

ORIGINAL

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Monday, January 5, 2026 – 9:00 A.M. – Weakley County Sheriff's Department

Public Safety Committee Members Present: Commissioners Jack Vincent, Larry Kelly, David Bell, Bobby Dunlap, David Hawks, Joey Mehlhorn, and James Washburn

Public Safety Committee Members Absent: Commissioners Wade Cook and James Roy Pope

I. CALL TO ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Vincent called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and called for the consideration of the minutes from the meeting which was held on October 27, 2025. Commissioner Mehlhorn made the motion to approve, and with a second by Commissioner Washburn the motion passed unanimously.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No application was made for public comment.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Vincent announced the Fire Chief's Association meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Weakley County Sheriff's Department. CTAS will be present at this meeting. Chairperson Vincent encouraged members of the Public Safety Committee to attend, noting the potential for the meeting to offer significant information and valuable insights.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2026-29 Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026:

Commissioner Washburn made a motion to place the resolution on the floor and with a second from Commissioner Hawks the resolution was opened for discussion. Chairperson Vincent recognized Weakley County Sheriff, Terry McDade. Sheriff McDade stated the resolution pertained to a reimbursement received by the sheriff's office from officer academy training. The total amount received was \$18,000; of this, \$3,000 will be allocated to the communications budget for the acquisition of a new CAD system, while the remaining \$15,000 will be designated for the law enforcement equipment. The resolution was passed unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Vincent recognized Weakley County Mayor Dale Hutcherson. Mayor Hutcherson provided the committee with an update on the Weakley County Mayor's Office initiatives to enhance public awareness about the importance of paying fire dues and volunteering. The office has been actively coordinating with local fire departments throughout the county to collect relevant data concerning dues and volunteer needs. Additionally, information has been disseminated through social media channels, such as Facebook, to reach a broader audience. These ongoing efforts are intended to increase community engagement and participation. Commissioner Hawks recommended that Mayor Hutcherson contact Paul Tinkle to discuss the possibility of speaking on the radio station, with the aim of increasing public awareness regarding fire dues and the need for volunteers.

Commissioner Bell inquired whether the County has considered providing assistance to volunteer departments in securing grant funding from the State of Tennessee. Chairperson Vincent then recognized

Commissioner Gary Eddings, who stated that each fire department applies for state grants and has received them previously. Commissioner Mehlhorn asked if the County employs a grant writer. Mayor Hutcherson responded that the County does not currently have a grant writer on staff; however, Melinda Parham has been taking grant writing courses with the intention of addressing this need for the county.

Chairperson Vincent inquired regarding responsibility for the placement of RaeKar trashcans on scheduled trash pick-up days, specifically whether this responsibility rests with the homeowner or with RaeKar. He also noted that trashcans are frequently observed in the roadway on these days, which may pose a potential hazard to drivers.

VI. ADJOURN

Seeing no other business, Commissioner Washburn made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bell seconded and with that the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melinda Parham, Secretary

Public Safety Committee

Approved:



Jack Vincent, Chairperson

Public Safety Committee

Date: 23 Apr 26