

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 25th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025

The Caddo Parish Appropriation Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:00 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Thomas, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Burrell, Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Thomas, and J. Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioner Blake (1).

The Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were given during a previous meeting. There being no Citizen's Comments, so the Committee moved onto Agenda Additions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was **moved by Mr. Thomas**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that Discussion regarding the Housing Repair & Rehabilitation Assistance Program (HRRAP) be added under New Business.*

At this time, the Committee Chair opened the floor for anyone to speak in favor or against the agenda addition. There being no one to speak, the Chair closed the public hearing.

Mr. Thomas' motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Blake being absent (1).

NEW BUSINESS

- *Review score packets and make recommendations for the 2026 NGOs.*

The packets with the average scores were given to the Committee members. Mr. Thomas said that they will go through all of the organizations on each page and make funding suggestions. Once he goes through the page, the Committee members will make their amendments. Once all of the amendments are done, the Committee will vote on the page as a whole. At this time, Mr. Thomas went through page one of handout:

Name of Organization	2024 Award	2025 Award	2026 Request	Funding Suggestion
Acadiana Legal Service dba Legal Aid	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$99,625	\$100,000
Basic Necessities	0	10,000	12,500	12,500
Beulah's Safe Haven	8,000	8,000	15,000	12,500
Catholic Charities of North Louisiana	16,000	20,000	25,000	25,000
Christian Service Program	23,000	25,000	40,000	30,000
Common Ground Community			7,500	7,500
Community Caregivers of NWLA		10,000	20,000	15,000
Danaghe Foundation			28,000	10,000
Faith and Fostering			25,000	20,000
Geaux 4 Kids	0	15,000	30,000	20,000
Goodwill Industries			10,000	10,000
Holy Angels	14,000	18,000	25,000	20,000
Hope Connections	40,000	40,000	70,000	70,000
Hope for Louisiana Clinic	0	20,000	50,000	20,000
Innocence Project New Orleans			20,000	10,000
JAG Family Resource Center	0	15,000	55,200	25,000
MLK Community Development	16,000	25,000	32,500	25,000
MLK Health Center & Pharmacy	16,000	16,000	20,000	20,000
Northwest LA Family Justice Center			12,000	12,000
NORWELA- Boy Scouts	0	15,000	15,000	20,000
Providence House			100,000	100,000
Restore Cooper Road Community Foundation			50,000	10,000
Robinson's Rescue, Inc.	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Salvation Army Corps (Merkle Center of Hope)	20,500	20,500	35,000	30,000
Shreveport Youth Boxing Club	5,000	10,000	10,000	15,000
St. Luke's Episcopal Mobile Medical Ministry	5,000	8,000	10,000	10,000
The Arc Caddo-Bossier (Goldman School)	7,000	10,500	100,000	50,000
The Betty and Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center	5,000	7,500	10,000	10,000

Name of Organization	2024 Award	2025 Award	2026 Request	Funding Suggestion
United Way of Northwest Louisiana	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$100,000	\$60,000
Volunteers for America			25,000	20,000
Volunteers for Youth Justice	20,000	30,000	50,000	50,000

At this time, Mr. Thomas opened the floor for any friendly amendments.

Friendly Amendment by Mr. J. Young to increase the Volunteers of America amount to \$25,000. Mr. Thomas accepted.

Friendly Amendment by Mr. Cothran to increase Beulah's Safe Haven to \$15,000 and increase Holy Angels to \$25,000. Mr. Thomas accepted.

Friendly Amendment by Mr. Burrell to increase Innocence Project New Orleans to \$15,000. Mr. Thomas accepted.

Friendly Amendment by Mrs. Gage-Watts to increase MLK Community Development Corporation to \$30,000. Mr. Thomas accepted.

The amended funding suggestions are as follows:

Name of Organization	2024 Award	2025 Award	2026 Request	Funding Suggestion amended by committee
Acadiana Legal Service dba Legal Aid	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$99,625	\$100,000
Basic Necessities	0	10,000	12,500	12,500
Beulah's Safe Haven	8,000	8,000	15,000	15,000
Catholic Charities of North Louisiana	16,000	20,000	25,000	25,000
Christian Service Program	23,000	25,000	40,000	30,000
Common Ground Community			7,500	7,500
Community Caregivers of NWLA		10,000	20,000	15,000
Danaghe Foundation			28,000	10,000
Faith and Fostering			25,000	20,000
Geaux 4 Kids	0	15,000	30,000	20,000
Goodwill Industries			10,000	10,000
Holy Angels	14,000	18,000	25,000	25,000
Hope Connections	40,000	40,000	70,000	70,000
Hope for Louisiana Clinic	0	20,000	50,000	20,000
Innocence Project New Orleans			20,000	15,000
JAG Family Resource Center	0	15,000	55,200	25,000
MLK Community Development	16,000	25,000	32,500	30,000
MLK Health Center & Pharmacy	16,000	16,000	20,000	20,000
Northwest LA Family Justice Center			12,000	12,000
NORWELA- Boy Scouts	0	15,000	15,000	20,000
Providence House			100,000	100,000
Restore Cooper Road Community Foundation			50,000	10,000
Robinson's Rescue, Inc.	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Salvation Army Corps (Merkle Center of Hope)	20,500	20,500	35,000	30,000
Shreveport Youth Boxing Club	5,000	10,000	10,000	15,000
St. Luke's Episcopal Mobile Medical Ministry	5,000	8,000	10,000	10,000
The Arc Caddo-Bossier (Goldman School)	7,000	10,500	100,000	50,000
The Betty and Leonard Phillips Deaf Action Center	5,000	7,500	10,000	10,000
United Way of Northwest Louisiana	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$100,000	\$60,000
Volunteers for America			25,000	25,000
Volunteers for Youth Justice	20,000	30,000	50,000	50,000

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the Committee accept the Chair's funding suggestions as amended.* Motion carried unanimously with Mrs. Blake being absent.

The Committee then moved onto page two and three of the handout:

Name of Organization	2024 Award	2025 Award	2026 Request	Funding Suggestion
Youth Outreach	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Bernstein Development			25,00	15,000
Booker T. Washington	0	10,000	50,000	25,000
Cedar Grover Community Development			31,372	20,000
Community Foundation of NWLA	0	10,000	100,000	50,000
Community Renewal International Inc.	2,000	10,000	85,000	50,000
Doug Williams Scholarship Foundation	0	6,677	6,677	7,000
Extensions of Excellence	0	0	25,000	10,000
Girl Scouts of Louisiana			5,000	5,000
Image Changers			24,8000	10,000
Inner City Entrepreneur Institute	25,000	25,000	30,000	30,000
Inter City Row Modern Dance			4,650	5,000
Ivy Crown Community Services	5,000	0	10,000	10,000
Literacy Volunteers at Centenary College	0	2,695	2,200	2,500
MLK Neighborhood Association	0	10,000	40,000	20,000
National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Beta Alpha Calla Lily Foundation	4,000	5,000	10,000	10,000
Northwest LA CDC			75,000	25,000
Oasis of Hope Louisiana	2,000	20,000	40,000	40,000
R.A.P.S. Youth Initiative			250,000	25,000
Red River STEM- Sci Port			15,000	15,000
Renzi Education & Art Center, Inc	6,000	6,000	6,300	6,500
Salvation Army (Red Shield Shelter)	20,500	23,000	25,000	25,000
SCORE Setting Children on the Road for Excellence			15,000	5,000
Setting the Standard Barbering and Natural Hair Academy	22,000	18,000	272,720	25,000
Shreveport Opera	3,000	6,000	8,000	8,000
Shreveport Regional Arts Council	10,000	20,000	35,000	30,000
Shreveport Regional Arts Council- Artist			10,000	10,000
Shreveport Symphony Orchestra			7,500	7,500
SISTERS International, Inc. "Restoration Crisis Center" (RCC)	12,000	15,000	120,000	0
Social Justice Civic League, Inc.	12,000	10,000	125,000	25,000
Southern University at Shreveport	0	100,000	150,000	115,000
Southern University at Shreveport Foundation	4,000	5,000	25,000	20,000
Southern University System Foundation	0	0	1,000,000	0
TEAMS			25,500	15,000
Theatre of the Performing Arts of Shreveport	8,000	8,000	30,000	15,000
YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) of Northwest Louisiana, Inc.	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

At this time, Mr. Thomas opened the floor for any friendly amendments.

Friendly Amendment by Mrs. Gage-Watts to allocate \$6,677 to Doug Williams Scholarship Foundation, \$4,650 to Inter City Row Modern Dance, \$2,200 to Literacy Volunteers at Centenary College, \$6,300 to Renze Education & Art Center, and \$18,000 to TEAMS. Mr. Thomas accepted.

Friendly Amendment by Mr. Cothran to increase the funding for Cedar Grove Community Development to \$30,000. Mr. Thomas accepted.

The amended funding suggestions are as follows:

Name of Organization	2024 Award	2025 Award	2026 Request	Funding Suggestion amended by committee
Youth Outreach	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Bernstein Development			25,00	15,000
Booker T. Washington	0	10,000	50,000	25,000
Cedar Grover Community Development			31,372	30,000
Community Foundation of NWLA	0	10,000	100,000	50,000
Community Renewal International Inc.	2,000	10,000	85,000	50,000
Doug Williams Scholarship Foundation	0	6,677	6,677	6,677
Extensions of Excellence	0	0	25,000	10,000
Girl Scouts of Louisiana			5,000	5,000
Image Changers			24,8000	10,000
Inner City Entrepreneur Institute	25,000	25,000	30,000	30,000
Inter City Row Modern Dance			4,650	4,650
Ivy Crown Community Services	5,000	0	10,000	10,000
Literacy Volunteers at Centenary College	0	2,695	2,200	2,200
MLK Neighborhood Association	0	10,000	40,000	20,000
National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Beta Alpha Calla Lily Foundation	4,000	5,000	10,000	10,000
Northwest LA CDC			75,000	25,000
Oasis of Hope Louisiana	2,000	20,000	40,000	40,000
R.A.P.S. Youth Initiative			250,000	25,000
Red River STEM- Sci Port			15,000	15,000
Renzi Education & Art Center, Inc	6,000	6,000	6,300	6,300
Salvation Army (Red Shield Shelter)	20,500	23,000	25,000	25,000
SCORE Setting Children on the Road for Excellence			15,000	5,000
Setting the Standard Barbering and Natural Hair Academy	22,000	18,000	272,720	25,000
Shreveport Opera	3,000	6,000	8,000	8,000
Shreveport Regional Arts Council	10,000	20,000	35,000	30,000
Shreveport Regional Arts Council- Artist			10,000	10,000
Shreveport Symphony Orchestra			7,500	7,500
SISTERS International, Inc. "Restoration Crisis Center" (RCC)	12,000	15,000	120,000	0
Social Justice Civic League, Inc.	12,000	10,000	125,000	25,000
Southern University at Shreveport	0	100,000	150,000	115,000
Southern University at Shreveport Foundation	4,000	5,000	25,000	20,000
Southern University System Foundation	0	0	1,000,000	0
TEAMS			25,500	18,000
Theatre of the Performing Arts of Shreveport	8,000	8,000	30,000	15,000
YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) of Northwest Louisiana, Inc.	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

It was **moved by Mr. J. Young**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the Committee accept the Chair's funding suggestions as amended.* Motion carried unanimously with Mrs. Blake being absent.

The total suggested funding request is \$1,670,327.

- *Discussion regarding the Housing Repair & Rehabilitation Assistance Program (HRRAP)*
Mr. Thomas presented a draft framework for the HRRAP program, designed to provide

financial assistance for critical housing repairs in Caddo Parish. The program aims to preserve existing homes, address blight, and ensure safe, habitable housing for long-term residents. Assistance would be offered through grant awards (income-based eligibility) and loan options (with repayment structures that reinvest into the program). The scope of eligible repairs would include: structural repairs, emergency electrical or mechanical repairs, hazard mitigation (mold, lead paint, storm or fire damage), accessibility modifications for residents with disabilities (e.g., wheelchair ramps), and removal of hazardous overhanging trees and similar safety-related issues. Cosmetic improvements and discretionary remodeling are excluded.

Mr. Burrell asked about past conflicts with city code enforcement programs, particularly regarding storm-related roof repairs. Administration clarified that HRRAP differs from code enforcement and is not intended to duplicate city authority. Prior roof repair programs were difficult to manage due to volume, but HRAP seeks to address comprehensive structural needs.

Mr. Cothran wanted to know the source of program funding, maximum allocation levels, which department will administer the program, how HRAP differs from new City of Shreveport housing programs, and inclusion of tree removal assistance for elderly homeowners. Mr. Thomas confirmed that tree removal and similar hazards would be included and requested further input before finalization.

Mr. J. Young noted the number of outstanding questions and suggested continued review.

Mr. Epperson commended the initiative, noting it could be transformative for maintaining parish housing stock. Mrs. Gage-Watts expressed agreement, highlighting the potential benefits for citizens and parish stability.

Mr. Thomas asked that the Committee members review the draft framework and submit feedback and suggestions. The program framework will be revisited at the next Appropriations Committee meeting for further refinement, including funding strategies and administrative structure. Coordination with the E. Edward Jones Housing Trust Fund and administration will also be addressed.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.


Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk