

**CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION NO. 025-2026

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION
OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) NON-EMERGENCY
AMBULANCE TRANSPORT/TRANSFER PROGRAM**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of Cascade Charter Township, Kent County, Michigan, held in the Wisner Center, 2870 Jacksmith Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 on the 27th day of May 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Lesperance, Clerk Slater, Treasurer Korstange, Trustees Shipley, Rissi and Noordhoek.

ABSENT: Trustee Noordyke.

The following resolution was offered by Trustee Shipley and supported by Trustee Noordhoek:

WHEREAS, the Cascade Charter Township Fire Department continues to experience sustained year-over-year growth in medical responses, including an increasing number of low-acuity and non-emergency patient care incidents; and

WHEREAS, these non-emergency incidents often require significant time commitments from fire department personnel and apparatus, reducing the availability of emergency response resources for fires, motor vehicle crashes, and higher-acuity emergency medical calls; and

WHEREAS, under the Department's current operational staffing model of five (5) personnel, an engine company is frequently assigned to non-emergency medical incidents, creating avoidable service and response coverage limitations within the Township; and

WHEREAS, when staffing levels permit six (6) firefighters on duty, the Department can deploy a medical response unit to better manage low-acuity incidents while preserving primary fire suppression and emergency response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department has identified the potential opportunity to provide Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance transport and transfer services for medically appropriate, non-emergency patients as a means of improving service delivery and operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS, implementation of a BLS transport and transfer model would reduce dependence on private ambulance availability for appropriate non-emergency transports and transfers, improve continuity of patient care, and reduce the amount of time fire apparatus and personnel are unavailable for emergency response; and

WHEREAS, enhancing response capabilities through more efficient use of Fire Department personnel and resources supports the Township's commitment to public safety and the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of residents; and

WHEREAS, the proposed program concept is intended to support a sustainable daily staffing goal of six (6) firefighters while avoiding any request for additional taxes or millage increases from Township residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of evaluating innovative service delivery models that maintain or enhance emergency response performance while responsibly utilizing Township resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cascade Charter Township Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Fire Department and Township Administration to further develop and evaluate a Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Emergency Ambulance Transport/Transfer Program concept for medically appropriate patient transports.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such development and evaluation may include operational planning, staffing analysis, financial modeling, equipment and vehicle needs, billing and reimbursement considerations, regulatory requirements, implementation timelines, and any agreements or partnerships necessary for program implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fire Department and Township Administration shall return to the Board of Trustees with recommendations, implementation details, projected operational impacts, and any required budgetary considerations prior to final program implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board finds that continued evaluation of this service model promotes public safety by improving emergency response availability, reducing unnecessary service gaps, and supporting the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

THEREFORE, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Cascade resolves as follows:

1. Authorize Fire Department staff to formalize quotes, agreements, draft policies, financial projections, and a complete BLS non-emergency ambulance transport/transfer program plan for Township Board consideration estimated to be complete in the fall of 2026.
2. Any final program recommendation will be subject to Township Board approval, applicable Michigan law, Kent County EMS system requirements, medical control protocols, licensing and regulatory requirements, Township purchasing policies, and review by the Township Manager, Finance Director, Fire Chief, and legal counsel as appropriate.

DRAFT: May 20, 2026
Approved: May 27, 2026

Upon roll call vote:

YEAS: Supervisor Lesperance, Clerk Slater, Treasurer Korstange, Trustees Shipley,
Rissi and Noordhoek.

ABSENT: Trustee Noordyke.

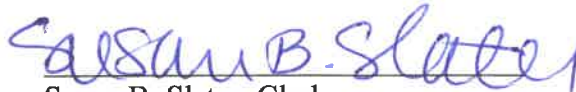
The Supervisor declared Resolution 025-2026 adopted.



Susan B. Slater, Clerk
Cascade Charter Township

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of Cascade Charter Township, County of Kent, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on May 27, 2026, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.



Susan B. Slater, Clerk
Cascade Charter Township