

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE #10-2025**

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE,
IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AMENDING CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2-8 *ET SEQ.* OF
THE TOWNSHIP CODE, PERMITTING THE WANTAGE
TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CHARGE
FOR RESPONDING TO CERTAIN EMERGENCIES**

WHEREAS, from time to time, the Wantage Township Volunteer Fire Department responds to motor vehicle accidents and other incidents involving hazardous substances; and

WHEREAS, such response requires providing fire and rescue services by members of the Wantage Township Volunteer Fire Department, including, providing supplies, materials and other types of response expenses which are not otherwise recoverable by the Wantage Township Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing supplies, materials and other response expenses are increasing while the revenues of the Wantage Township Volunteer Fire Department are not increasing at the same rate; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Wantage have determined to impose a reasonable cost upon the owners of vehicles involved in motor vehicle incidents and in other incidents involving hazardous waste within the municipal boundaries of the Township of Wantage in order to enable the Township and the Wantage Township Volunteer Fire Department to continue to provide such vital and necessary services to the public.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Township of Wantage Committee, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION ONE. The General Ordinances of the Township of Wantage are amended to add the following as Section 2-8.11

§2-8.11.1 Definitions.

As used in this subsection, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

COSTS

All costs incurred by the Wantage Township Volunteer Fire Department, including but not limited to the following: actual labor costs of personnel, including workers' compensation benefits, fringe benefits and administrative overhead; cost of equipment operation and

depreciation; cost of materials; administrative and billing costs; and the cost of any outside contract for labor and materials.

DEPARTMENT

The Wantage Township Volunteer Fire Department.

DISCHARGE

Any intentional or unintentional action or omission resulting in the releasing, spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping of any hazardous substance into the water, onto the land, or into the air.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE

Any and all elements and compounds, including petroleum products, which are defined as such by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection or as are defined in the NFPA Guide of Hazardous Materials, or as are set forth in the list of hazardous substances adopted by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, or as are defined on the list of toxic pollutants designated by Congress or the Environmental Protection Agency.

INCIDENT

All emergencies requiring the call out of the Department, including, but not limited to, motor vehicle accidents, structure fires, alarm responses, and rescues.

MATERIALS

All materials, including but not limited to firefighting foam, chemical extinguishing agents, absorbent material, sand recovery drums, and specialized protective equipment, such as acid suits, acid gloves, goggles and protective clothing.

PERSON

Any public or private corporation, company, association, society, firm, partnership, joint-stock company, individual, or other entity.

PETROLEUM PRODUCT

Oil or petroleum of any kind and in any form, including but not limited to oil, petroleum, gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil, oil sludge, oil refuse, oil mixed with other wastes, crude oils and substantives or additives utilized in the refining or blending of crude, petroleum or petroleum stock.

§ 2-8.11.2 Authorization for cleanup; supervision or verification; responsibility for costs .

A. The Department is authorized, but not required, to mitigate the effects of any discharge for any reason, including as the result of a motor vehicle accident, within the Township. The following described persons shall be jointly and severally liable to the Volunteer

Fire Department for payment of all costs incurred by the Volunteer Fire Department as a result of such mitigation activity:

1. The persons that own or operate any vehicle responsible for hazardous material fire, discharge of hazardous material, or any other condition resulting from any accident or incident requiring the call out of the Department and its expenditure of costs;
2. Any persons who own real or personal property responsible for hazardous material fire, discharge of hazardous material, or any other condition resulting from any accident or incident requiring the call out of the Department and its expenditure of costs;
3. The persons that own or are responsible for any vessel containing the hazardous material involved in such fire or discharge, whether stationary or in transit, and whether accidental or negligent;
4. The owner or person(s) responsible for any property from which any discharge of hazardous material emanates, whether accidental or through negligence;
5. The person(s) responsible for any incident as defined herein that requires the call out of the Department and the Department's incurring of costs.
6. The person or persons whose negligent or willful act or omission proximately caused such discharge; and
7. The person or persons who owned or had custody or control of the container which held such hazardous waste or substance at the time or immediately prior to such release, discharge or deposit, without regard to fault of proximate cause.

B. The remedies provided in this article shall be in addition to any other remedies provided by the law.

C. The authority to recover costs under this article shall not include actual fire suppression services which are normally or usually provided by the Volunteer Fire Department.

§ 2-8.11.3 Documentation of emergency services rendered.

The Volunteer Fire Department shall submit all documentation of the rendering of emergency services to the owner of the vehicle(s)/insurance company involved in an automobile incident/accident with the following information:

A. The date, time and place that the response by the Volunteer Fire Department was made;

B. A list of the expendable equipment, supplies, labor, treatments, etc., used by the Volunteer Fire Department in responding to such automotive incident and accident, together with the reasonable cost to replace such equipment, supplies, labor, treatments, etc.; and

C. The cost to repair and/or replace equipment that was damaged or destroyed in responding to such automotive incident and accident.

§ 2-8.11.4 Fees.

The Township of Wantage hereby authorizes the Volunteer Fire Department to seek reimbursement for the cost of emergency response services as provided below. This fee schedule shall be published on the website maintained by the Township of Wantage and available upon request from the Municipal Clerk.

Labor Items	
Title	Price (per hour)
Chief	\$50 (incident command)
Deputy Chief	\$45
Fire Police	\$25
Firefighter	\$30

Equipment Items		
Apparatus	Unit ID	Cost (per hour)
62 Engine	62 Engine	\$400
64 Engine	64 Engine	\$400
62 Squad	62 Squad	\$500
64 Squad	64 Squad	\$500
62 Tanker	62 Tanker	\$400
64 Tanker 6	64 Tanker 6	\$300
64 Tanker 7	64 Tanker 7	\$200
Chief command vehicle	Command	\$300
Mutual Aid Department	Mutual Aid	\$125
Hydraulic pump	Jaws Pump	\$100
Hydraulic RAM	Jaws Ram	\$125
Hydraulic spreader	Jaws Spreader	\$125
Mutual aid engine	Engine	\$400
Mutual aid rescue	Rescue	\$750
Portable generator with light	Portable Generator	\$50
Reciprocating saw	Sawzall	\$25
Traffic control support vehicle	Fire Police	\$75
Truck-mounted generator	Generator	\$150
UTV and trailer	62 UTV	\$200

Consumable Items			
Product Name	SKU	Unit	Amount
10-by-10 tarp		Each	\$25
Absorbent spill pads		Each	\$7
AED pads	AED	Pair	\$125
Backpack blower	blower	Each	\$50
Case, bottled water	H2O	Each	\$8
Caution tape (per foot)	Tape	Other	\$2
Decon spray	Decon	Other	\$50
Extrication gloves	PPE	Pair	\$50
Fire extinguisher		Each	\$50
Flares		Each	\$3
Foam wet water		Gallon	\$25
Garbage bag	Garbage/Debris	Each	\$2
Glas-Master blade	Glass	Each	\$25
K-12 cutting blade	Cut	Each	\$75
Kenwood NX-1200 two-way radio	Radio	Each	\$350
Miscellaneous EMS supplies	Misc	Other	\$20
Unication G1 Pager	Pager	Each	\$500
Nitrile/latex gloves	Gloves	Pair	\$1
PPE boots	Boots	Pair	\$350
PPE extrication gloves	Extrication Gloves	Pair	\$55
PPE fire gloves	Structural Gloves	Pair	\$72
PPE helmet	Helmet	Each	\$375
PPE jacket	Turnout Coat	Each	\$2000
PPE pants	Bunker Pants	Each	\$2500
PPU portable	PPU	Each	\$100
Preparedness fee	Prep	Each	\$300
Rescue-certified rope	Rescue Rope	Each	\$530
Road brooms		Each	\$15
Sawzall blades	Sawzall	Each	\$15
Speedy Dry (25 pounds)		Bag	\$13.50
Traffic cone	Cone	Each	\$22
Utility rope	Rope	Each	\$20
Wood cribbing	Cribbing	Each	\$15

The fee schedule may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Township Committee upon recommendation of the Volunteer Fire Department.

1. Interest and administration fees. In addition to the aforementioned fees and costs, the Department is hereby authorized to collect reasonable interest and administration fees for the collection of the fees and costs due and owing from the insurance companies or responsible parties for the services rendered and/or materials provided.
2. Report to Township Committee. The Department shall provide not less than annually a report to the Township Committee detailing all billing and receipts under this subsection.
3. Time limit for reimbursement. Any person(s) responsible for any vehicle fire, discharge of hazardous materials, structure fire, or other incident as defined in this subsection shall reimburse the Department pursuant to the schedule of fees hereunder or provide proof that it has submitted a claim to its insurance carrier for payment within 45 days after receipt of a statement from the Department outlining said costs and expenses. These provisions shall be subject to the following:
 - a. Persons receiving services from the Department shall cooperate with the Department or other billing personnel hired by the Department to secure full payment for services rendered from any necessary insurance carrier.
 - b. Due to anticipated time requirements for the preparation and processing of insurance claims, parties that have provided proof of a claim to their insurance carrier shall not be charged interest or be subject to penalties hereunder.
 - c. Responsible persons under this subsection shall ensure that the Department is authorized to receive any payments from an insurance carrier as required by this subsection.
 - d. The Department reserves the right to determine that a bill is uncollectible by reason of unavailability of insurance coverage and be written off.

§ 2-8.11.5 Collection of costs.

Said costs and fees as outlined in Section 2-8.11.4 Fees, shall be recovered directly by the Department or through a third-party billing agent engaged in the business of emergency response billing under a contract with the Department by billing to the responsible party. All agreements with third party billing agents shall be subject to the approval of the Township Committee. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the Volunteer Fire Department is authorized to waive fees set forth in Section 2-8.11.4 for any Township resident if the resident lacks insurance coverage, and for any deductible or co-payment requirements unless the mitigation activity was the result of the negligence, intentional act or gross negligence of the resident.

SECTION TWO. Any article, section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or other provision of the Revised General Ordinance of the Township of Wantage inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION THREE. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION FOUR. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication and filing with the Sussex County Planning Board, and as otherwise provided for by law.

Ronald Bassani, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Morales, RMC
Township Clerk

Introduction:

	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Bassani						
VanderGroef						
Dudzinski						

Adoption:

	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Bassani						
VanderGroef						
Dudzinski						