

FIRST RESPONDERS MAY APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION IN ACADIA PARISH

May 22, 2025/ Crowley, LA

The Acadia Parish Assessor's Office will be accepting applications from first responders who own and occupy their home and work for a public agency in Acadia Parish. The dates for submission of these forms will be **June 1, 2025 - July 18, 2025.**

To qualify, a first responder must be a full-time public employee whose duties include responding rapidly to emergencies and who resides in the same parish as their employer. The following positions are eligible for this exemption:

- **Peace Officers:** This includes sheriffs, police officers, and other deputized individuals as defined in La. R.S. 40:2402.
- **Fire Protection Personnel**
- **Certified Emergency Medical Services Personnel**
- **Emergency Response Operators and Dispatchers:** Those who provide communication support in emergencies.

This tax benefit is provided by Act 179, a Constitutional Amendment passed during the 2023 legislative session and ratified by Louisiana voters on November 18, 2023. This tax benefit for qualified first responders creates an additional ad valorem tax exemption of \$2,500 off the assessed value of properties owned and occupied by first responders in Acadia Parish. This is in addition to the Homestead Exemption which exempts the first \$7,500 of the property's taxable assessment, for a total tax benefit of \$10,000 off the taxable assessment.

First responders must submit an application for the exemption along with an employment verification letter on the official letterhead of the public agency they are employed by and provide a valid driver's license or state ID. The applications are available on the Forms page at www.acadiaassessor.org.

Completed applications with supporting documentation can be:

- Dropped off at our Acadia Parish Courthouse Office, 500 Court Circle, Room 213
- Mailed to **Acadia Parish Assessor's Office, P.O. Box 1329, Crowley, LA 70526**

Important Dates and Additional Information

- **Application Deadline:** All applications and supporting documents must be received by the Acadia Parish Assessor's Office no later than July 18, 2025.
- **Annual Reapplication:** By law, first responders must reapply each year to continue receiving this benefit.
- **More Information:** For additional details, visit www.acadiaassessor.org

Public agencies employing first responders are encouraged to assist their qualifying employees in taking advantage of this benefit and to be prepared to manage requests for employment verification, said Assessor Petitjean.