

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN CUMBERLAND COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF
HARPSWELL
“COMMUNICATION SERVICES”**

THIS AGREEMENT, effective July 1, 2025 is entered into by and between the COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND (hereinafter referred to as “the County”) with a principal place of business at 142 Federal Street, Portland, Maine and the TOWN OF HARPSWELL (hereinafter referred as “the Municipality”) with a principal place of business at Mountain Rd PO Box 39, Harpswell, Maine.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 30-A M.R.S.A. §453 the County Commissioners are authorized to establish a communications center to provide communications services for municipal rescue, ambulance, fire and police departments, and pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. 107, the County Commissioners are authorized to enter into agreements with municipalities within the County to provide specific communications services for municipal law enforcement functions, including dispatch of municipal units;

WHEREAS, the County has established the Cumberland County Regional Communications Center (“CCRCC”) to provide emergency and non-emergency dispatch services to several public safety agencies within Cumberland County, and to serve as the Public Safety Answering Point (“PSAP”) pursuant to 25 M.R.S.A. c. 352 for several communities within Cumberland County; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality has requested that the County provide certain communication services as set forth herein and the County is willing to provide such services through the CCRC pursuant to the terms of this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises by each party to the other and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties covenant and agree as follows:

1. SERVICES

The County agrees to provide the Municipality with the following services through the CCRCC, which shall be referred to herein as the “Communication Services.”

The Communication Services shall be provided to appropriate service providers and agencies of the Municipality as determined by the CCRCC, including, but not limited to, Fire, Rescue, Animal Control, Marine Safety, and Public Works. For purposes of this Agreement, the County hereby agrees to provide the Communication Services to the following agencies and/or departments of the Municipality: HARPSWELL.

The Communications Services to be provided by the County shall include:

- (A) Access for use of the emergency alert system by authorized personnel.
- (B) Answering of all emergency and non-emergency calls for service.

(C) Dispatching personnel and equipment for emergency and non-emergency calls for service and all ongoing incidents, as well as coordination of all support services as deemed appropriate by the incident commanders and / or authorized agency personnel.

(E) A warrant repository for participating agencies.

(F) Access to and licenses for the use of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Record Management Systems (RMS) software and databases utilized in connection with the Communication Services outlined above.

The County agrees that in providing the Communications Services, it will maintain adequate facilities, equipment and personnel to perform the Communications Services and carry out the purposes stated in the PSAP standards established by the State of Maine. The County further agrees to provide all services in the most cost effective and efficient manner possible and to ensure that all calls for service in the Municipality are dispatched to the appropriate service providers for the Municipality. The County shall be responsible for ensuring that all personnel providing the Communications Services have been certified and trained according to the requirements of the State of Maine.

2. AUTHORIZATION

This Agreement shall be effective only upon authorization of the legislative body of the Municipality pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. § 107(1) and the Cumberland County Commissioners. A copy of this Agreement shall be filed with the Clerk of the Municipality and in the office of the County Commissioners.

3. TERM & TERMINATION

A. The effective date of this agreement shall be the date upon which it is executed, following the approvals required in Section 2 above. The initial term of this Agreement shall be one year from its effective date. This Agreement shall be automatically renewed following the initial one-year term without affirmative action by the parties, unless otherwise specified in the authorization of the legislative body of the Municipality, for successive three-year periods on its anniversary date, unless and until terminated by either party as set forth herein.

B. Notwithstanding the above provisions, this Agreement may be terminated as follows:

1. By the Municipality if:

- a. the County fails to provide sufficient personnel or equipment to perform the services detailed herein;
- b. the County discontinues the service;
- c. the County fails to comply with the material terms of this Agreement;

or

- d. the Municipality fails to appropriate the funds needed to pay the costs set forth in Section 4 of this Agreement as further outlined in Section 5 below.

2. By the County if:

- a. the Municipality fails to make all payments required under the terms of this Agreement as set forth in Section 4;
- b. the Municipality fails to abide by all CC RCC policies and procedures.
- c. the Municipality fails to comply with the material terms of this agreement.

3. A ninety (90) day written notice of termination must be provided by either party, stating the grounds for termination and providing the other party an opportunity to cure the defect during said ninety (90) day period.

4. COSTS

The Municipality agrees to pay the County the following rates for the following terms:

Year 1 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026): \$ 44,150.04

This foregoing amounts were calculated as a per capita fee based on the Municipality's population of 5,031.

Year 1 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026): \$ 8.78

The County shall invoice the Municipality on an annual basis and payments shall be due within 60 days of the end of the contract year.

The rates for years in which this Agreement may be automatically renewed after the initial three-year term shall increase at 3% over the most recent annual rate.

5. NON-APPROPRIATION

The parties agree that any amounts required to be paid by the Municipality under this Agreement are payable by the Municipality from appropriation through its annual budget process and subject to the approval of its legislative body. In the event an insufficient amount to fund this Agreement for any contract year is appropriated, this Agreement may be terminated by the Municipality upon notice to the County. In such event, the Municipality shall certify to the County that sufficient funds have not been authorized to meet the obligations of this Agreement, and such certification shall be conclusive upon the parties.

6. ADMINISTRATION

Pursuant to the provisions of 30-A M.R.S.A. § 453, the County Commissioners, after consulting with the municipal officers of the communities served by the CCRCC, will set policies for the CCRCC. The Cumberland County Communications Director shall be appointed by the County Manager and shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the Communications Center. This agreement shall not limit the County Commissioners' authority to contract with other political subdivisions, quasi-municipal corporations, agencies or other enterprises to perform the Communication Services specified in this agreement, nor shall it restrict or curtail any authority otherwise bestowed by law upon the County Commissioners.

A Board of Directors will be established by the County to serve as a liaison between the Municipality and the CCRCC; review and recommend policies for the CCRCC; . The composition of the Board of Directors, the terms of its members, and filling of vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be established by policy of the County Commissioners. The County may also establish committees at its discretion, including, but not limited to, a law enforcement committee, a fire and rescue committee to promulgate policy and procedures for oversight and a technical committee to provide assistance to the CCRCC related to the use of and advancements in technology. The Director of the CCRCC shall be responsible for appointing members to these committees and for assigning directives to the committees as needed.

7. EMPLOYMENT & AGENCY

Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed or interpreted to make the County an officer, agent, employee or representative of the Municipality, nor to make the Municipality an officer, agent, employee or representative of the County. The parties both understand and agree that the County's employees performing the Communication Services pursuant to this Agreement are not employees of the Municipality and are not entitled to benefits of any kind or nature to which employees of the Municipality are normally entitled. All such employees are and shall remain employees of the County and the County shall be solely responsible for the wages and benefits of said employees, including, but not limited to, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, group health insurance, disability coverage, retirement contributions, and/or paid time off. Neither party shall have authority, express or implied, to bind or commit the other party to any agreements or obligations unless specifically authorized in writing.

8. PROPERTY

All real and personal property acquired or used in the performance of the Communication Services under this Agreement shall be the property of the County. As such, acquisition, use and disposal of such property shall be in accordance with policies and procedures of Cumberland County.

9. INDEMNITY

The Municipality shall indemnify and hold harmless the County, its officers and employees from any and all loss, liability, damage, or injury (including death) received or sustained by any person, persons or property arising out of any act or omission, neglect, or misconduct of the Municipality, its officers and employees. The Municipality further agrees to defend the County against any and all suits, actions or claims of any character brought or filed against the County arising out of any act or omission, neglect, or misconduct of the Municipality, its officers and employees. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this indemnification shall not be construed to waive or otherwise limit any of the defenses, immunities, or limitations of liability available to either party under the Maine Tort Claims Act, 14 M.R.S. § 8101, et seq., or other applicable law. The provisions of this Section shall survive the term of this Agreement indefinitely.

10. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Agreement or its application to any party or circumstances shall be declared void, illegal, or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall be valid and enforceable to the extent permitted by applicable law.

11. GOVERNING LAW

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maine without regard to its conflict of laws provisions. Each party irrevocably submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal and state courts located in the State of Maine for the purposes of any action or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement. Each party hereby consents to such personal jurisdiction and agrees that venue shall lie in the state and federal courts within the State of Maine with respect to any cause of action arising under or relating to this Agreement. Each party hereby waives any objection based on *forum non-conveniens* and waives any objection to the venue of any action instituted hereunder.

12. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This instrument embodies the entire agreement of the parties and may not be amended or changed unless in writing executed by all parties. There are no promised terms, conditions, or obligations other than those contained herein; and this Agreement shall supersede all previous communications, representations or agreements, either verbal or written, between the parties hereto. The parties acknowledge and agree they have each carefully read this Agreement, understand its terms and, being duly authorized, sign it as their own free act in their official capacity on behalf of the Municipality and the County respectively.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the [TOWN of HARPSWELL; by order duly adopted by its [Selectmen/ Council / Town Meeting], has caused this Agreement to be signed by the [Selectmen/ Town Manager] and the COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, by order of the County Commissioners, has caused this Agreement to be executed by the County Manager.

By: _____
James H. Gailey, County Manager

By:  _____
Town of Harpswell
It's [Select Board Chair / Manager / Administrator]

Date:

Date: June 25, 2025

