

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 25-08

Sponsored by: Maree Coats

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS AS FIRST RESPONDERS WHO SERVE ALL OF FAULKNER COUNTY, ARKANSAS; AND TO SUPPORT THEIR DESIGNATION AS FIRST RESPONDERS AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS.

Whereas, Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first point of contact for citizens in crisis, playing a vital role in the emergency response system by gathering critical information, coordinating the dispatch of emergency services, and providing essential guidance to ensure the safety of both the public and emergency responders; and

Whereas, these professionals serve all of Faulkner County, Arkansas-including city, county, and rural communities-providing comprehensive 911 services and dispatch support for law enforcement, fire departments, and other public safety agencies; and

Whereas, they are highly trained to handle complex and high-pressure calls involving law enforcement and fire-related emergencies, often making split-second decisions with limited information under intense stress; and

Whereas, Public Safety Telecommunicators must handle the emotional and mental burden of answering thousands of calls annually, being the steady voice on the line as citizens experience the worst days of their lives, all while ensuring the safety and coordination of emergency responders in the field; and

Whereas, despite the vital nature of their duties, Public Safety Telecommunicators have historically been classified in federal labor systems as administrative or clerical personnel, a designation that fails to reflect their professional status and essential role in emergency services; and

Whereas, Faulkner County recognizes the growing national movement to classify Public Safety Telecommunicators as First Responders and seeks to affirm and support that recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF FAULKNER COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. That Faulkner County hereby recognizes Public Safety Telecommunicators serving Faulkner County as First Responders, in acknowledgment of their essential, life-saving role in public safety operations.

Section 2. Faulkner County formally supports efforts at the state and federal levels to reclassify and designate Public Safety Telecommunicators as First Responders.

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Governor of

Arkansas, the Arkansas General Assembly, and members of Arkansas's Congressional Delegation as a formal expression of the County's support.

Passed by the Quorum Court on July 15, 2025.

Attest: _____
Margaret Darter
Quorum Court Secretariat
Faulkner County, Arkansas

Affirm _____
Allen Dodson
Faulkner County Judge
Faulkner County, Arkansas

Dated:

Dated: