

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from the Corinth-Shiloh Fire District Board and Fire Chief

The Corinth-Shiloh Fire District (CSFD) Board and Fire Chief issue the following statement to provide clarity to our personnel and to the citizens we serve.

The Corinth-Shiloh Fire District is a duly established tax district operating under governing authority as adopted by ordinance and approved by the citizens. As such, the District carries full legal responsibility and exclusive authority for fire protection services, emergency response operations, personnel oversight, financial stewardship of public funds, and compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

A charitable 501(c)(3) organization that previously provided fire operations does not possess fire authority, operational command authority, or governing authority over the District. A private nonprofit organization cannot direct, control, or dictate how a government entity operates. The District cannot and will not intermingle governance, decision-making, or operational control between the tax district and a charitable organization. Such intermingling would create legal conflicts, liability exposure, and violations of governing requirements.

This separation is not optional, it is required.

Over the past two months, the Board and Chief have worked diligently to disentangle prior informal structures and to establish a legally compliant governmental framework. That work has included developing policies, governance structures, operational procedures, financial controls, and accountability systems necessary for a public authority funded by taxpayers.

We acknowledge that change is difficult. It is evident that, despite numerous conversations and direct communication, there remain a select few individuals who do not fully understand or accept the legal distinction between a private charitable organization and a government tax district. Let us be clear:

- The Corinth-Shiloh Fire District has sole fire authority.
- The tax district answers to the citizens and governing law.
- A 501(c)(3) organization does not control fire department operations.
- A government entity cannot be directed by private individuals or organizations.

We deeply appreciate the volunteers who built this department, respond to calls, and have served this community for years. Their contributions are recognized and valued. Many volunteers who have served since the Chief's arrival have participated in planning

discussions and are actively involved in developing future volunteer programming under the new, legally compliant structure.

That work is ongoing.

A properly structured foundation and volunteer framework are being built to ensure compliance with governing laws while preserving opportunities for volunteer service and community support. Once finalized, this structure will allow us to:

- Reopen and process new volunteer applications
- Clearly define operational roles and responsibilities
- Establish lawful oversight and accountability
- Protect volunteers, taxpayers, and the District from liability
- Unify the department under the authority approved by the citizens

This department can no longer operate as an informal or loosely governed organization. It is no longer a private 501(c)(3) fire company. It is a public fire district. With that status comes responsibility, legal obligation, and structured governance.

This is not a “free-for-all.”

This is a governed public authority.

The Board and Chief will not permit the District to be exposed to legal or operational risk due to misunderstanding, misinformation, or attempts to circumvent lawful governance. Respectful dialogue is welcome. Constructive input is welcome. Service to the community is welcome.

However, no individual or small group will be allowed to dictate how a government authority operates outside the bounds of law.

The citizens voted for this governing structure at the request and encouragement of members of the former 501(c)(3) volunteer organization who sought long-term stability, funding, and sustainability for fire protection services. While many supported the creation of a tax district in good faith, it must be clearly understood that once established, a government entity operates under law, not private preference. Governance authority now rests with the duly appointed Board and Fire Chief, not with any private organization or individual. The citizens approved a lawful structure, not a hybrid system subject to informal control.

Since its establishment, the Tax District has been actively strengthening fire department operations, enhancing response capabilities, formalizing training standards, and

implementing clear systems of accountability. Our focus is centered on the citizens we serve, ensuring dependable response times, professional incident management, improved safety practices, and consistent service delivery at every emergency.

This structure allows us to provide greater operational continuity, expanded training requirements, standardized certification benchmarks, and stronger oversight. Our personnel, both career and volunteer, will operate within clearly defined standards designed to ensure that when citizens call 911, they can expect a prepared, well-trained, and properly equipped response.

Every improvement being implemented is rooted in one objective: protecting lives and property with competence, consistency, and integrity. The Tax District exists to serve the public interest. Our responsibility is to ensure that every household, business, and taxpayer receives reliable emergency service backed by lawful governance, professional standards, and long-term sustainability.

We therefore have both a legal and fiduciary obligation to honor the will of the voters, operate strictly within governing law, and continue building a Fire District that reflects the trust placed in us by this community. No private group or individual may dictate or override the lawful authority of the Fire District. Our commitment remains to the citizens, their safety, their emergencies, and their confidence that when help is needed, we will be there.

Corinth-Shiloh Fire District Board of Commissioners
Fire Chief