



Jefferson County Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Information

Full Name: James A. Lance

Office Sought: 4th District County Commissioner

Website / Campaign Page:

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585919993800¬if_id=1770406480990223¬if_t=page_user_activity&ref=notif

Or simply go to Facebook and type Jimlancefordistrictfour in the search bar.

1. Why are you running for this office?

Please describe your motivation and what qualifies you for this position.

I have represented my subdivision (Dogwood Acres) during almost every County Commission meeting for the past two + years. Frankly, I'm disappointed with quite a few of the County Commissioners performance. Even though I have addressed this Commission on EIGHT separate occasions regarding the importance of developing a Strategic (Five Year) Plan for our county, and volunteering to help them with this endeavor AT NO COST TO THE COUNTY, my words appear to have fallen on deaf ears. Due to this, and other incidents reflecting the current commissions inability to: 1. Develop other sources of operation revenue BESIDES constantly relying on homeowners' property taxes, 2. Develop a County Strategic Plan -especially given the FACT that Jefferson County's population has grown by an astonishing 13 percent in the past six years. This population growth, if left unchecked WILL BREAK OUR COUNTY'S INFRASTRUCTURE (e.g., county roads – already in poor condition, our water and water treatment plants, EMS/Fire/Police services, the school system etc.).

I also addressed the REQUIREMENT for an Assistant Veterans Service Officer (VSO), to assist our current VSO. It is ridiculous to even consider that one person can handle over (4100) veterans adequately. As I'm sure you know, we have more veterans living in Jefferson County, than in other neighboring areas.

After serving our great nation for (27) years in uniform, (7) years as a DoD contractor and another (7) years as a Department of the Air Force Civilian; I had never entertained the idea of running for elected office. However, given the performance (or lack thereof) of the current county commissioners (with few exceptions – namely Lt Col (Ret.) Marcus Reed, USMC – a man I have come to truly respect and am blessed to call my friend) – I felt obligated to step up to the plate, and run for the 4th District County Commission seat. Given my background in Strategic Planning (14) years – developing plans for Combatant Commanders worldwide, I believe I can make a positive contribution towards making Jefferson County the “jewel of East Tennessee”.

2. Military Service

Are you a Veteran? Yes No

If yes, please provide:

- Branch of Service: US Navy (enlisted Submarine Sailor); US Air Force (commissioned officer).
- Dates of Service: Enlisted: 3 August 1975 – 3 August 1981; Commissioned: 31 January 1988 – 1 July 2009.
- Areas Served: 4 and ½ years on board USS Seahorse (SSN 669) as an Electronics Technician. My boat served in the Mediterranean, a northern run (details are classified). As an Air Force Officer: (3) Deployments to the Middle East, (1) Deployment to Bosnia as part of the United Nations Stabilization Forces, (1) year remote tour of duty in Osan, Korea, 2.5 years at Ramstein AB, GE; tours of duty at the following locations: FE Warren AFB, WY; San Antonio, TX; Riyadh AB, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hurlburt Field, FL; Nellis AFB, NV (my first command assignment); Prince Sultan AB, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (part of the Operation IRAQI FREEDOM air team); Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, VA; Squadron Command at Ft Meade, MD, Vice Commander 608th Air Force Network Operations Center, Barksdale AFB, LA (terminal assignment).
- Highest Rank / Position Held: Lt Col, USAF: Vice Commander, Air Force Network Operations Center, Barksdale AFB, LA. Our unit was responsible for the operations, maintenance and sustainment of the unclassified (NIPRnet) and classified (SIPRnet) communications worldwide.
- Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) or Equivalent: Navy Enlisted Classification 3373 (now – when I served I believe it was something else); Officer classification 13NX with instructor and standardization/evaluation prefixes; 14N3 – technically an Intelligence Officer however, I was part of the initial Information Warfare cadre, and served the majority of my commissioned time helping the USAF and Joint community develop Information Operations/Warfare tactics, techniques and procedures. Established the USAF's only Information Operations schoolhouse, served as a Detachment commander and Squadron commander earning my "C" prefix.
- Awards or Decorations (optional): MSM (with silver oak leaf cluster), numerous other awards and decorations.

3. Previous Support of Veterans

If you have served in an elected position in this Jefferson County or any other political offices in the past, what have you done to support Veterans?

I have never held public office in the past however; I have championed the cause to hire an assistant VSO for Jefferson County.

4. Priorities to Support Veterans

Jefferson County has a growing veteran population of more than 4,000 veterans. Please outline your top 3 priorities to support veterans and their families.

1. Ensure the Veterans Service Office has adequate staffing to ensure services are provided to our growing Veteran community.
2. Support our VSO and assistant VSO with their initiatives. Join with other veterans seeking County Commission seats (e.g., Marcus Reed as one example) to ensure the VSO has all of the support from the County Commission they require.
3. Sustain the VSO's initiative to make Jefferson County a great place for veterans to live.

5. Veteran Services and Resources

What specific actions would you take to improve access to veteran services at the county level?

I've already mentioned helping to champion the cause regarding hiring an Assistant VSO.

With the growing number of Veterans in our community, the County Commissioners NEED to support the VSO and Assistant VSO in their efforts.

6. Veterans Service Officer (VSO)

What do you know about the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) program in Jefferson County and do you have a stance on reporting structure or if this should be a Director position? See previous comments. The VSO should be allowed to run her office in accordance with the detailed Standard Operating Procedures she provided to the County Commission. The VSO should be a department or Director position, on par with the other county offices.

What would you do to strengthen and support the VSO to ensure Veterans receive timely and effective assistance? Maintain and improve upon my previously established relationship with the VSO. I will ensure the VSO receives my support during County Commission meetings.

7. Additional Veteran-Related Issues

Please identify any other veteran-related issues you believe need attention in Jefferson County and how you would address them.

We currently have quite a few Veterans who are disabled and have difficulty traveling to/from various VA appointments. I want to work with the VSO and her assistant, to address this issue. We NEED to ensure our county's veterans are afforded ALL of the benefits gleaned from their many years of service to our great nation.

8. Closing Statement or short biography

(Optional) See attached (truncated) resume.

Signature:  Date: 5 MARCH 2026

ATCH: RESUME