

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

FAUQUIER COUNTY

An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

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Chief Deputy

Administration
Patrol Operations
Professional Standards
(540) 422-8600

Adult Detention Center
(540) 422-8700



Jeremy A. Falls
Sheriff

April 25, 2022

Civil Process / Court Security
(540) 422-8610

Communications
Non-Emergency
(540) 347-3300

Criminal Investigations
(540) 422-8650

Fauquier County Sheriff's Office Recognizes National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

The second week of April was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW), an occasion when we celebrated our nation's 100,000 public safety telecommunicators and honored them for the lifesaving work they perform every day. Our 9-1-1 public safety telecommunicators, who are unsung heroes, not only protect, but also play a critical role in emergency response, protecting the public, as well as police, fire and emergency medical officials.

In fact, on January 14, 2022 the quick actions of our public safety telecommunicators (PST) resulted in the apprehension of bank robbers at a local bank. A hold-up alarm was received from the bank, which was immediately followed by a 9-1-1 call from the bank. One PST hastily obtained critical information from the bank teller, while another worked with a tracking device company to link the two incidents together.

The PSTs worked together to obtain critical data and dispatch the Warrenton Police Department and the Fauquier Sheriff's Office to the area. They relayed information from the tracking device, gave lookouts to surrounding jurisdictions and updated the public through social media. Despite the fact that there was no vehicle description, but because of coordinated efforts, law enforcement was able to stop a vehicle, make arrests and recover the stolen money without incident. These 9-1-1 professionals deserve to be recognized for their exceptional work and we must ensure they have the support they need, including the most up-to-date communications technology.

Our 9-1-1 system is the most vital of critical infrastructure, yet many of these systems are operating with technology that is more than 50-years-old. Individuals can send photos to each other and video chat, but during emergencies, these capabilities cannot be used to communicate with many 9-1-1 centers.

Next Generation 9-1-1 enables 9-1-1 centers to receive a variety of multimedia and other data from 9-1-1 callers and seamlessly share this information with other 9-1-1 centers and field responders. This technology will make emergency responses faster and more efficient, first responders and communities safer, and allow public safety professionals to meet the needs and expectations of the American people in the 21st Century. Last week, we had a report of an RV on fire near a shop. Had we been able to receive video or photos of the incident, we would have been able to provide the enormity of the situation to the responding fire fighters.

Federal funding is needed to ensure Next Generation 9-1-1 is deployed throughout the entire country in an effective, efficient and secure manner and to enable implementation training nationwide. For communications managers, the training for multimedia is crucial. Our telecommunicators are trained to hear clues, now we must train them to see the clues quickly.

The investment of federal resources in this critical infrastructure will ensure that all communities in the United States – be they rural, urban, suburban, or tribal – will have secure, resilient, interoperable and reliable ways of receiving, processing and responding to requests for emergency assistance.

Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first of the first responders, helping mitigate situations quickly. We must recognize their vital role and ensure our communities have the best possible access to help when emergencies arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy A. Falls', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy A. Falls
Sheriff