

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE IS May 16, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. 23-04-004

**ORDINANCE OF
THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND**

RE: FREDERICK COUNTY 9-1-1 FEE

Under the Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article §1-311, the County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, by ordinance, may impose an additional 9-1-1 fee to be added to all current telephone bills rendered for each switched local exchange access service, Commercial Mobile Radio Service (“CMRS”), or other 9-1-1 accessible service provider.

The Frederick County 9-1-1 fee is currently set at \$0.75 per month per bill. Frederick County Resolution No. 04-10.

Public Safety Article §1-311 further provides that if such fee does not provide revenue necessary to cover a county’s operation and maintenance costs for the 9-1-1 Emergency Communication System, the county may impose a fee sufficient to cover the maintenance and operation costs for its 9-1-1 system in the following fiscal year.

Notice of any 9-1-1 fee change must be provided to the Public Service Commission, the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, and no later than sixty days before the implementation of the change, the Maryland Comptroller. Sec. §1-311(e).

Due to the continuing population growth, changing demographics, training requirements, certification requirements, public expectations, and increase in use of the 9-1-1 Emergency Communication System, the operational and maintenance costs have significantly increased.

For Fiscal Year 2020, Frederick County sustained approximately \$9.3 million in operations and maintenance costs for its 9-1-1 Emergency Communication System, but only earned \$2.6 million from County 9-1-1 fees.

For Fiscal Year 2021, Frederick County's operation and maintenance costs came to approximately \$9.1 million with the County 9-1-1 fee only accumulating revenue of \$2.7 million.

For Fiscal Year 2022, Frederick County's operation and maintenance costs increased to approximately \$9.4 million with the County 9-1-1 fee only accumulating revenue of \$3.0 million.

It has been determined that the existing County 9-1-1 fee is inadequate to provide the funds necessary to meet eligible operation and maintenance of the County 9-1-1 System.

The County Council desires to update the County 9-1-1 fee to \$2.25 to be applied to all current telephone bills rendered for each switched local exchange access service, CMRS, or other 9-1-1 accessible service provider within Frederick County. This additional increase will raise the County's current revenue from \$3.0 million to a projected \$9.1 million.

A duly advertised public hearing was held on this Ordinance on May 16, 2023. The public had an opportunity to comment on this Ordinance at the public hearing.

This Ordinance shall be immediately effective for purposes of implementation, but the increased County 9-1-1 fee shall not begin to be collected until 60 days after the effective date of this Ordinance or August 1, 2023, whichever is later.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, that:

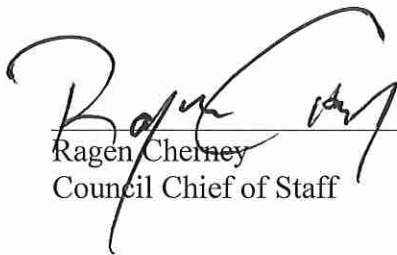
1. County 9-1-1 Fee: The total monthly "additional charge" provided for by Maryland Annotated Code, Public Safety Article §1-311, in the amount of \$2.25 shall be applied to all current telephone bills rendered for each switched local exchange access service, CMRS, or other 9-1-1 accessible service provider within Frederick County.

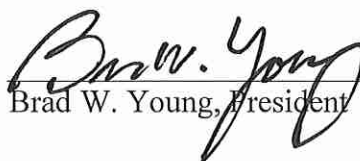

2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be immediately effective for purposes of implementation, but the increased County 9-1-1 fee shall not begin to be collected until 60 days after the effective date of this Ordinance or August 1, 2023, whichever is later.

The undersigned hereby certifies that this Ordinance was approved and adopted by a vote of 5-2 on the 16th day of May, 2023.

ATTEST

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND


Ragen Cherney
Council Chief of Staff

By:  
Brad W. Young, President

Received by the County Executive: May 18, 2023

County Executive Action: ☒ Approve ☐ Veto ☐ No Action


Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, Maryland

5/18/23
Date