

**TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK, EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
ORDINANCE NO. 5.2026: FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridge Creek provides fire and rescue services through a joint partnership with the City of Augusta via the Augusta-Bridge Creek Fire Department, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds it necessary to update and consolidate the municipal code governing fire services to ensure operational efficiency, fiscal transparency, and public safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: ADOPTION AND ESTABLISHMENT

1.01 Adoption of Fire Code. The NFPA 1 Fire Code (2012 Edition), subject to the modifications specified in Chapter SPS 314 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, as amended from time to time, is hereby adopted and incorporated herein by reference.

1.02 Establishment of Fire and Rescue Services. Fire and rescue services shall be provided pursuant to a Joint Fire Service Agreement between the Town of Bridge Creek and the City of Augusta, and delivered by the Augusta-Bridge Creek Fire Department, Inc. ("Fire Department"), a non-profit corporation, consistent with Wis. Stat. §§ 60.55 and 60.565. The territorial limits of service shall encompass the entirety of the Town of Bridge Creek boundaries as defined in the inter-municipal agreement and further detailed in the Fire Department Bylaws.

1.03 Bylaws and Policies. The Fire Department shall adopt bylaws and policies for its internal control and management. These bylaws, and any subsequent amendments, shall not become effective until formally approved by a majority vote of the Town Board. The Town Board and Fire Department leadership shall review and re-approve the bylaws at least once every three (3) years.

SECTION 2: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.01 Appropriations and Budget Submission. The Town Board shall appropriate funds for Fire Department operations, apparatus, and equipment as the Board deems necessary. The Town shall fund its share of the approved operations budget based on the percentage determined by the Joint Fire Service Agreement.

2.02 Annual Budget Deadline. The Fire Department must submit its detailed annual budget request to the Town Clerk by September 10th of each year. Failure to meet this deadline may result in the Town being unable to guarantee full funding for the ensuing fiscal year.

2.03 Annual Financial Statements. For fiscal oversight, the Fire Department shall submit to the Town Clerk an Income Statement, Balance Sheet, year-end bank statements, and required government filings (e.g., Form 990 or DFI reports) within 90 days of the close of the Fire Department's fiscal year.

SECTION 3: ORGANIZATION AND AUTHORITY

3.01 Organization and Membership. The Fire Department shall consist of a Fire Chief and volunteer firefighters.

3.02 Selection of Chief. The Fire Chief shall be nominated by a majority vote of the Fire Department membership. Such nomination shall be subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Town of Bridge Creek Board. The selection process and term of office shall be governed by the Joint Fire Service Agreement and the Fire Department Bylaws.

3.03 Membership Ability and Status. The Fire Chief is vested with the authority to assess the physical and mental capacity of any active member (excluding the Fire Chief). The Fire Chief may, in consultation with the Fire Board, relieve a member from active firefighting duties based on their ability to perform required tasks. Members so relieved shall transition to honorary membership status.

3.04 Powers and Duties of Fire Chief. The Chief shall have general supervision of personnel and apparatus. The Chief or a qualified designee shall command all firefighting operations and is vested with full police authority at the scene of an emergency.

SECTION 4: OPERATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

4.01 Control and Care of Apparatus. The Fire Chief shall be responsible for the maintenance and readiness of all apparatus. Apparatus shall be used exclusively for official business (fire, EMS, rescue, training, mutual aid). Non-emergency "Public Service" activities (e.g., filling swimming pools, community parades) are permitted provided they do not compromise readiness and comply with the fee schedule established by the Fire Board.

4.02 Authority at Fires. The Fire Chief may cause the arrest of any person failing to give the right of way, may order the removal or destruction of property to prevent the spread of fire, and may require bystanders to render assistance.

4.03 Discipline and Appeals. Any member suspended, demoted, or expelled may appeal to a Joint Disciplinary Committee comprised of the Town of Bridge Creek Board and City of Augusta Council. The appeal shall be heard in a joint session, and a majority vote of the combined membership present is required to sustain or modify the discipline.

4.04 Fire Inspectors. The Fire Chief or designee shall act as Fire Inspector and shall perform semi-annual inspections of all public and commercial buildings within the Town.

4.05 Reimbursement for Services.

- **Hazardous Materials:** Parties responsible for hazardous material incidents are liable for the actual costs of labor and materials for cleanup.
- **Vehicle Fire Costs:** Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 60.557, the Fire Department may charge for actual out-of-pocket costs incurred for fire calls on County or State highways.

SECTION 5: PENALTIES

5.01 Adoption of Fines. The Town hereby adopts the "City of Augusta Attachment A: Fire Violation Fee/Bond Schedule" as the default schedule of forfeitures. The Town Board may modify these fees by formal resolution.

5.02 Enforcement Authority. The Fire Chief, their qualified designee, or any law enforcement officer with jurisdiction in the Town are authorized to issue citations for violations of this Ordinance.

5.03 General Penalty. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. The Town may also pursue injunctive relief to terminate any violation.

SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

Adopted this 19th day of March, 2026.