

Following the floods of May 2015 and subsequent inclusion to the Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4223, the Auditor's Office and Office of Emergency Management collectively agreed that the scope of the recovery may exceed the capacity of either department. The decision to seek professional assistance was made, along with the stipulation that the potential vendors have a valid contract with a Texas-based purchasing cooperative to decrease the time required to identify a qualified vendor. Five firms were identified and invited to participate in the Request for Quote process; Deloitte, H<sub>2</sub>O Partners, Hagerty, Tetra Tech, and Witt O'Brien's. All of the firms except Tetra Tech submitted qualifications for review.

Each of the firms qualifications were independently reviewed by Julie Kiley, Auditor's Office, and Jarred Thomas and Cindy Hood, both from Emergency Management. The firms were evaluated on five categories: Qualifications of the Firm, Relevant Past Performance, Qualification of Staff, Technical Approach and Cost Proposal. Upon careful review Hagerty and Witt O'Brien's were selected for interview as being the most qualified based upon their submittals.

Hagerty and Witt O'Brien's were interviewed on August 7, 2015 by the review team. Each of the firms were allowed a period of two hours to give their presentation. The review team unanimously chose Hagerty as the firm that would best fulfill the needs of Williamson County in the process for disaster recovery. While both firms are equally qualified, Hagerty was chosen based upon the completeness of presentation and more importantly on their team dynamics.

To date Williamson County has sustained approximately \$2,000,000 in damages that are eligible for reimbursement. After having discussed the disaster recovery process with FEMA and reviewing the capabilities of both the internal capacities of the Auditor's Office and the Office of Emergency Management, we are jointly recommending to the Commissioner's Court that Williamson County seek comprehensive disaster recovery services from Hagerty. By contracting with an experienced disaster recovery firm, Williamson County will likely achieve the greatest reimbursement allowable and minimize any issues relating to future FEMA audits, which could result in the de-obligation of disaster recovery funds.