



Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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9-1-1 State Funding at Risk: Cumberland County Calls on General Assembly to Increase and Reauthorize Surcharge

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and the Department of Public Safety are asking state legislators to reauthorize and increase the 9-1-1 surcharge before the law sunsets on January 31, 2024.

The current surcharge on all cell and landlines is \$1.65, the county is asking for a 32-cent increase to \$1.97 for all users. The current funding in Pennsylvania is inadequate and leaves all counties funding the gap.

“If the surcharge is not reauthorized, the primary source of funding for 9-1-1 services will disappear, causing a nearly \$10 million 9-1-1 budget to fall on county taxpayers,” said Cumberland County Board of Commissioners. “We call on our legislators to pass legislation to increase the funding when they come back in session next week.”

The current \$1.65 surcharge only covers 59% of Cumberland county’s budget for 9-1-1 services. The county currently subsidizes approximately \$4 million a year due to the inadequate funding. Reauthorizing at the current level, \$1.65 without the increase, means that the county continues to subsidize the \$4 million.

“9-1-1 telecommunicators are an integral part of the emergency response system. They handle incidents for police officers, emergency medical services, fire departments and special resources like water rescue and hazardous materials,” said Cumberland County Public Safety Director Robert Shively. “No one plans to use 9-1-1. However, we pay for these services because we recognize that there is always a chance that we may need them.”

To learn more about 9-1-1 visit www.cumberlandcountyPA.gov/911funding.

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