

Emergency Services Committee
Thursday, April 9, 2026 | 4:30 pm
VJ Dodson Memorial Building, Community Complex

Members (District):

Wiley Potter (1st)
Tom Isham (2nd)
Darrell Threet (3rd), (A)
Charles Seiber (4th), (A)
Terry Lowe (5th), (A)
Wendell Wilson (6th), (A)
Jerry Cooper (7th)
Greg Maxwell (8th), (A)
John Patterson (9th), (A)

Others Present:

Torey LaMontagne, Mayor's Office, Minutes
Gary Nelson, *Crossville Chronicle*
Casey Cox, Sheriff
TJ Williams, E911
Eric Ritzman, E911
Trevor Kerley, County Fire Chief
Chris Miller, EMS
Dustin Burgess, Rescue Squad
Dr. James Wojcik, Medical Director
Ben Gibson, County Coroner
Travis Cole, EMA
Kenny Kilgore, County Fire
Kris Julien, Rescue Squad
Tom Kress, FFG Fire
Sue York, 1st District
Karen Shanks, 3rd District
Deborah Holbrook, 8th District
Colleen Mall, 9th District
John Wedgeworth, Planning Commission

CALL TO ORDER

There was not a quorum present, so a meeting was not called to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were not approved, as a quorum was not present.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

GUEST SPEAKER: BEN GIBSON, COUNTY CORONER

Ben Gibson was present. He stated that they call a coroner a "medical death investigator" now. Ben was asked by Tom about drug overdoses and Ben answered that they are trending down but not going away.

He mentioned that we currently have contracts with Nashville and Knoxville for autopsies. When asked what determines if a partial or a full autopsy is performed, Ben stated that it depends on what we need to know such as were there drugs involved? Is it a homicide? Ben also mentioned that our geriatric population in this county is high and many deaths are natural. In addition, if a death occurs at the hospital, the medical death investigator does not get involved.

Sue asked about legislation at the state level requiring the state to cover the costs of autopsies ordered by a district attorney. TJ Williams responded that there was current legislation making its way through the Tennessee chambers for this exact thing. The bill would require the cost and expense of an autopsy ordered by the district attorney general to be paid by the state.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, TRAVIS COLE

Director of Emergency Management Travis Cole was present with updates:

- Travis mentioned that we are having a calm storm season so far.
- A TVA drill was done at one of our high schools last July and the final report from FEMA had great remarks for all groups who participated.
- Cumberland County experienced a pretty mild winter overall this year.
- Cumberland County teachers will soon be equipped with wearable rapid response buttons from Centegix.

E-911 & DISPATCH, TJ WILLIAMS

Director of Operations TJ Williams was present with updates:

- TJ reported that dispatch will be fully trained and staffed again by the end of the month as two long-time dispatchers recently retired.
- We have recently renewed our contract with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, we are the only county certified with NCMEC in the state of Tennessee.
- TJ mentioned that next week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators week.
- 40 seconds is the length of answering time that 99% of calls must fall under—Cumberland County's average is 5.5 seconds.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD, KRIS JULIAN

Sergeant Kris Julian was present on behalf of the Rescue Squad with updates:

- As we are approaching summer, the squad anticipates an increase in water rescues.
- 6 squad members will be training in a swift water II class.
- The squad is seeing more and more interest from younger members of the community and high school students.
- The squad purchased an infrared drone to help in rescue and currently has 2 certified drone operators, about to certify a 3rd operator.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS IF ANY:

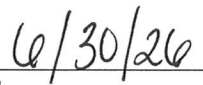
There will be active shooter trainings this summer on June 2nd and 4th at South Cumberland Elementary, and one at Stone Memorial High School on July 1st.

Sheriff Cox mentioned needing to look at a new bodycam contract in next year's budget cycle.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Wiley. The motion was seconded by Jerry, none were opposed, and the motion to adjourn carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm on Thursday, April 9, 2026 in the VJ Dodson Memorial Building at the Community Complex.


Approval


Date