
Chapter 26 EMERGENCY SERVICES*

***Cross references:** Businesses, ch. 14; emergency management, ch. 22.

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Secs. 26-1--26-30. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. E 911**Sec. 26-31. Authority.**

This article is enacted under the authority granted in Wis. Stats. §§ 256.35 and 59.54.

(Code 1980, § 9.02; Ord. No. 12-23; 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-32. Purpose.

This article is enacted for the purpose of creating the county emergency communications division to provide emergency services dispatch and emergency telephone system which can be accessed within the scope of this article by dialing the numbers 911 and a rural roadway and address numbering system.

(Code 1980, § 9.03; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-33. Scope.

The E 911 system and dispatch shall be in effect throughout the county, including all towns, villages and cities, except that portion of the City of Eau Claire located in Chippewa County.

(Code 1980, § 9.04; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-34. Reserved.

(Code 1980, § 9.05; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-35. Administration.

- (a) *Generally.* The sheriff shall provide supervision and direction to the emergency communications director and staff.
- (b) *Emergency communications director.* The emergency communications division shall be directed by an emergency communications director and shall serve at the pleasure of the sheriff.
- (c) *Duties of emergency communications director.* The emergency communications director shall supervise and direct all telecommunication and dispatch.
- (d) *Supervisors.* The emergency communications director may designate certain dispatchers to serve as supervisors in the operation of the telecommunication and dispatch system.

(Code 1980, § 9.06) (Ord. No. 07-12, 03-12-2012; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-36. Policies and procedures board.

- (a) *Authority and duties.* The policies and procedures board shall promulgate uniform emergency call-out procedures for emergency communications outside the incident grounds. The policies and procedures board shall also serve as a forum by which public safety entities within the county provide technical expertise in the system's function.
- (b) *Membership.* The policies and procedures board shall consist of members as follows:
 - (1) Two representatives of fire departments within the county selected by fire chiefs.
 - (2) Two representatives of emergency medical services (EMS) within the county selected by emergency medical services directors.
 - (3) One representative of police departments within the county selected by chiefs of police.

- (4) County sheriff or designee.
 - (5) County emergency management director.
 - (6) A representative of the City of Chippewa Falls Police and Fire Commission appointed by the Mayor.
 - (7) County emergency communications director.
- (c) *Term of office.* The county sheriff or designee, the county emergency management director, the Chippewa Falls Police and Fire Commission representative, and the county emergency communications director shall be permanent members of the policies and procedures board. One of the representatives for the fire department and emergency medical services shall initially be appointed for one year and the other representatives shall be appointed for two years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be for two years. No selected member of the policies and procedures board shall serve more than two consecutive terms.
- (d) *Procedures.* The policies and procedures board may elect officers, schedule meetings and adopt bylaws to perform its functions as it deems appropriate.
- (e) *Compensation.* Service on the policies and procedures board is voluntary and is not to be compensated. Expenses and/or mileage may be authorized by the legal and law enforcement committee and budgeted through the emergency communications division.

(Code 1980, § 9.07) (Ord. No. 5-08, 09-09-2008, Ord. No. 7-12, 03-13-2012, Ord. No. 24-12, 01-08-2013; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-37. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning indicated.

- (1) *Automatic location identification* has the meaning set forth in Wis. Stats. § 256.35(1)(a).
- (2) *Automatic number identification* has the meaning set forth in Wis. Stats. § 256.35(1)(b).
- (3) *911 emergency telephone system or systems* means a sophisticated system as defined in Wis. Stats. § 256.35(1)(i).
- (4) *PSC* means the public service commission of the state.
- (5) *Public safety answering point* has the meaning set forth in Wis. Stats. § 256.35(1)(gm), and in this article, refers to the public safety answering point operated by the county.
- (6) *Service supplier* has the meaning set forth in Wis. Stats. § 256.35(3)(a)3.
- (7) *Telecommunications utility* has the meaning set forth in Wis. Stats. § 196.01(10).

(Code 1980, § 9.08; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Cross references: Definitions generally, § 1-3.

Sec. 26-38. Construction of chapter.

This article shall be construed to be consistent with Wis. Stats. § 256.35 and acts amendatory thereto. In the event of any conflict of any part of this article with Wis. Stats. § 256.35, the remainder of this article shall not be affected thereby and to that extent all sections of this article are declared to be severable.

(Code 1980, § 9.09; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-39. Plan of operation.

There is created in the county a 911 emergency telephone system with a public safety answering point. The system may be partially funded through a surcharge on the telephone bills of the users of such system as permitted by Wis. Stats. § 256.35(3).

(Code 1980, § 9.10; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-40. Reserved.

Sec. 26-41. Reserved.

Sec. 26-42. Reserved.

Sec. 26-43. surcharge.

The service supplier's provision of the services contemplated in this article shall be governed by its surcharge under Wis. Stats. § 256.35(3).

(Code 1980, § 9.14; Ord. No 12-23, 01-09-2023)

Sec. 26-44. Reserved.

Sec. 26-45. System costs.

- (a) *Assessed against users.* The service supplier shall bill its customers within the county in amounts sufficient to recover its nonrecurring and recurring charges, as provided for in Wis. Stats. § 256.35(3), and in the manner allowed by PSC rules and regulations.
- (b) *User charges.* The service supplier is authorized to asses charges to telephone lines located in the county, except that no charges are authorized against telephone lines of the state or local government, as may be set by County Board resolution or at such rate as may be authorized from time to time by the public service commission. Two separate charges are authorized. Nonrecurring charges shall be for an amount for a fixed period of months. Recurring charges will be a continuing monthly charge per telephone line.

(Code 1980, § 9.16; Ord. No 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-46. Liability of service supplier to third parties.

This article is not intended to, nor shall it be construed to, create, amend, abridge, modify or in any other way affect any obligation or liability of the service supplier, by way of civil action or otherwise, to third parties, including members of the public, for injuries, death or loss to persons or property resulting from its acts or omissions or for its supplier's acts or omissions under this article.

(Code 1980, § 9.17)

Sec. 26-47. Service area boundaries.

Each municipality shall identify the emergency service provider for each type of emergency service within their respective jurisdiction and shall file with the county emergency communications division and emergency management division a reviewed service boundary and service agreement signed by each corresponding authority when an authority or a service boundary changes. Emergency service providers shall not serve persons or properties beyond their identified service boundary except through mutual aid. Changes or modifications to the boundaries may be implemented as soon as reasonably possible upon official filing.

(Code 1980, § 9.18; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-48. County services.

The county shall provide the ongoing dispatch services for the 911 system as part of its general dispatch operation for all municipalities within the county, except the part of the City of Eau Claire that lies within the boundaries of the county. No charge shall be made to the municipalities of the county for such dispatch.

(Code 1980, § 9.19; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-49. Development duties and costs.

The county shall be solely responsible for the following:

- (1) Negotiating service contracts with telecommunications utilities.
- (2) Negotiation and acquisition of computer software and dispatch equipment.
- (3) Grid mapping.
- (4) Negotiating contracts for signage for the public safety mapping and numbering system for the county.

(Code 1980, § 9.20; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-50. Service contracts.

The sheriff is authorized to negotiate service contracts with telecommunications utilities and other service providers.

(Code 1980, § 9.21) (Ord. No. 07-12, 03-12-2012; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-51. Public safety answering point.

The public safety answering point shall be the county emergency communications division center for all calls originating from within the county except the part of the City of Eau Claire within the boundaries of the county.

(Code 1980, § 9.22; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-52. Definitions.

The following definitions are applicable to sections 26-52 through 26-56:

- (a) *Roadway* means a public road under the care and supervision of a town or a private road or driveway servicing three (3) or more principal structures or three (3) or more improved properties or any combination thereof.
- (b) *Site Identification Number* means a number assigned to a property or multiple structures or portions of structures on the property for the purpose of providing service of aiding in fire protection, emergency services and civil defense. Typically, this is referred to as the address or mailing address for the building.

(Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-53. Rural naming and numbering system.

- (a) Pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 59.54(4), a rural naming and numbering system consisting of roadways and site identification numbers conforming to the county's rural numbering grid system, where applicable, throughout the unincorporated areas of the county is authorized.
- (b) *Uniform Numbering Assignment.* The emergency management division shall maintain the county's public safety mapping, make the assignment of names to all roadways and assign site identification numbers.

(Code 1980, § 9.23; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-54. Signage.

- (a) *Site identification number.*
 - (1) *Application.* Prior to excavation, construction, erection or placement of any improvement to land not already assigned a site identification number, the owner thereof shall submit a completed Chippewa County Uniform Address/Driveway Authority Form or other approved form to the Department of Planning & Zoning for review. A site identification number will be assigned by the 911 GIS Coordinator. A copy of the Chippewa County 911 Uniform Address/Driveway Authority Form or other approved form, with the number assigned thereon, shall be forwarded to the town clerk in which the property is located and the applicant. The 911 GIS Coordinator shall determine the appropriate location for the placement of the sign and install the sign. The sign shall not be moved except with consent of the 911 GIS Coordinator.

- (2) *Specifications.* The color and size of the site identification sign shall be uniform double-sided reflective four-inch numbering on a red background affixed to a fiberglass post.
- (3) *Cost.* Applicants applying for a site identification number shall submit a fee as established by County Board resolution, which shall cover the county's cost of the site identification number assignment, records management and sign installation.
- (4) *Mobile home and recreational vehicle park.*

The owners of all mobile home and recreational vehicle parks within the county shall be required to sequentially number each unit located therein. The numbers shall be a minimum of three (3) inches in height and coordinating the numbers shall be uniformly placed in a location identifying each unit and clearly visible from the access road year-round. An updated plot plan identifying the sequentially numbered units shall be submitted to the 911 GIS Coordinator within thirty (30) days of a written request.

- (5) *Obsolete numbering systems.* Each town shall be responsible for the removal of all obsolete fire numbers from properties within their jurisdiction. The emergency management division shall replace any site identification signs that may become obsolete thereafter.
- (6) *Cost of Sign Replacement.* The owner of each parcel of land that has been assigned a site identification number is responsible for the continued erection and maintenance of such sign. In the event a site identification number is damaged or removed, the property owner shall be responsible for the replacement cost of the sign within ten (10) days of notice by the town or the 911 GIS Coordinator.

(c) *Roadway Grid Signs.*

- (1) *Public Roadways.* Roadway grid designation signs shall be required on all public roadways within the county and shall be comprised of white letters on a green background in accordance with specifications determined by the county. The sign shall be six (6) inches from top to bottom with four (4)-inch lettering. If a town board opts to add a road name to the roadway grid designation, the sign shall be nine (9) inches from top to bottom with four (4)-inch lettering for roadway grid designation and two (2)-inch letters for the local road name.
- (2) *Private Roadways or Driveways.* All private roads or driveways that service three (3) or more building sites or three (3) or more properties or combination thereof which adds up to three (3) or more shall be assigned a road name conforming to the roadway grid designation, where applicable, and shall be labeled as private.
- (3) *Cost.* Each town shall be responsible for the cost of the initial roadway sign designation signs and the erection, maintenance and replacement for all roadway grid designation signs within each respective town, except that the county shall be responsible for the cost and erection of the initial roadway grid designation signs that identify roadways of the county and state highway system and such signs that identify both a town road and a county or state highway. Subsequent maintenance and replacement of all roadway grid designation signs shall be the obligation of the town wherein such signs are located.

The town shall have ten (10) working days upon receipt of notice from the county to secure and erect replacement signs. In the event the town should not do so, the County Highway Department shall install the roadway sign and bill the cost of the sign and its erection to the town. The town shall pay the county within thirty (30) days of receipt of billing.

(Code 1980, § 9.24) (Ord. No. 07-12, 03-12-2012; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Sec. 26-55. Enforcement.

- (a) *Violations.* No person shall damage, remove or obstruct from visual site, any site identification or roadway grid designation sign.
- (b) *Penalties.* Any person who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit to the county a penalty of not less than \$100.00 together with the taxable costs in such action and not more than \$500.00, and in default of payment thereof shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a term of not more than thirty (30) days or until such penalty and costs are paid. Compliance with this chapter is mandatory, and no building or structure shall be allowed without full compliance. Compliance therewith may also be enforced by injunctive order at the suit of the county against the owner or owners of real estate affected by the regulations of this section. The emergency management director, or their designee, is authorized to issue citations for violations under sections 26-52 through 26-54.

(Code 1980, § 9.25; Ord. No. 12-23, 01-09-2024)

Secs. 26-56--26-80. Reserved.