

**JEFFERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION 2024-21

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
JEFFERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE REQUESTING THAT ALL
JEFFERSON COUNTY 911 TELECOMMUNICATORS BE ELEVATED
TO THE STATUS OF FIRST RESPONDERS**

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunications Officers are part of the critical infrastructure of the Public Safety system and play a critical role in public safety, homeland security, and emergency response alongside police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicator requires specialized training and skills to gather vital information and make split-second decisions to form the foundation of an effective emergency response, prevent the worsening of a situation, provide situational awareness to responders, and/or provide life-saving direction; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicator works in a uniquely stressful environment, communicating with people in great distress, harm, fear, or injury, and that environment can have an adverse emotional and physical impact; acknowledging that PTSD and vicarious trauma are real issues in the 911 profession; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicator holds strong "the thin gold line", providing selfless compassionate care to all who seek their assistance during good times and bad; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County holds all these things to be true; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicator is not recognized by the Federal Government as a protected classification. Despite all the requirements they must meet to work in this position, the Federal Office of Management and Budget classifies this group of individuals as clerical staff, but we dissent. Jefferson County could not wait for the 911 Saves Act that is stalled in Congress to give our dispatchers the classification of First Responders that they have earned and deserved; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County recognizes Public Safety Telecommunicators are far from just clerical and supports the national movement to re-classify telecommunicators as First Responders and truly recognize the work they do. Additionally, Jefferson County supports the 911 Saves Act to properly classify the profession of Public Safety Telecommunicators;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County, Tennessee that from this day forward all Public Safety Telecommunicators in Jefferson County including Jefferson County 911, are hereby elevated to the status of First Responders.

Let it be so resolved on this the 15th day of July, 2024

Date of Adoption by County Commission: 7/15/24

Date Received by County Mayor: 7/17/2024 *Mark Potts*

Votes: 17 0 0 4
Yes No Abstain Absent

Approved: *James E. Carmichael* Date: 7/18/24
James E. Carmichael – Chairman, County Commission

Attest: *Frank C. Herndon* Date: 7/17/24
Frank C. Herndon – County Clerk



Approved: *Mark Potts* Date: 7/17/24
Mark Potts – County Mayor

Vetoed: _____ Date: _____
Mark Potts – County Mayor

Veto
Override
Votes: _____
Yes No Abstain Absent

Veto
Override: _____ Date: _____
James E. Carmichael – Chairman, County Commission