

TOWNSHIP OF STOWE  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
ORDINANCE NO.   1039  

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF STOWE, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, RECOGNIZING AND AUTHORIZING THE AUTHORITY OF EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS SERVING THE TOWNSHIP TO SEEK REIMBURSEMENT OF REASONABLE COSTS RELATING TO RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY INCIDENTS.

WHEREAS, the Township of Stowe recognizes that the duties of the Stowe Township Volunteer Fire Department require the use of specialized emergency rescue tools and equipment, emergency rescue materials, hazardous material abatement equipment, and hazardous abatement materials and fire suppression tools and equipment during its emergency responses; and

WHEREAS, Commissioners for the Township of Stowe have determined that this ordinance is necessary to allow the Stowe Township Volunteer Fire Department to collect reasonable costs associated from certain incidents of emergency responses from an identified insurance carrier because it will ensure the health safety and welfare of the residents of Stowe Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Commissioners of the Township of Stowe, as follows:

**Section 1. Title**

This chapter shall be known as the "Emergency Services Cost Recovery Ordinance."

**Section 2. Definitions**

The following words and phrases when use in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Actual and Reasonable Response Costs - An amount that is consistent with what a reasonable person would pay in the same or similar circumstances for the same business or for the same or similar item. This term shall not include any costs for labor.

Township – The Township of Stowe

Emergency - An incident that requires responsive, coordinated action to protect an individual, the environment, critical infrastructure or property, and the responsive, coordinated action is the result of an official dispatch.

Fire Company – The Stowe Township Volunteer Fire Company or any other entity that provides emergency services to Township residents.

Insurer: - Any individual or entity that provides homeowners insurance, vehicle insurance or any form of liability insurance for any structure or vehicle.

### **Section 3. Recovery of Costs**

- a. The Stowe Township Volunteer Fire Department is hereby authorized to recover reasonable costs for the use of emergency rescue tools, equipment and materials; hazardous material abatement tools and equipment, hazardous abatement materials, fire suppression tools and equipment; and personnel hours involving any hazardous material, environmental, fire safety, and/or rescue incident or operation, including vehicular accidents and fires.
- b. A rate schedule of reasonable costs for the aforementioned tools, equipment, materials and hourly rates for personnel, shall be set forth by the Stowe Township Volunteer Fire Department and reviewed and consented to by resolution of the Township Commissioners from time to time, and shall be applied to the recovery of costs arising out of incidents that occurred subsequent to the setting of the rate schedule.
- c. The reasonable costs outlined above may be recovered from any identified insurance carrier or person or persons, directly by the Stowe Township Volunteer Fire Department, the Township or by an attorney, or through a third-party billing service acting as a contracted authorized agent for the collection of such costs. In addition to the reasonable costs as set forth in the above-mentioned rate schedule, the Township, attorney, or the third-party billing service shall hereby be authorized to collect, in addition to the reasonable costs, reasonable interest, legal, administrative and any other collection fees associated with collecting the said costs and fees.

### **Section 4. Requirements to Pay for Reasonable Costs**

- a. Any insurance carrier or person shall be liable for the reimbursement of reasonable costs incurred by the Township, as outlined in this chapter, unless that person has paid to the Township a tax which funds, at least in part, the services which the Fire Company provides.

- b. The Township shall not be obligated to pursue collection efforts against any insurance company or person in the event that the Township reasonably determines that collection efforts will not be successful or that the costs of collections will exceed the amount due hereunder.

**Section 5. Rate Schedule**

The following rate schedule shall apply:

- a. Apparatus

Type of Apparatus	Fee
Engine	\$350 per hour
Aerial/ladder	\$400 per hour
Rescue	\$300 per hour
Squad/utility/support	\$150 per hour

- b. Equipment/Service

Type of Equipment/Service	Fee
SCBA	\$50 each
Hose (per 50 feet)	\$25
Gas/CO Detector	\$50 per use
Extinguisher (any class)	\$50 per use
Hand tools	\$15 each
Hydraulic rescue tools	\$200 each
Scene lighting	\$75 per hour
Oil-absorbent sheets	\$10 each
Portable pumps	\$30 per hour
Power tools	\$50 each
Road closing/traffic control	\$100 per hour
Salvage covers	\$35 each
Debris cleanup/removal	\$250
Flares	\$8 each
Ventilation fans	\$50 each
IR camera	\$100 each
Foam	\$60 per gallon
Cribbing - Passenger	\$100 each
Cribbing - Class B	\$200 each
Cribbing - Trucks Class A	\$500 each
Stabilization struts	\$50 per use
Latex gloves	\$2 per pair
Ladders	\$35 per use
Medical extrication (w/ hydraulics)	\$1,500 per patient
Generator	\$50 per hour
Hand lights	\$5 per use
Fire line tape	\$0.25 per foot

**Section 6. Emergency Services Not to be Refused for Lack of Insurance or Ability to Pay.**

Nothing in this chapter shall authorize any Township Department or Township staff member or Department personnel to refuse or delay any rescue service to any person, firm, organization or corporation, due to the lack of insurance coverage or ability to pay for said rescue services.

**Section 7. Severability**

If any portion of this Ordinance is declared by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, it is the intention of the Stowe Township Commissioners that all other parts remain in effect.

**Section 8. Repealer.**

It is the intention of the Stowe Township Commissioners that all Ordinances that are in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed. Further, any Ordinance not specifically mentioned in this Ordinance that is not in conflict with this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.


**ORDAINED AND ENACTED into law this   10   day of May, 2022.**

ATTEST:



Township Secretary

TOWNSHIP OF STOWE

By: 

President of Stowe Township Commissioners