

**MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
MADISON COUNTY, KY
ORDINANCE 2025-011**

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE RESTRUCTURING OF FUNDING OF THE
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER/ENHANCED 911 SERVICE THROUGH
IMPLEMENTATION OF A WATER METER FEE IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS
OF MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 07-11**

WHEREAS, the Madison County Fiscal Court has the responsibility to provide and maintain enhanced 911 emergency communications services for the residents of Madison County, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the funding mechanism for 911 services has historically been supported in part by a monthly fee assessed on landline telephone service via ordinance 07-11; and

WHEREAS, the number of landline telephones in use has declined significantly, resulting in an unsustainable and inequitable funding model; and

WHEREAS, KRS 65.760 and KRS 67.083 authorize local governments to enact ordinances and collect fees for the support of 911 emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the Madison County Fiscal Court finds it necessary and proper to establish a reliable, equitable, and sustainable funding mechanism to support the continued operation of the Madison County Emergency Communications Center/911 system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This ordinance shall be known and cited as the “Madison County 911 Water Meter Fee Ordinance.”

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this ordinance:

- “911 Service” means the emergency telephone answering service provided by Madison County that enables a caller to reach a public safety answering point (PSAP).
- “Water Meter” means a device used to measure water consumption, installed and maintained by a water district, water association, or other water utility provider operating within the unincorporated areas of Madison County.
- “Unincorporated Areas” means all areas of Madison County lying outside the corporate limits of incorporated municipalities.

- “Cost of Living Adjustment/CPI adjustment” means the annual percentage increase published and submitted by the Kentucky Department of Local Government each January.
- “Non-Commercial Classification” – any account that is not required to pay Kentucky sales tax to the utility district.
- “Commercial Classification” - any account that is required to pay Kentucky sales tax to the utility district and has a water meter that is less than or equal to 1” in size.
- “Industrial/Large Commercial Classification” – any account that is required to pay Kentucky sales tax to the utility district and has a water meter greater than 1” in size.

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF 911 FEE

- (a) Effective January 1, 2026, there is hereby imposed a monthly 911 service fee on each active water meter located in the unincorporated areas of Madison County, Kentucky.
- (b) The fee shall be assessed according to the following schedule:

Classification	Definition (for billing purposes)	Monthly Fee (per meter)
Non-Commercial	Every active account that is NOT required to pay Kentucky sales tax to the utility district.	\$3.50
Commercial	Every active account that is required to pay Kentucky sales tax to the utility district with a meter size (less than or equal to) ≤ 1 ”	\$12.50
Industrial/Large Commercial	Every active account that is required to pay Kentucky sales tax to the utility district with a meter size (greater than) > 1 ”	\$25.00

- (b) The Fiscal Court may amend the above fee schedule by adopted resolution.

SECTION 4. AUTOMATIC CPI ADJUSTMENT

- (a) Beginning July 1, 2027, and on July 1 of each year thereafter, the monthly fees established under Section 3 shall automatically increase by the percentage change in the Cost of Living/CPI Adjustment as determined by the Kentucky Department of Local Government each January for the calendar year. In the event that the COLA/CPI does not increase, the monthly fees shall remain the same as the previous year.

- (b) The Madison County Treasurer shall share the COLA/CPI adjustment annually with the Fiscal Court, based on the information provided by the Kentucky Department of Local Government, along with the budgeting process, by March 31 of each year.
- (c) The Fiscal Court may, by resolution passed by majority vote, prior to passing the budget ordinance, decline to implement the COLA/CPI increase for the upcoming year.

SECTION 5. COLLECTION OF FEES

- (a) Each water district, water association, or other water utility operating within the unincorporated areas of Madison County shall be responsible for collecting the 911 fee from its customers.
- (b) The collected fees shall be remitted monthly to the Madison County Treasurer, to be deposited into a special revenue fund designated solely for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Madison County Emergency Communications Center/911 system.
- (c) The water utilities may retain an administrative fee that is fair and reasonable compensation of the total amount collected each month, to offset reasonable costs of collection and outlined in a MOU.

SECTION 6. USE OF FUNDS

All funds collected under this ordinance shall be used exclusively for the provision, operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Madison County 911 emergency communications system as outlined in KRS 65.760.

SECTION 7. REPEAL OF LANDLINE FEE

Ordinance 07-11, establishing the existing landline fee for the funding of 911 services, is hereby repealed, effective December 31, 2025, and shall not be collected thereafter.

SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT

Failure of a water utility to collect or remit the fees as required by this ordinance shall subject the utility to penalties as provided by Kentucky law and as may be enforced by the Madison County Fiscal Court.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage, approval, and publication as required by law, and the water meter fee shall be first assessed beginning January 1, 2026.

THIS DOCUMENT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED AND GIVEN FIRST READING IN SUMMARY at a duly convened meeting of the Fiscal Court of Madison County, Kentucky, held on the 14TH day of OCTOBER 2025.

THIS DOCUMENT WAS GIVEN SECOND READING AND ADOPTED at a duly convened meeting of the Fiscal Court of Madison County, Kentucky, held on the 28TH day of OCTOBER 2025.

MOTION BY: Bathin

SECONDED BY: Combs

VOTE:	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Magistrate James Brian Combs	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Magistrate Stephen Lochmueller	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Magistrate Billy Ray Hughes	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Magistrate Tom Botkin	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Judge/Executive Reagan Taylor	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Signed:
R-20
Madison County Judge/Executive

Attested:
Kenny Barger, MCC
Madison County Clerk, Kenny Barger