

**ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF AMBULANCE AND
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Commission to promote a high standard of care for Blount County citizens in need of emergency medical and ambulance services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to state law and specifically, Title 68, Chapter 140 and Title 7, Chapter 61 of Tennessee Code Annotated and other applicable laws, counties are given the authority to implement reasonable regulations to control the provisions of emergency medical and ambulance services within the county:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Blount County, Tennessee, meeting in regular session assembled this ____ day of August, 2026 as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

1. *Ambulance* means any privately or publicly owned land or air vehicle that is especially designed, constructed or modified and equipped and is intended to be used for and is maintained or operated for transportation upon the streets, highways or airways in this state for persons who are sick, injured, wounded, otherwise incapacitated, helpless, or in need of medical care;
2. *Ambulance service* means the principal use of any privately or publicly owned ambulance for the transportation of persons who are sick, injured, wounded, otherwise incapacitated, helpless, or in need of medical care.
3. *Department* means the Tennessee Department of Health.
4. *Medical Director* is the person designated by Blount County as the Medical Director to oversee ambulance and emergency medical services in Blount County. The Medical Director may be contacted c/o the Blount County Purchasing Director, 385 Court Street, Maryville, Tennessee, 37804; phone number (865) 273-5740.
5. *Emergency Medical Services* or *EMS* means the services utilized in responding to the perceived need for immediate medical care in order to prevent loss of life or aggravation of illness or injury.

6. *Emergency medical response vehicle* means any privately or publicly owned vehicle which is maintained or operated for the transportation of emergency medical and personnel, equipment, and supplies to the scene of a medical emergency for the provision of emergency medical services.
7. *Service provider* means any person licensed by the Department and certified by the medical director to provide ambulance service or emergency medical services.

Section 2. Certification Required.

- (a) No person may operate or advertise as being available to act as a service provider within Blount County without receiving an emergency medical services provider certificate from the medical director.
- (b) The medical director may waive the requirement of certification on an emergency basis upon certification to the county mayor that a public health emergency presently exists and requires that the uncertified persons be allowed to act as service providers until the abatement of the public health emergency.

Section 3. Application – Contents.

- (a) Any person desiring to receive certification as a service provider shall submit application to the medical director on such forms as may be required by the medical director. Application forms(s) can be obtained from the Blount County Purchasing Department and shall be submitted to the medical director c/o Blount County Purchasing Director, 385 Court Street, Maryville, TN 37804; phone number: (865) 273-5740, and copy provided to the Blount County Mayor, 341 Court Street, Maryville, TN 37804.

The application shall contain the following information:

- 1) The applicant's name, business address, principal place of business, and the name under which the applicant intends to do business in the county. If the applicant is a corporation, the name and address of any person owning more than ten percent (10%) of the applicant's previously issued stock. If the applicant is doing business other than as a corporation, the name and address of all persons possessing an equity or ownership interest in the business.

Section 4. Operating Requirements.

- (a) All ground ambulances used for non-emergency patient transportation shall not be more than ten (10) years old from the date of sale as a new vehicle and shall not have more than 250,000 miles.
- (b) Emergency medical response vehicles shall not be more than ten (10) years old from the date of sale as a new vehicle and shall not have more than 200,000 miles.
- (c) Vehicle maintenance records, mechanical certifications and inventory records must meet the rules and regulations as promulgated by the Department. Such records shall be available for inspection by a representative of Blount County or the medical director at all times.
- (d) All ground ambulances shall have inclement weather capabilities of automatic snow chains or four-by-four (4x4) capabilities.
- (e) Emergency medical response vehicles need to be equipped to respond in inclement weather. EMS response vehicles must be four-by-four (4x4) or all-wheel drive (AWD). Support vehicles need to be able to transport a patient supine on a long spine board, if needed.
- (f) Each ambulance and response vehicle shall be equipped with mobile and portable radio communications to be able to communicate with Blount County Communications Center – Medical Dispatch and all Blount County first responder agencies and comply with the minimum standards set by the Department's rules and regulations for emergency medical services telecommunications. All ambulances and response vehicles shall be licensed by the FCC as required by the Department's rules and regulations for emergency medical services telecommunications.
- (g) All service providers shall establish mutual aid agreements with other local EMS agencies for assistance in the event of major disaster or incident.
- (h) Each service provider shall maintain a fixed base of operation within the county which houses the necessary equipment for communications and business functions and shall maintain capability for twenty-four (24) hour per day communications with public, all ambulances, and with the emergency departments of hospitals within the county.

- (i) No service provider shall publish or advertise a ten (10) digit number for emergency response.
- (j) No service provider shall respond to a telephone call for emergency medical response unless dispatched by the Blount County Communications Center – Medical Dispatch.
- (k) All service providers operating in the county shall maintain such insurance policies consistent with the rules and regulations of the Tennessee Department of Health Division of Emergency Medical Services.
- (l) All insurance policies issued to satisfy this requirement shall be provided by companies licensed and authorized to do business in the State of Tennessee and in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Tennessee Department of Health Division of Emergency Medical Services.
- (m) Any service provided shall comply with all applicable rules of the Department and obtain any license(s) required by the Department.

Section 5. Enforcement.

- (a) The medical director may investigate allegations of violations of the requirements of this Ordinance. Upon discovering a violation, the medical director may issue a citation in the medical director's name. If the medical director chooses not to issue a citation, the medical director may turn their findings over to the Department for further investigation.

Section 6. Penalty and Jurisdiction.

- (a) A violation of any provision or section of this Ordinance (unless otherwise noted) is punishable by a civil penalty of not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50) or more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) provided the complaining party carries the burden of proof by preponderance of the evidence. Each day that a violation occurs is a separate and distinct violation subject to a separate civil penalty for each day that the violation occurs.
- (b) The General Sessions Court for Blount County, Tennessee shall have jurisdiction to enforce this Ordinance by assessing the monetary penalties provided in (a) of

this section and issuing any orders necessary to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

- (c) The requirements of this Ordinance shall apply throughout Blount County unless a municipality or town have instituted rules and regulations for ambulance services or emergency medical services within the boundaries of the municipality or town. In that case, this Ordinance will have no application within the boundaries of such municipality or town.
- (d) In addition to addition to any civil penalty or order issued, the court may also assess court costs in the amount of \$170.00, except in the event of a first offense, the court is authorized to assess the sum of \$20.00 in court costs.
- (e) Upon notice and opportunity to be heard, the certificate of any service provider may be revoked by the medical director for any violation of the requirements of this Ordinance or any rule or regulation of the Department. The revocation may be appealed by the statutory writ of certiorari.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage by the Blount County Board of Commissioners, the public welfare requiring it.