

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF NEWBERRY)

**RESOLUTION 04-24
HONORING
SHERIFF LEE FOSTER**

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING SHERIFF LEE FOSTER FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CONGRATULATING HIM FOR BEING NAMED THE 2024 SHERIFF OF THE YEAR BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION.

WHEREAS, Newberry County Council is pleased to learn that Newberry County Sheriff Lee Foster was selected as 2024 Sheriff of the Year by the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Foster, who has served Newberry County as sheriff since January of 1989, was nominated by his peers for his professionalism, innovation, and community-mindedness; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Foster has had a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, which began in 1973 when he hired by the Town of Prosperity as a junior police officer and part time police officer. Sheriff Lee Foster later served as chief of police for the Town of Little Mountain from 1978-1979, worked from 1979-1984 at the Newberry County Sheriff's Office, where he rose through the ranks from a deputy to captain of the Patrol Division and captain of the Investigation Division, and then joined the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in 1984 as a senior criminology instructor – a position he held until his election as sheriff of Newberry County in November 1988; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Foster has always placed great importance on education, training and professional development. He is a 1975 graduate of Mid-Carolina High School, a 1977 graduate of the University of South Carolina with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice with Highest Honors, and a 1979 graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Professional Sciences - graduating Magna Cum Laude; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Foster also graduated from the South Carolina Sheriff's School, the National Institute of Justice Executive Management Institute, the Federal Bureau of Investigations Executive Development Board, the Federal Bureau of Investigations Carolina Command College, and the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy from which he received the J.P. Strom Award; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Foster has received many awards, honors and recognitions during his law enforcement career including the Order of the Palmetto, the United States Attorney General's Strom Thurmond Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement, the J.P Strom Award for highest academic average in his academy class, South Carolina Sheriff's Association Sheriff of the Year, South Carolina Victim's Advocates Association Sheriff of the Year and Humanitarian of the Year, Outstanding Young Man in America by the Jaycees, Civitan Citizen of the Year, the Alston Wilkes Society Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Woodman of the World Outstanding Citizen of the Year, National Humanitarian of the Year by the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement, the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers Highway Safety Hero, and many others.

WHEREAS, Sheriff Foster has long been recognized at the local, state, and national level as a leader in law enforcement, especially for rural areas. He has served on the United States Attorney's Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee, the United States Attorney's Task Force on Violent Crime, the Executive Committee of the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Governor's Task Force for the Advancement of Public Safety, the Homeland Security Council, the Victim's Notification Network Advisory Council, the State Law Enforcement Division Advisory Panel, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Training Council, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Foster leads by example with a hands-on approach. He is very active in every aspect of the Newberry County Sheriff's Office and its various divisions. He can be seen doing anything from directing traffic at accident scenes to testifying before Congress and is comfortable performing any of those tasks. He is a devoted officer who is driven by his passion for law enforcement and for serving others.

WHEREAS, Sheriff Foster has always been active in the community. He is a member of Central United Methodist Church, the Prosperity Fire Department, and numerous local organizations and has made many positive contributions to his community.

WHEREAS, Newberry County Council takes great pleasure in saluting Sheriff Foster for his many years of public service to the citizens of Newberry County and the State of South Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Newberry County Council, by this resolution, recognize and honor Sheriff Lee Foster for his outstanding career in law enforcement and congratulate him on being named the 2024 South Carolina Sheriffs' Association Sheriff of the Year.

AND IT IS SO RESOLVED this 15th day of May 2024.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

(SEAL)

BY: Todd Johnson
Todd Johnson, Chairman

Attest:

Andrew Wigger
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council