



## **PULASKI COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MEDIA RELEASE**

## **COUNTY UPDATE**

### **County Government Paying Our Fair Share**

*By Judge Executive Marshall Todd*

**Somerset, Ky. (November 27, 2023)** – As we head into the last part of this year, I want to take the time to tell you Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. December will be showing up later this week and with it all the holiday traditions that we enjoy here in Pulaski County. This week will see our annual tree lighting ceremony, the first of my administration, and it will also see the annual Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am looking forward to attending both of these events. I am really impressed with what a tourism draw Pulaski County is becoming during the holidays. Whether you're enjoying the light shows at Burnside's Christmas Island and Bear Wallow Farm in Nancy or skating at either of the ice-skating rinks set up in Somerset, this entire region is becoming a true home for the holidays.

I also want to take this time to address the opinion piece that ran in a recent edition of The Commonwealth Journal. In the spirit of the holidays, I do have to say I agree with Mayor Keck that we all need to work together to find solutions for our first responders. After conversations I've had with our Magistrates, however, I feel one of the solutions we can go ahead and take off the table is a special taxing

district. If you look at other social media posts in the last several weeks, you can clearly see that families across this county are struggling to figure out how they are going to pay for their holiday meals and the holiday traditions they celebrate with their families each and every year. People are hurting. They have had to budget and live within their means just to make ends meet. My job as Pulaski County Judge Executive is to be as fiscally responsible as possible. That's why it's called Fiscal Court. I'm putting a heavy emphasis on the word "fiscal." I can't ask the already burdened people of Pulaski County to pay more in taxes. We'll be having some serious conversations in the coming weeks and months about how better to fund Somerset-Pulaski County EMS. We do want to be competitive with surrounding communities and help our dedicated first responders take care of their families. We also want to look at all our partnerships with The City of Somerset and make sure we are all paying our fair share of services we are providing to our citizens. There are 26 state mandated programs we are required to fund as County Government and we go well beyond that.

As you saw in our budget workshops and Fiscal Court meetings, County Government is responsible for funding quite a bit. Our most recent budget provided \$400,000 in funds to go towards the operating budget for SPEDA. We also fund the entirety of Pulaski County 911 at \$1,650,000 a year. According to the current numbers for 2023 we received from them, 911 responded to 27,311 calls originating from residents living within the city limits this year. County residents totaled 30,686 calls. That's 53% of 911 calls from county residents and 47% of calls from city residents. Pulaski County 911 dispatches calls to Somerset-Pulaski County EMS at a rate of 51% in the city and 49% in the county. Those numbers make sense when you take into account all the annexation that The City of Somerset has requested in recent years.

Not only is County Government providing \$1.3 million in funding to Somerset-Pulaski County EMS, we are also using \$2.1 million in ARPA funding to help with ambulances and other equipment. I also want to make sure that our citizens know that we are fully funding our local jail at \$1,350,000 for the fiscal year. The Pulaski County Detention Center houses inmates brought to them by both city and county agencies. The Somerset Police Department has brought us 925 arrests so far this year and The Pulaski County Sheriff's Office has brought us 972.

Pulaski County is and always will be my focus. I look forward to continuing our partnerships we have with not just The City of Somerset, but all the municipalities and agencies that encompass this great county we all share. That's why we are

happy to send funding to other municipalities amounting to \$200,000 per fiscal year. We also take the brunt of calls for Animal Control. We fully fund them at \$300,000 a year and respond to calls that are divided by 72% coming from county residents and 28% coming from city residents.

Though I am the head of County Government, I feel uncomfortable calling myself a leader. I'm not one for spectacle. I was sent here by the people of this county to do a job. That's why I appreciate our magistrates in standing with me and not raising taxes on the citizens of Pulaski County. As always, if you have any questions, you can always email me at [mtodd@pcgovt.com](mailto:mtodd@pcgovt.com) or call our office at (606)678-4853. My office is open Monday through Friday and I would love to hear from you. Again, Merry Christmas to you all. Through all the holiday traditions we enjoy, please remember why we're celebrating this time of year... the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God Bless You All and God Bless Pulaski County.

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