

# Weakley County 911 Emergency Communications District

PO Box 911 – Dresden, Tennessee 38225

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Ms Lynn,

During the regional meetings hosted by the TECB, one issue was raised numerous times. As we know, there are no two Districts alike in Tennessee. Each operates differently, each with its own way of serving its citizens. Due to the disparity in the level of service, the question of acceptable expenditures of 9-1-1 funds was voiced several times. To that end, I would like to offer the following opinion.

For years, many Districts have argued that the original intent of 9-1-1 funds was not to pay for Dispatch salaries. That was a tax payer burden prior to 9-1-1 and may be one of the major factors in the financial stability of a District. However, many local Districts have either contributed to or fully funded Dispatcher salaries resulting in higher levels of service for their citizens. This issue has polarized many Districts: At what point do we draw the line? Will there ever be a way to fully satisfy every District's operational model without sacrificing service? Will the TECB rule in favor of Dispatch salaries (thereby forcing some to pay up) or against Dispatch salaries (and forcing others to deny services). I would like to postulate a completely different approach.

The 911 Revenue Standards Document defines what 9-1-1 funds *may* be expended upon. I believe that the TECB should define what 9-1-1 funds *must* be expended upon. Naturally, this would encompass all items listed as "Tier 1 Equipment" (Essential Equipment Reimbursement Program), but should be expanded to incorporate the maintenance and upkeep of that equipment. The overall intent would be akin to the following:

**"This document is presented to define what functions and equipment 9-1-1 revenue MUST be expended upon in order to provide reliable 9-1-1 access to the citizens of any given District. Once the following criteria are met and maintained on a yearly basis, the remaining operational revenue may be expended at the discretion of the local District Board, as long as it complies with the 911 Revenue Standards Act."**

I understand that no one person has all the answers. I do feel that this particular idea has merit and may be a unifying foundation for the Districts of Tennessee. Feel free to discuss or amend this information for the good of the Districts and the citizens we serve. Thank you for your time and your continued commitment to 911.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jamison Peevyhouse, Director  
Weakley County 911 ECD