

TOWN OF ARMSTRONG CREEK, WISCONSIN

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1209-1

FIRE DEPARTMENT COST RECOVERY ORDINANCE

Section 1 — Purpose

To allow the Town of Armstrong Creek to recover costs incurred by the Fire Department when responding to fires, incidents, or emergency responses occurring within the Town, including incidents on private property, when such costs are not otherwise reimbursed.

Section 2 — Authority

This ordinance is enacted under the authority of Wisconsin Statutes §§ 60.22, 60.55, 61.34, 62.11, and other applicable provisions granting municipalities the power to manage finances, recover public service expenses, and protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Section 3 — Definitions

- **Fire Department Costs:** Personnel costs, equipment usage, fire suppression agents, hazardous material mitigation, utility costs, vehicle wear, replacement of damaged equipment, and mutual aid expenses billed to the Town.
- **Property Owner:** The individual(s) or entity listed on the property tax roll for the parcel where the incident occurred.
- **Responsible Party:** The property owner or other individual/entity whose action or negligence caused or contributed to the incident.

Section 4 — Cost Recovery Authorization

The Town may invoice the Property Owner or Responsible Party for Fire Department Costs when:

1. A fire or hazardous incident originates on private property, **and**
2. The costs are **not fully reimbursed** through insurance, county/state reimbursement, or mutual aid agreements.

Section 5 — Allowable Charges

Invoiced costs may include, but are not limited to:

Category	Recoverable Cost
Stop Charge	\$350 per call

Category	Recoverable Cost
Water	\$10 per thousand gallons

The Town Board shall maintain a fee schedule by resolution, updated annually.

Section 6 — Direct Owner Billing

If the property is uninsured, underinsured, or insurance denies reimbursement, the Town may invoice the property owner directly for all remaining eligible costs.

Section 8 — Payment Terms

1. Payment is due within **60 days** of invoice issuance.
2. Unpaid balances may incur interest at **1.5% per month** after 60 days.
3. Unpaid invoices may be placed upon the property tax roll as a special charge pursuant to Wisconsin Stat. § 66.0627.

Section 9 — Appeals

Any billed party may appeal the charges in writing to the Town Clerk within **30 days** of invoice issuance. The Town Board shall review the appeal within **45 days** and issue a final determination.

Section 10 — Exemptions

The Town Board may waive or reduce charges if:

- The incident was an unavoidable act of nature,
- Financial hardship is demonstrated,
- The incident involved life-saving response with no negligence involved, or
- Doing so serves the public interest.

Waivers require majority vote of the Town Board.

Section 11 — Severability

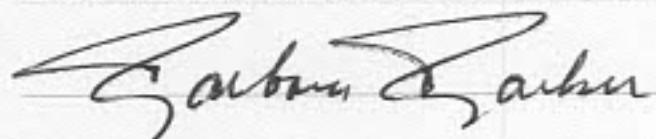
If any portion of this ordinance is ruled invalid, the remainder shall remain in effect.

Section 12 — Effective Date

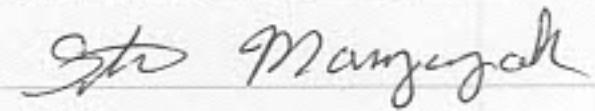
This ordinance becomes effective upon adoption and publication as required by law.

Adopted this 9th day of December, 2025

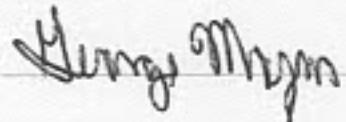
TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF ARMSTRONG CREEK



Barbara Barker, Chairperson

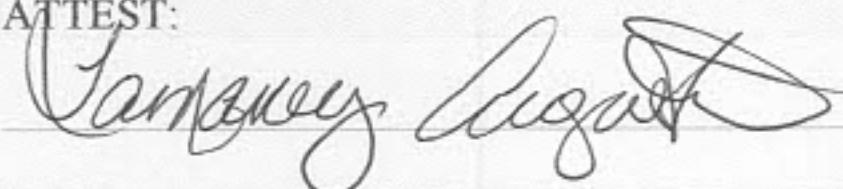


Stanley Maruszczak, Supervisor



George Mazur, Supervisor

ATTEST:



Tamaney Augustin, Town Clerk