



# STATE OF THE CITY 2025

HIGHLIGHTING OUR SUCCESSES WHILE LOOKING  
TOWARD THE FUTURE.

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, TEXAS

# City Governance

Blue Ridge City Council consists of a mayor and five councilmembers serving two-year terms. Councilmembers are elected by their constituents.

The City Council fulfills the legislative functions of the city, crafting ordinances and developing policies. They are also tasked with establishing the overall direction of the city and providing general direction to the City Staff through the development of goals and objectives.

The Council adopts an annual budget, which reflects the Council's spending priorities and sets the annual property tax rate. Your Council works diligently for all residents and is committed to improving the vitality and long-term sustainability of the City of Blue Ridge.

Regular meetings of the Blue Ridge City Council are held at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month, unless that falls on a Holiday. City Council meeting agendas and minutes can be found at [www.blueridgecity.com](http://www.blueridgecity.com). Meetings are held at the Blue Ridge Community Center, located at 200 W Tilton St., Blue Ridge, TX. If you would like to contact a Councilmember, you can email [esims@blueridgecity.com](mailto:esims@blueridgecity.com)



# Budget and Taxes



**1.8M \$ BUDGET**

**FY23-24 BUDGET**

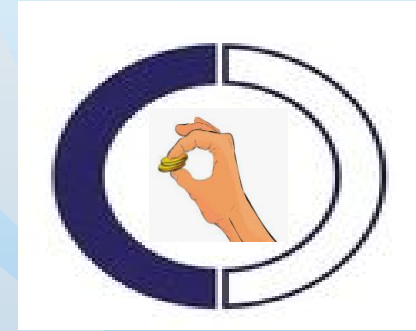
Approved Sept. 05,  
2023

**TAX RATE FY 23-24:**

\$0.50000

**TAX RATE FY 24-25:**

\$0.528548



The Blue Ridge City Council approved an efficient \$1.8 million budget for the fiscal year, which is October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. The Budget is in alignment with the council’s goals of maintaining safe and clean neighborhoods; facilitating economic development; building a strong workforce; and enhancing the level of care and maintenance for City facilities, grounds, and equipment.

Blue Ridge is the 3<sup>rd</sup> smallest City in Collin County, but we are contenders with some of the larger cities in that the City provides water services to all to all residents and sewer services to most of the residents. The Blue Ridge City Council has held the tax rate in the lower \$0.50 cent range for the past 4 years consecutively. City Staff has worked diligently for cost savings initiatives and reducing overall debt of the City.

“We take the stewardship of taxpayer dollars very seriously, and our staff members work very hard to make sure that our citizens get the most bang for the budget.”

-Cleburne, TX Mayor  
Scott Cain

This statement holds true for the City of Blue Ridge as well.

# A Snapshot of Growth



**Heritage Grove** Subdivision started the development process in 2019. In September of 2023, the City received its first permit binder with at least one per month following thereafter, with a brief break between November 2023 and March 2024. This subdivision will add 52 high quality homes to the City. 9 homes have been completed as of December 2024 with 1 more in the permitting stage. All homes in Heritage Grove are fitted with an irrigation system, adding more revenue funds to the City.

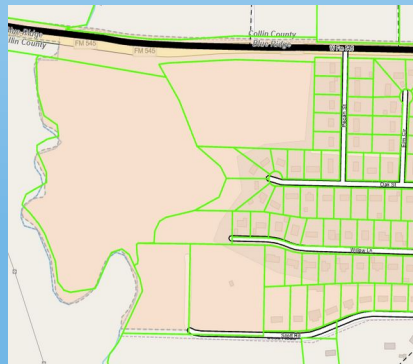


**Blue Ridge Crossing** Subdivision started the development process in 2021. In March 2024, infrastructure began. As part of the Development Agreement with Fieldside Development, the City received a new Barscreen for the wastewater treatment plant and, starting January 2025, Pruett Street is getting a facelift with concrete and bigger, improved sewer lines. LGI Home Builders hopes to start building early summer 2025.



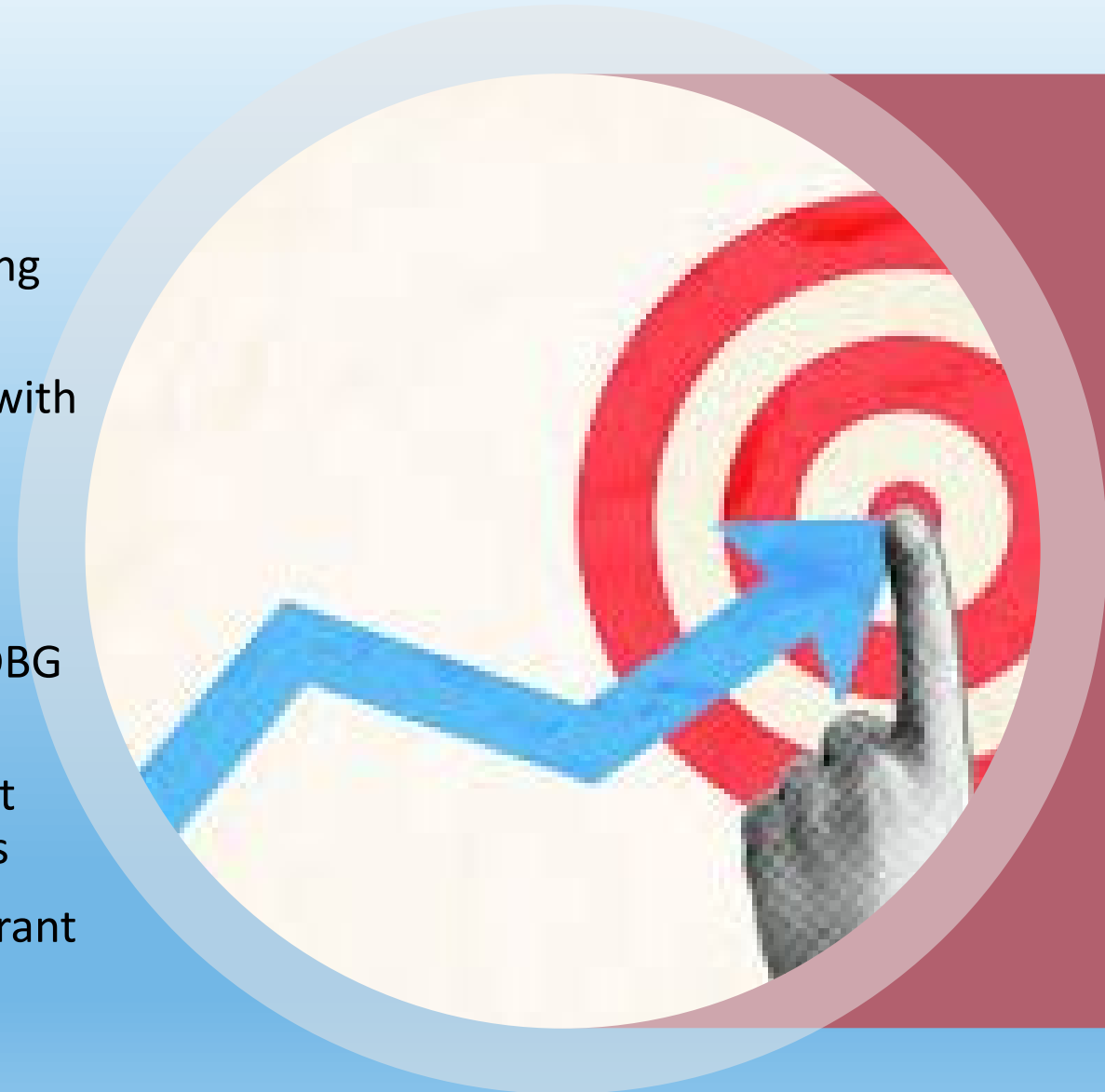
# 2024 Achievements

- ❖ City Council has approved a contract with SC Tracking Solutions to handle all the backflow devices located within the City.
- ❖ The City has been approved for the Collin County Open Space Grant to develop Mowery Park, the City Parcel to the West of Paradise Estates.
- ❖ After close work with employees of the Dollar General and Code Enforcement, The Dollar General reopened, clean and stocked with product and staff as of October 2024. This is a very important achievement as the Dollar General generates tax dollars for the City.
- ❖ The bar screen, which was a part of the Development Plan with Fieldside Development, was installed December 2024. This is a huge improvement for our wastewater treatment plant.



# 2025 GOALS

- Comprehensive plan for commercial zoning and future growth locations
- Assisting the Volunteer Fire Department with funds and grants to help better serve the community
- Upgrades to water storage tanks
- Upgrades to existing streets through a CDBG Grant
- Reapply for the Texas Water Development Board for water and sewer improvements
- Qualify for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant to help pay for Mowery Park (Pending Approval)



# CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, MAYOR AND COUNCIL



MAYOR, RHONDA WILLIAMS

Years Served 2013 to Present

“Having strong roots in Blue Ridge, I feel it’s an honor to be a part of the city council/government. I care about the community and the growth that is inevitable and try to help maintain our “small town” feel and make it a great place to live and raise our families.”



MAYOR PRO TEM, KEITH CHITWOOD

Years Served 2018 to Present

“I love living in Blue Ridge and I know we have a huge amount of growth coming our way. I ran for City Council to be part of the expansion and to assure that we retain as much of the small town feel as possible.”



Councilmember, Colby Collinsworth

Years Served 2020 to Present

“I was born and raised in this City, and I love it with all my heart. I’d like to be a part of helping it grow for the better and for future generations to enjoy the same small-town feel.”

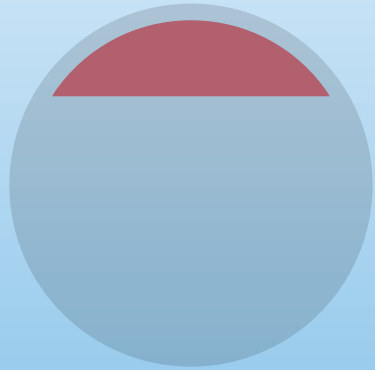


Councilmember, Tammy Crosswhite

Years Served 2021 to Present

“Blue Ridge has been home to my family for multiple generations. I love my town, and I serve as a way of giving back to the community which helped raise me.”

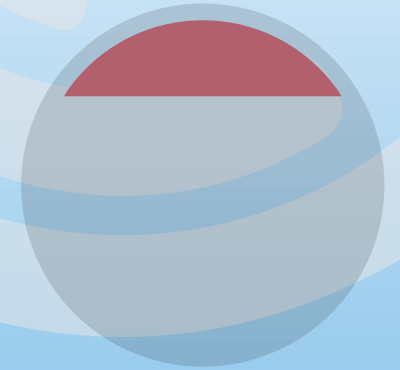
# CITY OF BLUE RIDGE, MAYOR AND COUNCIL



Councilmember, David  
Sturgeon  
Years Served 2023 to Present



Councilmember, David Apple  
Years Served 2024 to Present



# CITY HALL STAFF



CITY SECRETARY  
EDIE SIMS  
2017-Present



ASSISTANT CITY SECRETARY  
JONI LAWRENCE  
2019-Present



UTILITY CLERK  
CRYSTAL CHILDERS  
2021-Present

# BLUE RIDGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD



President- Keith Chitwood



Treasurer- Rhonda Williams



Secretary-Tammy Crosswhite



Board member-Colby  
Collinsworth

# BLUE RIDGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD



Board Member- Justin Garner



Board Member- David  
Sturgeon



Board Member- David Apple



Ex-Officio- Edie Sims

# City of Blue Ridge Economic Development Board - 4A

The Blue Ridge EDC has purchased 3 lots on North Business 78 totaling 4.1658 acres with plans on developing in order to have more opportunities for commercial businesses. The 4A board has gone into contract with Developers Buttry & Brown to help design the commercial spaces for this location.



## New Businesses in 2024!!

- \*Creating Roots
- \*County Line Creations

- \*Blue Ridge Auto Group
- \*Grand Re-Opening of Dollar General



108  
West  
James  
St



407 W  
FM 545  
(Next door to  
Branscome's  
Grocery Store)

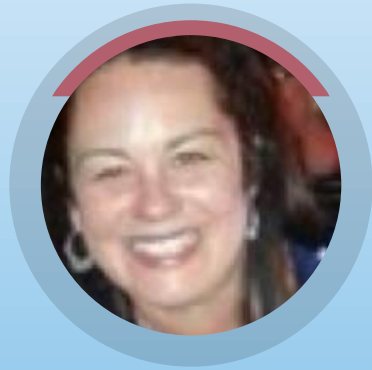


204 N  
Business  
Highway  
78



405  
Ridgeway

# BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD



President-Kim Garcia



Treasurer-Tonya Harrison



Secretary-Vicky Atteberry



Board Member-Dina Brown

# BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD



Board Member-Michael Douglas



Board Member-Pam Dilday



Open Seat



Open Seat

# City of Blue Ridge Community Development Board-4B

The Blue Ridge Community Development Board has been instrumental in the renovation of the Downtown Square as well as holding some great community events throughout the year.



The 4B Board funded additional parking next to Bratcher Park. This can also serve as overflow parking for the square and the community center.

4B also funded the Grant match for the Downtown Revitalization Project. This project improved the Downtown Square by installing new roads, waterlines and lighting while also adding sidewalks.



4B also funded new “Welcome to Blue Ridge” signs, made locally by American Made Vinyl and Metal owner, Brandon DeLeon. These signs are located at County Road 825 and Highway 78, State Highway 121 and Highway 78, and at County Road 580 and Highway 78.

4B voted to upgrade and pay for the sign for Bratcher Park. This sign was also made by American Vinyl and Metalworks.



4B Purchased the old City Hall building, located at 200 S Main Street, and are in the process of renovating it to house the Blue Ridge Resource Center. This will provide a space for the local food pantry, run by the Blue Ridge Food Rescue Group.

# City of Blue Ridge Community Development Board-4B

The Community Development Board held many amazing events this year.

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Festival  
Back to School Fair

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt



# Growth through Permits-2024

TOTAL PERMITS:  
80

TOTAL FEES:  
\$26,471.05

IMPACT FEES:  
\$44,400.00

RESIDENTIAL FEES:  
\$16,573.07

COMMERCIAL FEES:  
\$9,897.98

## 50 RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 6 New Single-Family Residences
- 5 Fence
- 8 Accessory Buildings
- 10 Solar Installs
- 10 Irrigation Installs
- 3 Alteration Packages
- 2 Mechanical
- 2 Gas
- 3 Electrical

## 30 COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 9 Food Establishment Inspections
- 5 Certificates of Occupancy
- 3 Commercial Alterations
- 9 Commercial Electric
- 1 Miscellaneous Build
- 1 Mechanical
- 1 Mobile Food Vendor

# CODE ENFORCEMENT 2024

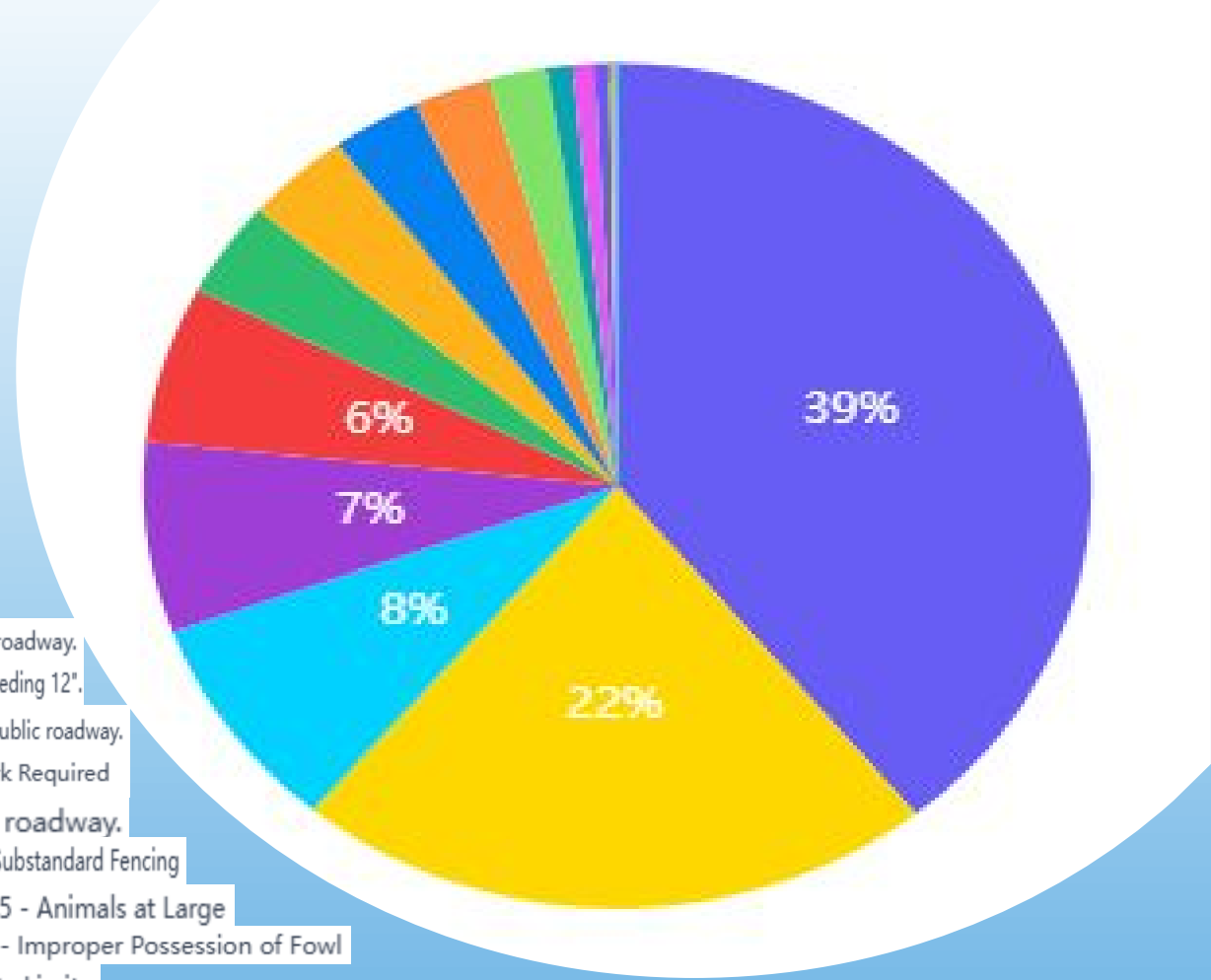
TOTAL VIOLATIONS  
ISSUED:  
797

TOTAL INSPECTIONS:  
489

Blue Ridge Court was reinstated in December 2024 after a 4-year hiatus.

VIOLATION	#
GRASS & WEEDS	312
TRASH & DEBRIS	175
UNSANITARY CONDITIONS	66
SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURE	58
JUNK VEHICLE	48
NUISANCE ANIMALS	29
SUBSTANDARD FENCING	29
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	24
IMPROPER POSS OF FOWL	21
ANIMALS AT LARGE	16
OPEN BURNING	7
#OF ANIMALS	6
NO PERMIT	4
SOLICITING W/O PERMIT	1

- 7.02.002B - Prohibited Conditions: Debris/Trash visible from public roadway.
- 7.02.002E - Prohibited Conditions: Overgrown Grass, Weeds and/or Brush exceeding 12".
- 7.02.002B -Prohibited Conditions: Unsanitary Conditions observed from public roadway.
- 4.09.003 - Substandard Fencing ■ 20.20.001 - Permit for Work Required
- 8.05.001 - Junked Vehicle(s) visible from public roadway.
- 4.05.001 - Unsafe Building(s) / Substandard Structure(s) ■ 4.09.003 - Substandard Fencing
- 3.01.006 - NuiANCES Related to Animals on Property ■ 3.01.005 - Animals at Large
- 6.02.001 - Hazardous Materials & Storage ■ 3.02.004 - Improper Possession of Fowl
- Ord. 2019-0319-001 Prohibited Open Burning within City Limits
- 3.01.004 - Limitation to # of Animals on Property
- 20.20.001 - Permit for Work Required ■ 5.03.001 - Garage Sale Permit Required
- 5.04.031 - Soliciting within City Limits Licensing Requirement(s)



A total of 8 cases have been brought to the Municipal Court as of December 2024.

# CITY OF BLUE RIDGE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-  
BRAD MESEROLE  
2014-Present



PUBLIC WORKS  
NICK TEAGUE  
2016-Present



PUBLIC WORKS  
PATRICK BROWN  
2024-Present

# Public Works

New Employee: Patrick Brown  
Public Works

WORK ORDERS	#
WATER LEAKS	33
SEWER BACKUP/REPAIR	15
WATER TAPS	3
CLEANOUT REPAIRS	8
STREET SIGN REPAIR	11
CULVERT INSTALL/REPAIR	1
SEWER PLANT REPAIRS	8
WELL REPAIRS	7
SEWER TAPS	1
MISC. REPAIRS	15
WATER METER REPAIRS	52
NEW WATER SERVICE	86
TRASH TOTE DELIVER/PICK UP	77

**TOTAL WORK  
ORDERS:  
218**

**TOTAL LINE  
LOCATES:  
769**



**TOTAL WATER  
CONSUMPTION FOR  
2024: 81,721,605  
GALLONS**

**TOTAL TRASH  
TOTE PICK UP  
FOR 2024:  
8,459**



**TOTAL SEWAGE  
PROCESSED IN 2024:  
1,220,000 Gallons**

# Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire Department

The Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire Department said goodbye to long standing Fire Chief, John Bowers after 39 years of dedicated volunteer service in March of 2024 and welcomed in New Fire Chief, Jason Brazil. We also said goodbye to Captain Bonnie Bowers, who dedicated 25 years of service.

The Fire Department is always in need of qualified volunteers. If you or someone you know are interested in this opportunity, please contact by email at <https://blueridgefire-tx.us/contact-us>



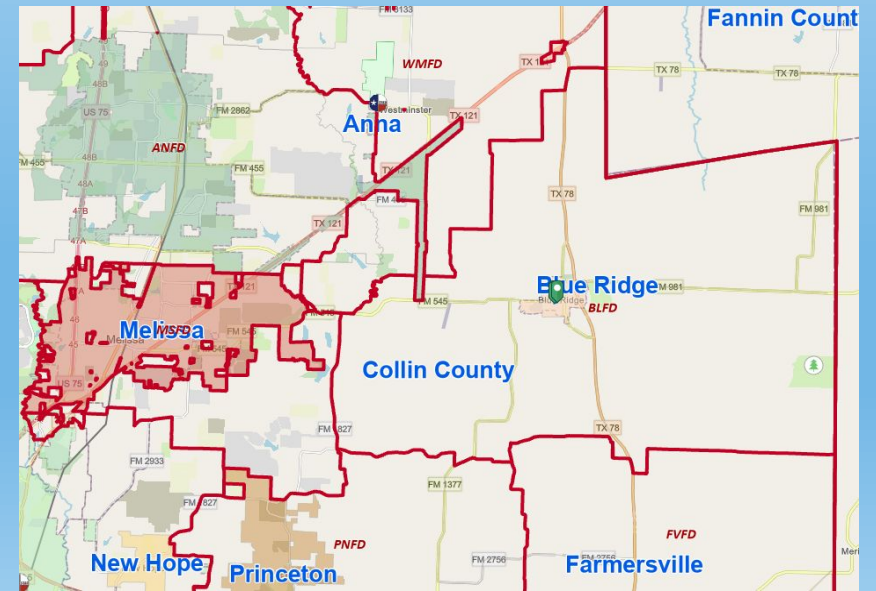
**CURRENT  
FIRE  
RATING:**  
4

**TOTAL  
CITY  
RUNS  
(APPROX):**  
137

**TOTAL  
COUNTY  
RUNS  
(APPROX):**  
312

**TOTAL  
MUTUAL  
AID  
RUNS  
(APPROX):**  
9

The Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire Department has a very large Fire District. Much bigger than most actual paid departments. All Fire Departments in Collin County are struggling with funds which has led some of the other departments to pull aid from their Extra Territorial Jurisdiction and only provide fire service to inside the City Limits. The City of Blue Ridge and Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire Department have been working together closely to find other funding opportunities so residents in the ETJ still have Fire Rescue.



# ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS-2024

The Blue Ridge City Council approved 15 new ordinances and 13 resolutions in 2024 to ensure the growth of the City is done properly.

## Ordinance vs. Resolution

- ▶ Resolution – less formal, usually temporary
  - Accomplished through a motion without the formal ordinance procedures
- ▶ Ordinances are more formal. Methods of procedure must be followed in order for an ordinance to be effective
  - Require:
    - a 1st and 2nd reading
    - time period between readings
    - a recorded vote on the ordinance
    - publication in some cases
    - a certain form or introductory clause is required

### Ordinances

- \*Master Fee Schedule for HVAC, Plat Fees, PSA, Food Establishment Late Fees
- \*Cancellation of 2024 Election
- \*Master Fee Schedule for Public Utility Infrastructure Fees
- \*Upgrade Building Codes to 2021 IBC and 2023 NEC
- \*Drilling and Mining Prohibited
- \*Screening and Fencing
- \*SiEnergy Franchise Agreement
- \*Voluntary Annexation of Baladeyah Subdivision
- \*Adopting the 2024-2025 Budget
- \*Levying Ad Valorem Taxes for 2024-2025
- \*Adopting Tax Roll for 2024-2025
- \*Trash Rate Amendment
- \*Floodplain Ordinance
- \*Master Fee Schedule-Trash Fees Effective 12.01.2024
- \*Voluntary Annexation of Qariyah of Princeton Subdivision

### Resolutions

- \*Call 05/04/2024 General Election
- \*Reauthorizing All Building Permit Fees per HB 1922
- \*ACSC Assessment Model
- \*Investment Policy
- \*Local Parks Resolution Authorizing Application
- \*Granting Petition for Annexation of Baladeyah
- \*Atmos Mid-Tex 2024 RRM Settlement
- \*Admin Hiring for 2025-2026 Street Grant
- \*Engineer Hiring for 2025-2026 Street Grant
- \*Newspaper Designation
- \*CDBG Application for Street Grant
- \*Vote for CAD Board of Directors
- \*BRCDC Purchase of 200 S Main

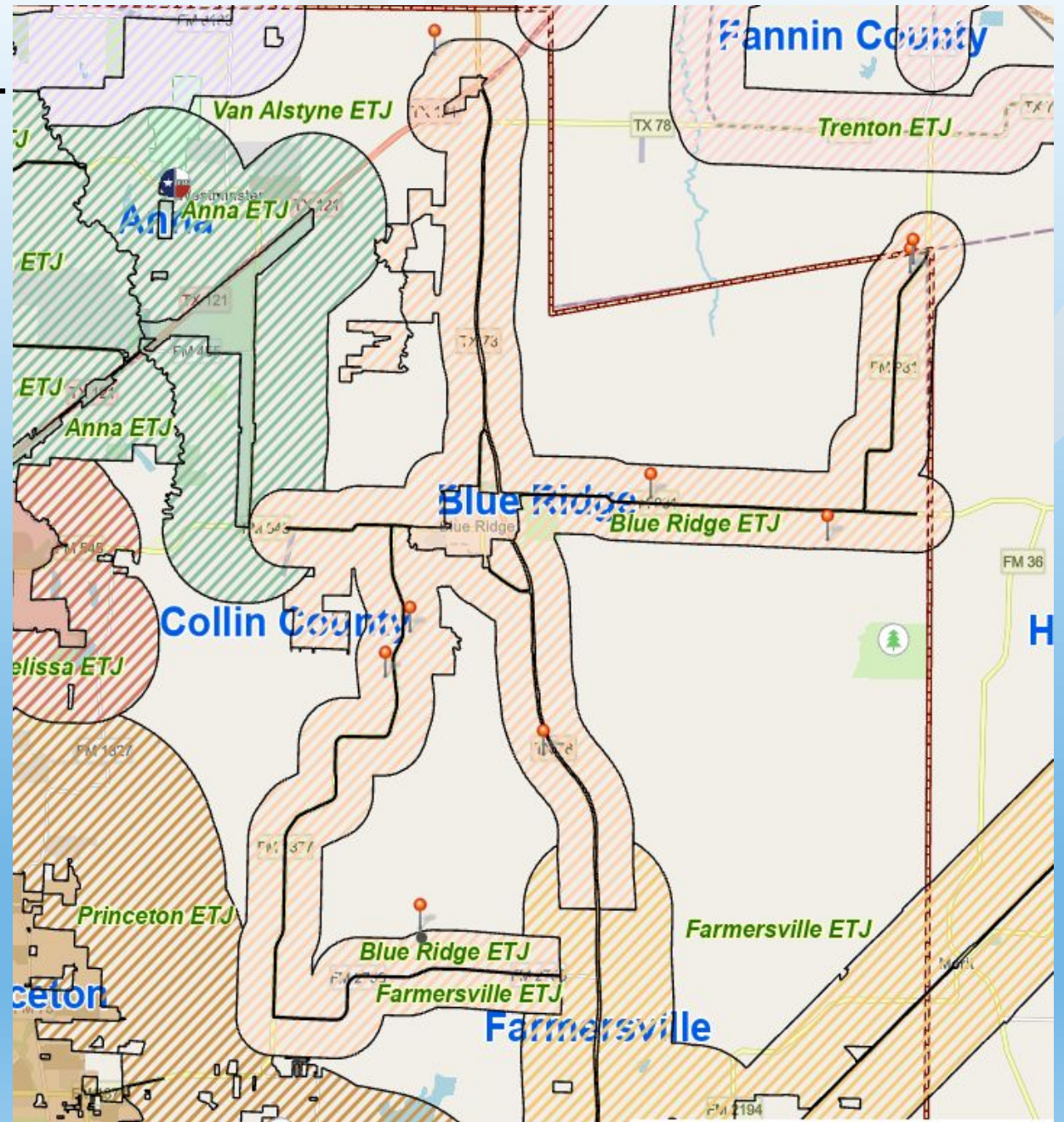
# CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS-2024

- Collin County Elections Contract
- AMR Contract for Ambulance Services
- Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for 2018 Open Space Bond For Mowery Park
- Public Management for Grant Application for Mowery Park
- Lease Agreement with 360 Broadband
- Cyber ILA with Texas Municipal League
- SC Tracking Solutions for Backflow
- TXWarn Mutual Aid for Water/Wastewater for Disasters/Emergency Assistance



# Rezone/Replat/Subdivde-2024

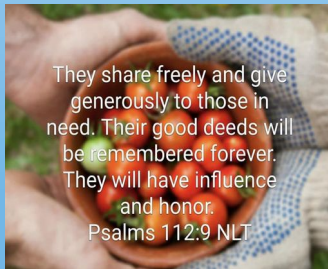
- Torres-Martinez Final Plat (ETJ)
- Kings RV Park Final Plat (ETJ)
- Beitel Addition Final Plat (ETJ)
- Rowdy Rooster Ranch Final Plat (ETJ)
- Creekside Ranch Phase 2 (MUD in ETJ)
- Blue Ridge Substation Addition on 1377 Minor Plat (ETJ)
- Sotto Oaks (ETJ)
- Serrano Addition (ETJ)
- Deer Creek Ranch Estates (MUD in ETJ)



# CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The City of Blue Ridge has been very fortunate to have some amazing, involved citizens that volunteer their time and efforts to make sure the residents of Blue Ridge are cared for. We would like to say Thank You to the following people/organizations:

- Tammy Barber and the Blue Ridge Food Rescue Group
- Little Blessings Food Pantry
- 4 Corners Food Pantry
- Tammy Barber with the Angel Tree Toy Drive
- Dave Sturgeon with the Blue Ridge Angel Tree
- Tammy Barber with the Aluminum Can Drive
- EVERYONE who helped/Donated to the Blanket and Sock Drive for the Retirement Homes



# ***THANK YOU***

- The City of Blue Ridge, Home of the last Texas Prairie, would like to thank all residents for everything that you contribute to make this a great place to live. The Mayor, Council, and City Staff take great pride in serving our Citizen's and County neighbors alike. We strive to keep the small-town feel, even amidst all the growth. We here at City Hall invite all Blue Ridge Residents, both old and new, county or city, to come to a meeting, give us a call with any questions or concerns, or drop by when you need an answer. We are here to help!

Thank you,

City of Blue Ridge Mayor, Council, and City Staff

