

# City of Gordon Update

July 14, 2025

# Agenda

## 5-5:30 Update

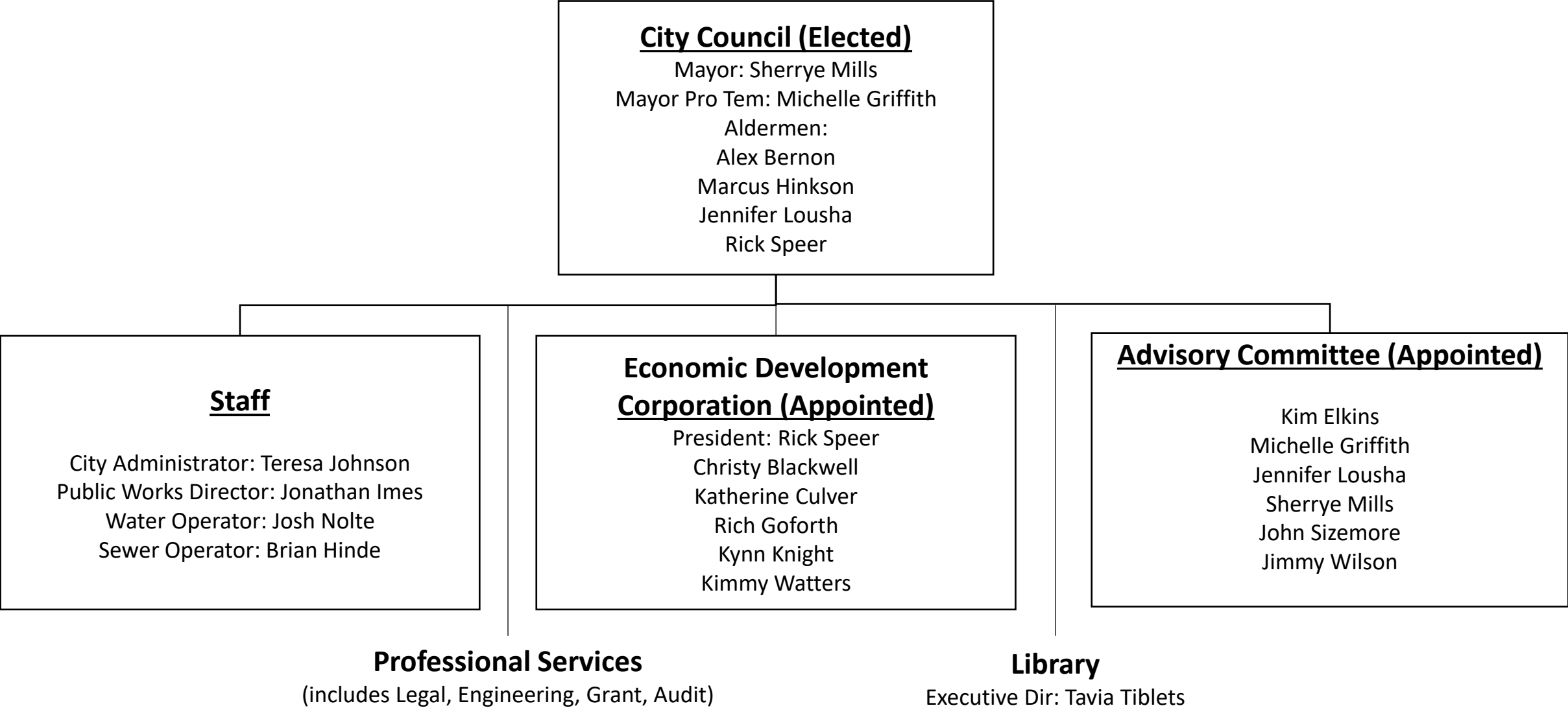
- ✓ City Structure
- ✓ Water Treatment Basics
- ✓ Water System
- ✓ Streets
- ✓ Financials
- ✓ Projects
- ✓ Tornado Recovery

## 5:30-6 Questions and Answers

# City Structure

# City Structure

We are a General Law Type A City (see [www.tml.org](http://www.tml.org)).



# General Eligibility Requirements

Additional details are available on [www.tml.org](http://www.tml.org).

<b>City Council</b>	Resident of Gordon (resides in city limits)
<b>Economic Development Corporation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Resident of Gordon OR</li><li>2) Resident of Palo Pinto County OR</li><li>3) Resides within 10 miles of the city’s boundaries in Erath County</li></ul>
<b>Advisory Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Designated by an organization OR</li><li>2) Resides or does business within Gordon’s service area</li></ul>

***Both the EDC and Advisory Committee are seeking new members. These roles do not require a heavy investment of time and are a great way to “dip your toe” into public service and see how rewarding it is to contribute to the great things happening our community. Contact City Hall for more information.***

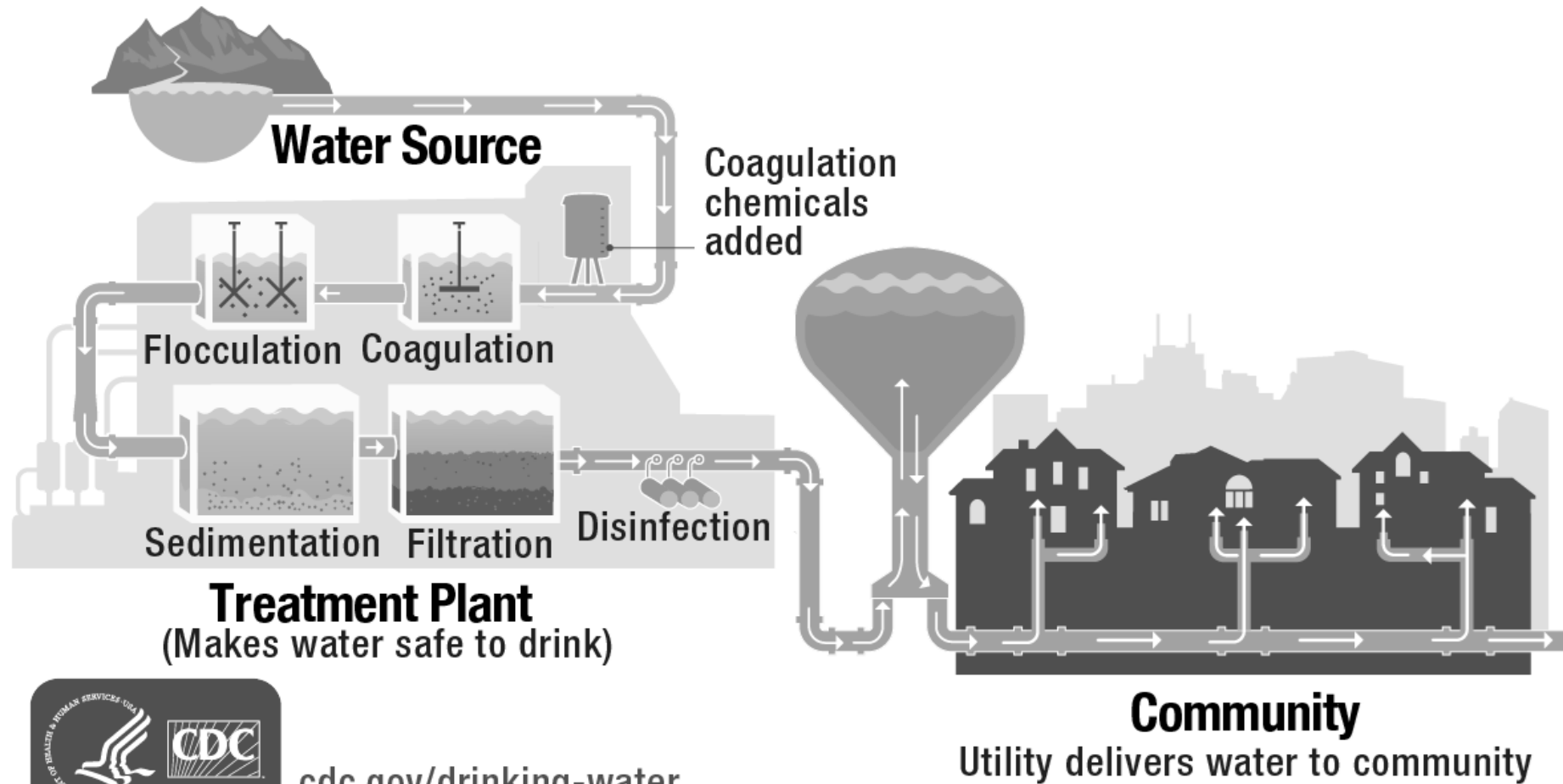
# Information

To review information or sign-up for email or text News and Alerts visit <https://gordonwater.myruralwater.com/>

# Water Treatment Basics

# Water Treatment

As with water systems generally, we use a series of water treatment steps that include coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection.



[cdc.gov/drinking-water](https://cdc.gov/drinking-water)

CS346874

# Routine Flushing

You may see flushing taking place and wonder why even in drought situations water is seemingly being wasted.

- Regular flushing of water distribution systems is necessary to remove sediment, biofilm, and stagnant water from the pipes, ensuring water quality, taste, odor, and color.
- The frequency of routine flushing varies depending on the system design, water quality, and customer needs.
- Water systems must flush dead-end mains in the distribution system to maintain water quality. This is often required if disinfectant residuals fall below acceptable levels, as is common in warm weather.

*TCEQ's Regulatory Guidance (RG-427): Provides specific guidelines on water system flushing procedures.*

# Main Breaks and Boil Water Notices

Main breaks can be caused by things such as corrosion over time, construction or extreme weather conditions. Anything that causes the ground to move can disrupt the infrastructure of an underground water system.

If the pressure in the system drops below 20 PSI, the system becomes vulnerable for bacteria from groundwater or dirt to seep into the pipe and affect the water supply. This is why the city will often issue a Boil Water Notice (BWN) in the event of a water main break.

When a water system issues a BWN, it indicates the water in the distribution system may be unsafe for consumption.

- In our system, main breaks and low pressure are the most common causes for BWN's, issued as a precautionary measure.
- Bacteria or turbidity (cloudiness due to suspended matter) will also trigger a BWN per TCEQ.
- BWN is rescinded when testing confirms the water is safe.

*Understanding Boil Water Notices - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - [www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov)  
<https://twri.tamu.edu/news/2020/december/the-physics-of-a-water-main-break/>*

# Water System

# Roles

## TCEQ

- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) oversees water and sewer operations. These are the standards we follow.
- Reference [www.tceq.Texas.gov](http://www.tceq.Texas.gov) for more information on this agency.

## City Staff

- As a water processor, the City is required to have a licensed Class B water operator who oversees compliance with TCEQ standards.
- The majority of leak and equipment repair is performed by City Staff.
- City Staff also consult and sometimes perform inspections related to major upgrade projects.

## Engineering

- Due to the size of the City, we contract engineering work to Jacob and Martin.
- J&M provides engineering recommendations and sign-offs for water and sewer upgrade designs and major project inspections
- They also augment water operator staffing when needed.

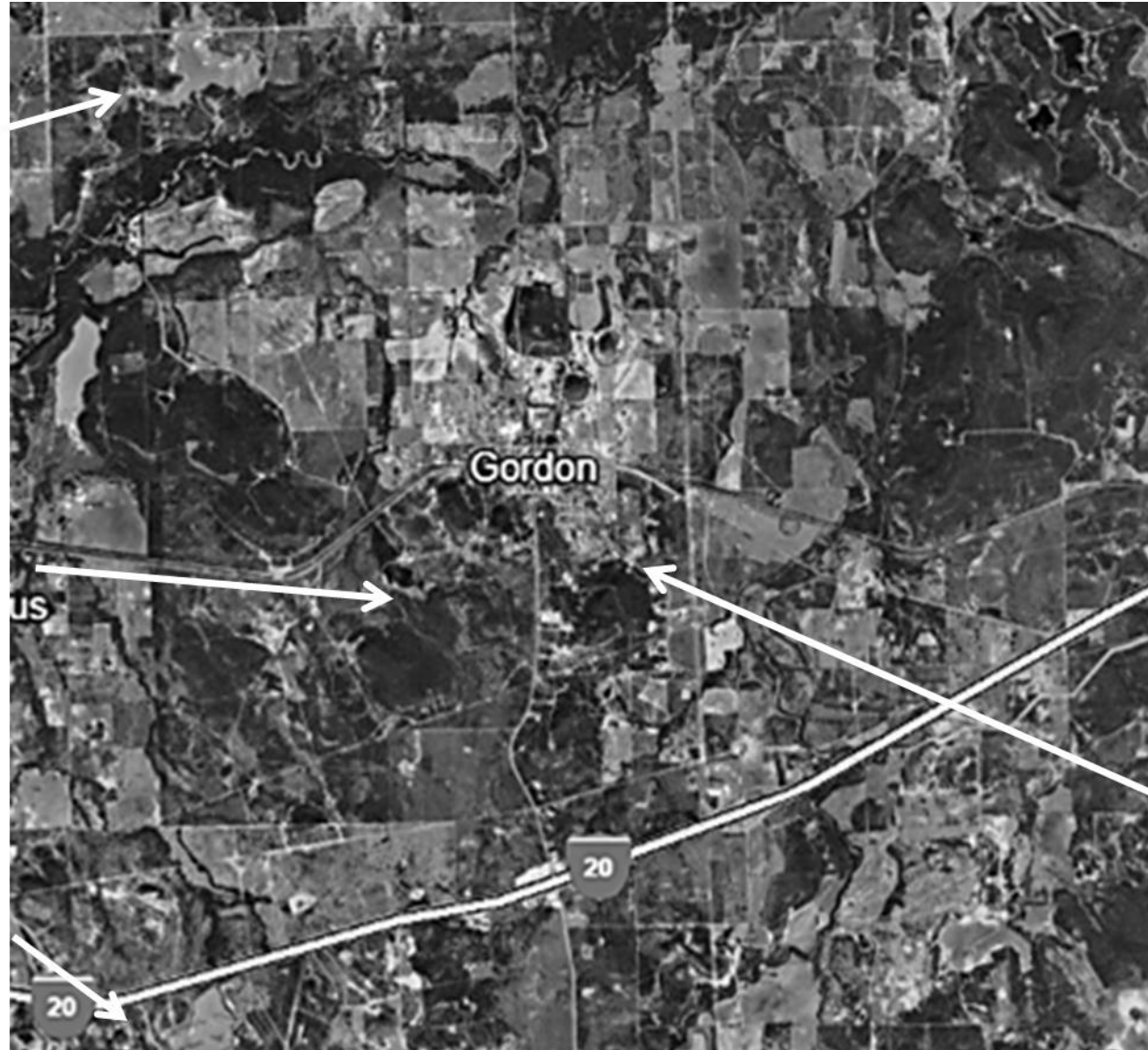
*See page 23 for additional information on roles and responsibilities for major projects.*

# Water System

Water is sourced from Lake C.B. Long NW of Gordon.

Raw water is piped to the facility west of town for treatment and then distributed to customers.

Thurber Pump Station



Barton Water is a wholesale water customer that serves rural customers south of Gordon. They have been a valued partner in building our water treatment facilities.

# Wastewater System

There are 2 wastewater lift stations on I-20 and one in town at Mesquite and Bell.



Wastewater is consolidated at the main pump station on Hwy 919 and then pumped north to the plant for processing.

# Streets

# Street Maintenance

Streets are a common source of frustration in cities generally. Here in Gordon, deferred maintenance has produced heightened calls for immediate improvements. Streets are the most common citizen complaint we receive.

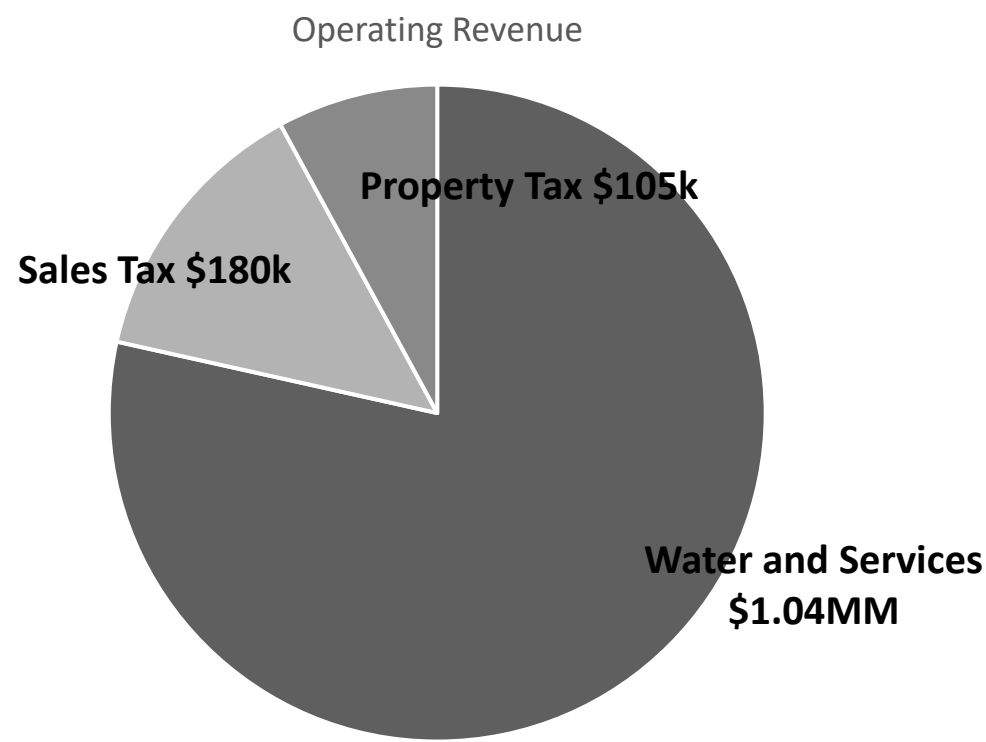
Type of Repair	Status and Strategy	Work Owner
Pothole patching	As our roads have aged, the need for pothole patching has grown. This method of repair is not robust and is subject to wear and washing out due to rain. Asphalt patching is restricted in colder months and must be integrated into mowing and maintenance schedule during warmer months.	City Staff
Road Base	For streets that are not paved, road base washes out and must be periodically replaced.	City Staff County
★ Asphalt Replacement	Full asphalt replacement of our most-travelled and poorest quality paved streets is our primary focus in the next 36 months. To control costs, we partner with the Palo Pinto County Precinct 5 (Jim Pollock) who will provide equipment. We supply materials.	County

*Some roads are eligible for County maintenance at no cost when they connect State and County roads.*

# Financials

# City Revenue Overview

Fiscal year is July-June. Figures below are for the fiscal year just ending in July 2025. Property Tax growth is constrained by state rules that trigger municipal rate reductions as property appraisals rise. Sales Tax revenue rose considerably from \$130k to \$150k



Source	City Residents	Non-Residents
Sales Tax	Yes	Yes
Property Tax	Yes	No
Water and Services	Yes	Yes

*Water and Services calculated from Total Revenue “City of Gordon – Water 07/02/25 Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual Cash Basis July 2024 through June 2025” minus grant revenue and Sales Tax transfers.*

# City Revenue Drill-down

The following is a summary of the major revenue sources and how they are used.

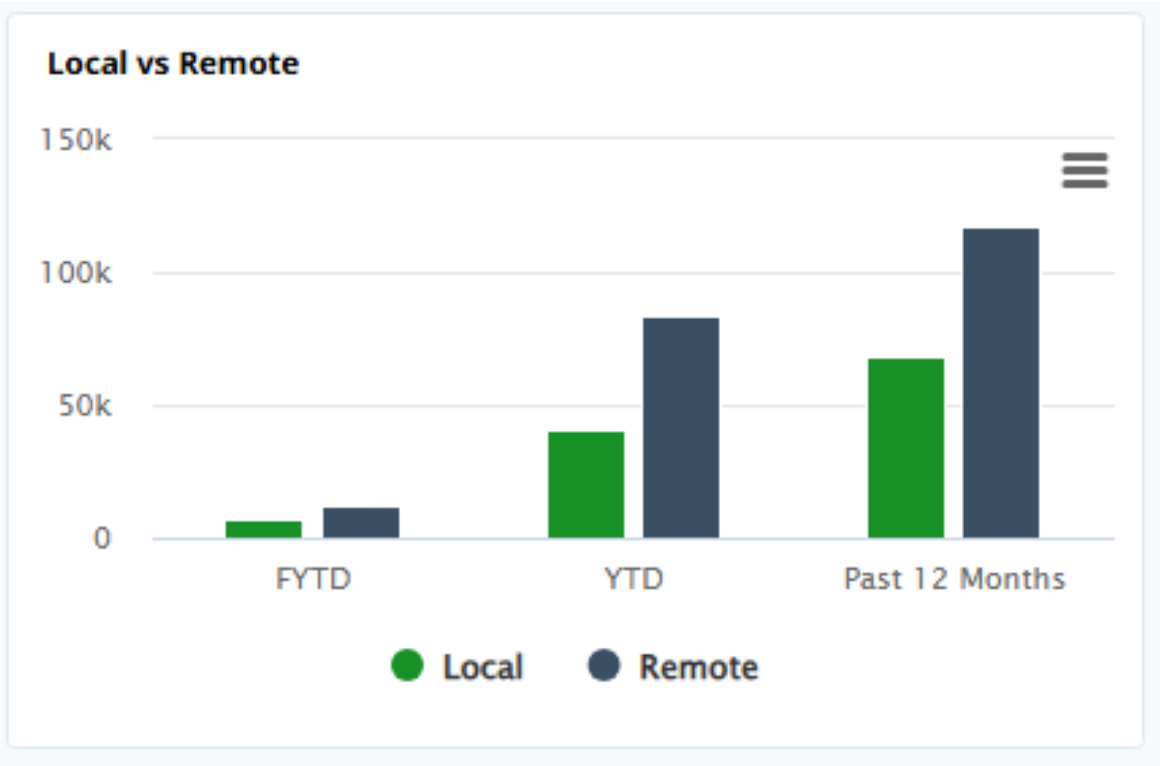
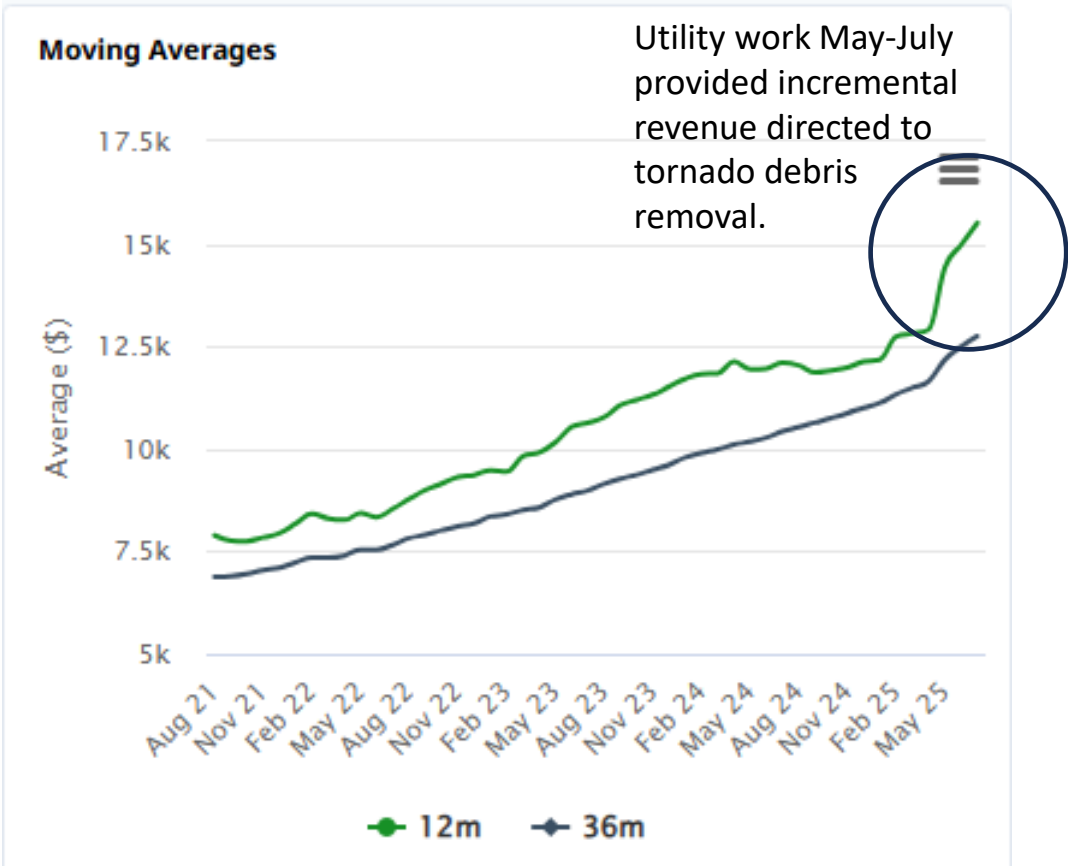
Source	Description	Jul 2024- Jun 2025 Actual	Generally used for*	Comments
<b>Sales Tax</b>	On premises sales within city limits and online purchases by city residents	<b>\$180k</b>	EDC; Special Projects or “Rainy Day” Needs	Funds are not considered for operating budgets and are held unallocated for special projects or contingency. Online sales now comprise nearly half. One third goes to the EDC.
<b>Property Tax</b>	Collected from properties within the city limits	<b>\$105k</b>	City Operation & Infrastructure	Funds are used for roads and drainage, park, city buildings, insurance and city operating costs.
<b>Wholesale Water</b>	Gordon has a wholesale water contract with Barton Water Supply Corporation	<b>\$172k</b>	Water Processing	Funds operating expenses and capital improvements related to water sourcing and processing
<b>Retail Water</b>	Collected from in and out of town customers	<b>\$539k</b>	Water Processing and Distribution	Funds operating expenses and capital improvements related to water sourcing and processing as well as distribution (line) costs
<b>Sewer</b>	Collected primarily from in city water customers	<b>\$149k</b>	Sewer Service	Funds sewer operating expenses and capital improvements
<b>Impact Fees</b>	Collected from new retail customers	<b>\$2k</b>	Water and Sewer Capital Improvement	Industry best practice collected for water and sewer earmarked for capital improvements. Does not include costs of connection (customer responsibility).
<b>Grants &amp; Loans</b>	Texas Water Development Board and Rural Development, USDA	<b>See “Projects” Section</b>	Capital Improvement	There are projects ranging from completed (pay-off phase) to pre-application. City is the obligor for debt (reference Texas Bond Review Board website)

\* Major budget decisions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and approved by City Council vote

Note: Staff costs are allocated to city, water, or sewer for proper budgeting.

# Sales Tax & Online Sales

1.5% sales tax is collected from businesses within the city limits and when residents in the city limits make online sales, which now make up approaching 2/3's of sales tax revenue. We have experienced growth of both local and remote (online) sales in recent years. We expect continued moderate growth due to new business development and resident online purchase trends.



*One third of sales tax revenue is directed to the EDC.*

# Projects

# Major Active Projects

Since the March update we have completed the Microfilter project and brought the new equipment online. All debt service costs except the well water source have been incorporated in the current rates and will not result in increases.

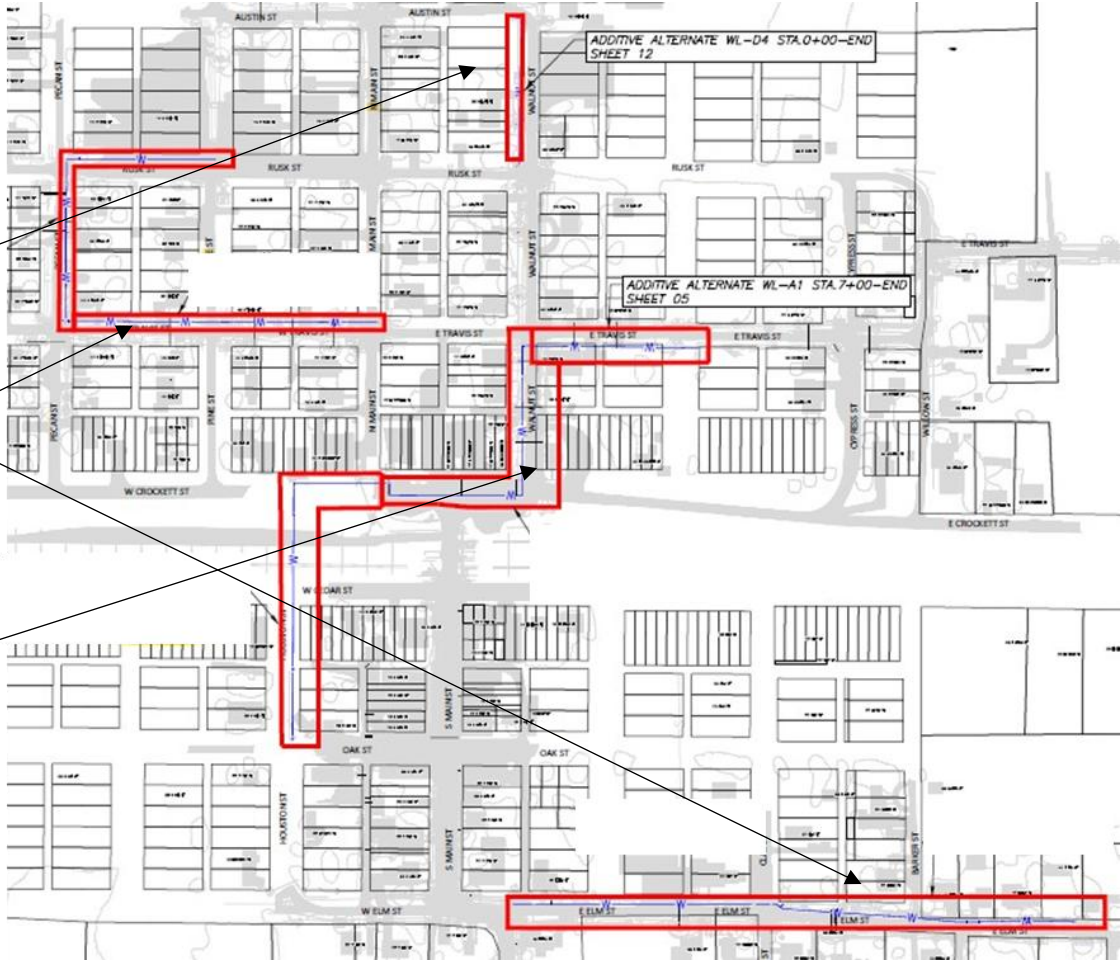
Project	Type	Cost <sub>2</sub>	Status
<b>Well Water Source</b>	Loan and Grant	\$7MM	Application with TWDB
<b>Clarifier<sub>1</sub>, Line Upgrades, Thurber Upgrades</b>	Loan and Grant	\$2MM	Sent for environment studies; design will follow and then bids ~Q1
<b>Line Upgrades</b>	Loan	\$800k	Construction starts April
<b>Microfilter</b>	Loan and Grant	\$1.2MM	Debt Service (Pay-off)
<b>Wastewater System</b>	Loan and Grant	\$670k	Debt Service (Pay-off)

1. Clarification removes sediment through gravity settling.
2. MM = million dollars / k = thousand dollars

# Line Upgrades

The Elm and North Walnut stages are preparing for sanitation and line activation. Rusk, Pecan W Travis is underway with target completion before school starts. E Travis, Walnut, Main, Houston will be the final stage and requires railroad and Hwy 919 bores

Location	Status and Target Completion
Elm & N Walnut	Preparing for sanitation, activation and remediation of construction impacts Target complete: Aug 1
Rusk, Pecan, W Travis	Line replacement underway Target complete Aug 8
E Travis, Main	Coordinating bore contractors; starting Travis and Walnut first target



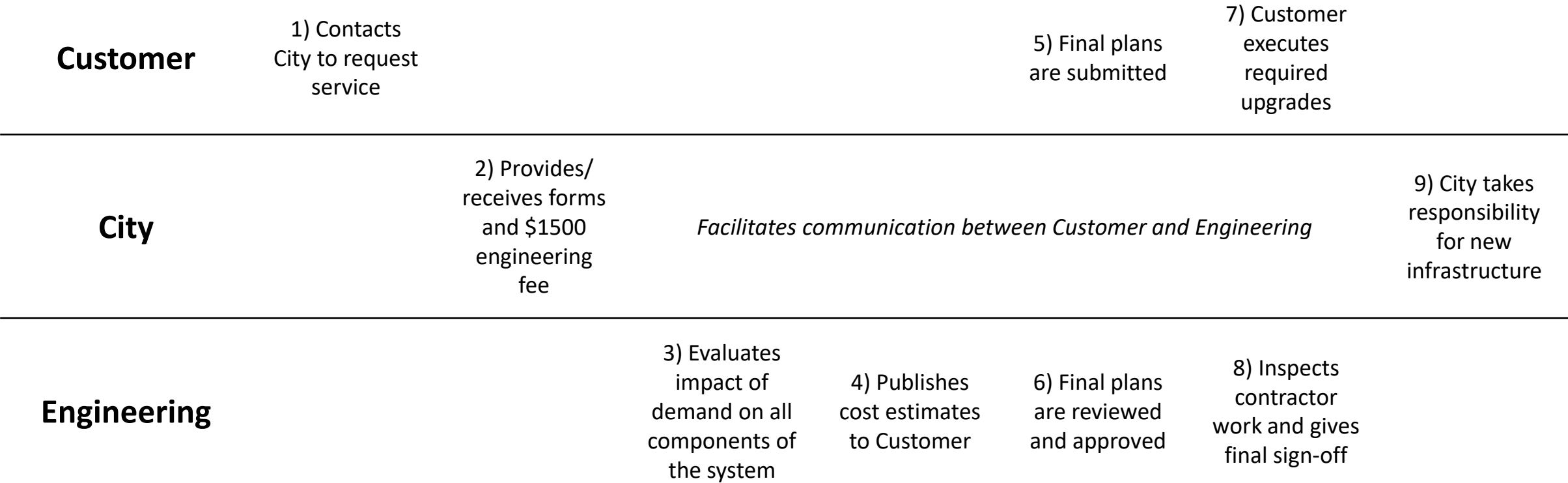
# Well Water Source

The City has submitted a TWDB (Texas Water Development Board) grant Project Information Form (PIF) for a water well:

- An engineering evaluation recommended that drilling a well to the south (near Huckabay) is the most cost-effective option.
- Our wholesale contract with Barton Water strengthens the case for the project.
- Stage 2 of the grant process, questionnaire review, was conducted on May 27.
- While it is unlikely this project would be approved in the initial submittal, we are hopeful and at minimum expect to gain useful information for future submissions and recognition of the need for our service area.

# Non-standard (Major Project) Feasibility & Development

Non-standard service requests follow this basic process to ensure the system can support the requested demands. Customers are responsible for the cost of system upgrades.



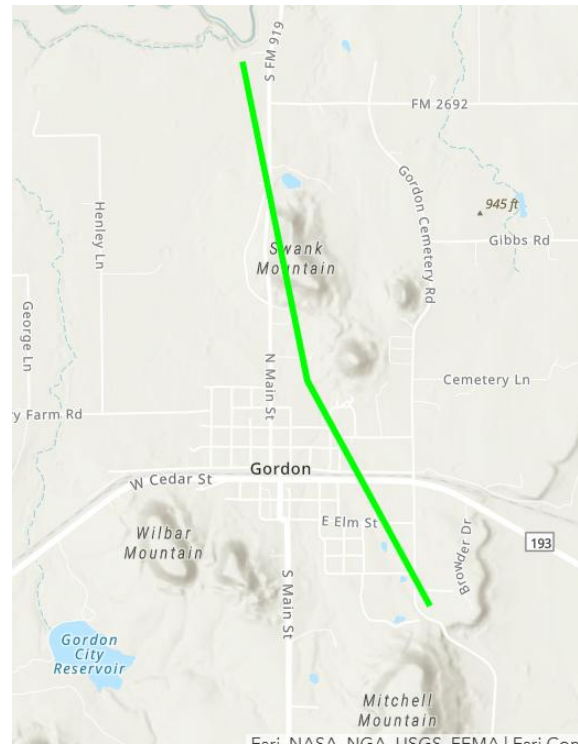
- This is a simplified conceptual overview of the process. Refer to City Ordinances as the authoritative source.
- This process excludes annexation, which may be a related request or requirement in some cases.
- This process excludes joint Legal/Engineering requirements such as Development Agreement.

# Tornado Recovery

# Tornado Path

On May 18 an EF1 Tornado struck Gordon, inflicting serious damage to GISD, homes and businesses. Thankfully, there were no life-threatening injuries, but impacted households, individuals and institutions continue to claw back from property, financial and emotional damages and regain a sense of normalcy.

Time on ground per National Weather Service 19:47-19:54 on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025



TDEM (Texas Department of Emergency Management) validated impacts:

Destroyed – 2

Major – 20

Minor – 43

Affected – 41

**Total - 106**

# Gordon Tornado Relief Fund

On Monday, May 19 with fundraising efforts underway the need for a mechanism to responsibly collect funds became clear.

TDEM recommended that an account separate from City finances be set up. This is not a City account.

A joint account requiring 2 signers under the following individuals was established:

- Mayor Sherrye Mills
- Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Griffith
- EDC President Rick Speer
- Gordon VFD Officer Judy Cathey

As of July 14 the account balance is \$59,678. No funds have been dispersed.

It is currently the plan that representatives will review and address Unmet Needs as part of the Gordon Long-Term Recovery structure outlined in the following pages..

The fund only accepts funds mailed to or deposited in person to Clearfork Bank in Gordon.

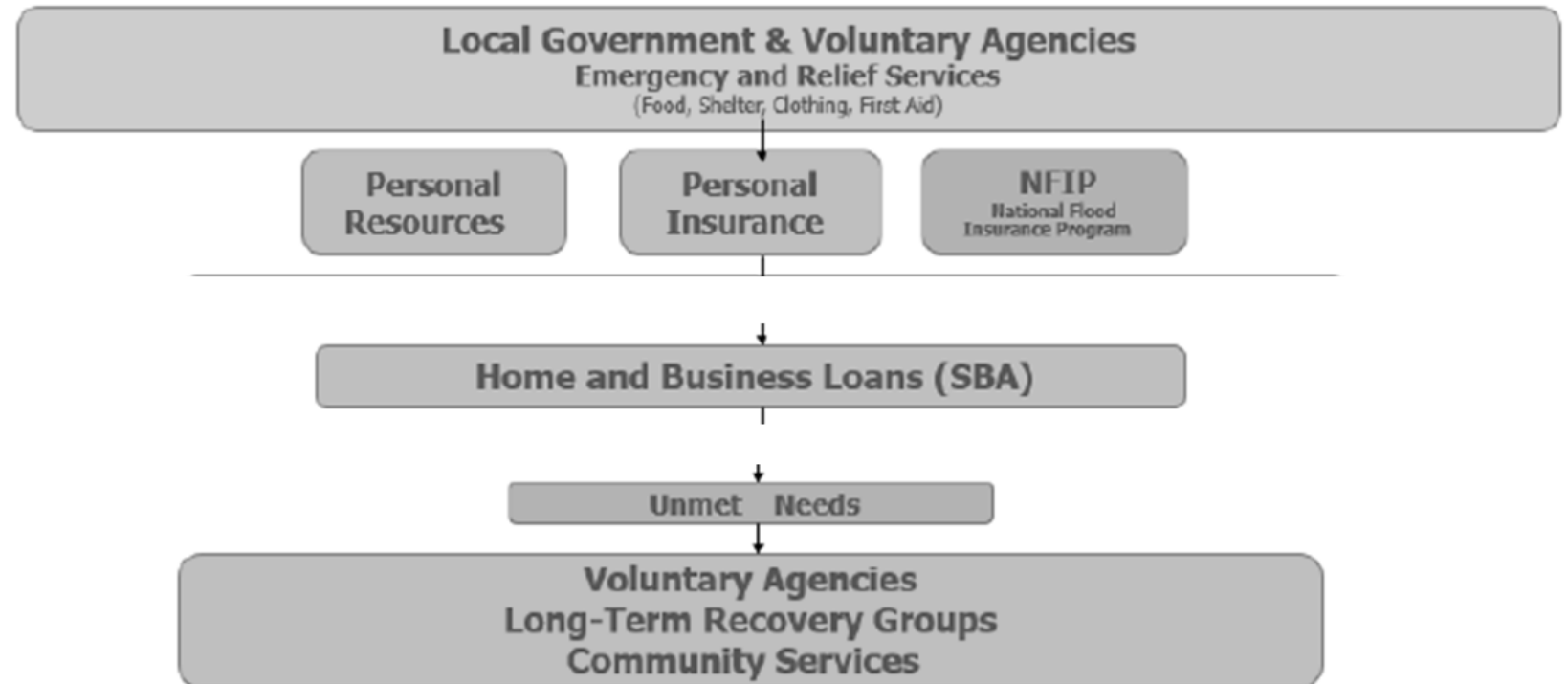
# Long Term Recovery

- Following the May 18 event City leaders consulted with County and State agencies, non-profits and Jack County leaders who experienced a series of tornados in 2022 to formulate a go-forward plan and the magnitude of the impacts became clear.
- On June 2 the Gordon City Council approved the establishment of Long Term Recovery Committee and invite United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Organization to oversee the work on behalf of the city Gordon for the damage suffered from the Tornado on May 18, 2025 long-term recovery committee (LTRC).
- The Case Manager has been hired and completed training and has started reaching out to impacted households based on the iSTAT information.

*The City of Gordon is not directly responsible for LTR but elected officials will be part of the LTR Committee and have a vested interest in ensuring citizens are supported. There are recovery needs such as solid waste and clearing drainage of debris that do fall under City responsibilities.*

# Long Term Recovery Committee

## Sequence of Delivery



Our Disaster Case Manager has started contacting survivors.

LTR and Volunteer committees are being formalized.

Unmet needs will be presented to donors.

We have a target of August to have the structure operational.

# An Amazing Place

The magnitude of support that flowed from this community amazed outside agencies and volunteer groups and even ourselves making expressing gratitude a daunting task. There have been thousands of quiet acts of kindness that will never be known publicly.

Long-term Recovery is a commitment to continue this support.

Great cities have healthy dialog between committed public officials, skilled city staff and engaged citizens.  
Here are some ways you can help:

You have already taken the most important step – seeking to be informed!

Review information or sign-up for email or text News and Alerts on  
<https://gordonwater.myruralwater.com/>

Please reach out to neighbors who may not have access to the internet or are home-bound and make sure they have a way of getting important information.

# Thank you!