

## Whitemarsh Township Fire and Emergency Services Planning 2026

### The Purpose

This project goal was to assess the current operational model and work collaboratively between township elected officials and staff, the leadership of the two fire companies and ambulance service to assess the current environment and recommend system improvements to fire and emergency medical service administration and operations.

The recommendations are based on Pennsylvania current best practices for effective and efficient service operations and modern governance structures.

The recommendations were made following an extensive assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and the use of basic administrative and operational data. All stakeholders were given ample opportunity to provide feedback and were very open and honest during the process.

### Recommendations

To effectively ensure essential fire and emergency medical services are available to the community, Whitemarsh Township must take a strategic role in leading, coordinating, and managing.

To accomplish this vision, a unified organizational structure for Whitemarsh Township should be developed with the following components:

- Develop a position, recruit, and appoint an executive leader (Township Chief of Fire & Emergency Services) with extensive experience in combination fire and EMS to strategically lead, plan and implement system improvements.
- Formally establish a Department of Fire and Emergency Services by ordinance to integrate and unify the fire companies and emergency medical services.
- Develop formal service agreements between the Township and each fire company and the ambulance service.
- Transform the current Emergency Services Board into a Public Safety Coordination board.

### Timeline

Date	Action	Responsibility
February 2026	Approval of Plan Recommendations	Township Supervisors
February - June 2026	Establish the position, recruit, and hire Chief	Township Manager / Staff
April - July 2026	Develop and authorize ordinance	Township Manager / Staff
July - September 2026	Establish vision for the future	Chief of Fire & Emergency Services

The complete plan document includes additional details and timeline, analysis of comparable municipalities, example job descriptions, ordinances, agreements, and standard of cover. A recommended unified administrative and operational organizational structure and project data are also included.