

**CITY OF WARD  
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-22**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN LONOKE COUNTY AND THE CITIES WITHIN LONOKE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSOLIDATING THE VARIOUS PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING SERVICES (PSAP) INTO ONE (1) PSAP WHICH WILL OPERATE UNDER THE LONOKE COUNTY 911 GOVERNING BOARD, TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS, ACT 660, THE PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 2019** required that the Arkansas State 911 Board (“911 Board”) to develop a plan no later than January 1, 2020 to reduce the number of Public Safety Answering Points (“PSAPs”) from the then current 114 PSAPs to no more than 77 PSAPs; and,

**WHEREAS,** following the publication of the 911 Consolidation Plan, each county was required to create a local 911 Consolidation Plan and that said Plan had to be provided to the 911 Board no later than January 1, 2023; and,

**WHEREAS,** at the time the state Consolidation Plan was published, Lonoke County had four (4) full-time PSAPs and two (2) part-time PSAPs and is mandated to consolidate into one (1) PSAP; and,

**WHEREAS,** all PSAP stakeholders<sup>1</sup>, the County Sheriff and the County Judge met several times during 2022 to develop county’s 911 PSAP Consolidation Plan which was provided to the 911 Board as required; and,

**WHEREAS,** Act 660, also requires all counties must consolidate their PSAPs as mandated and be operational no later than January 1, 2025; and,

**WHEREAS,** as part of the Lonoke County Consolidation Plan, there comes a need to create a Lonoke County 911 Governing Board as implemented via the attached Interlocal Agreement.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE WARD CITY COUNCIL THAT:**

**SECTION 1:** The City of Ward shall enter into the Interlocal Agreement with Lonoke County and all the other cities<sup>2</sup> within the county for the purpose of overseeing the operation of the Lonoke County 911 Center as outlined in the Agreement.

**SECTION 2:** The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute such documents as are necessary to effectuate this Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Mayors of the six (6) cities which operated a full or part-time PSAP

<sup>2</sup> Only cities with a certified Police Department are required to sign the Agreement. Those without a Police Department are represented by the Lonoke County Sheriff.

**SECTION 3 – SEVERABILITY:** If, for any reason, any portion or portions of this ordinance shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall in no way affect the remaining portions

**SECTION 4: EMERGENCY CLAUSE:** The Governing Board of the City of Ward has determined that an Emergency exists to ensure the provisions of the Agreement, to include but not limited to the hiring of a 911 Director, are implemented soon to ensure the Center is operational on January 1, 2025, as required. As such, this Ordinance is hereby effective upon passage and proper posting.

VOTES

YEAS 5 NAYS 0 ABSTAINS 0

DATE APPROVED: 10-16-2023

  
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Charles Gastineau, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Krystal Rummel, City Clerk

City Seal