

2026 APR 15 PM 3: 28

STRATFORD TOWN CLERK

AN ORDINANCE FOR EMS POLICY (#26-05)

Sponsored by: Stratford Town Council

**BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD that Sections 88-1 through 88-6 of the Town Code are hereby amended and restated to provide as follows:**

**§ 88-1. Statement of purpose; intent.**

- A. The Town is committed to meeting its responsibility for providing the best in emergency medical services to its citizens and visitors 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Town intends to provide this service at the lowest possible cost to our taxpayers. That goal may only be realized by the implementation of a billing policy and procedure that will result in charging a fee for emergency medical services provided through Stratford Emergency Medical Service (EMS) or any other provider used under a mutual aid agreement. The purpose underlying this chapter is to relieve the annual budget of the cost associated with the delivery of emergency medical services and to provide emergency medical services as required while continuing to preserve, support, and enhance the volunteer EMS system.
- B. It is the intent of the Town Council that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing EMS services to the Town of Stratford users shall be recovered primarily through user charges.
- C. The Town is committed to ensuring equitable resident protections by maintaining full coverage for low-income residents on Medicare/Medicaid while enhancing the Enterprise Fund to meet growing community demands and reduce reliance on general taxation.

**§ 88-3. Billing policy; collection**

- A. The Town is authorized to render a bill to the patient's private insurance provider, Medicare, Medicaid, any supplemental policies held by the patient, and any other private or government assistance program that the patient may be eligible for. Insurance shall be billed first for all available coverage, including Medicare, Medicaid, commercial insurance, and supplemental policies, high deductible plans and health savings accounts (HSA).
- B. ~~Payments received from the above sources to the extent of their insurance coverage, on behalf of Town residents or employees of taxpaying businesses who need emergency ambulance transportation while working on the business premises (collectively referred~~

~~to as "residents"), shall be considered payment in full and the Town will treat appropriations made to EMS from local tax revenue as payment of any otherwise applicable copayments and deductible due from the residents. Residents or taxpayers shall not be held liable for copays or any charges not covered by the above sources.~~

- B.** For Town residents or employees of taxpaying businesses who need emergency ambulance transportation while working at the business location in the Town (collectively the "Residents") whose primary coverage is Medicare or Medicaid and whose household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (as annually published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services), payments received shall be considered payment-in-full. Such residents shall not be held liable for copayments, deductibles, or uncovered amounts.
- C.** For Residents whose primary coverage is Medicare or Medicaid and whose household income exceeds 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, applicable copayments and coinsurance may be collected in accordance with federal regulations and a standard industry-accepted collection practice.
- D.** For Residents with private insurance coverage, including high-deductible health plans, EMS may pursue standard industry-accepted collection practices for patient responsibility amounts not paid by insurance.
- E.** An industry-accepted collection procedure shall be utilized to collect all amounts due from patients who fail to meet the resident criteria of the Town.
- F.** Decisions regarding residency or financial status or taxpayer status shall be made by the ~~Finance and Claims~~ EMS Committee upon receipt of a claim for payment of invoices received or reimbursement of charges paid.

#### **§ 88-5. EMS Committee.**

- A.** Establishment. A ~~ninseventen~~ ninseventeen-member committee is hereby established and authorized to recommend, to the Town Council for approval and adoption specific expenditures from the EMS Enterprise Fund. Member's terms shall be concurrent with the Town Council and shall conduct all meetings in accordance with state law, and Robert's Rules of Order. The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the full committee membership at the first meeting following each new appointed cycle.
- B.** Membership.

The Committee shall consist of the following:

(1) Three Council members appointed by the Town Council which cannot be from the same political party

(2) Three active Stratford EMS members appointed by the Town Council.

(3) The Mayor, or his/her designee, shall be a ~~nonvoting~~ member.

The Committee shall consist of seven voting members.

CB. Responsibilities.

- (1) To develop and activate a long-range capital improvement/capital equipment plan that will satisfy the needs of providing emergency medical services for the Town.
- (2) To develop, in conjunction with the Town administration, an EMS department operating budget for recommendation to the Town Council.
- (3) To annually review the emergency medical transport fee structure in conjunction with the State of Connecticut statutes pertaining to ambulance fees, for recommending changes to the fee structure to the Town Council.
- (4) To review requests for funding that were not included in the adopted budget and refer requests to the Town Council with a recommended action.

#### **88-6. Restriction on use of Fund**

- A. The EMS Enterprise Fund Committee is hereby authorized to expend monies from the Fund to support the operation of EMS and the delivery of emergency medical services to those individuals requiring such services. Allowable expenditures will include any costs that this Committee deems beneficial to patient care including, but not limited to, EMS payroll, daily operating costs, capital equipment, EMS headquarters acquisition and/or maintenance, EMS volunteer training, uniforms, EMS volunteer benefits, volunteer recruitment and retention, administrative costs related to the Fund.
- B. EMS Enterprise Fund monies shall not be used to fund and any wages or benefits of paid Town employees in any departments other than EMS.

**RESOLVED:** that the second reading of Ordinance #26-05 be dispensed with as copies thereof have been previously provided to each Council Member and that the same be adopted as a second reading and the foregoing be and is hereby approved effective 30 days from passage.

Ordinance #: 26-05  
First Introduced: March 9, 2026  
First Reading: March 9, 2026  
Second Reading: April 13, 2026  
Effective: May 13, 2026

Codification yes  no  Section No. \_\_\_\_\_.