



**To:** Government Affairs Committee

**From:** Barbara J. Kadrach, Fire Chief

**Date:** March 30, 2026

**Subject:** Request for Approval to Execute Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management EMS Division (2026–2031)

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## A. Issue

The Fire Department requests Council approval to enter into a five-year Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Milwaukee County for the period of 2026–2031.

## B. Background / Options

The Fire Department currently operates its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program as part of a countywide system managed by the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management. The City entered into an IGA with the County in 2017, under which the County provides funding, training, quality assurance, and medical direction in exchange for the availability of our resources for countywide response when needed.

Failure to renew this agreement would significantly impact our EMS capabilities. The County provides required continuing education necessary for paramedic and EMT license renewal every three years. Additionally, the County ensures 24/7/365 medical oversight through an on-call physician available by radio or phone to support field personnel. This medical direction includes authorization and oversight of advanced protocols and life-saving interventions such as whole blood administration, cardiac medications, intubation, and defibrillation.

Under the proposed agreement, Milwaukee County will allocate approximately \$2.5 million annually across participating municipalities. Funds are distributed based on a formula established by the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC), which considers population, service area, and Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport volume. Based on this formula, the City anticipates receiving approximately \$170,000 annually throughout the contract term.

Participation in the County system is also cost-effective. The estimated cost for the Fire Department to independently meet minimum requirements for ALS services, including training, continuing education, and medical oversight, would exceed \$200,000 annually.





The proposed agreement contains no significant changes from the current contract. The document has been reviewed by City Attorney Tate.

### **C. Strategic Plan (Area of Focus)**

Public Safety

### **D. Fiscal Impact**

Approval of this agreement will result in annual revenue of approximately \$170,000 from 2026 through 2031. If not approved, the City will incur substantial additional costs to independently operate and oversee its ALS program, along with potential operational and service-level challenges and decreases.

### **E. Recommendation**

Fire department staff recommends approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management for the 2026–2031 term.

