

WASHINGTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-09-15

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EMS FUNDING FOR EXPANDED FIRE SERVICES AT LIMESTONE AND EMBREEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND AMENDING FY26 BUDGET

WHEREAS, Resolution 25-06-10 approved and authorized funding to the Town of Jonesborough for services of the county fire zone; and

WHEREAS, The Fire/EMS Response Pilot Program has been in place since 2016 and Washington County/Johnson City EMS, Limestone and Embreeville Volunteer Fire Departments seek to enhance their capabilities to improve the service level for the community; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to improve response times, enhance service levels, and increase safety on the fire scene, EMS and the Limestone & Embreeville Volunteer Fire Departments have requested funding to support the Fire Program Expansion Proposal 2025, attached hereto as Exhibit A, to hire additional personnel to cover the expanded zones; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee, at its September 4, 2025 meeting, recommended consideration and approval of this request; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Volunteer Fire Association requests the following amendments to FY26 to fund the Fire Program Expansion:

1. Increase \$550,000.00 to expense line item 101-54310-316 (Fire Prevention and Control- Contributions);
2. Decrease \$550,000.00 from equity line item 101-39000 (Fund Balance); and

WHEREAS, the Budget Committee at its September 10, 2025 meeting recommended consideration and approval of this request to the Board of County Commissioners; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE THAT:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Tennessee supports the Washington County/Johnson City EMS, and Limestone and Embreeville Volunteer Fire Department's Fire Program Expansion Proposal 2025 (Exhibit A) as being in the best interest of the citizens of Washington County and authorizes a \$550,000.00 increase in the County's special appropriation to the

Washington County/Johnson City EMS for operational support to the Limestone and Embreeville Volunteer Fire Departments.

Section 2: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget is amended to:

1. Increase \$550,000.00 to expense line item 101-54310-316 (Fire Prevention and Control- Contributions).
2. Decrease \$550,000.00 from equity line item 101-39000 (Fund Balance).

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after the date on which it is approved by the County Mayor or as indicated by certification of the County Clerk, as hereinafter set forth.

Introduced by Commissioner: *Edens*

Seconded by Commissioner: *Jones*

Commissioners Voting FOR: *Tucker, Johnson, Fitzgerald, Edens, Davenport, Matherly, England, Malone, Stout, Tomita, Jones, Wexler, Huffine, Wheeler, Carder*

Commissioners Voting AGAINST: *None*

Commissioners Abstaining: *None*

Commissioners Absent: *None*

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY, in session duly assembled, on this the 22nd day of September, 2025



CHERYL STOREY, County Clerk



GREG MATHERLY, Chair of the Board

REFERRED to County Mayor this the 26th day of Sept. 2025.



CHERYL STOREY, County Clerk

APPROVED by County Mayor on this the 26 day of Sept 2025.

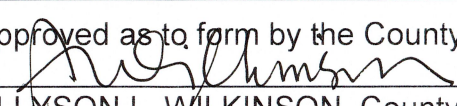


WILLIAM J. GRANDY, County Mayor

The County Mayor having declined to approve this Resolution, the same became effective on the ___ day of _____ 2025, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 5-6-107(b)(5).

CHERYL STOREY, County Clerk

Approved as to form by the County Attorney this 24th day of September 2025.



ALLYSON L. WILKINSON, County Attorney



FIRE PROGRAM EXPANSION PROPOSAL 2025

Expanding Fire Protection 2025

The Jonesborough Fire Department and the Town of Jonesborough are concerned about the ability to continue the fire protection outside the town limits. Current staffing requirements are putting a strain on the existing response. They are proposing shrinking their primary zone to stay in compliance with ISO requirements. This adjustment could see county property owners' insurance premiums increase for those outside the five-mile zone of the volunteer department picking up the coverage. A plan will need to be in place to ensure proper coverage.

Discussion:

Adjust Jonesborough's zone coverage in phases. Jonesborough must reduce its primary zone to only within the city limits. This will begin with the framework to allow that change over time. The goal is to not put a crisis on the property owners impacted by the changes, as well as allowing the Commission to pay for the adjustment over time.

Phase 1:

Jonesborough reduces the existing zone for the lower area of the county. This would be their zone coverage in Telford, New Victory, Highway 81S, Greenwood Drive area. The fire zones are redrawn with Jonesborough responding as automatic aid to this area.

Jonesborough would still provide primary coverage to the Old Boones Creek Rd, Headtown Rd, Grassy Valley, Indian Ridge, Old Jonesborough Hwy, Matson area. Response in this area would remain the same as currently protected.

Timeline for Phase 1:

Personnel for the Telford Station could be hired by end of October and working on their training. Depending on who we can hire, they may be able to be operational by December. Embreeville FD will complete their pilot program in December, and we will begin hiring for those positions in January. Those individuals would go through a six-month training program as well before being fully operational.

Phase 2 and beyond:

In the future, the area protected by Jonesborough as primary will be reduced as Gray and Sulphur Springs Volunteer Fire Departments are able to develop a plan for expansion and coverage.

Need:**Phase 1:**

Additional personnel. One of the recently approved personnel can be stationed at the new station in Telford. One additional personnel will need to be added to have two stationed there.

Add One person to the new station at Lamar.

Add additional funds to the Volunteer Departments covering the expanded zones.

Cost:

- Add one staff member per shift to Telford Station. The new staff in Limestone will transfer to Telford Station making two on shift. This will be supplemented by volunteers from Limestone Volunteer Fire Department.
- Add one staff member per shift to Lamar Station. The new station in Lamar will be supplemented by volunteers from Embreeville Volunteer Fire Department and EMS.
- Provide additional funding for both Limestone and Embreeville Volunteer Fire Departments to expand their zone coverage.
- Expand Old Station 5 in Telford for additional equipment.

