

RESOLUTION NO. 25-11-019

SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONERS JARED ANDERSON, NICK BRIGHT,
RICK CARVER, JESSICA HANNAH, DAWN REAGAN, MIKE AKARD, JOHN GILES,
BRAD BOWERS, AND MISTY DAVIS

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION URGING REVIEW AND
CORRECTIVE ACTION REGARDING THE BLOUNT COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Blount County Fire Protection District provides vital fire protection and emergency services to a large portion of Blount County, funded through membership fees paid by local residents; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury issued findings earlier this year identifying missing or unaccounted-for funds within the operations of the District; and

WHEREAS, more recently, a letter signed by employees and firefighters of the District has brought forward additional allegations regarding financial practices, staffing shortages, safety procedures, and internal leadership concerns; and

WHEREAS, these reports and allegations, though not proven, raise concerns that warrant independent review and clear public accountability to maintain confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of the District's operations; and

WHEREAS, the Blount County Fire Protection District operates as a non-profit public utility district under Tennessee law, with its own board of commissioners and administrative authority, and is not under the direct supervision, budgetary control, and or any other related oversight responsibilities of the Blount County Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Blount County Commission recognizes the courage and professionalism of the firefighters and employees serving within the District, who continue to provide critical services to county residents despite internal challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that transparency, financial integrity, and operational safety are essential to sustaining public trust and ensuring the continued protection of Blount County's citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that this body hereby urges all other appropriate oversight authorities to take all steps necessary to review, investigate, and, where appropriate, implement corrective measures to ensure proper measures are taken with regard to the concerns raised within the Blount County Fire Protection District, and this body further supports the request of the County Mayor for an action plan regarding measures to take regarding the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Blount County Commission expresses its appreciation to the men and women of the Fire Protection District for their continued dedication to protecting life and property, and reaffirms the County's support for transparency and responsible public service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Mayor is requested to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Tennessee Comptroller, the Blount County Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners, and any other appropriate entities for their consideration and response.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION TAKE EFFECT FROM AND AFTER PASSAGE, THE PUBLIC WELFARE REQUIRING IT.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION

ATTEST

Commission Chairman

County Clerk

County Mayor

Date

- ☐ Approved
☐ Vetoed