



WATERFORD REGIONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

2495 Crescent Lake Road • Waterford, MI 48329

Phone: 248.673.0405 • Fax: 248.674.4095

www.waterfordmi.gov

Matthew Nye, Fire Chief • Gene Butcher, Deputy Fire Chief • Chris Webster, Fire Marshal

TO: Waterford Township Board of Trustees

FROM: Matthew Nye, Fire Chief

DATE: January 16, 2026

RE: Recommended Update to Emergency and Non-Emergency Cost Recovery Fee Schedule

The Fire Department Cost Recovery Fee Schedule was last updated in 2018. Since that time, the cost of providing fire and EMS services has increased, including fuel, apparatus maintenance and replacement, personnel costs, training, and EMS supplies.

As part of updating the Emergency and Non-Emergency schedule of fees for cost recovery, I reviewed the existing fee schedule, compared it with current charges used by other Michigan fire departments and municipalities, and considered inflation and actual operational costs associated with staffing and equipment use.

Based on that review, I am recommending updates to the hourly vehicle and equipment use charges and EMS cost recovery charges. The proposed rates remain conservative and fall within the middle range of what comparable Michigan communities charge, while better reflecting the true cost of providing these services.

The updated fee schedule also includes a new non-emergency response fee tied directly to Non-Emergency Cost Recovery Ordinance No. 2026-001. The non-emergency response fee of \$550 was selected because it reflects the typical cost of a Fire Department response involving a BLS unit, personnel time, equipment use, and administrative overhead, without treating the response as an emergency medical event or transport. This approach aligns with how similar Michigan communities calculate non-emergency and lift-assist cost recovery and provides a clear, consistent, and defensible method for billing excessive non-emergency responses.

The intent of these changes is not to generate revenue, but to fairly recover costs associated with negligence, commercial activity, or excessive non-emergency use of Fire Department resources, rather than shifting those costs to taxpayers. The Township retains discretion to waive or reduce charges when appropriate.

Attached to this request is the proposed updated fee schedule showing current charges alongside the recommended changes for Board consideration.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Approve the updated Emergency and Non-Emergency Cost Recovery Fee Schedule as presented and authorize its adoption by resolution.

Matthew Nye
Fire Chief
Waterford Regional Fire Department



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Cost Recovery Fee Schedule (2026)

Emergency and Non-Emergency Cost Recovery

Hourly Vehicle and Equipment Use Charges

Two-hour minimum applies

Apparatus	Current Charge	Recommended Charge
Aerial Truck	\$500/hr	\$850/hr
Fire Engine	\$325/hr	\$550/hr
Rescue Truck	\$300/hr	\$525/hr
HazMat Truck	\$300/hr	\$750/hr
Technical Rescue Truck	\$300/hr	\$700/hr
Command / Utility Vehicle	\$150/hr	\$225/hr

EMS Cost Recovery Charges

Service	Current Charge	Recommended Charge
Basic Life Support (BLS)	\$375	\$550
Advanced Life Support (ALS)	\$600	\$900
Mileage	\$12.75 per mile	\$18.00 per mile

Non-Emergency Cost Recovery Charges

Service	Charge
Non-Emergency Response (per response)	\$550

Applied in accordance with Non-Emergency Cost Recovery Ordinance No. 2026-001.

These charges apply only to responses that are above and beyond ordinary emergency and non-emergency services and are not intended to replace general tax support for Fire Department and EMS operations. The Township retains discretion to waive or reduce charges when appropriate, and this fee schedule is subject to periodic review and adjustment by the Township Board of Trustees.

Prepared by : Fire Chief Matthew Nye



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Apparatus hourly charges (2-hour minimum is standard statewide)

Apparatus	WRFD 2026	Typical Michigan Range	Where You Land
Aerial / Ladder	\$850/hr	\$750 – \$1,200	Low-middle
Fire Engine	\$550/hr	\$450 – \$700	Middle
Rescue Truck	\$525/hr	\$450 – \$700	Middle
HazMat Unit	\$750/hr	\$600 – \$1,000	Low-middle
Technical Rescue	\$700/hr	\$600 – \$1,000	Low-middle
Command / Utility	\$225/hr	\$175 – \$300	Middle

Conclusion: None of these are outliers. Several departments in Oakland, Washtenaw, Kent, and Macomb Counties are **already above** these numbers.

EMS cost recovery (non-transport / cost recovery)

Service	WRFD 2026	Typical Michigan Range	Where You Land
BLS	\$550	\$450 – \$650	Middle
ALS	\$900	\$700 – \$1,200	Middle
Mileage	\$18/mi	\$15 – \$25/mi	Middle

Conclusion: These are very typical numbers and are actually conservative compared to private EMS and hospital billing.



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WATERFORD
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION AMENDING EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHARGES AND
ESTABLISHING CHARGES FOR NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

RECITALS:

A. Section 14-104 of the Township's Emergency Response Cost Recovery Ordinance in Division 1 of Article III in Chapter 14 of the Waterford Charter Township Code ("Code"), provides that:

The Township Board of Trustees shall, by resolution, adopt a schedule of the charges for wages of personnel, hourly equipment and vehicle use, expendable items at replacement costs, hourly administrative and supervisory expenses, and legal fees, which shall be applied, pro-rata, in the calculation of the expense of an emergency response.

B. By prior Resolutions, the Township Board established charges for Waterford Regional Fire Department emergency response.

C. Section 14-135 of Township's Emergency Response Cost Recovery Ordinance in Division 3 of Article III in Chapter 14 of the Waterford Charter Township Code ("Code"), provides that:

The Township Board of Trustees shall, by resolution, adopt a schedule of the charges for wages of personnel, hourly equipment and vehicle use, expendable items at replacement costs, hourly administrative and supervisory expenses, and legal fees, which shall be applied, pro-rata, in the calculation of the expense of a non-emergency response.

D. Attached to this Resolution is a _____, Memorandum to the Township Board from the Chief of the Waterford Regional Fire Department, with proposed increases in the schedule of charges for emergency and non-emergency response for hourly equipment use and EMS cost recovery that are being recommended for adoption by the Township Board as provided in Section 14-104 and Section 14-135 of the Ordinance.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the proposed rates for hourly vehicle and equipment use charges, EMS Cost Recovery Charges in the attached Memorandum from the Chief of the Waterford Regional Fire Department are adopted and approved for use as minimum charges that may be used in calculating the expense of an emergency response or a non-emergency response.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Charter Township of Waterford Board of Trustees at a regular meeting on January 26, 2026.

Charter Township of Waterford

Date

Kimberly Markee, Township Clerk