

WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Date of enactment: _____

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2026 RESOLUTION ____

Resolution Authorizing the Creation of a Washington County Countywide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes §§ 59.03, 60.565, 61.34, and 62.11 authorize and in some cases require counties, towns, villages, and cities to provide emergency services necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the rising costs, staffing shortages, decreased volunteerism, and increasing service demands for emergency medical services (EMS) have created challenges for individual municipalities in maintaining reliable and sustainable local EMS systems; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute § 66.0301 authorizes municipalities and counties to enter into intergovernmental cooperation agreements for the joint exercise of powers and the joint performance of duties; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors, together with the Cities, Villages, and Towns within Washington County, recognize the benefit of developing a unified, cooperative, and efficient Countywide EMS System to ensure consistent service levels countywide; and

WHEREAS a Countywide EMS system will improve response times, optimize resource allocation, enhance quality of care, and create long-term financial sustainability; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with its identified Strategic Priorities Washington County initiated efforts to facilitate the creation of a Countywide EMS System that retains autonomy and local control of the existing EMS providers while providing funding to ensure that quality EMS services will continue to be provided throughout the County for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, sixteen (16) municipalities within the County passed resolutions supporting the continued discussions in the creation of a Countywide EMS and the Washington County Fire Chiefs Association, Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin, and the West Bend Professional Fire Fighters have also voiced support; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute §66.0602 authorizes the County to raise the tax levy to fund a Countywide EMS system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington County Board of Supervisors that this Board hereby authorizes the planning and creation of a Washington County Countywide EMS System in partnership with all municipalities within Washington County.

