

To: City and Township Officials in the
Pelican Rapids EMS Primary Service Areas

From: Nicole Hansen
County Administrator

Date: March 30, 2026

Re: Pelican Rapids EMS Primary Service Area

On or about March 1, 2026, Ken Krupich, General Manager of Ringdahl EMS, distributed the attached communication to townships and cities that are within the Pelican Rapids EMS Primary Service Area outlining operational financial losses affecting its current business model. Mr. Krupich also requested an opportunity to meet with city and township leaders to develop a sustainable path forward.

This information was presented again at the 2026 WOTTA Spring Meeting held at Lida Township Hall on March 19. At that meeting, Commissioner Wayne Johnson suggested that the County propose three potential dates for a work session to further discuss this issue. The work session will be held at the Government Services Center in Fergus Falls.

The proposed dates are:

- Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 pm
- Monday, April 27 at 6:00 pm
- Monday, May 4 at 6:00 pm

Please indicate your availability by contacting Glaucia Shern directly at gshern@ottertailcounty.gov or 218-998-8063. When responding, please indicate how many will attend from your city or township to assist with planning. Kindly respond as soon as possible, and no later than April 10, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Nicole Hansen

To: Patrick Waletzko
Subject: RE: Pelican Rapids Ambulance Service Area

From: Ken Krupich <kkrupich@ringdahlems.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 4:38 PM

To: scamblertwp@loretel.net; dunntown@loretel.net; clerk@candortownship.org; knorrjane@gmail.com; lloyd@pelicanottertailmn.gov; lida@loretel.net; clerk@doratownship.org; trondhjemtownship@outlook.com; ourenbsj@prtel.com; Jim.maplewood@prtel.com; clerk@starlaketownship.org; Brent Frazier Pelican Rapids <Citypr@loretel.net>; Lafay Thompson <erhardcity@prtel.com>; Lisa Zimmerman <city@rothsay.org>; Julie Lammers <jlammers@cityofvergas.com>; 3prcouncil3@gmail.com; mmetzger@mdf.coop; dianabriese@rocketmail.com; fribergtownship@gmail.com; bwicklund@fergusotters.org; 1prcouncil1@gmail.com; brentefrazier@gmail.com; 2prcouncil2@gmail.com

Cc: Wayne Johnson <wjohnson@ottertailcounty.gov>; Robert Lahman <rlahman@ottertailcounty.gov>; Dan Bucholz <dbucholz@ottertailcounty.gov>; Kurt Mortenson <kmortenson@ottertailcounty.gov>; Sean Sullivan <ssullivan@ottertailcounty.gov>; Patrick Waletzko <pwaletzko@ottertailcounty.gov>

Subject: Pelican Rapids Ambulance Service Area

March 01, 2026

Dear City and Township Officials of the Pelican Rapids Ambulance service area,

We are writing to you today regarding the serious and urgent financial situation facing the Pelican Rapids Ambulance Service and the sustainability of ambulance coverage within your communities.

Over the past two years, we have repeatedly communicated the funding challenges that threaten the sustainability of this essential service. Unfortunately, those concerns have now reached a critical point. At the same time, the subsidy from the Pelican Rapids service area has actually decreased.

The Pelican Rapids service area currently operates with an annual deficit exceeding \$600,000. This level of loss is simply not sustainable and cannot continue without significant change or financial support. While the State of Minnesota has provided temporary funding relief, amounting to \$113,255 for the Fergus Falls and Pelican Rapids service areas, this assistance is short-term in nature and does not resolve the ongoing funding gap. There may be an additional small financial assistance program for patients that are not transported however, we do not have the details on those monies yet.

Without a sustained and reliable subsidy, the ambulance service will not be able to continue operating in its current model. If corrective action is not taken, a decrease of service to your community is inevitable and will result in increased response times.

As EMS providers, our mission has always been clear: to care for the community and the patients we serve. Our commitment to that mission has not changed. However, continuing to operate under the current financial structure without meaningful intervention is not viable. Inaction from cities and townships within the licensed service area is not an option if we are to preserve local ambulance services.

To maintain the current level of ambulance coverage and response capability, a stable and predictable public funding mechanism is required. Given the structural nature of the deficit, a tax-based subsidy or similar service-area funding model is not merely an option, but a necessity for long-term sustainability. Without such funding, continuation of the current service model will not be financially viable.

We are prepared to provide full detailed financial information to support informed decision-making.

We sincerely thank those cities and townships that have continuously supported the ambulance service and recognize the importance of funding this critical public safety function. Your partnership and leadership are essential as we navigate this challenge.

We respectfully request the opportunity to meet with city and township leaders in the near future to collaboratively develop a sustainable path forward. We stand ready to work together to identify solutions that preserve high-quality emergency medical services for the residents of our shared communities.

Sincerely,

Ken Krupich

General Manager, Ringdahl EMS

Cell: 701-306-5055