

TACIR - HB 0204

From: "B Black" <bblack911@crockett.net.com>
To: <tacir@tn.gov>
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Subject: HB 0204

WITHIN THE LOCAL ECD, ESPECIALLY AT THE SMALL DISTRICT LEVEL, WE HAVE HAD A MAJOR DROP IN THE LANDLINES WITH EVERYBODY MOVING TO CELL PHONE ONLY. FOR ONE THIS MAKES E-911 SERVICE ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO LOCATE AND TWO IT TAKES OUR REVENUE AWAY. WITHIN THE SMALL DISTRICTS, WE RECEIVED ALL THE LANDLINE FUNDING IF IN OUR COUNTY AND WITH CELL LINES THE PERCENTAGE IS LESS. ALL DISTRICTS HAVE TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT AND THE COSTS OF EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE THE LEVEL OF SERVICE TO OUR CITIZENS THAT WE MUST HAVE, IS HIGH. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE NOT A LARGE DISTRICT, WE STILL MUST PROVIDE THE SERVICE LEVEL THAT ALL OTHER DISTRICTS CAN PROVIDE. FUNDING IS THE MAJOR ISSUE. ALSO KEEPING QUALITY DISPATCHERS IS A PROBLEM WHEN THE FUNDING IS NOT AVAILABLE AND THE LARGER DISTRICTS ARE ABLE TO PAY SALARIES THAT THE SMALLER DISTRICTS CAN'T. THE FUNDING NEEDS TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE DISTRICTS TO MAKE THE PURCHASES NEEDED AND NOT WAITING ON THE RESERVE THAT THEN HAS TO BE ALLOCATED TO THE DISTRICT WHEN NEED BE. THE INTEREST MONIES NEED TO BE IN THE DISTRICTS AND NOT IN THE GENERAL FUND. THESE ARE 911 MONIES AND THEY NEED TO BE IN 911. WE ARE THE FIRST LINK IN PUBLIC SAFETY AND NOTHING CAN WORK WITH A BROKEN LINK IN THE CHAIN. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME ON ANY ISSUE THAT MAY BE FORTHCOMING.

Brian Black, Director
Crockett County ECD E-911
884 South Cavalier Dr
Alamo, Tennessee 38001
731-696-4833
731-696-4832 fax

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