



## **AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

First Reading for the City Council Meeting September 2, 2025  
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of September 9, 2025

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**DATE:** September 2, 2025  
**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager  
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<p><b>Ordinance amending the Outside City Limits Fire Department Response Service Fee and Rate Schedule</b></p>
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### **CAPTION:**

Ordinance amending Corpus Christi Code Section 18-2 Outside City Limits Fire Department Response Service fee and updating the rate schedule for persons outside of the Corpus Christi city limits who receive fire service, effective October 1, 2025.

### **SUMMARY:**

This Ordinance authorizes an amendment to the Corpus Christi Code Section 18-2 Outside City Limits Fire Department Response Service fee and updates the rate schedule for the Corpus Christi Fire Department's response outside Corpus Christi's city limits.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) responds to calls for service outside the city limits of Corpus Christi. On June 28, 2022, CCFD amended Sec. 18-2 to include a new methodology for calculating all-inclusive costs for services rendered to customers when responding outside city limits. Traditionally, these calls are related to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls for service or single fire unit responses to support a neighboring jurisdiction or in response to a mutual aid request. For EMS calls that require treatment and/or transport by a CCFD Ambulance outside of the city limits, CCFD bills the patient(s) directly as it would for residents of Corpus Christi.

Additionally, Nueces County is invoiced annually based on costs associated with providing response to EMS calls (not including incorporated areas) multiplied by the number of calls outside of the city limits. The "cost per call" billed to Nueces County varies depending on personnel costs for that fiscal year. While calls for fire protection in these areas are infrequent, CCFD has identified a methodology for calculating all-inclusive costs for services rendered when responding outside city limits.

Since amending Sec. 18-2 in June 2022, CCFD has conducted a review on this fee and has determined that the language and fee schedule needs to be updated. The recommended amendment to Section 18-2 clarifies the verbiage to read "Fire Department calls for service outside of Corpus Christi city limits will be

billed utilizing the following rate schedule.” This change will also clarify “Charges that fall under Sec. 18-20 Ambulance Rates are not included in this fee, which are charged and billed separately.” The rate schedule is also updated to reflect any changes in budget, taxing parcels, personnel, mileage or FEMA equipment rate schedule.

The fees are calculated utilizing four components:

1. **Response Readiness Fee** - Made in lieu of traditional taxation and based on total cost of providing service divided by the number of taxed parcels within the City limits.

Response Readiness Fee	Fee Per Service or Item
Total Taxing Parcels	<del>(2021) 139,648</del> (2024) 142,195
Fire Department Budget (FY 2025)	<del>\$72,205,224</del> \$80,728,632
Charge per Taxing Parcel (Adopted Budget / # Taxed Parcels)	<del>\$72,205,244/139,648 = \$517.05</del> \$80,728,632/142,195 = \$567.73

2. **Fee for Service** - Based on personnel costs of responding compliment which is dependent on the call type which dictates the type and number of responding units. These personnel costs will be multiplied by the number of hours engaged in the response.

Rank	Monthly Salary	Hourly Rate
Battalion	<del>\$7,514.00</del> <u>\$8,676.00</u>	<del>\$32.11</del> <u>\$37.08</u>
Captain	<del>\$5,340.00</del> <u>\$7,357.00</u>	<del>\$22.82</del> <u>\$31.44</u>
FFII- Eng	<del>\$5,518.00</del> <u>\$6,239.00</u>	<del>\$23.58</del> <u>\$26.66</u>
FFII- EMS	<del>\$5,518.00</del> <u>\$6,239.00</u>	<del>\$23.58</del> <u>\$26.66</u>

3. **Cost of equipment** - Based on the cost of equipment as listed on the FEMA schedule for equipment rates. Like the assessment of personnel costs, the apparatus and equipment, costs will vary depending on the call type. The hourly cost of equipment will be multiplied by the number of hours engaged in the response.

Equipment	Spec's	Hrly Rates
<del>Truck, Fire</del>	<del>1000-gpm</del>	<del>\$71.31</del>
<del>Truck, Fire</del>	<del>1250-gpm</del>	<del>\$75.61</del>
<del>Truck, Fire</del>	<del>1500-gpm</del>	<del>\$82.24</del>
<del>Truck, Fire</del>	<del>2000-gpm</del>	<del>\$85.22</del>
<del>Truck, Fire Ladder</del>	<del>75' ladder</del>	<del>\$122.69</del>
<del>Truck, Fire Ladder</del>	<del>100' ladder</del>	<del>\$148.48</del>
<del>Fire Command Ctr.</del>	<del>SUV</del>	<del>\$19.97</del>
<del>Truck, Fire, Eng. Type 2</del>	<del>Sm. Brush</del>	<del>\$133.85</del>
<del>Mobile Command Ctr.</del>	<del>43' w/ gen.</del>	<del>\$87.31</del>

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Spec's</b>	<b>Hourly Rates</b>
<u>Ambulance</u>	<u>GVW 11000 Pounds</u>	<u>\$ 48.32</u>
<u>Truck, Fire, Support Water Tender S2</u>	<u>200GPM/2500+gal S2 Water Tender</u>	<u>\$ 128.24</u>
<u>Truck, Fire, Engine Type-1</u>	<u>1000GPM/300gal Engine w/Pump &amp; Roll</u>	<u>\$ 173.47</u>
<u>Truck, Fire</u>	<u>100-ft Ladder</u>	<u>\$ 220.55</u>
<u>Fire Command Ctr.</u>	<u>SUV</u>	<u>\$ 19.97</u>

4. **Mileage** - The fee will be based on the annual IRS rate for mileage combined with a set cost identified to off-set the annual cost of maintenance for the responding apparatus. The mileage rate will be multiplied by the travel distance for each responding unit.

(d) \$0.67 ~~\$0.585~~ per mile for each mile traveled by each unit dispatched to and from their station.

These calculations are made considerate of call type, number and type of resources responding including personnel and equipment costs, duration of incident, and distance travelled by responding units.

Regarding the billing process, the City will invoice the homeowner/responsible party within 30 days of the incident. A second and third invoice will be provided at approximately 60 and 120 days respectively from the date of the incident. At 180 days, the invoice will be considered delinquent and will be referred to a third-party collection service following notification of the homeowner/responsible party. The homeowner/responsible party will then be liable for both the underlying debt and for the costs incurred by the City to effectuate collection by the third-party collection services to the extent allowed by State and Federal laws.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is not to amend the City Code as recommended and to instead use the current City Code when responding to and billing for calls outside the city limits. However, this will result in the rate schedule not being updated to reflect any changes in budget, taxing parcels, personnel, milage or FEMA equipment rate schedule.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

CCFD will experience a revenue increase when responding to fire calls outside city limits. CCFD has only billed out for one Fire Department response call since the fee was updated in June 2022. The call occurred in FY 2025, and the billing was for response to a building fire. The bill for the building fire call totaled \$9,797.15. Under the updated fees, the new billing cost for this call would be \$12,635.46, which is an approximate 29% increase. There is no budget increase in revenues for this fee in FY 2026.

**FUNDING DETAIL:**

Fund:	1020	General Fund
Organization/Activity:	12010	Fire Stations
Department #:	10	Fire Department
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A	
Account:	321021	OCL Fire Department Response Service Fee

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends amending Corpus Christi Code Section 18-2 Outside City Limits Fire Department Response Service fee and updating the rate schedule for persons outside of the Corpus Christi city limits who receive fire service, effective October 1, 2025, as presented.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Ordinance  
Ordinance (red-lined)