

TOWN OF BROOKSIDE

ALABAMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2026

Town of Brookside Considers Jefferson County Sheriff's Department to Provide Police Protection and Services

Town will implement an orderly transition while preserving emergency response, records, evidence, and public funds

BROOKSIDE, Ala. - The Town's current insurance carrier has advised that it will not renew the Town's insurance coverage if the Town continues operating a municipal police department. As a result, the Town Council must consider a Resolution to abolish the Brookside Police Department. The Council is considering this option after reviewing the Town's governmental structure, finances, and long-term public-safety needs. The proposed action concerns the organization of municipal government and is not a disciplinary finding against any employee or officer.

Public safety and emergency response

Municipalities may contract with a county sheriff's department to provide law-enforcement services. The Town is evaluating whether an agreement with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office would provide a more economical alternative to maintaining a separate municipal police department while avoiding any disruption in police protection or emergency-response services. The Town will carry out any transition in a manner intended to protect public safety, preserve evidence and official records, safeguard restricted funds, and address the rights of affected employees. Residents should continue to call 911 for emergencies. Abolishing the municipal department does not eliminate the jurisdiction of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office or other state and county law-enforcement agencies. Before the effective date, the Town will address the notifications and operating arrangements needed for service within Brookside and will publish additional instructions when those arrangements are finalized.

Records evidence property and pending matters

The Town will inventory police property and establish lawful custody for incident reports, digital records, evidence, firearms, vehicles, equipment, and confidential information. Pending investigations, prosecutions, warrants, court orders, and forfeiture proceedings will not end merely because the department is abolished. The Town will coordinate with the appropriate courts, prosecutors, and agencies to preserve continuity and chain of custody.

Forfeiture and restricted funds

State forfeiture proceeds, federal equitable-sharing funds, and other restricted assets will remain separately identifiable and will not be transferred or spent except as permitted by law, court orders, and program requirements. The Town is seeking formal legal guidance concerning their custody and disposition if the police department is abolished.

Employees and implementation

The Town will provide affected employees with the notices, compensation, benefits information, and other process required by law and Town policy. The Mayor, Town Clerk, Town Attorney, and designated transition personnel will implement the ordinance and provide further public updates.