farmersville will no longer be contracted with the County (19)

Future Options

1. Increase the contract amount with the Cities (currently \$950,000)
2. Emergency Services District (ESD)
3. County Assistance District (CAD)

Increase Contract Amount with Cities

1. Current County subsidy
 - McKinney - \$120 per call/\$597 per call for fire
 - Farmersville - \$400 per call
 - \$216 for fire
 - \$184 for dispatch subsidy
2. City of Wylie letter dated Nov. 4, 2024 to renegotiate contract
3. Issue: cost per run varies among cities
 - McKinney - \$2,200
 - Farmersville - \$710
 - Wylie - \$2,340
4. Comes out of General Fund

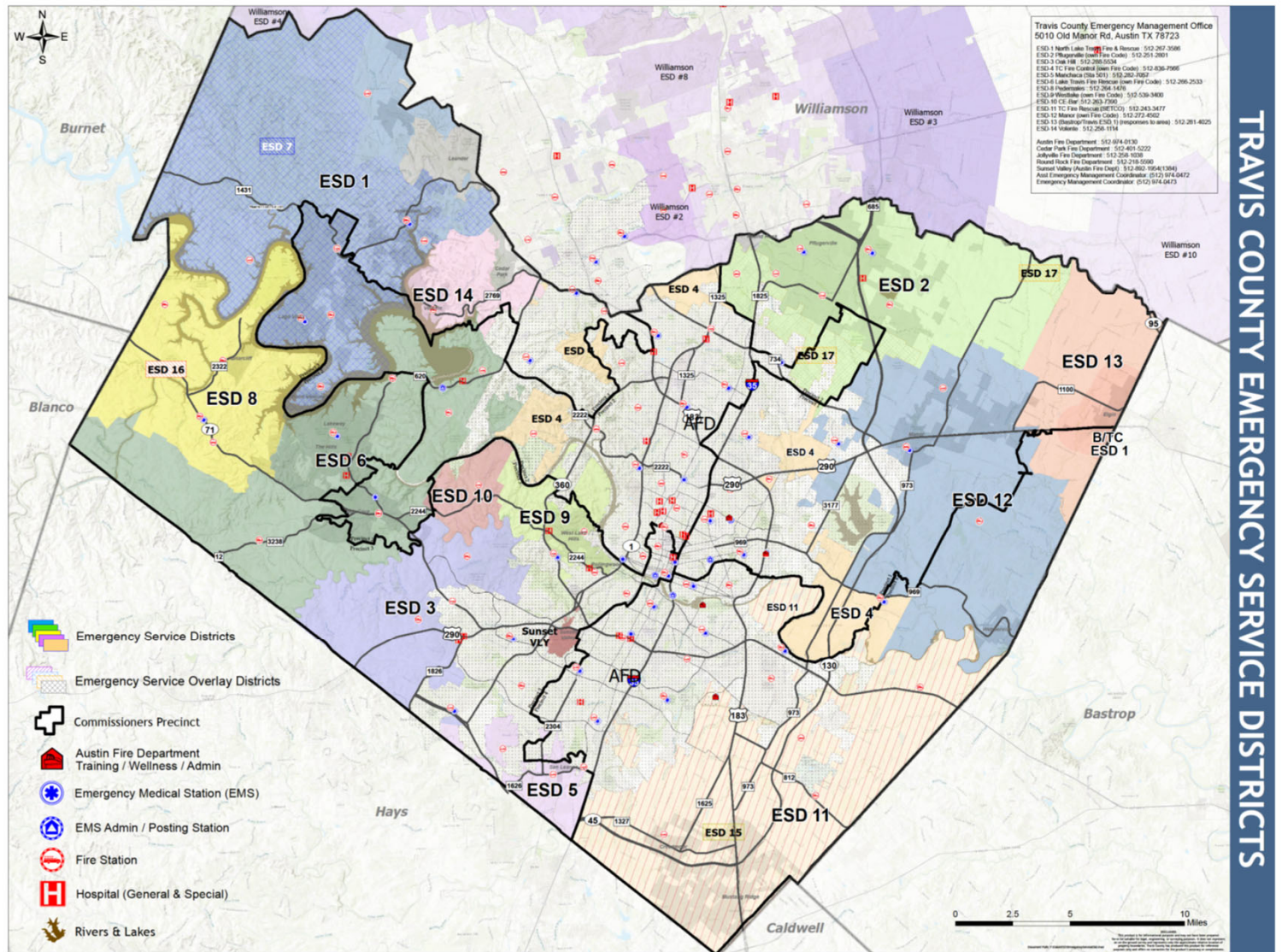
Emergency Services District

- Texas Constitution, Article 3, Section 48-e
- Health and Safety Code Chapter 775
 - Petition with metes and bounds description of the district signed by 100 eligible residents
 - Commissioners Court receives and calls the election
 - Cities have 60 days to determine if ETJ is included in the ESD
 - Existing MUDs, if included in the petition, can be part of the ESD

What Surrounding Counties do

- Tarrant – 1 ESD
- Denton – 2 ESDs
- Dallas – County contracts with cities and a volunteer fire department
- Parker – 8 ESDs
- Harris – 32 ESDs
- Travis – 17 ESDs

Travis County ESD Map



Emergency Services District

TY 24 - ESD Property Tax Levy

	2024 Taxable Value	\$0.05 Rate	\$0.025 Rate
Collin Co MUDs	\$ 6,544,367,805	\$ 3,272,184	\$ 1,636,092
Unincorporated (No ETJ/MUDs)	\$ 3,347,983,283	\$ 1,673,992	\$ 836,996
City Extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJ)	<u>\$ 13,314,082,127</u>	<u>\$ 6,657,041</u>	<u>\$ 3,328,521</u>
	\$ 23,206,433,215	\$ 11,603,217	\$ 5,801,608

Above demonstrates the range of possible ESD levy. If all cities allow their ETJ to be included in the ESD boundaries and MUDs are part of the ESD, there is \$23.2 billion in taxable value. If all cities do not allow their ETJs to be included in the ESD boundaries, the lowest taxable value is \$3.3 billion.

Additionally, ESD voters can approve up to a two (2) cent sales tax in the unincorporated area.

Emergency Services District (Governance)

- Current Statute: Commissioners Court appoints members to two (2) year terms
- Legislative change in order to:
 - Allow ESD board members to be *elected*
 - Create a statutory bracket to allow Commissioners Court members to serve as ESD Board of Commissioners

County Assistance District (CAD)

1. Local Gov't Code Chapter 387
2. County Commissioners Court calls a vote and voters create the district
3. County sales tax (up to 2%)
4. Currently working with Comptroller's Office on sales tax revenue in unincorporated

Court Consideration

1. Fire Service Strategy

- Negotiate with current cities to cover all fire districts
- Increase contract amount
- Create a county fire department
- ESD or CAD

2. Level of Court and Staff engagement

- ESD

Questions?