

Pelican Rapids Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area

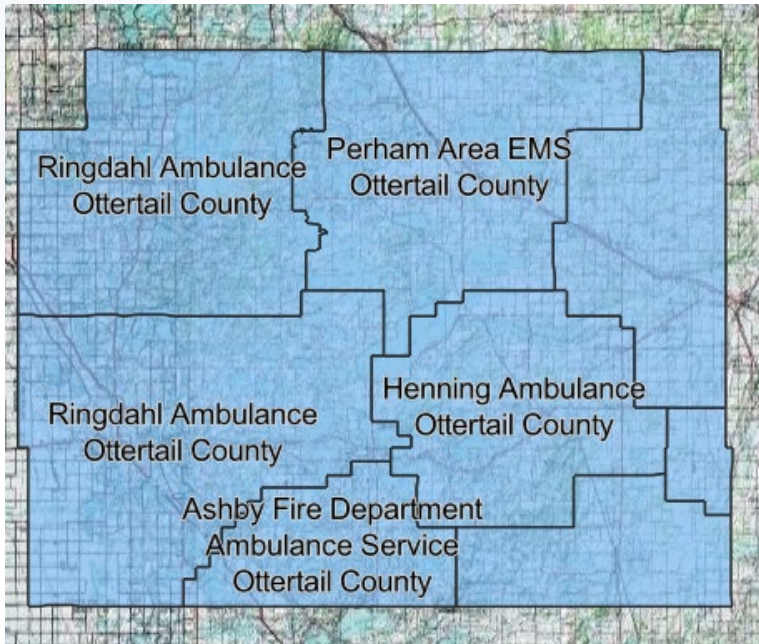
Otter Tail County

Pelican Rapids Ambulance Area Emergency Medical Services

➤ Ringdahl Ambulance Service provides advanced life support (ALS) to the Pelican Rapids Primary Service Area (PSA)

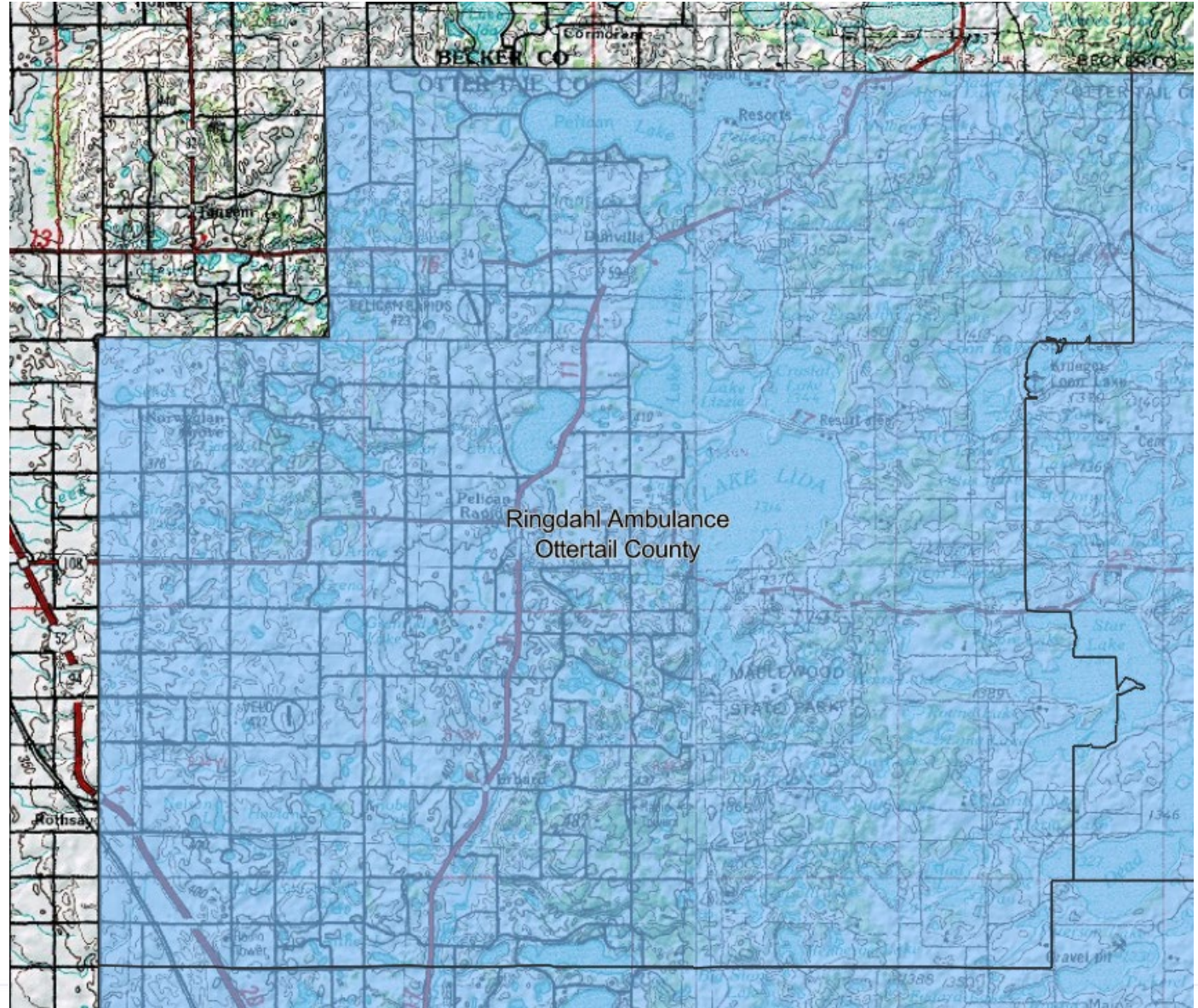
Candor	Dora	Dunn
Elizabeth	Erhards Grove	Friberg
Lida	Maine	Maplewood
Norwegian Grove	Oscar	Pelican
Scambler	Star Lake	Trondhjem
Erhard	Pelican Rapids	Rothsay
Vergas		

Pelican Rapids EMS PSA



*Approximately 12,000 parcels

*Maps from the Office of EMS



Pelican Rapids Ambulance Area Emergency Medical Services

Ringdahl Ambulance
Notice to the Office of
Emergency Medical
Services (OEMS)

OEMS was notified that
Ringdahl Ambulance does
not intend to renew its
PSA license upon
expiration in March 2027.

Pelican Rapids PSA

Ringdahl Ambulance services 15 townships and 4 cities in the Pelican Rapids PSA.

Unlike fire and police services, ambulances typically are not primarily supported by taxes.

Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements are insufficient to cover costs.

EMS provider may not be reimbursed for cost if individual is not transported to a healthcare provider.

Critical point to explore funding resources.

EMS Funding

- › Funding EMS is a complicated topic.
- › Ambulance services are critical to communities but are not considered an essential or mandated service.
- › There are numerous varieties of ambulance service delivery and funding across the state.



Recent Legislative Funds

Rural Uncompensated Care Pool: Provides payments to eligible licensed ambulance services for qualifying EMS responses that did not result in transport to a hospital emergency department.

Ambulance Operating Deficit Grant Programs: Supports licensed ambulance services experiencing financial shortfalls.

Local Government Funding

- Generally, counties lack authority to directly provide funding or revenue without authority or regulation.
- Authority may be specifically stated in a statute and must be for a public purpose.
- Minnesota statutes do provide mechanisms for financial support of EMS.



Local Government Funding - Possibilities



- Joint Exercise of Powers – Joint Powers Agreement
- Special Taxing District
- Subordinate Service District

Subordinate Service District

Minnesota Chapter 375B authorizes a county to create a subordinate service district, which is a tool for local governments to provide and finance various governmental services for its residents.

A subordinate service district is a compact and contiguous district within a county.

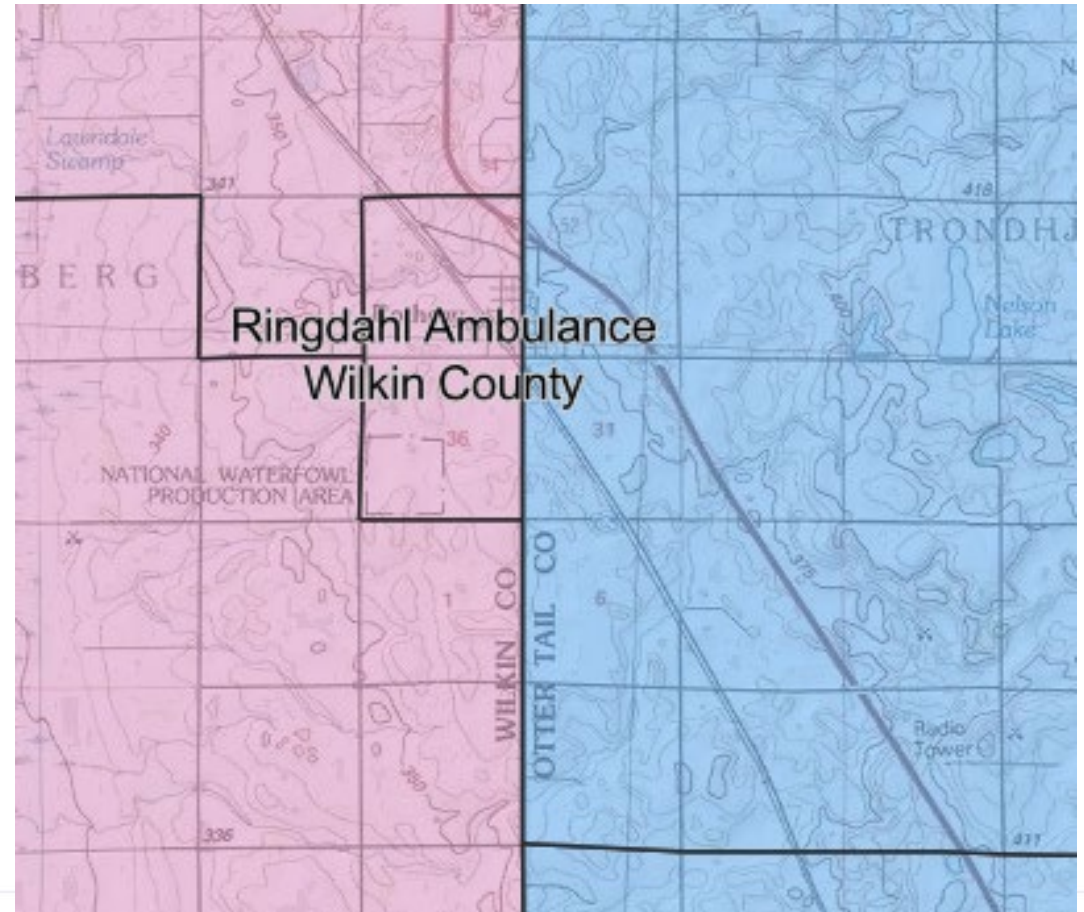
The County Board oversees the governance of a subordinate service district and determines property taxes to be levied on parcels included within the boundaries of the district.

Subordinate Service District

- June 23: Board of Commissioners passed a motion to proceed with establishing a Subordinate Service District for the Pelican Rapids EMS Primary Service Area.
- Dylan Ferguson, Director of OEMS, and Charles Soucheray, Deputy Director of OEMS, have been at committee meetings providing technical support.
- Commissioner Johnson and others have met with townships and cities as requested.

City of Rothsay

- Two areas within the Pelican Rapids PSA are located outside of Otter Tail County and are in Wilkin County.
- This area cannot be included in the SSD.
- Will need a JPA or other agreement with the City of Rothsay.



Subordinate Service District

- Funding an EMS service:
 - Property tax levied based on value of the property
 - Service charge assessed to a property
 - Combination of a property tax and a service charge
- Property tax or service charge will be determined in 2027 and levied in 2028.
- County is making application for a PSA license to begin in April 2027 creating a gap in funding that could be included the 2028 budget.

Subordinate Service District

Proposed Dates:

- Information Session: Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:30 pm, at the Pelican Rapids High School
- Public Hearing: Monday, October 12, 2026, at 6:30 pm, at the Pelican Rapids High School
- Communication:
 - Postcards
 - Public Hearing Notice published in Pelican Rapids Press

Subordinate Service District – Next Steps

- Cities & Townships: Consider passing a resolution showing support of the County creating an SSD to fund EMS in the Pelican Rapids Area.
- Talk with local residents about constraints EMS is facing in funding shortages and workforce.