

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bonham is now a *Film Friendly Texas* Certified Community

Local officials echoed the exciting news from Governor Abbott that Bonham has been designated a *Film Friendly Texas* certified community by the Texas Film Commission. Such designation is reserved for those 140+ Texas communities that successfully complete all program training and documentation requirements. The designation serves as a signal to film industry location scouts and site selectors that the city is receptive to accommodating *on-location filming* within their jurisdiction.

Bonham Mayor Roy Floyd welcomed the designation and heartily commended all those local volunteers and staff that participated in this successful endeavor. The Mayor observed that *"this effort was sparked more than ten years ago by Bonham tourism advocates like Emily Porter, Glenn Taylor and other that shared the vision of showcasing our many Bonham attributes to film industry scouts looking for authentic locations in genuine 'small town' communities"*

BEDCo identified '*on location filming*' as a targeted industry some time ago but it wasn't until last November (2019) that the board and staff earmarked resources to fully accomplish all the *Film Friendly Texas* program requirements. BEDCo Board member Lee Ellis volunteered to attend a Texas Film Commission training workshop in Lufkin. Upon his return he worked with Bonham Executive Director - Economic Development Steve Filipowicz to update and '*Bonham-ize*' sample 'Film Friendly Texas' policy guidelines shared at the workshop by the Texas Film Commission. In February the City Council unanimously adopted a supporting Resolution that included administratively enforceable guidelines for *On Location Filming* in Bonham.

BEDCo also commissioned local photographer Allen Rich to build the *high quality-high resolution* photographic portfolio of publicly accessible sites; an essential component of Bonham's '*Film Friendly Texas*' certification packet.

Filipowicz noted that local property owner can also nominate their properties to supplement Bonham's photo portfolio. He stressed the advice of Texas Film Commission's 'Kim LeBlanc, Production & Community Relations Specialist to *"encourage residential and local business owners alike in Bonham to submit **high resolution, high quality photos** of their properties for inclusion in our office's locations database as well.* That can be accomplished by completing the online form on the Texas Film Commission's webpage (*BEDCo will also add a direct link in the coming days!*): https://gov.texas.gov/film/page/your_property_in_production:

For additional information feel free to contact Steve Filipowicz at City Hall 903.583.7555.

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