

City of Norris

Monday, January 5, 2026 - Special Called Meeting

7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Hear From the Public
- II. New Business
 - a. Consideration of Resolution 2026-1, entitled, "A Resolution of the Norris City Council Affirming the Existence of an Emergency Related to the Loss of the City's Only Certified Fire Engine and Acknowledging Emergency Purchasing Authority."
 - b. Consideration of Ordinance 717-2026, entitled, "An Ordinance of the City of Norris, Tennessee Amending the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026."
 - c. Consideration of Scheduling a Public Hearing Date for Ordinance 717-2026.
- III. Adjournment

TO: City Council
FROM: Bailey Whited, City Manager
DATE: December 18, 2025
SUBJECT: Fire Engine Emergency Determination

On November 12, 2025, an accident occurred which resulted in the total loss of the Norris Volunteer Fire Department's only certified engine. Thankfully, between the mutual aid assistance of our neighboring fire departments and the Department's possession of a second, older pumper truck, Norris residents continue to receive fire protection services.

Despite these mitigating factors, the loss of the City's only certified fire engine constitutes an emergency for municipal purchasing purposes. The absence of a certified engine materially increases the risk of harm to persons and property and limits the City's ability to independently respond to fire suppression and rescue incidents without reliance on outside agencies.

Tennessee Code Annotated § 6-54-304(3) authorizes municipalities to make purchases without competitive bidding "for immediate delivery in actual emergencies arising from unforeseen causes." The loss and continued lack of a certified fire engine meets this standard.

Following the loss of the vehicle, municipal staff undertook a good-faith effort to identify replacement options. As part of the insurance claims process, multiple replacement quotes were solicited from fire apparatus manufacturers and dealers. These efforts confirmed that most manufacturers currently have lead times measured in several months, which would prolong the City's reliance on mutual aid and increase operational risk.

One replacement option has been identified that is substantially similar to the damaged engine, meets current certification standards, and is available for immediate purchase. This option represents the shortest path to restoring full fire protection capability to the City. When insurance proceeds and available fire department donation funds are applied, the net impact to the City's General Fund is approximately \$30,000.

Because the delay associated with competitive bidding would materially extend the period during which the City lacks a certified fire engine, I hereby determine that an emergency exists for the purposes of procurement under TCA § 6-56-304(3). This determination is based on public safety considerations, market availability constraints, and the City's obligation to restore essential emergency services as promptly as practicable.

This memorandum is intended to document the factual basis for the emergency determination and to accompany council consideration of the related budget amendment and resolution affirming the emergency purchase authority.



RESOLUTION NO. 2026-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORRIS CITY COUNCIL AFFIRMING THE EXISTENCE OF AN EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE LOSS OF THE CITY'S ONLY CERTIFIED FIRE ENGINE AND ACKNOWLEDGING EMERGENCY PURCHASING AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2025, an accident resulted in the total loss of the Norris Volunteer Fire Department's only certified fire engine; and

WHEREAS, although fire protection services continue through mutual aid agreements and the use of an older apparatus, the City's lack of a certified fire engine materially increases the risk of harm to the persons and property and limits the City's ability to independently respond to fire suppression and rescue incidents; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager, as chief administrative and purchasing authority, has prepared a written emergency determination documenting the public safety risks associated with delay, the market availability of a replacement fire engine, and the good-faith effort undertaken to evaluate replacement options; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 6-56-304(3) authorizes purchases without competitive bidding in cases of emergencies arising from unforeseen causes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to formally acknowledge the existence of an emergency for procurement purposes and affirm reliance on the emergency purchasing authority provided by state law, while separately considering the required budget amendment to appropriate funds for the replacement vehicle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Norris, Tennessee that:

Section 1: Emergency Acknowledged. The City Council affirms that the loss of the City's only certified fire engine constitutes an emergency for purposes of procurement under TCA § 6-56-304(3).

Section 2. Emergency Purchasing Authority Affirmed. The City Council acknowledges and affirms the City Manager's authority to proceed with an emergency purchase of a replacement certified fire engine consistent with the requirements of TCA § 6-56-304(3), as documented in the city Manager's emergency determination memorandum.

Section 3: No Appropriation Effect. This resolution does not appropriate funds or authorize the expenditure of municipal funds. Any expenditure related to the replacement fire engine remains subject to adoption of a budget amendment ordinance in accordance with state law and City Charter.

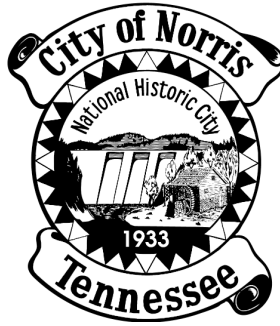
Section 4: Record Documentation. This resolution is adopted to provide transparency, establish the factual and legal basis for the emergency procurement, and ensure a clear record for audit and public accountability purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption, the welfare of the City of Norris requiring it.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Norris on this the 5th day of January 2025.

Mayor

Attest: City Recorder



ORDINANCE 717-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE, AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

- WHEREAS,** the budget process is one of the most important activities undertaken by governments for the public welfare with the budget process being used to make program services and capital decisions and allocate scarce resources to programs, services, and capital; and
- WHEREAS,** Tennessee Code Annotated § 6-56-208 allows the governing body to amend the annual budget ordinance in the same manner as any other ordinance may be; and
- WHEREAS,** the Municipal Budget Law of 1982 requires that the governing body of each municipality adopt and operate under an annual budget ordinance presenting a financial plan with at least the information required by that state statute, that no municipality may expend any moneys regardless of the source except in accordance with a budget ordinance and that the governing body shall not make any appropriation in excess of estimated available funds; and
- WHEREAS,** the budget ordinance is the legal document whereby the governing body appropriates funds and thereby gives the legal authority for expenditures of the City as required by state law; and
- WHEREAS,** the City Council adopted Resolution 2026-1 on January 5th, 2026, outlining the necessity for the appropriation of funds to allow for the emergency purchase of a new fire engine in response to the accident that occurred on November 12th, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORRIS, TENNESSEE THAT THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ARE MADE TO THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026:

SECTION 1: Ordinance 702-2025 is hereby amended as follows:

General Fund	Description	Increase/(Decrease)
Revenue		
110-36934	Insurance Recovery	\$302,330
Total Revenue		\$302,330
Expenditures		
42200-900 (Fire Dept)	Capital Outlay	\$400,000
Total Expenditures		\$400,000

SECTION 2: The City Council of the City of Norris authorizes the City Recorder to make said changes in the accounting system.

SECTION 3: Severability. Each section, paragraph, sentence, and clause of this ordinance is declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, or clause shall not affect the validity of any other provision of the ordinance.

SECTION 4: Repealer. All ordinances and parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with any provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 5: Effective. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

First Reading: _____

Public Hearing: _____

Second Reading: _____

Signed, Mayor

Attest, City Manager