

County Officials Orientation Program 2026

Hosted by University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service
in coordination with the Tennessee County Services Association and the
County Officials Association of Tennessee

PUBLIC SAFETY CONSULTING SERVICES

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JIM HART

Manager of Field Services &
Jail Management Consultant



MOST COMMON JAIL RELATED REQUESTS

Jail Staffing

Requests for
Proposals/Qualifications

Technical Assistance

Jail Needs Assessments

Jail Budget Review

Lawsuit Mitigation

County Corrections
Partnership

Internal Controls

TENNESSEE CORRECTIONS INSTITUTE

TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED 41-4-140

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Physical plant

Administration/Management

Personnel

Security

Discipline

Sanitation/Maintenance

Food Services

Mail and visiting

Inmate programs and activities

Medical services

Admissions, records, and release

Hygiene

Supervision of inmates

Classification

Two-tiered Accreditation



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Is the jail well maintained?
- Ask what facility problems affect the jail operation.
- Does the jail have adequate staffing?
- Is there an adequate written policy and procedure manual?
- Is the jail budget clearly defined?
- Does your jail have an objective inmate classification system?

Remember – Jail crowding is not just a Sheriff's problem.

CLINT SHRUM

Criminal Justice Consultant
West Tennessee



MOST COMMON NON-JAIL ISSUES FOR SHERIFFS

Personnel

- Hiring, Firing
- Disciplinary
- Civil Service
- Exempt versus Non-Exempt (hourly vs. salary)
- Overtime, Comp Time, Sick leave, Vacation leave
- FMLA/ FLSA

MOST COMMON NON-JAIL ISSUES FOR SHERIFFS

Audit Issues

- Managing the Drug Fund (allowable & non-allowable purchases)
- Internal Controls
- Evidence Disposal
 1. Property room management
 2. Cash – Firearms – Drugs – Vehicles
 3. All have very specific disposal requirements, and CTAS offers in-depth training classes
- Policy & Procedures (outdated, language)

MOST COMMON NON-JAIL ISSUES FOR SHERIFFS

Interlocal
Agreements

Records
Management
- Retention

DERRICK WOODS

Criminal Justice Consultant



MOST COMMON UAV/DRONES APPLICATIONS FOR SHERIFFS

Search & Rescue
Suspect Searches
Tactical Operations
Disaster Response
Real-Time Crime Center Integration (DFR)

Officer Safety: Sending Technology Before Personnel

Future of Public Safety Technology

MOST COMMON UAV/DRONES ISSUES FOR SHERIFFS

Targeted surveillance

If your mission focuses on a specific person, residence, or evidence collection, consult legal counsel and obtain a warrant

Community Trust and Transparency

MOST COMMON UAV/DRONES AREAS OF POTENTIAL LIABILITY FOR SHERIFFS

FAA Violations

Civil Liability

Operational Liability

Risk Reduction Measures

The greatest liability is not the drone itself—it is operating without policy, training, and oversight

MARC ALLEY

Emergency and Fire Management Consultant







FIRE SAFETY SERVICES

Fire Protection

- Transition to Countywide Fire Department
- Career and Volunteer staff model
- Station location analysis
- Management/ Structure analysis

Building and Fire Codes

- Commercial and Residential buildings
- Fire Prevention Code
- Wildland/Urban Interface

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

TCA § 7-61-102 (a) establishes ambulance service as an essential service in the state of Tennessee

(b) Authorizes and directs county governing bodies to ensure that at least one licensed ambulance service is available within their county.

EMS is to be provided by:

- County government operating as an exclusive provider
- Interlocal agreement with one or more local governments
- County EMS providing emergency (911) transportation with a third-party ambulance provider for non-emergency transports
- Third-party EMS services with or without regulation by county government
- Hospital based EMS service

The county is not required to appropriate revenues for ambulance service (*however, this would be a rare circumstance*)



JOINT PROJECTS

Multi-agency Projects

- Dispatch Consolidation
- Assessment Center for Hiring/Promoting Personnel

Training

- Incident Command for Elected Officials
- Emergency Management Overview for Counties

REQUIRED EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Management Office/ Program

- Director requirements set by statute

T.C.A. § 58-2-133

Mitigation, Preparation, Response and Recovery for emergencies and disasters

Mayor is responsible for the disaster response

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

CONTACT INFORMATION



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