



## Bayfield County Administrator

117 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 878, Washburn, WI 54891

Ph: 715-373-6181 Fx: 715-373-6153

Mark Abeles-Allison, *County Administrator*  
Kim Mattson, *Finance Director*

Kristine Kavajecz, *Human Resources Director*  
Gail Reha, *Bookkeeper* Paige Terry, *Clerk III*

---

September 20, 2024

Bayfield County Municipalities and Red Cliff Tribe

Re: Emergency Medical Services

Dear Bayfield County Municipalities and the Red Cliff Tribe:

Over three years ago, Bayfield County was encouraged to set up an Ad Hoc EMS Advisory Committee after ambulance, resident, tribal and town representatives expressed concerns about EMS services long-term sustainability. These concerns included fewer emergency service responders, longer wait times, an aging population, and the increasing difficulty of meeting new emergency response standards. Bayfield County has facilitated discussions at the request of service providers to ensure that high quality emergency medical services are available throughout the county.

Since the committee was created in 2021, it has completed its first report and some of its recommendations have already been put into action. A consultant study was commissioned in 2024 to give more ideas on how to maintain and improve EMS response in Bayfield County.

On Wednesday, September 18, 2024, the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors' Executive Committee approved including \$750,000 in the 2025 annual budget to be dedicated to improving countywide EMS response capabilities. The Committee also agreed to continue providing \$180,000, divided amongst the nine EMS agencies serving Bayfield County in addition to funds for Emergency Medical Dispatch.

The final consultant report is available on the main county web page at:

<https://bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13776/EMS-Committee-Report>.

Details on the EMS Advisory Committee can be found on the committee's web page at:

<https://bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/1265/Ad-Hoc-EMS-Advisory-Committee>.

The Executive Committee has asked county staff to work with communities and agencies over the next 40 days, before the full board considers the 2025 budget approval on October 29. The County asks for your input in these discussions. Your feedback is important in making sure all understand the issues and can create a shared plan for long-term EMS success in Bayfield County.

Thank you for your comments and ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Abeles-Allison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark Abeles-Allison  
Bayfield County Administrator  
[Mark.abeles-allison@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov](mailto:Mark.abeles-allison@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov)