Wind Storm form April 12, 2020

As you all know there were a lot of downed power lines and trees blocking road ways because of the wind storm that occurred on Sunday night. . The storm appeared suddenly and caught most people off guard. The response from Police, Fire and Public Works was impressive. Primary communications were lost temporarily at the onset due to a generator malfunction at the radio tower on Hwy 49. A group text was sent to the Firefighters advising them to switch over to the backup repeater, which is located at the fire station, and get ready for a page out. Communications were transferred over to our backup frequency immediately. The generator issue was resolved and primary communications were restored. Once command was established we were able to coordinate with dispatch for all of the requests for service. Public Works was notified and responded with barricades and saws for trees blocking roadways. Police responded as well to help locate and identify hazardous areas and also control traffic until barricades could be set up. Fire responded to help clear roadways and check for injured civilians because of several reports of tress that had fallen on houses. Some trees had powerlines entangled in them and could not be removed, however trees not involved with powerlines were cleared enough to make roadways passible. Once it was determined that there were no more issues that could be addressed by City crews in the city limits a few resources were directed to areas in the county near the city. FM 1801 and some county roads were cleared by Public Works and Fire Department. All issues that could be addressed by City crews were completed around 11:30pm. Our public safety dispatch did an excellent job taking the large number of calls for service that came in. All City Departments worked well together and was able to accomplish our mission of protecting our citizens and taking care of our city. There will be some after action discussion on this event to discuss any issues that could be improved upon because no matter smoothly things run, there are always ways to improve.