



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Wade White
Lyon County Judge / Executive

July 8, 2019

Congressman James Comer
Washington, DC
(scanned and emailed)

Re: Law Enforcement and First Responders in Land Between the Lakes

Please allow this letter to serve as an inquiry into the responsibility of a small county to provide law enforcement service on Federal Property. As you may recall, Lyon County has over 46,000 acres located in Land Between the Lakes created by the removal of Lyon Countians many years ago by TVA.

Several years ago the Forest Service took over control of LBL and provided around 10 law enforcement officers to cover the entire 170,000 acres in Land Between the Lakes. Today, it is down to 4 Law enforcement officials. This is causing our law enforcement and first responders to spend more and more time in LBL than before.

My county is struggling and laying off people due to higher costs of pensions, jails and less revenue at a time when this small county is now expected to provide more law enforcement to a large federal property. The Forest Service has been allowed to put law enforcement on a back burner in hopes small counties will fill the gap. We are not able to do this anymore.

Let me give you one example. This past Saturday night our law enforcement was called out to a domestic call in Hillman Ferry in Land Between the Lakes around 1:00 am. Our deputy on duty and EMS went to Hillman Ferry which requires them to travel through Livingston County and takes around 20-25 minutes. They were on scene for 1-2 hours. During these trips we have no one covering Lyon County for Law Enforcement. Should something happen here they would not be able to respond to our taxpayers in Lyon County in a timely manner.

Hillman Ferry is a 374 site campground in LBL on the Lyon County portion. In the summer the amount of people staying in Hillman Ferry will increase to a number between 1500-3000. This top number is greater than the total number of residents of our two cities, Eddyville & Kuttawa. Policing, providing EMS, Search and Rescue, Fire and Jail Services to just one campground larger than our two cities combined does not make financial sense. Due to this

increasing cost to our local taxpayers we must review our options. We are not wanting to stop providing law enforcement services but financially we may not can afford it anymore.

My questions are below:

- 1) What are the obligations of a small county to provide law enforcement and first responder services on a federal property such as Land Between the Lakes.
- 2) Are there laws requiring these services be provided with no compensation.
- 3) Do counties contract with the Forest Service to provide these services in other properties in the United States?
- 4) We do not want to stop the services, however, we are at our limits. How can we be helped with the cost of these services.
- 5) Why is the federal government allowed to remove more than half their law enforcement officials and transfer that responsibility to a small county? Not only does this seem wrong, its inefficient due to a 25 minute drive to most locations in Land Between the Lakes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Wade White
Lyon County Judge Executive