

RESOLUTION NO. 25-09-001

SPONSORED BY: Commissioners Mike Caylor, Nick Bright and Jared Anderson

A RESOLUTION THAT APPROVES AN AGREEMENT WITH KNOX COUNTY FORENSIC CENTER FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES IN BLOUNT COUNTY

- WHEREAS,** The Board of Commissioners of Blount County, Tennessee, adopted the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 5-14-101 et. seq., known as the County Purchasing Law of 1957; and
- WHEREAS,** Tennessee Code Annotated §5-14-108(m)(1) states that the County Purchasing Agent is authorized to purchase and contract to purchase materials, supplies, equipment and contractual services on a fiscal year basis, but no commitment shall be made which extends beyond the end of the current fiscal year for which appropriations have been made by the county legislative body, except such commitments as are authorized by resolution of the county legislative body; and
- WHEREAS,** Upon receiving a resignation letter from the Blount Pathologists group, Blount County sought alternative options with a variety of physicians, Prisma Health-Blount Memorial Hospital and consulted with our local law enforcement agencies and district attorney's office; and
- WHEREAS,** Blount County wishes to enter into an Agreement with Knox County Regional Forensic Center (RFC), valid and in effect after signing by both parties for one (1) year, with the option to extend the contract agreement for up to five (5) years; and
- WHEREAS,** This Agreement includes any and all medical examiner (ME) services, medical death investigation, autopsy and autopsy related services for Blount County. The services will include, but not be limited to: (1) Attend all death scenes not under hospice/medical care; (2) Attend hospital scenes for homicides, inmates, child deaths in ER; (3) Obtain reports via telephone from hospital(s) regarding any inpatient deaths to screen for ME jurisdiction; (4) Sign All ME death certifications; (5) Sign all Cremation permits; (6) Provide monthly data trends to the County; (7) Participate in any mass casualty/disaster training exercises with local EMA/Fire/Law Enforcement; (8) Process all county cremations (unclaimed/indigent cases); (9) Provide unclaimed veteran ceremony arrangements; (10) Work with the health department to notify any current trends and to provide data; (11) Provide training opportunities to LE/Fire/EMS personnel on related topics; (12) Attend community groups and school events for programs as requested; (13) Work closely with BCSO, APD, and MPD to ensure all needs are met as well as TBI, THP and other state and federal agencies; and (14) Handle all phone calls from families, funeral homes, and other agencies regarding follow up information, reports, questions, etc.; and
- WHEREAS,** RFC's mission is to provide accurate, timely, compassionate and professional death investigative services for the citizens of Knox County and the counties it serves; identify and develop an understanding of sudden, unexpected and unnatural deaths and educate the public about those deaths; assist law enforcement agencies in their investigations; offer consults to medical professionals and attorneys; render unbiased opinions and testimony in court and extend research support for local and national medical, legal, academic and law enforcement organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** This Agreement with RFC will provide all-in-one services that will enhance service delivery and partnership with law enforcement and families and is in the best interests of Blount County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Blount County, Tennessee, assembled in regular session on this 18th day of September, 2025, that a multi-year contract with Knox County Regional Forensic Center be approved for Blount County, Tennessee, with the term beyond the current fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution take effect from and after its passage, and that any part of any prior resolution to the contrary is hereby declared null and void, the public welfare requiring it.

Appropriation:

101-52220-530900	Contracts with Other Government Agencies.....\$474,036.64
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Duly authorized and approved the 18th of September 2025.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION

ATTEST

Commission Chairman

County Clerk

County Mayor

Date

☐ Approved

☐ Vetoed