

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2026

A RESOLUTION TO STUDY THE CREATION OF A WASHINGTON COUNTY  
COUNTYWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SYSTEM

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WHEREAS, the Village of Germantown recognizes that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and fire protection are essential public safety services that directly impact the health, safety, and welfare of residents, businesses, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes §§ 59.03, 60.565, 61.34, and 62.11 authorize 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, state-imposed levy limits significantly restrict the ability of municipalities to increase operational revenue, with allowable levy growth tied to net new construction, which has averaged approximately 1.7% in Washington County in recent years, while inflation and cost-of-living increases have averaged substantially higher over the same period; and

WHEREAS, these fiscal constraints limit the ability of municipalities to maintain staffing at a level necessary to meet community needs, creating a future risk of increased response times and reduced service availability; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Germantown recognizes that these challenges are not unique to Washington County, but reflect a broader statewide trend in which many EMS providers are experiencing staffing shortages and periods of unavailability to respond to emergency calls; and

WHEREAS, a countywide approach to studying EMS service delivery and funding has the potential to create efficiencies through coordinated planning, shared resources, and reduced duplication of services while preserving local service identity and community-based response; and

WHEREAS, such an approach may also allow for increased purchasing power, strategic joint procurement of equipment and supplies, coordinated training, shared staffing models, unified medical direction, and enhanced interoperability among departments; and

WHEREAS, mutual aid and MABAS agreements already demonstrate the interconnected nature of EMS and fire response across municipal boundaries, with larger communities often carrying a disproportionate share of the financial and operational burden; and

WHEREAS, a feasibility study conducted in partnership with Washington County and our County's 20 municipalities would allow the Village of Germantown to have a 'seat at the table' in helping to evaluate potential governance structures, financial models, equity considerations, and service impacts before any policy or funding decisions are made by the Village Board; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Germantown supports a collaborative planning process that includes representation from towns, villages, cities, and the County, ensuring that all local governments have a voice in evaluating potential countywide solutions aimed at creating a sustainable funding source for generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village Board of the Village of Germantown, Washington County, Wisconsin, that the Village Board by passage of this Resolution that:

**Feasibility Study**

The Village of Germantown formally supports partnering with Washington County to participate in a comprehensive feasibility study examining the potential for a countywide EMS system or coordinated EMS funding and service model.

**Data-Driven Solutions**

The feasibility study should evaluate opportunities to:

- Improve service reliability, response times, and system sustainability;
- Identify efficiencies through intergovernmental collaboration and shared services;
- Maximize purchasing power and reduce costs through coordinated procurement, when and where it makes sense;
- Enhance recruitment, retention, and training of EMS and fire personnel;
- Promote equitable cost-sharing among communities;
- Maintain strong local involvement and accountability in service delivery.

**No Commitment to Implementation**

Participation in the feasibility study does not obligate the Village of Germantown to become a part of any countywide EMS system, levy, or governance structure. Any future participation or implementation shall require separate Village Board review and approval.

**Long-Term Perspective**

The Village Board acknowledges that EMS sustainability is a long-term issue and supports proactive planning to ensure that residents continue to receive high-quality emergency medical services despite fiscal and workforce challenges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village President, Village Administrator, and Fire Chief, and other appropriate staff are authorized to participate in study discussions, planning

meetings, and data sharing efforts associated with this feasibility study, consistent with the direction of the Village Board.

Adopted: February 2, 2026



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Robert A Soderberg, Village President

ATTEST:



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Donna Ott, Village Clerk