



**Town of Mercer Special Meeting of the Electors
October 13, 2026
Resolution Summary**

The Town of Mercer is asking voters to approve a resolution to increase property taxes by \$300,000 each year for the next ten years (2027-2036). Because of the ever-increasing cost of materials and Wisconsin strict tax levy limits, the town's annual budget can no longer cover these large, expensive projects, with levy funds alone.

This special funding will be used for Public Safety vehicles, an upcoming plow truck and repairs to town roads and infrastructure.

1. New Fire Truck

At the Fire Hall in town our lead engine fire truck is 25 years old and needs to be replaced so firefighters can respond to emergencies safely. In addition, NFPA standards recommend replacing the lead engine over 25 years old. On November 12, 2025, the Town Board locked in a price of \$619,395 for a new Freightliner fire engine. It was originally scheduled to arrive in 2028 but is now scheduled to arrive in the spring of 2027.

To pay for it, the town is taking out a loan with the Board of Public Commissioners. With a projected 6.5% interest rate, setting aside \$100,000 a year will let us pay off the truck in just under 9 years.

2. New Ambulances

This money will create a special fund to buy two identical new ambulances in the future for our EMS team. Our EMS Director wants both ambulances set up the exact same way. This helps our volunteer crew know right away where all the medical gear is stored. Having matching vehicles makes training easier, speeds up response times, and helps volunteers save lives under pressure. Saving the funds each year will allow the town to purchase the ambulances without having to pay interest or add to the debt levy.



3. Road Repairs and Town Garage Upgrades

The final part of the tax increase will pay for public works projects that have fallen behind because paving and building materials have become so expensive. This funding keeps our town running without taking money away from everyday services:

- **Road Repairs:** Catching up on overdue road paving, maintenance projects and the "Tube" at Fisher and Catherine Lakes.
- **Town Garage Upgrades:** Repairing the 50 year old town garage by replacing 50 year old insulation and siding, replacing the rest of the concrete floor, and putting in an air ventilation system.
- **Future Plow Truck:** Saving money ahead of time to buy a new heavy snowplow truck in 2030.