

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025 - 22

OAKLAND TOWNSHIP, BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ONEIDA VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
(OVFC) TO SEEK AND RECOVER REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROVIDING EMERGENCY
RESPONSES FOR FIRE, RESCUE, MEDICAL, HAZARD ABATEMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN OAKLAND TOWNSHIP**

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby enacted and ordained that Chapter 6, Fire Protection and Prevention, of the Oakland Township Code of Ordinances is hereby revised by adding Article 2, OVFC Emergency Response Cost Reimbursement, as follows:

**CHAPTER 6
FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION**

**ARTICLE 2
OVFC EMERGENCY RESPONSE COST REIMBURSEMENT**

§ 6-201. TITLE.

This Article shall be known as the "Oakland Township OVFC Emergency Response Cost Reimbursement Ordinance."

§ 6-202. AUTHORITY, FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

A. Authority - Under Section 1803(b) of the Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. §66803(b), the Township has the authority to make rules and regulations for the government of fire companies located within the Township.

B. Findings - The Township recognizes that the number of emergency services responses to accidents or incidents occurring in the Township continues to increase each year. Such responses require specialized vehicles, tools, equipment, materials, supplies and training. The Township finds that the cost associated with the specialized training and purchase, repair and replacement of such vehicles, tools, equipment, materials and supplies add to the financial burden facing volunteer fire companies.

C. Purpose - To grant Oneida Valley Volunteer Fire Company (OVFC) the authority to seek and recover reimbursement for the reasonable costs and expenses of providing emergency responses to fire, rescue, medical, hazard abatement and environmental incidents occurring in Oakland Township.

§ 6-203. RECOVERY OF COSTS AND EXPENSES.

A. OVFC is authorized to recover the reasonable costs and expenses of providing emergency personnel, vehicles, tools, equipment, materials and supplies to the scene of any fire, rescue, medical, hazard abatement or environmental incident occurring in Oakland Township.

B. OVFC is also authorized to recover such reasonable costs and expenses of providing emergency responses to the scene of any public safety incident involving personnel, equipment or facilities of a public utility company.

C. The reasonable costs and expenses outlined above may be recovered directly by OVFC or through a third-party billing service as its authorized agent for the collection of such costs.

D. OVFC or third-party billing service shall file the claim for reimbursement, up to the limit of the carrier's policy limits, with the insurance carrier of the vehicle or property owner or other responsible party. All claims for reimbursement shall clearly itemize the costs and expenses that have been incurred by OVFC in providing the response.

E. The reimbursement rates for such costs and expenses shall be set by OVFC and revised from time to time. A copy of the rate schedule shall be provided to the Township within five (5) working days of the approved adoption or revision of the rates.

F. All amounts collected as a result of this Article shall be placed into a fund as established by OVFC to be used exclusively for OVFC's training, tools, equipment, materials and supplies.

G. OVFC's mutual aid responses in another Fire Department's service area outside of Oakland Township are not authorized or subject to reimbursement claims under this Article.

H. OVFC may file an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover the amount of any unpaid claim, plus interest, administrative fees, reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs.

I. In addition, OVFC or its third-party billing service is authorized to collect any and all additional fees as may be authorized by the Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act, 35 P.S. § 6022.201, or authorized by any other statute or law.

J. OVFC shall not invoice the Township's insurance carrier for reimbursement for any services rendered to the Township or Township personnel or vehicles while on duty.

§ 6-204. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TOWNSHIP.

The Township shall not be responsible for any aspect of the recovery of costs under this Article. The Township shall not take any steps to assist OVFC or any third-party billing service in recovery of such costs.

§ 6-205. ACCOUNTING.

At the request of the Board of Supervisors, OVFC shall provide the Township with an accounting of the reimbursable funds, including but not limited to the amount charged and the amount collected, the fund account number and depository into which the reimbursed amounts are deposited, and all deposits and expenditures made from the fund in which the reimbursed amounts were deposited. The Township shall have the right to audit the charges and the fund or require OVFC to obtain an audit of the charges and the fund and provide a copy to the Township.

§ 6-206. REVOCATION OF GRANT OF AUTHORITY.

Any attempt by OVFC or its third-party billing service to recover such costs from any individual/entity other than the appropriate insurance carrier shall result in the immediate revocation of the authority to recover such costs granted under this Article.

§ 6-207. SEVERABILITY.

The provisions of this Article shall be severable and, if any of the provisions hereof shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Article shall remain in effect.

§ 6-208. REPEALER.

All articles or parts of articles conflicting with any of the provisions of this Article are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

§ 6-209. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Article shall become effective five (5) days after enactment and shall remain in force until modified, amended or rescinded by the Board of Supervisors.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 2nd day of July 2025, by the Board of Supervisors of Oakland Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

ATTEST:

**OAKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Diana M. Foehringer
Township Secretary

By: _____
Shaun M. Krill, Chairperson

(SEAL)

By: _____
Brian G. Hans, Vice Chairperson

By: _____
John R. Wogan
Supervisor