

REGION TWO EMS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period: July 1, 2025 – August 10, 2026 | **Filing Date:** August 15, 2026

Statutory Authority: 32 M.R.S. §89 & Maine EMS Rules Chapter 15

Jurisdiction: Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, Sagadahoc, & Somerset Counties

1. Executive Summary & Regional Profile

The Region Two EMS Council serves as the representative regional body responsible for coordinating emergency medical services, regional quality improvement, clinical oversight, and educational integration across six counties: Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, Sagadahoc, and Somerset.

Over the past fiscal year, the Council conducted an extensive organizational re-founding and system assessment. By establishing a voting membership representative of the EMS stakeholders within the jurisdiction, securing fiscal agent infrastructure under Chapter 21 and Chapter 27, executing dedicated medical direction agreements, and analyzing responses from 133 regional EMS stakeholders, the Council has successfully transitioned from foundational setup to being in a position to secure funds for operational deployment.

2. Governance, Bylaws, & Operational Rules

To ensure compliance with Maine EMS Rules Chapter 15, § 2, the Council established a structured, transparent governance framework:

- **Board & Medical Direction Representation:** From September through November 2025, Region Two stakeholders advertised, nominated, and elected a voting body of members to represent them on the Council. On November 18, 2025, the Council nominated (11-0) Dr. Seth Ritter for the EMS Board's approval as Regional Medical Director, and appointed (11-0) Dr. Tim Pieh as the Associate Regional Medical Director.
- **Bylaws Revision & Approval:** The Council created, formally voted on, and adopted Bylaws on April 21, 2026 (9-1) that were revised on July 21, 2026 (8-0). These bylaws establish three-year staggered terms across the voting membership's key representation sectors, including hospitals, licensed EMS services, dispatch, and public residents.

- **Remote Participation Policy:** Formally approved on April 21, 2026, and revised June 16, 2026 (12-0-1), establishing clear standards for virtual attendance, voting integrity (unanimous consent/roll call), and participant conduct across our multi-county region.
- **Conflict of Interest Policy:** Formally approved on April 21, 2026 (9-1), establishing clear standards for voting members to consider and identify a conflict of interest and recuse from discussion or voting on the matter. It also develops a process for the Council to review a conflict of interest matter and act when a member fails to self-identify a conflict of interest.

3. Medical Leadership & Clinical Oversight

In compliance with Chapter 15, § 3.3 and § 4, the Council formalized its medical leadership team to provide clinical guidance, participate in protocol review, revision, and implementation, and Quality Improvement (QI) oversight:

- **Medical Director Agreements:** Executed formal agreements (effective August 1, 2026) with Seth Ritter, MD, as Regional Medical Director (approved by Maine EMS Board on Jan 7, 2026) and Tim Pieh, MD, as Associate Regional Medical Director (appointed Nov 18, 2025).
- **Independent Medical Oversight:** Stipulated a \$25,000 annual fee per physician to oversee regional medical control, direct the regional QI plan, and represent Region Two on the MDPB.

4. Fiscal Agent & Sustainability Grant Integration

To receive, hold, and manage state funding awarded under Maine EMS Rules Chapter 21 and Chapter 27 (Implementation of the EMS Sustainability Program), the Council established robust fiscal mechanics:

- **Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement:** Partnered with the Hanley Center for Health Leadership and Education as the Council's designated fiscal agent (approved by the Maine EMS Board on August 5, 2026; agreement executed August 10, 2026). The Hanley Center manages grant disbursements under a 6% administrative fee structure.

- **Financial Controls & Warrants:** Standardized financial governance requiring monthly warrants prepared by the Regional Manager and Secretary, setting explicit pre-authorization limits for expenditures.

5. Regional Needs Assessment Summary

Through July and August 2025, the Maine EMS Regional Managers conducted the **2025 Maine EMS Region Two Needs Assessment Survey**. Analysis of the input from 133 respondents representing EMS agencies, dispatch centers, training facilities, and hospitals located or primarily operating in Region Two identified three primary operational burdens:

1. **Staffing & Recruitment Strain (Mean: 3.34 / 5):** Driven by reimbursement shortfalls, low wages, and limited local instructor availability.
2. **Clinician Burnout & Mental Health Distress (Mean: 3.00 / 5):** Accelerated by involuntary overtime, rural isolation, and long transport times.
3. **Capital Equipment & Fleet Inflation (Mean: 3.00 / 5):** Caused by supply chain lead times (24–36 months) and a 30–40% cost increase in vehicles and capital equipment.

6. Strategic Work Plan & Priorities for the Next Year (FY 2026–2027)

Grounded in our survey findings and supported by the **Sustainability Grant Project Plan** (approved August 18, 2026), the Council expects to apply for the Sustainability Grant and utilize those funds to initiate or accomplish the following objectives over the coming 12 months:

A. Regional Quality Assurance & Improvement (QA/QI)

- **Monthly QI Committee:** Convene the newly formed QI Committee monthly to establish region-wide assessment methods and draft a comprehensive Regional QA/QI Plan for Board approval.
- **Agency QA Workshops & Support:** Host workshops to define minimum agency-level QA standards and contract with a qualified third-party resource for voluntary agency QA program reviews.

B. Mental Health, Resiliency, & CISM Infrastructure

- **CISM Network Support:** Direct sustainability funds to sustain and reinforce existing peer-to-peer and post-incident response networks.

- **Standardized Training:** Host standardized Group Crisis Intervention training (ICISF) and resiliency programs in collaboration with public safety partner agencies.

C. All-Hazards Education & Emergency Preparedness

- **ICS/NIMS Leadership Standard:** Evaluate current NIMS/ICS compliance among agency leaders and workshop a regional training standard.
- **Regional Exercises:** Partner with county and state EMAs to design and host at least one regional tabletop exercise and one functional exercise annually.

D. Regional Plan & Administrative Operations

- **Comprehensive Regional Plan Submission:** Submit the final Regional Plan analyzing operational resources and regional goals to the Maine EMS Board.
- **Public Communications Platform:** Research and launch a dedicated, publicly accessible digital platform (website) for publishing Council rosters, job opportunities, and regional updates.
- **Organizational Development:** Evaluate options to eventually establish an independent entity to serve the Council long-term.

7. Financial Summary & Budget Allocations

Revenue Source	Allocated Amount	Approved Project Plan Expense Area	3-Year Grant Budget	Year 1 Expected Allocation
Maine EMS Chapter 27 Sustainability Grant	\$250,000.00	Physician Medical Direction (Drs. Ritter & Pieh)	\$150,000	\$50,000
		Fiscal Agent Fee (Hanley Center – 6%)	\$15,000	\$15,000

Revenue Source	Allocated Amount	Approved Project Plan Expense Area	3-Year Grant Budget	Year 1 Expected Allocation
		Mental Health & Clinician Wellness	Up to \$60,000	Up to \$20,000
		Quality Assurance & Improvement	Up to \$60,000	Up to \$20,000
		Preparedness & Education Exercises	Up to \$60,000	Up to \$20,000
		Planning & Administrative Operations	Up to \$30,000	Up to \$10,000
Total Grant Funding	At Least \$250,000*	Total Projected Spending	\$250,000 to \$375,000*	\$65,000 to \$135,000

*Note: Multi-year budget supported by initial \$250,000 award plus an anticipated future grant disbursement from unawarded fund allocations, consistent with Chapter 27 of the Maine EMS Rules.

8. Verification & Authorization

Submitted on behalf of the Region Two EMS Council.

Melissa F. Adams

Melissa Adams, Regional Manager