RESOLUTION NO. 632 – 26

REQUESTING THAT WIS. STAT. § 66.0602(3)(e)(6) BE AMENDED TO APPLY THE LEVY-LIMIT EXCEPTION TO COUNTYWIDE EMS, FIRE, AND INTEGRATED FIRE/EMS SERVICES

WHEREAS, Marinette County and communities across Wisconsin are witnessing increasing operational costs for emergency response services due to factors such as rising call volumes, personnel shortages, and the need for modernized equipment and facilities; and

WHEREAS, many communities are facing a persistent decline in volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel, contributing to staffing strain, longer response times, and reliance on mutual-aid agreements; and

WHEREAS, these pressures have accelerated a statewide shift toward more integrated Fire/EMS service models, which require stable, predictable, long-term funding mechanisms to ensure readiness and response capacity; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(3)(e)(6) currently authorizes a levy-limit exemption exclusively for countywide EMS services; and

WHEREAS, expanding this provision to include countywide fire and combined Fire/EMS services would enhance the ability of counties to coordinate service delivery, improve system sustainability, and create stronger regional models that adapt to changing community needs; and

WHEREAS, Marinette County is evaluating options to support EMS operations on a long-term, countywide basis, and statutory flexibility is essential for future planning and intergovernmental coordination; and

WHEREAS, ensuring high-quality emergency response is a matter of public safety, public health, and community resilience, and counties must be equipped with modern tools to support these critical services;

WHEREAS, while local input is vital, statewide uniformity remains a critical goal to ensure predictability, fairness, and consistency among regulatory bodies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Marinette County Board of Supervisors hereby respectfully requests that the Wisconsin Legislature and the Governor amend Wis. Stat. § 66.0602(3)(e)(6) to extend the levy-limit exemption to countywide fire services, countywide emergency medical services, and integrated countywide Fire/EMS systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Marinette County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Wisconsin, members of the Wisconsin Legislature representing Marinette County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Adopted this 28th day of July 2026, by a majority of a quorum of the Marinette County Board of Supervisors.

John M. Guarisco, Chairperson

Bobbie Borkowski, County Clerk

Recommended: Administrative Committee on July 16, 2026