



BOYD COUNTY FISCAL COURT



ERIC CHANEY, Judge Executive

KEITH WATTS
County Commissioner
District 1

LARRY D. BROWN
County Commissioner
District 2

RANDY STAPLETON
County Commissioner
District 3

Letter of Support for ER Assist to remain on Master Service Agreement

Boyd County has a full time and competent Emergency Management staff. Our staff has experience in conducting FEMA Public Assistance programs for our county. I thought we would have been one of the last counties that would need a disaster recovery consultant. However, when Boyd County endured a devastating ice storm in February 2021 followed by a flood in February/ March in 2021, we had no choice but to contract for additional help, as our staff was simply exhausted and overwhelmed. For over 3 weeks our staff had been responding to calls, coordinating the EOC, rescuing citizens, assisting utilities, and cutting trees out of roads; so when we heard someone could assist with the next steps of procuring a debris contractor and coordinating FEMA paperwork, the decision was a no-brainer. We needed help, and in front of us was a group that said they could help. We decided to give it a shot.

What we learned over the next few months as we watched ER Assist work, is that the no-brainer decision was one of the better decisions we made during that event. ER Assist blended in with us to become an extension of our staff. The path to recovery from the 2021 disasters wasn't an easy one—but the blended team of contractor and county staff worked to solve each unique challenge including burn bans, chipper issues, failing roads, and the overwhelming need to fastrack FEMA funding and find funding other than local share. Our local contractors were even able to get work as ER Assist not only helped us comply with the underutilized business solicitation requirements, but sat down and helped our local contractors understand all of the documentation rules and performance requirements.

Once our staff gained confidence in ER Assist, they started giving the company old grants/disasters to solve or close—they have helped or are helping on 8+ disasters. In addition, ER Assist has begun to help us with our flood mitigation program. Boyd County is moving forward with the help of ER Assist. We ask that they remain on Master Service Agreement so that they may continue their work with our county uninterrupted.

Eric Chaney, Boyd County Judge Executive