

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-014

SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONERS JARED ANDERSON & NICK BRIGHT

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BLOUNT COUNTY COMMISSION SUPPORTING
EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY RETIREMENT BRIDGE BENEFIT,
SUBJECT TO COST REVIEW AND AVAILABLE FUNDS**

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-36-211 authorizes political subdivisions participating in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System to adopt a supplemental bridge benefit for certain employees subject to mandatory retirement provisions; and

WHEREAS, Blount County has previously adopted a mandatory retirement age and the associated supplemental bridge benefit for certain public safety employees pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 8-36-205 and 8-36-211; and

WHEREAS, in April 2025, the Blount County Commission adopted a resolution extending the associated supplemental bridge benefit to correctional officers, effective July 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025 legislative session, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted Public Chapter 383, which authorizes political subdivisions, by resolution of the chief governing body, to adopt a revised supplemental bridge benefit that extends eligibility for benefit payments to age sixty-seven (67) for certain members retiring between the ages of sixty (60) and sixty-two (62), and further authorizes political subdivisions that previously adopted a supplemental bridge benefit to irrevocably elect to adopt the revised benefit structure; and

WHEREAS, the Blount County Commission recognizes the importance of providing experienced public safety employees with a meaningful and predictable bridge to full Social Security eligibility, and supports the policy objectives embodied in Public Chapter 383; and

WHEREAS, the Blount County Commission further recognizes its responsibility to ensure that any expansion or modification of retirement-related benefits is fiscally responsible, sustainable, and consistent with available budgetary resources; and

WHEREAS, prior to final adoption of the revised supplemental bridge benefit authorized by Public Chapter 383, the County Commission finds it necessary to obtain an actuarial cost analysis from a qualified actuarial consultant in order to evaluate the projected financial impact of adoption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Blount County Commission, meeting in regular session, that the Commission hereby expresses its intent and support to adopt the supplemental bridge benefit authorized by Public Chapter 383 of the 113th General Assembly, subject to confirmation that the projected costs are reasonable and can be accommodated within available County budgetary funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Blount County Finance Director is hereby requested and authorized to engage a qualified actuarial consultant to prepare an actuarial analysis estimating the cost and fiscal impact to Blount County of adopting the supplemental bridge benefit authorized

by Public Chapter 383, for consideration in the annual budget beginning with fiscal year 2026-2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon receipt and review of the actuarial analysis, the County Commission intends to consider a subsequent resolution formally adopting the supplemental bridge benefit authorized by Public Chapter 383, contingent upon a determination that sufficient budgetary funds are available to support such adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Blount County Finance Director is also hereby requested and authorized to engage a qualified actuarial consultant to conduct an analysis of adopting the Hazardous Duty Supplement retirement benefit.

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