

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHING THE PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT; DESIGNATING OFFICIAL CAREER FIRE AND RESCUE ORGANIZATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION, POWERS, DUTIES, AND OPERATIONS OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP; AND REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF.

WHEREAS, Plumstead Township ("Township") is a Second Class Township organized and operating under the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 65101 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Section 1502 of the Second Class Township Code authorizes the Board of Supervisors to establish, equip, maintain, and operate fire companies and fire departments for the protection of persons and property within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has determined that the establishment of a Township-operated, career fire department will enhance public safety, improve emergency response times, ensure reliable daytime and overnight fire protection, and support the health, safety, and welfare of Township residents, businesses, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has reviewed operational, financial, labor, insurance, and risk management considerations related to the creation of a career fire department; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors desires to formally establish a career fire department and provide for its governance, staffing, and funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Plumstead Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania that the Plumstead Township Code is hereby amended as follows:

ARTICLE I. ADOPTION OF STANDARDS

Chapter 10 of the Plumstead Township Code, relating to Health and Safety, is hereby amended with the creation of a new Part 5 entitled "Fire Department Governance" The newly created Part 5 shall read as follows:

§10-501. Short Title.

This Part shall be known and may be cited as the "Plumstead Township Fire and Rescue Department Ordinance."

§10-502. Legislative Intent.

The Board of Supervisors finds that the protection of life and property from fire, hazardous conditions, medical emergencies, and other emergencies is essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Township. The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish and organize a combination fire and rescue system consisting of career and volunteer personnel operating cooperatively to provide emergency response services within the Township.

§10-503. Designation of Official Career Fire and Rescue Organization.

A. The Board of Supervisors hereby establishes the Plumstead Township Fire and Rescue Department as the Township's official career firefighting and rescue agency operating within the Township's combination fire system.

B. Employees of the Plumstead Township Fire and Rescue Department shall be employees of the Township.

C. The Township may enter into Fire Service Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, or other cooperative agreements with designated volunteer fire companies governing operational coordination, staffing, facilities, apparatus, training, funding, use of equipment, incident command, and related matters.

D. All volunteer fire departments that have fire call boxes located in Plumstead Township shall enter into the Fire Service Agreement with Plumstead Township & Plumstead Township Fire and Rescue Department.

§10-504. Authorized Activities.

The Plumstead Township Fire and Rescue Department is authorized to perform the following activities:

A. Fire suppression, firefighting, rescue operations, emergency medical response support, hazardous materials response, vehicle rescue, technical rescue, and related emergency operations necessary for the protection of life and property.

B. Fire prevention, community risk reduction, fire safety education, public safety outreach, emergency preparedness, life safety fire inspections, fire investigations, and code enforcement activities as authorized by Township ordinance, policy, or applicable law.

C. Non-emergency public service activities including storm response, hazard mitigation, public assistance activities, debris removal, and actions necessary to protect persons or property from natural or man-made dangers.

D. Training activities, drills, exercises, certifications, and continuing education programs within or outside the Township deemed necessary for operational readiness and compliance with applicable standards.

E. Mutual aid responses and assistance to municipalities, agencies, and organizations outside the Township pursuant to mutual aid agreements, regional response systems, county dispatch protocols, or requests for assistance.

§10-505. Composition of the Fire and Rescue Department.

The Plumstead Township Fire and Rescue Department shall consist of such divisions, personnel, fire companies, officers, and employees as may from time to time be authorized by the Board of Supervisors by ordinance, resolution, policy, collective bargaining agreement, or budget appropriation, including but not limited to:

1. The Fire Chief;
2. Deputy Chiefs or Assistant Chiefs;
3. Fire Officers;
4. Firefighters;
5. Fire Marshal personnel;
6. Administrative or support personnel; and
7. Such additional personnel as deemed necessary for the operation of the Department.

§10-506. Appointment and Duties of the Fire Chief.

A. The head of the Plumstead Township Fire and Rescue Department shall be the Fire Chief, who shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors and employed by the Township.

B. The Fire Chief shall report to the Director of Public Safety or such other Township official as designated by the Board of Supervisors.

C. The Fire Chief, or their designee, shall serve as the Incident Commander at fire and rescue incidents within the Township in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Incident Command System (ICS), and applicable laws, regulations, policies, and mutual aid procedures.

D. The Fire Chief shall have the authority and responsibility to:

1. Direct and coordinate firefighting, rescue, fire prevention, fire investigation, emergency response, and community risk reduction activities within the Township;

2. Develop, implement, and enforce rules, regulations, policies, standard operating guidelines, and operational procedures consistent with recognized fire service practices and Township policy;
3. Coordinate personnel, apparatus, facilities, and equipment necessary to control emergencies and protect life and property;
4. Coordinate and collaborate with volunteer fire companies, emergency medical services agencies, law enforcement agencies, emergency management personnel, county agencies, and other public safety entities;
5. Supervise and evaluate Department personnel and oversee operational readiness, training, safety compliance, and emergency preparedness;
6. Oversee life safety fire inspections, fire code enforcement activities, and fire investigations as authorized by Township ordinance or applicable law; and
7. Perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Director of Public Safety or the Board of Supervisors.

§10-507. Appointment and Duties of Firefighters and Fire Officers.

A. The Plumstead Township Fire and Rescue Department shall consist of such career firefighters, officers, and personnel as may be appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

B. Fire Officers and Firefighters shall report through the chain of command established by the Fire Chief.

C. Members of the Department shall be responsible for:

1. Responding to incidents within the Township and to requests for assistance through mutual aid systems and regional response agreements;
2. Conducting fire prevention activities, community risk reduction initiatives, life, safety, and fire inspections, and fire safety education programs;
3. Maintaining operational readiness of firefighting apparatus, rescue equipment, stations, facilities, and related property;
4. Participating in required training, drills, certifications, and continuing education necessary to maintain proficiency and compliance with applicable standards;
5. Assisting with fire investigations, emergency management activities, code enforcement support, emergency medical support operations, special operations, and related public safety functions; and

6. Performing such additional duties as may be assigned by supervisory personnel consistent with Department operations.

D. Life safety fire inspections and fire code enforcement activities shall be conducted only by personnel authorized by Township ordinance, resolution, policy, certification, or applicable law.

§10-508. Rules, Regulations, and Policies.

The Board of Supervisors may adopt, amend, and enforce such rules, regulations, policies, standard operating guidelines, administrative procedures, and agreements as may be necessary for the effective administration and operation of the Township's fire and rescue services.

ARTICLE II. REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

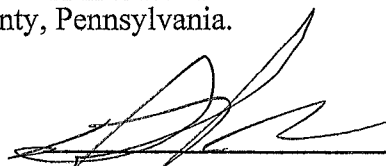
ARTICLE III. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

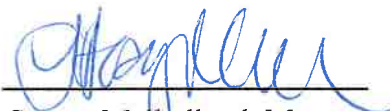
ARTICLE IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon enactment as provided by law.

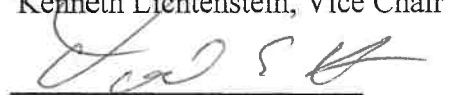
ORDAINED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026, by the Board of Supervisors of Plumstead Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.


Matthew Given, Chair

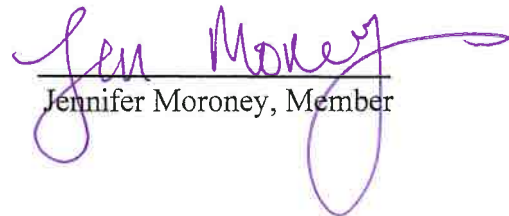
ATTEST:


Stacey Mulholland, Manager


Kenneth Lichtenstein, Vice Chair


Danial Hilferty, Member


Gregory Bankos, Member


Jennifer Moroney, Member