Safe Haven Baby Box Discussion

City Council Work Session
September 1, 2026
Robby Bergerson, Fire Chief
Derrick Oltmann, Director of Facilities

Texas Baby Moses Law





- Texas law allows anonymous surrender of an unharmed infant (60 days or younger).
- Authorized locations: Fire Stations, Hospitals, Stand-alone ERs, EMS providers.

Waco Experience:

- 2017 – Fire Station 11 (7600 Imperial Dr.)
- 2026 – Fire Station 7 (1325 N. 5th St.)

What is a Safe Haven Baby Box?

- Temperature-controlled exterior surrender device
- Anonymous surrender
- Automatic alarms notify station and 9-1-1
- Program administered by Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc.

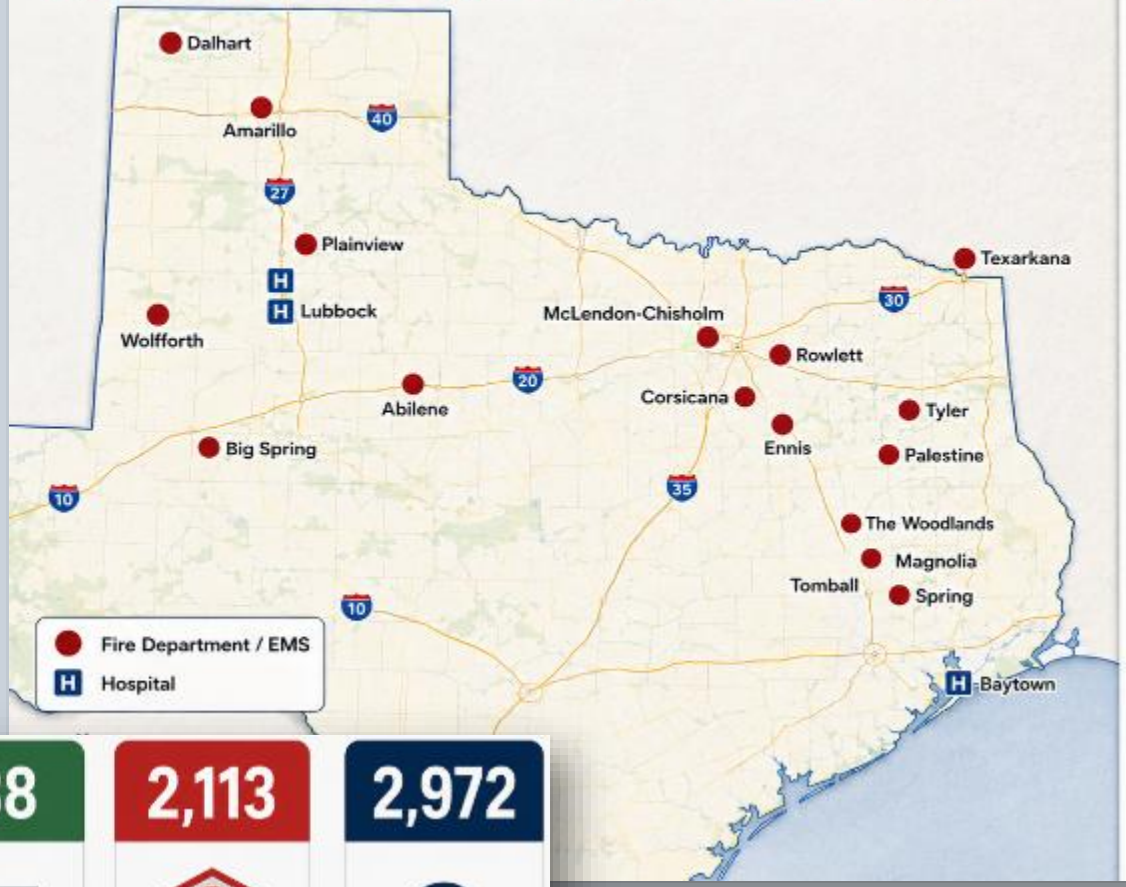


Current Process



Waco Fire has successfully completed two Baby Moses Law surrenders using this process – without a Safe Haven Baby Box.

SAFE HAVEN BABY BOX
LOCATIONS IN TEXAS



22 SAFE HAVEN BABY BOX LOCATIONS

- Abilene Fire Station 7 *(Abilene)*
- Lubbock Fire Station #9 *(Lubbock)*
- Corsicana Fire Station 2 *(Corsicana)*
- Wolfforth Fire & EMS *(Wolfforth)*
- Palestine Fire Station 1 *(Palestine)*
- Woodlands Fire Department *(Conroe/The Woodlands)*
- City of Ennis Fire Station #3 *(Ennis)*
- H Covenant Children's Hospital *(Lubbock)*
- H Covenant Health *(Plainview)*
- H Covenant Health *(Levelland)*
- Dalhart Fire Department *(Dalhart)*
- Tomball Fire Station 5 *(Tomball)*
- Magnolia Fire Department Station 181 *(Magnolia)*
- H Texarkana Emergency Center & Hospital *(Texarkana)*
- H UMC Health System *(Lubbock)*
- McLendon-Chisholm Fire Department *(McLendon-Chisholm)*
- Amarillo Fire Department *(Amarillo)*
- Chambers County EMS Station #2 *(Baytown)*
- H Christus Mother Frances Hospital *(Tyler)*
- Spring Fire Department *(Spring)*
- Big Spring Fire Department *(Big Spring)*
- Rowlett Fire Department *(Rowlett)*

525	+	338	+	2,113	=	2,972
HOSPITALS		FREESTANDING EMERGENCY ROOMS		FIRE STATIONS		TOTAL POSSIBLE LOCATIONS

Facility and Financial Considerations

Initial Costs:
- Program fee ≈ $16,000
- Installation ≈ $5,000–$7,000

Recurring Requirements:
- Annual certification
- Monitoring
- Weekly Testing
- Repairs & replacement parts
- Ongoing training
- Software/alarm support



Long Term Planning Process



Summary

- Existing Safe Haven law already provides multiple surrender options.
- Waco has successfully received two infants without a Baby Box.
- Baby Boxes involve long-term facility and operational commitments.

Considerations:

- Continue current process
- Evaluate during future station design
- Request additional analysis

Thank You.