

Ouachita Council of Governments
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025

Members Present:	Mayor Friday Ellis City of Monroe	Mayor Staci Mitchell City of West Monroe
	Rodney McFarland Monroe City Council	Shane Smiley Ouachita Parish Police Jury
Staff Present:	Doug Mitchell Executive Director	Shelby Rybicki Planner II
	Jeff Maxwell CPA	

A public hearing was held May 19, 2025, at the Council Chambers of the Monroe Government Plaza at 11:30 a.m. to hear comments from the public regarding the ***TIP Amendment: MTS Grant Funding for Transit Center*** introduced at the previous April 28, 2025, OCOG meeting. There were no comments.

The Ouachita Council of Governments meeting was called to order by Staci Mitchell. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the Monroe Government Plaza.

A roll call certified a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Friday Ellis and seconded by Shane Smiley to approve the April 28, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Friday Ellis to recess OCOG and enter into the Transportation Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Policy Committee

A motion was made by Staci Mitchell and seconded by Friday Ellis to approve the ***TIP Amendment: MTS Grant Funding for Transit Center*** for adoption. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Friday Ellis to approve the ***UPWP Revision: FY24 5307 Planning Activity*** for advertisement. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Friday Ellis to adjourn the Transportation Policy Committee and reconvene OCOG. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Friday Ellis to ratify the actions of the Transportation Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

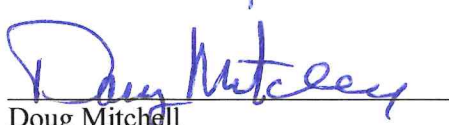
A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Friday Ellis to accept the Amended FY 2025 OCOG Budget and the FY 2026 OCOG Budget as presented by Jeff Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Friday Ellis to accept the Budget to Actual Report as presented by Jeff Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Ambulance Advisory Board

Elmer Noah reported that the Ambulance Advisory Board met Thursday, May 15, 2025, to review the previous Ambulance Contract RFP and ordinance documents before advertisement. A special meeting will be held on June 17, 2025, for further review.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Friday Ellis and seconded by Shane Smiley to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.



Doug Mitchell
Executive Director, OCOG

6/23/25
Date



OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Monroe

West Monroe

Ouachita Parish

3000 KILPATRICK BLVD • MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201

OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONROE GOVERNMENT PLAZA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MAY 19, 2025
NOON

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Action Item

RECESS OCOG

Action Item

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. TIP AMENDMENT – ADOPT

Action Item

1. MTS GRANT FUNDING FOR TRANSIT CENTER

B. UPWP REVISION – INTRODUCE

Action Item

2. ADD FY 2024 5307 PLANNING ACTIVITY

RECONVENE OCOG

Action Item

RATIFY ACTIONS OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Action Item

AMENDED FY 25 OCOG BUDGET – INTRODUCE

Action Item

FY 26 OCOG BUDGET – INTRODUCE

Action Item

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

Action Item

AMBULANCE SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

Mr. Elmer Noah

ADJOURNMENT

HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

Appendix E: FTA 5307 Funding

The City of Monroe is a direct recipient of FTA 5307 funds. These funds have no impact on the funding/budget of the MPO.

Budget:

Funding Source	Amount
FTA - 5307	\$300,000
Local (City of Monroe)	\$75,000
Total	\$375,000

Timeline:

This will be completed over the course of FY 2025-2026. The start date is August 1, 2025.

Objective: Planning For Transit System Management / Operations To Increase Ridership

A Transit Study will be conducted to assess the current routes operated by Monroe Transit in the urbanized area, ensuring that an adequate and efficient transportation system is implemented.

The study will also determine whether an evening service, beginning at 6:30 pm, Monday through Saturday, is necessary.

The study will recommend service options to increase ridership based on its findings.

**Ouachita Council of Governments
Budget Distribution
For the year ending June 30, 2026**

	City of Monroe	Parish Police Jury	City of West Monroe	New Ambulance Ordinance	Total
FTA - Match	15,148	0	0	0	15,148
FHWA (PL) - Match	28,395	37,842	7,285	0	73,522
Total Local Match	43,543	37,842	7,285	0	88,670
Ambulance Ordinance fee (paid by ambulance company)				35,000	35,000
Other Local Activities (Sch 1)	25,861	3,695	6,057	0	35,613
Mapping, demographics, etc.					

Local Agencies
Requesting Funds (Sch 2)

13,495	0	8,483	0	21,978
82,899	41,537	21,825	35,000	181,261

Schedule 2
Local Agencies Requesting Funds:
Ouachita Multi-Purpose CAP
Senior Adult Academic Program
La Dept of Veterans Affairs
Ouachita Council on Aging
Assoc for Retarded Citizens/Ouachita
GoCare

Ouachita				
Amount Requested	Parish Police Jury	City of West Monroe	City of Monroe	Total
11,500	0	492	0	492
16,940	0	2,066	0	2,066
15,876	0	2,381	13,495	15,876
26,508	0	1,309	0	1,309
35,383	0	1,235	0	1,235
20,000	0	1,000	0	1,000
126,207	-	8,483	13,495	21,978

North Delta Regional Planning and Development District, Inc.
Planning and Administrative Costs
For the year ending June 30, 2026

ADOPTED

Planning Activities

722,581

	Grant Programs			
	FTA	FHWA (PL)	SAFETY(100%)	Total
Federal Share	60,591	294,089	257,993	612,673
Local Match Needed	15,148	73,522		88,670
Regional Human Resources	15,000			15,000
Total Program	90,739	373,848	257,993	716,343
	Match Allocation			
City of Monroe	15,148	28,395		43,543
Ouachita Parish PJ	-	37,842		37,842
City of West Monroe	-	7,285		7,285
	15,148	73,522		88,670

Other Local Activities Operated by OCOG (Sch 2):

Adminstration of Ambulance Ordinance - PAID BY ACADIAN	35,000
City of Monroe	25,861
Ouachita Parish Police Jury	3,695
City of West Monroe	6,057

	<u>70,613</u>
Total Contract Costs	<u>793,194</u>

Budget to Actual May 19, 2025

	<u>Contract Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>		<u>April 2025</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		<u>March 2025</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Local	35,613	29,678	83.33%	-	26,710	75.00%	-	35,613
FTA	83,326	69,438	83.33%	3,626	49,265	59.12%	2,839	57,437
Human Svcs	15,000	12,500	83.33%	735	7,036	46.91%	-	12,018
FHWA	385,598	321,332	83.33%	32,062	293,348	76.08%	26,794	369,429
Safety	<u>1,373,022</u>	<u>343,256</u>	25.00%	<u>16,717</u>	<u>140,830</u>	10.26%	<u>15,046</u>	<u>196,827</u>
TOTAL	1,892,559	776,203	54.37%	53,140	517,189	27.33%	44,679	671,324

Safety is a 5 year contract.

The new safety contract started February 1, 2024.

1 Budgeted amounts remaining on contract per month:

Local	8,903	2	4,451.50
Safety	1,104,636	45	24,547.47
FTA	34,061	2	17,030.50
Human Svcs	7,964	2	3,982.00
FHWA	<u>92,250</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>46,125.00</u>
	1,247,814		96,136.47

<u>Safety</u>	
<u>Total Contract Spent</u>	<u>Contract End Date</u>
268,386	1/3/2029

OCO	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		
MTP Update	\$ 500,000	\$ 343,372	68.67%	March 2025

DATE: **May 19, 2025**

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	PHONE #	EMAIL	PRESENT	ABSENT
✓ Mayor Friday Ellis	318-329-2227	friday.ellis@ci.monroe.la.us	✓	
✓ Mayor Staci Mitchell	318-396-2600	smitchell@westmonroe.la.gov	✓	
✗ Mr. Ben Westerburg	318-366-4488	bwesterburg@westmonroe.la.gov		✓
✓ Mr. Rodney McFarland	318-512-0421	rodney.mcfarland@ci.monroe.la.us	✓	
✗ Mrs. Toni Bacon	318-331-3188	toni.bacon@oppj.org		✓
✓ Mr. Shane Smiley	318-267-8659	ssmiley@oppj.org	✓	

May 19, 2025
12 NOON

PLEASE SIGN IN:

(Print Please)

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Ouachita Council Of Government
3000 Kilpatrick BLVD
Monroe LA 71201-5166

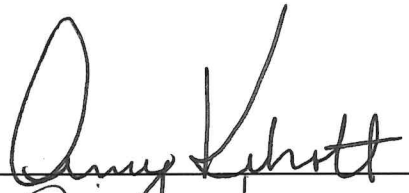
STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

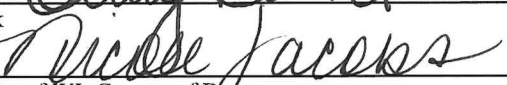
The News Star, a daily newspaper published in the city of Monroe,
in the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana, and personal
knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto
annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

05/08/2025

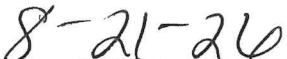
and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 05/08/2025





Legal Clerk


Notary, State of WI, County of Brown



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NICOLE JACOBS
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OCOOG Special Meeting Notice

A special meeting of the Ouachita Council of Governments is scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2025, at noon in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers. A public hearing will be held at 11:30 a.m. to hear comments from the public regarding the MTS Financial Plan - Draft TIP Amendment.

May 8 2025

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