

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE  
**EMERGENCY RESCUE AND FIRST RESPONDER  
SERVICES**  
SERVICE DELIVERY AGREEMENT

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**THIS SERVICE DELIVERY AGREEMENT**, is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2022, by and among Whitfield County, Georgia, a body politic and political subdivision of the State of Georgia formed and existing pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as the “County”), and the City of Dalton, the City of Tunnel Hill, the City of Varnell, and the Town of Cohutta, all being municipal corporations chartered and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as “the Cities” and individually as “City” or “Town”;

**WHEREAS**, OCGA §§ 36-70-20 through 36-70-28, mandate that Whitfield County and all municipalities located therein shall participate in the development of a Service Delivery Strategy through which Whitfield County and said municipalities shall create and maintain a service delivery system which is efficient, effective, and responsive to all citizens of Whitfield County;

**WHEREAS**, OCGA § 36-70-24(1), mandates that said Service Delivery Strategy shall identify steps which will be taken to remediate or avoid overlapping and unnecessary competition and duplication of service delivery, and that said Service Delivery Strategy shall identify the time frame in which such steps shall be taken; and

**WHEREAS**, OCGA § 36-70-25, mandates that said Service Delivery Strategy receive the approval of Whitfield County and the governing authorities of municipalities located within Whitfield County, as is more particularly described in the Code Section;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the undersigned, being duly authorized to act on behalf of the above-named parties, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, agree as follows concerning Emergency Rescue and First Responder Services within Whitfield County:

**WITNESSETH**

**1. Description of Current Service Delivery Arrangements**

The City of Dalton provides first responder services, as defined in NFPA 1710, solely within the corporate limits of the City of Dalton, while Whitfield County provides such first responder services to the unincorporated areas of Whitfield County, to the City of Tunnel Hill, to the City of Varnell, and to the Town of Cohutta.

First responder services are limited to the dispatch of trained personnel to the site of an accident or other emergency. Said trained personnel do not transport injured

individuals from the site of such an accident or emergency, as their role is specifically geared to stabilizing such injured individuals until an ambulance and/or other emergency rescue personnel arrive on the scene. Thus, first responder services enhance, rather than duplicating, the emergency rescue services which Whitfield County provides on a county-wide basis.

No duplication exists in the delivery of emergency rescue and first responder services within Whitfield County, as Whitfield County and the City of Dalton provide first responder service solely within the non-overlapping geographical boundaries described above.

Whitfield County is also a signatory of and subject to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Homeland Security (GEMA-Homeland Security) Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. The purpose behind this agreement is to provide mutual assistance between counties and other entities participating in the agreement in the event of a declared emergency or disaster.

Finally, on March 9, 2020, Whitfield County and the cities within the county signed the Automatic Aid for Fire Services and First Response, which also related to this section of the agreement.

## **2. Future Service Delivery Strategy**

The parties hereto agree that the current service delivery arrangements described above are efficient, effective and responsive to all citizens of Whitfield County. Therefore, the parties hereto agree that no need exists to change said service delivery arrangements.

Further, the parties hereto agree that no duplication exists in the provision of Ambulance, Emergency Rescue, and First Responder Services to Whitfield County, for the reasons described above.

The parties hereto agree that should any party undertake any action which may result in overlapping, competition, or duplication in the current service delivery arrangements or in the future service delivery strategy described in this Service Delivery Agreement, that party shall notify the other parties to this Agreement, so as to facilitate continued compliance with the requirements of Georgia law as referenced above.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, each of the undersigned has executed this Service Delivery Agreement on behalf of the respective party set forth below, pursuant to the authority granted to each of the undersigned in the resolution by which each party approved and adopted this Service Delivery Agreement.

**-ALL SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE-**

**Witness our signatures, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2022.**

**Whitfield County, Georgia**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jevin S. Jensen, Chairman

**City of Dalton, Georgia**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

David Pennington, Mayor

**City of Tunnel Hill, Georgia**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Ken Gowin, Mayor

**City of Varnell, Georgia**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Tom Dickson, Mayor

**Town of Cohutta**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Ron Shinnick, Mayor