

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EXETER, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO BE KNOWN AS THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COST REIMBURSEMENT ORDINANCE. THE NEW ORDINANCE PERMITS THE FIRE COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS OPERATING IN EXETER TOWNSHIP TO CHARGE FEES FOR THE REASONABLE COST OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS USED IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES RELATED TO ANY INCIDENT IN EXETER TOWNSHIP, AND TO ALLOW FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF SAID COSTS FROM INSURANCE PROVIDERS.

ORDINANCE NO. 3—2—26

**MUNICIPALITY OF
EXETER TOWNSHIP**

LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Adopted at a Public Meeting Held on

March 2, 2026

**EXETER TOWNSHIP
LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 3-2-26
(FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COST REIMBURSEMENT ORDINANCE)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EXETER, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO BE KNOWN AS THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COST REIMBURSEMENT ORDINANCE. THE NEW ORDINANCE PERMITS THE FIRE COMPANIES AND EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS OPERATING IN EXETER TOWNSHIP TO CHARGE FEES FOR THE REASONABLE COST OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS USED IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES RELATED TO ANY INCIDENT IN EXETER TOWNSHIP, AND TO ALLOW FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF SAID COSTS FROM INSURANCE PROVIDERS.

THIS ORDINANCE AUTHORIZES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAM TO CHARGE USER FEES FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES RENDERED BY THE HARDING FIRE/MT. ZION FIRE COMPANIES OF EXETER TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE COUNTY, AND OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF EXETER TOWNSHIP.

WHEREAS, emergency services response activity to incidents continue to increase each year; environmental protection requirements involving equipment and training, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security regulations involving equipment and training create additional demands on all operational aspects of fire and rescue services within Exeter Township; and

WHEREAS, the fire and rescue services have investigated different methods to maintain a high level of quality and emergency service capability throughout times of constantly increasing service demands, where maintaining an effective response by the fire and rescue services decreases the costs of incidents to insurance carriers through timely and effective management of emergency situations, saving lives and reducing property damage; and

WHEREAS, raising real estate taxes to meet the increase in service demands would not be fair to property owners when many of the incidents involve individuals not owning property or paying taxes in the jurisdiction; and the ability of the fire and rescue services to effectively respond decreases the liability of insurance companies by saving lives; and

WHEREAS, the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors desires to implement a fair and equitable procedure by which to collect said fees and authorizes the fire and rescue services to establish a billing system in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and guidelines.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of Exeter Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania does hereby **ENACT** and **ORDAIN** this Ordinance authorizing the volunteer fire departments and emergency service providers operating within the Township of Exeter to seek reimbursement for motor vehicle accident, hazardous abatement incidents, environmental incidents, and fire safety and rescue responses. Said reimbursement shall be filed as an additional claim for damages with the relevant insurance carrier, as the case may be, of the person or persons owning or operating a vehicle involved in the incident, owing or renting the real property where the incident occurred; and/or responsible for causing the incident.

SECTION 1: The Harding Fire/Mt. Zion Fire and other emergency rescue services operating under the jurisdiction of Exeter Township shall initiate user fees for the delivery of fire and rescue services, personnel, supplies and equipment to the scene of motor vehicle accidents and other incidents. The rate of user fees shall be that which is usual, customary and reasonable, which may include any services, personnel, supplies, and equipment and with baselines established by the relevant emergency service providers.

SECTION 2: Such fees/reimbursement shall be filed as an additional claim for damages to vehicles, property, or injuries with the motor vehicle insurance carrier, homeowner's insurance carrier, or other applicable insurance carrier, as the case may be, of the person or persons:

- i) owning or operating a vehicle involved in the incident.
- ii) owning or renting the real property where the incident occurred and damage resulted; and/or
- iii) responsible for causing the incident.

The reasonable costs incurred by the emergency service provider shall be recovered directly by the emergency service provider, attorney, collection agency or third-party billing service (the "Authorized Agent") for collection of such costs.

The emergency service provider or its authorized agent shall have the authority hereunder to recover the costs from the applicable insurance company/carrier only and not from any person who may otherwise qualify under Subsection (i), (ii), or (iii) above.

The reimbursement rates for the tools, equipment, and materials shall be set by the emergency service providers from time to time and may be charged for services provided after the effective date of this article. Such rates shall be approved by resolution of the Board of Supervisors and kept on file in the Exeter Township business office.

SECTION 3: The Fire and Rescue Services and the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors may make rules or regulations and from time to time may amend, revoke or add rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the other Sections herein, as they may deem necessary or expedient relative to billing for the fees or the collection thereof.

SECTION 4: All amounts collected pursuant to this Ordinance shall be placed into a fund as established by the Harding Fire/Mt. Zion Fire and other Rescue Services to be used exclusively for personnel, supplies, and equipment of the said fire and rescue services.

SECTION 5: The Township of Exeter shall not be responsible for any aspect of the recovery of costs under this Ordinance. The Township shall not assist the emergency service providers or any third-party billing service in the recovery of costs under this Ordinance.

SECTION 6: The Township of Exeter shall not be responsible for reimbursing the emergency service providers for any services rendered to Exeter Township or Township personnel or vehicles while on duty.

SECTION 7: Any ordinance or resolution or parts thereof inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8: The provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable. If any sentence, clause, section, or part of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal, and/or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, and/or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections, and/or parts of this Ordinance.

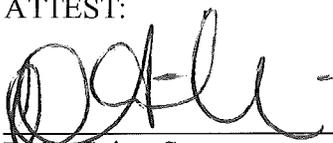
SECTION 9: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon enactment as permitted by law. Upon enactment, the emergency service providers are authorized to immediately establish fees/reimbursement rates consistent with the terms of this Ordinance and shall submit the same for approval by Resolution of the Exeter Township Board of Supervisors.

ENACTED and ORDAINED this 3rd day of March, 2026.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
EXETER TOWNSHIP

By: 
Adam Penolopata, Supervisor

ATTEST:


Dalia Sejas, Secretary