

CARRIED

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PURPOSE: TERMINATE AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH TOWNS OF ALGOMA, BLACK WOLF, NEKIMI, OMRO, POYGAN, RUSHFORD, UTICA AND WINNECONNE; VILLAGE OF WINNECONNE AND CITY OF OMRO; AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE WITH TOWNS OF ALGOMA, BLACK WOLF AND NEKIMI FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENTS FOR 2026; AND DIRECT AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR FIRE AND EMS SERVICES FOR 2027 AND FUTURE YEARS

INITIATED BY: CITY MANAGER

WHEREAS, the City of Oshkosh has provided emergency medical services (EMS) to several surrounding communities under ambulance service agreements since 2004; and

WHEREAS, the current agreement extends to the end of 2026 but allows for termination by any party through written notice to the other parties on or before October 1st to be effective the following calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oshkosh has been faced with significant increases in demand for its EMS services, along with rising operating and capital costs and challenges in filling EMS positions; and

WHEREAS, the parties had anticipated meeting the contractual obligations of providing efficient and effective service through the term of the contract with the addition of a fourth ambulance and hiring of additional staff, but those equipment and personnel additions have not been feasible; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of maintaining a high level of EMS services for those citizens served by Oshkosh EMS, the City needs to reduce the territory serviced and staff recommends termination of service at this time to allow the other parties time to seek out ambulance service for the upcoming year; and

WHEREAS, staff has identified potential opportunities moving forward, including the opportunity to apply for innovation grants through the State of Wisconsin that could result in a joint regional department with neighboring communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Oshkosh that the Ambulance Service Agreement for 2022-2026 with the Town of Algoma, Town of Black Wolf, Town of Nekimi, Town of Omro, City of Omro, Town of Poygan, Town of Rushford, Town of Utica, Town of Winneconne and Village of Winneconne be terminated effective 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2025; that city staff is hereby authorized and directed to give appropriate notice of the termination to the above-named parties and to adjust the previously disclosed estimated 2025 rates for service to remove the estimated costs for a fourth ambulance and additional staffing and to bill the parties based on the actual rates based on the process as described in the Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that city staff is hereby authorized and directed to work with the towns of Algoma, Black Wolf and Nekimi on an ambulance service agreement for calendar year 2026 if continued ambulance service is requested by those townships.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that city staff is hereby authorized and directed to explore any and all available options for fire and EMS services moving forward, including specifically the option to explore creation of a joint department and/or to research options that may be eligible for grant funding through the State of Wisconsin for the continued provision of high-quality fire and EMS services.

