



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Safety, Wellness & Youth Committee Memorandum

*City of Arts & Innovation*

**TO: SAFETY, WELLNESS & YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS** **DATE: MAY 20, 2020**

**FROM: FIRE DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION FEE INCREASE- RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY'S SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

## **ISSUES:**

Consider the proposed increase to the ambulance transportation fees for emergency and non-emergency transportation and recommend that City Council adopt a resolution amending the City's Schedule of Fees and Charges to include the revised fee.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Safety, Wellness and Youth Committee:

1. Receive and provide input on a proposed increase to the emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation fees for ambulance providers; and
2. Recommend that City Council adopt a resolution amending the City's Schedule of Fees and Charges to include the revised fees for emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) Chapter 5.66 applies to ambulance services. The City Council approves ambulance franchise agreements as well as the fees and charges for emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation services. The City's Ambulance Franchise Administrator is the Fire Chief or Designee, and Fire Chief Michael Moore has designated Deputy Fire Chief La Wayne Hearn as the City's Ambulance Franchise Administrator. Ambulance service is the transportation of those in need of medical attention classified as Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support or Critical Care.

Advanced Life Support provides pre-hospital emergency medical care, under the direct supervision of a base hospital at the scene of an emergency, during transport to an acute care hospital, during inter-facility transfer, and while in the emergency department of an acute care hospital until responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other medical staff of that hospital.

Basic Life Support is emergency first aid without invasive techniques until the individual may be transported to a medical facility or until Advanced Life Support medical care is available.

Critical Care Transport is the medical transport of a patient between medical facilities requiring medical staff supervision.

On June 24, 1997 the City Council approved American Medical Response (AMR) as a franchisee for Emergency and Non-Emergency medical transport.

On January 13, 2015 the City Council approved Cavalry and Mission Ambulance Companies as a franchisee for non-emergency medical transport.

On January 20, 2016 the City Council approved Premier Medical Transport as a franchisee for non-emergency medical transport.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### *Current Ambulance Service Providers:*

The City has agreements in place for ambulance services needed in the community. American Medical Response (AMR) is the exclusive provider for Advanced Life Support transport services. AMR, Cavalry, Mission and Premier Ambulance Companies provide Basic Life Support and Critical Care Transports within the City.

### *Ambulance Fees:*

According to Riverside Municipal Code 5.66.180, "No ambulance service shall charge more for its services than the fees and charges approved by the City. Fees and charges are initially set by a Council resolution." Resolution 22870 was established in 2015 by City Council to set ambulance transportation fees. The recommended increase is being proposed by the ambulance companies request due to minimum wage and equipment increases.

The current City-established fees allowed for American Medical Response (AMR) are as follows:

Advanced Life Support	\$1,439.26
Basic Life Support	\$686.53
Critical Care Transport	\$1,857.50
Night	\$186.34
Oxygen	\$170.41
Mileage	\$39.84
Wait Time Every 15 Minutes	\$40.00
BLS or CCT Code 3 Transport	\$150.00

The current city established fees allowed for Premier Medical Transport, Cavalry and Mission Ambulance are as follows:

Critical Care Transport	\$1,500.00
Basic Life Support	\$550.00
Night	\$151.00
Oxygen	\$138.00

Mileage	\$31.00
Wait Time Every 15 Minutes	\$40.00
BLS or CCT Code 3 Transport	\$150.00

The proposed new fee adjustment for the ambulance companies are as follows:

Non- Emergency	BLS	ALS	CCT	Mileage	Oxygen	Night	Wait Time	Code 3 Transport
American Medical Response	\$957.10	\$1,508.24	\$2,209.68	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$49.45	\$150.00
Cavalry Ambulance	\$957.10		\$2,209.68	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$49.45	\$150.00
Mission Ambulance	\$957.10		\$2,209.68	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$49.45	\$150.00
Premier Medical Transport	\$957.40		\$2,209.68	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$49.45	\$150.00

Emergency Fee	BLS	ALS	Mileage	Oxygen	Night	Dry Run
American Medical Response	\$1,855.41	\$1,855.41	\$45.12	\$192.97	\$211.01	\$288.38

A CPI fee adjustment may be made annually, and such adjustment shall be effective as of the first day of July of each year.

The proposed fee adjustment mirrors the maximum fee allowed by Riverside County EMS Agency (REMS) for the department's longest franchise/permit holder (AMR). REMS does not perform an analysis on ambulance fees, instead they allow non-emergency ambulance companies to establish their own competitive fees.

The Fire Department has also consulted with Orange County EMS Agency and Los Angeles County EMS Agency regarding the non-emergency ambulance fee structure. The Los Angeles County EMS Agency is the only agency we found that regulates and has a methodology for establishing non-emergency fees. The fees the Fire Department is proposing do not exceed the maximum allowable fees determined by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

AMR has a long-standing history as an ambulance franchise provider with the City of Riverside. The fees American Medical Response can charge exceed the fees that Mission, Cavalry and Premier Medical Transport are allowed to charge. The proposed fee adjustment will give all current and future ambulance companies the ability to charge that same maximum amount.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the City associated with the proposed increase to the emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation fees for ambulance providers. The fees are collected by and retained by the ambulance providers.

Prepared by: Michael D. Moore, Fire Chief

Certified as to

availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager

Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

**Attachments:**

1. Riverside County EMS Agency Ambulance Fee Sheet FY 19/20
2. General Public Ambulance Fees- County of Los Angeles
3. Resolution 22870