

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A CENTRALIZED DISPATCHING 911 SYSTEM IN
MCDOWELL COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the safety of the citizen's of McDowell County and the provisions for emergency services are of paramount concern to the McDowell County Board of Commissioners and the Marion City Council, being the primary providers of emergency communications; and

WHEREAS, a centralized and computer aided dispatch will improve the efficiency and the response time of all emergency related agencies in McDowell County, thereby better protecting its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies appointed a Centralized Dispatching Committee comprised of three representatives from McDowell County, three from the City of Marion, one from the Town of Old Fort, one from the McDowell Rescue Squad, one from the McDowell County Fire Commission and one from McDowell County Fireman's Association; and

WHEREAS, the Centralized Dispatch Committee has made specific recommendations concerning equipment purchases, methods of 911 operations, the appointment of an advisory committee and other items;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, that the McDowell County Board of Commissioners hereby adopt the following regulations pursuant to G.S. 153A-121.

Section 1. Definitions

The following words and phrases shall have the meaning set forth herein unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Alarm System – means any electronic or mechanical device transmitting an electronic alarm signal or recorded message to the Emergency Operations Center indicating a fire, or an actual or attempted unauthorized entry into a building or indicating the commission or attempted commission of a crime in or about a building.

Emergency Operations Center – means the County of McDowell's communication center receiving telephonic requests or signal requests for law enforcement, fire, ambulance, rescue, or other emergency service within McDowell County.

False Alarm – means an alarm signal or recorded message transmitted to the Emergency Operations Center indicating a fire, an actual or attempted unauthorized entry into a building or indicating the commission, or attempted commission, of a crime in or about a building when a fact no evidence exists upon inspection of the building upon response to such alarm that a fire occurred, or that an unauthorized entry was committed or attempted or that a crime was committed or attempted in or about the building.

The Sheriff – means the Sheriff of McDowell County or any designee acting in behalf of the Sheriff.

Subscriber – means any person, corporation, partnership, governmental or educational entity owning or leasing an alarm system.

Vendor/Contractor – means the security company designated by McDowell County to operate and maintain the alarm system of the County along with all income apparatus connecting the County's system.

Section 2. Establishment of 911

- A. The McDowell County Board of Commissioners hereby agrees to establish the enhanced 911 system in McDowell County. All citizens within McDowell County will be notified prior to the actual implementation of this system. In addition, all counties adjacent to McDowell County will be notified.
- B. All 911 calls with the exception of the Marion Police Department will terminate at the McDowell County Sheriff's Department. Those agencies whose calls will terminate at the Sheriff's Department include the fire service, McDowell Rescue Squad, McDowell Emergency Medical Service, and the Old Fort Police Department.
- C. All 911 law enforcement calls that originate in the city limits of Marion will be switched to and received in that location.
- D. An ongoing 911 advisory committee has been appointed by the Sheriff that includes representation from the various emergency departments. The purpose of this 911 advisory committee is to recommend dispatching procedures, to discuss problems of mutual concern and to review past performance and practices.
- E. The Sheriff shall appoint a 911 Coordinator and a 911 Authorized Agent. The same person can hold both titles. The duties that are assigned to this individual are identified in the contract that exists between Contel of North Carolina, Inc. and McDowell County entitled, "ANI-ONLY 911 SERVICE WITH SUBSCRIBER RECORD INFORMATION AGREEMENT".

Section 3. Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Alarm Systems

- A. The installation, operation and maintenance of an emergency alarm system within the McDowell Emergency Operations Center is hereby authorized as an emergency service of McDowell County. All interested parties desiring to connect with the county's alarm system must gain approval from the Sheriff or his designee.

- B. Connections to the alarm system within the Emergency Operations Center shall be approved by the Sheriff after a written application is submitted. Only those devices which are fully compatible with the standards of the Interact Alarm System will be permitted to be connected. The McDowell County Board of Commissioners reserve the right to establish annual application fees to cover the cost of maintenance of the Silent Night Alarm System.
- C. McDowell County hereby establishes a one-time original service fee in such an amount as set by the Board of Commissioners, to provide for the cost of equipment installation. This fee is to be paid by the alarm system vendor/contractor prior to installation. Payment should be made in full to the McDowell County Finance Department.

Section 4.

Pursuant to G.S. 14.196(A)(5); it shall be unlawful for any person to willfully signal a false alarm, by dialing 911 or setting off any alarm system, for the purpose of summoning an emergency response when such a response is not in fact required.

The Sheriff shall notify the alarm user when false alarms have occurred and will request that corrective action be taken to eliminate the cause of the false alarms.

If the Sheriff determines that corrective action is not taken to prevent the occurrence of false alarms, the Sheriff is hereby authorized to charge the alarm user a service fee, as established by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners and/or disconnect the alarm system.

This ordinance is adopted this 19th day of February, 1990.

s/Jack A. Wood
Chairman of the Board of
Commissioners of
McDowell County, NC

s/Carrie Padgett
Clerk to the Board of
Commissioners
McDowell County, NC