



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR TIM BURCHETT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Mayor Burchett to seek clarification on E-911 board chair, public vote on radio contract**

*Knoxville, Tenn.* — During the next meeting of the Knox County Emergency Communications District board, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett plans to seek clarification on the appointment of a duly-elected chair and see the E-911 radio communications contract discussed publically and put to a vote.

“There is too much uncertainty about the position of chair and the fact that, after 18 months of work on the radio communications RFP process, the awarded contract was never discussed or voted on in a public meeting,” said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. “I will attend the next E-911 board meeting to see that a new chair is properly elected and to move that the awarded contract for E-911 radio services be approved so there can be open discussion and an up-or-down vote. It is my hope that, this time, a member of the E-911 board will second the motion in order to allow for discussion.”

After a thorough RFP process overseen by the Knox County Purchasing Division, Harris Communications prevailed as the highest scoring bidder seeing to provide emergency radio communications services to the emergency responders operating within Knox County. Motorola Solutions – the current radio provider – and Tait Communications also responded to the RFP.

Approximately 20 years ago, the Knox County Emergency Communications District entered into an agreement with Knox County Government to provide financial-related services, which include the procurement process.

“I want to commend Knox County Purchasing director Hugh Holt and his staff for the professional work they did in overseeing this process,” said Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. “The Knox County Purchasing Division is one of the most highly-respected procurement offices in the state, and they serve the Knox County taxpayers well.”

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