

**CANDLER COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (E.M.S.)  
FEE ORDINANCE**

**ARTICLE ONE  
GENERAL**

**1.1 TITLE.**

This Ordinance shall be known as and may be cited as the “Candler County Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) Fee Ordinance.”

**1.2 PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to raise revenue to offset the cost, partially or wholly, of providing economical and adequate Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) in Candler County among those who are using or may use the service.

**ARTICLE TWO  
DEFINITIONS**

**2.1 DEFINITIONS.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (1) Dwelling unit means any structure suitable or commonly used for residential purposes by a single family or family group, and includes all single-family residences, including modular and manufactured/mobile homes, and includes each apartment, townhouse, condominium or cooperative unit of a multifamily structure.
- (2) Business unit means any commercial establishment, industry, professional establishment, trade or service establishment, store, organization, or enterprise, whether for profit or non-profit.
  - (A) Long-Term Care Facility means a nursing home or long-term care facility which is located within the territorial bounds of Candler County, Georgia.<sup>i</sup>
  - (B) Recreational Vehicle Park (hereafter referred to as “RV Park”) means any single parcel of land upon which two (2) or more recreational vehicles are occupied for temporary sleeping purposes, regardless of whether or not a charge is made for such purposes.<sup>ii</sup>

**ARTICLE THREE  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (E.M.S.)  
SPECIAL DISTRICT**

**3.1 CREATION.**

In accordance with the purpose of this Ordinance, there is hereby created an Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) special district coterminous with incorporated and unincorporated areas of Candler County.

**3.2 FEE FOR DWELLING UNIT.**

The Board of Commissioners of Candler County, pursuant to Georgia Constitution, Article 9, Section 2, Paragraph 6, shall levy an Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) service fee per dwelling unit on the owners of real property within the area of the Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) special district for each dwelling unit situated on their property.

**3.3 FEE FOR DWELLING UNIT CLASSIFIED AS NON-HOMESTEAD MANUFACTURED/MOBILE HOME.**

In the case of each dwelling unit classified as a non-homestead manufactured/mobile home, the Board of Commissioners of Candler County, pursuant to Georgia Constitution, Article 9, Section 2, Paragraph 6, shall levy an Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) service fee on the owner of each non-homestead manufactured/mobile home situated within the area of the Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) special district unless it is being levied under Section 3.2 above.

**3.4 FEE FOR BUSINESS UNIT.**

The Board of Commissioners of Candler County, pursuant to Georgia Constitution, Article 9, Section 2, Paragraph 6, shall levy an Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) service fee per business unit on the owners of real property within the Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) special district for each business unit situated on their property.

**3.4.1 FEE FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITY.**

The Board of Commissioners of Candler County, pursuant to Georgia Constitution, Article 9, Section 2, Paragraph 6, shall levy an Emergency Medical Service (E.M.S.) service fee for each long-term care facility located in Candler County, Georgia. The owner/operator of a Long-Term Care Facility shall be subject to an annual fee for the provision of Emergency Medical Services, "EMS", to the facility. The fee shall be determined by dividing the total number of patient/resident rooms available by two (2) and multiplying that number by the current commercial EMS fee imposed in Candler County, Georgia. If the division of the total number of patient/resident rooms does not equal a whole number, the number shall be rounded up for the purpose of the fee calculation.<sup>iii</sup>

### **3.4.2 FEE FOR CAMPGROUND/RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) PARK.**

The Board of Commissioners of Candler County, pursuant to Georgia Constitution, Article 9, Section 2, Paragraph 6, shall levy an Emergency Medical Service (E.M.S.) service fee for each campground/RV park located in Candler County, Georgia. The owner/operator of a campground/RV park shall be subject to an annual fee for the provision of Emergency Medical Services, "EMS", to the facility. The fee shall be determined by dividing the total number of patient/resident rooms available by two (2) and multiplying that number by the current commercial EMS fee imposed in Candler County, Georgia. The total of all EMS fees charged to a single campground/RV park will not exceed \$1,500 annually. (*ref. Candler County RV Park & Campground Ordinance, adopted February 17, 2020.*) If the division of the total number of patient/resident rooms does not equal a whole number, the number shall be rounded up for the purpose of the fee calculation.<sup>iv</sup>

### **3.5 ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE FEE AMOUNT.**

The Board of Commissioners shall establish the amount of the aforementioned Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) service fees each year as part of its annual budget process. Funds collected from these service fees for Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) shall be expended by the Board of Commissioners in any manner deemed by it to be in the best interest of the public as determined pursuant to its lawful authority.

### **3.6 NEWLY ESTABLISHED AND REESTABLISHED UNITS.**

The Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) service fees shall be immediately due and payable on a prorated basis for each dwelling unit and business unit that is newly established or being reestablished. Thereafter, the fee shall be due at the same time the ad valorem taxes are due for the subject property.

### **3.7 ABATEMENT.**

Dwelling units and business units that meet the following requirements shall be eligible for abatement of the Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.) service fee:

- (1) A dwelling unit that is not being permanently occupied shall be eligible for abatement from the service fee.
- (2) A business unit that is not in operation shall be eligible for abatement from the service fee.
- (3) Long-term care facilities and Campground/RV Parks shall not be eligible for an abatement from the service fee.<sup>v</sup>



The abatement reporting period shall be June 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup> each year<sup>vi</sup>. The owner(s) of the dwelling unit or business unit shall be required to submit an Application for Abatement to the Candler County Tax Assessors office. The Application for Abatement may be for a full or partial abatement. The Chief Appraiser or his/her designee shall verify the dwelling unit or business unit qualifies for the abatement. The owner(s) shall notify the Board of Assessors in writing within thirty (30) days following a change in condition(s) that nullifies the abatement. Owner(s) shall be responsible for payment of all service fees for all years improperly abated plus penalties and interest.

**3.8 PENALTY FOR LATE PAYMENT.**

Any fee not paid by the due date for paying the ad valorem taxes on the subject property shall be levied interest and penalties in the same manner and rate as the ad valorem tax bill to which the fee has been attached.

**ARTICLE FOUR  
LEGAL STATUS PROVISIONS**

**4.1 REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with any of the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

**4.2 EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force on and after the date that it is enacted by the governing authority.

Adopted, approved and enacted this 14th day of September 2020, at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Candler County.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CANDLER COUNTY**

By:   
Glyn Thrift, Chairman

Attest:   
Maranda K. Lank, Clerk

<sup>i</sup> Adopted September 14, 2020

<sup>ii</sup> Adopted September 14, 2020



- 
- iii Adopted September 14, 2020
  - iv Adopted September 14, 2020
  - v Adopted September 14, 2020
  - vi Revised and adopted, June 5, 2023