



City of Conway, Arkansas
Resolution No. R-21-85

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

WHEREAS, the Governor's Task Force to Advance the State of Law Enforcement in Arkansas recommended legislation that eases the state income tax burden on active full-time law enforcement officers and recommended ensuring that entry level salaries for law enforcement officers be equivalent to or above the average annual wage in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the average annual wage for law enforcement officers in Arkansas ranks 49th in the nation and averages \$40,750 annually, below the average statewide wage in Arkansas of \$42,690; and the average entry level wage for law enforcement officers in Arkansas is \$28,610, barely above the yearly earnings of a minimum wage worker; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers in the State of Arkansas risk their lives every day, working long hours for subpar wages, while Arkansas has one of the highest violent crime rates in the nation and ranks as the 4th most dangerous state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Task Force to Advance the State of Law Enforcement in Arkansas identified low salaries and agency funding to be the biggest barriers to law enforcement retention, recruitment, and hiring; and

WHEREAS, a state income tax credit for full-time law enforcement officers promoting retention, recruitment, hiring, a boost in morale, and greater economic security for law enforcement officers and their families, would help promote and enhance public safety; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS THAT:

Section 1. The City of Conway shall support full-time law enforcement officers in Arkansas and to "Back the Blue."

Section 2. The City of Conway resolves to support and advocate for the passage by the General Assembly and signing by the Governor of Arkansas, of legislation creating: a state income tax credit for full-time law enforcement officer; that the full-time law enforcement income tax credit legislation include signed verification requirements before full-time law enforcement officer may qualify for the state income tax credit; and respectfully encourage the full-time law enforcement state income tax credit legislation to be a legislative priority of the General Assembly and the Governor of the State of Arkansas.

Section 3. All resolutions in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of the conflict.

PASSED this 23rd day of November 2021.

Approved:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

Attest:

Michael O. Garrett
City Clerk/Treasurer