



PULASKI COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

COUNTY UPDATE

Pulaski County Sees First Winter Storm and Challenges in the New Year

By Judge Executive Marshall Todd

Somerset, Ky. (January 26, 2024) – The first month of 2024 has already been filled with plenty of challenges as we head into this new year. In the last couple of weeks, we were hit with three waves of a winter storm and I have to brag on our emergency crews and first responders and those that were out on the roads trying to clear a path for all of us. I want to thank each and every one of them for all they did to get us through this weather event. Our response initially started with prepping the roads in anticipation of the impending storm system. Salt is not very effective when temperatures get as low as they were, but our road crews were out in force to battle the winter weather that kept arriving. Each Magisterial District is assigned up to five trucks to take care of roads in what is the third largest county in Kentucky. With 2,292 miles of road, our crews face quite the challenge when it comes to clearing them off and making them passable during winter weather.

Any storm response also starts at 911. Our dispatchers and crew at the Hal Rogers Fire Training Facility, from Dispatch to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC),

are responsible for taking calls and monitoring the situation during all weather events. This most recent snowstorm was no different. From Beverly Haynes and her crew at Pulaski County Dispatch to Don Franklin coordinating efforts at the EOC, our first responders had the most up to date information possible. Our first responders do not get a snow day. They are out there during each shift doing the things the rest of us are not able or willing to do. Dispatch. Police. Fire. EMS. SRT. Rescue Squad. Each of them were battling the elements and our road crew was doing the best they could to clear the way. I appreciate each and every one of them.

As a part of that appreciation, Pulaski County Fiscal Court is going to be looking into ways to help The City of Somerset with their funding shortfalls with Somerset Pulaski County EMS. We were sent an ultimatum from The City of Somerset saying that we had until February 16th to make some hard decisions when it comes to our partnership with them. We are willing to work with the city on any number of issues. Our unanimous passing of a Recovery Center resolution during the last Fiscal Court meeting shows our willingness to work together. That resolution was a long time coming from each of our local governments here in Pulaski County and we hope that our delegation in Frankfort will be able to use it to draft meaningful legislation addressing a pressing community issue that we've been dealing with for some time now.

Funding for Somerset Pulaski County EMS is a multifaceted issue going back to both city and county previous administrations. It is not something that is going to be solved in a few weeks. We want to work with all parties involved to make sure that we are finding the best solutions possible, not just for Pulaski County Government and The City of Somerset, but for the folks that are out there everyday and every shift making sure our citizens are getting the help they need when they need it the most. Those solutions don't necessarily happen on Facebook. They happen when we sit down at a table together and talk. And they certainly won't happen by the middle of February.

Please let this office know what you think. We need the community's input just as much as that of community leaders. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact this office by calling (606)678-4853. And as always, you can email me your concerns at mtodd@pcgovt.com. God Bless You All and God Bless Pulaski County.

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