



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting of August 30, 2022
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of September 6, 2022

DATE: August 30, 2022
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
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Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Fee Increase

CAPTION:

Ordinance amending Corpus Christi Code Section 18-20 to increase ambulance rate schedule by 3% effective October 1, 2022.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance amends Corpus Christi Code Section 18-20 to increase the Emergency Management Services (EMS) fee schedule by 3%.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

In 2017, the City of Corpus Christi and MGT of American Consulting Group conducted a User Fee Study of the Corpus Christi Fire Department's EMS fee schedule.

In February 2018, the City Council approved the amendments to the EMS Fee schedule according to the user fee study conducted by MGT. This was the most recent adjustment to EMS fees.

The Corpus Christi Code of Ordinances Chapter 18; Article II; Sec. 18-20 (b) Adjustment of ambulance rates, allows for the adjustment of ambulance rates based on the South Region Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers for Medical Care as published by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Any year in which the CPI increases by more than one percent from the previous year, ambulance rates may be adjusted by an amount equal to the annual change in the CPI. Ambulance rate schedule adjustments shall not exceed five percent in a single year and shall not be adjusted more often than annually. Any adjustment of ambulance rates requires City Council approval. The CPI for 2021 shows an increase of 4.7%.

The following table shows the proposed increase for the 2023 EMS fee schedule by 3%, which will be an estimated revenue increase of \$211,640.

Table 1: Ambulance Rates Schedule

	Service or Item	2022 Fee (current)	Change %	2023 Fee (proposed)
1	EMS 911 base rate – Transport	\$1,385.00	3.0	\$1,426.55
2	EMS 911 base rate – Non -Transport	\$150.00	3.0	\$154.50
3	Oxygen	\$45.00	3.0	\$46.35
4	Advanced Life Support (ALS) Routine Disposables	\$50.00	3.0	\$51.50
5	Basic Life Support (BLS) Routine Disposables	\$25.00	3.0	\$25.75

Table 2: Supplementary Charges

	Service or Item	2022 Fee (current)	Change %	2023 Fee (proposed)
1	Mileage charge per mile from patient pick-up point to the hospital	\$15.00	3.0	\$15.45
2	Charge for responding to a medical alarm which is a malfunction, no one at home, no one injured.	\$60.00	3.0	\$61.80
3	Charge for emergency medical services provided to non-residents	\$125.00	3.0	\$128.75
4	Charge for providing additional personnel when needed to provide care during transport	\$45.00	3.0	\$46.35
5	Charge to the facility for Fire Department response to skilled nursing facility for the pick-up of a resident that does not require transport to the hospital	\$250.00	3.0	\$257.50

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to adjust the fee as recommended, but instead to continue collecting current EMS fees; however, this would reduce the potential of increasing EMS revenue and possibly hinder the ability to provide adequate EMS supplies and equipment to conduct proper lifesaving functions in medical emergency situations. Another alternative is to adjust the fee to a different percentage than the proposed 3%.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact for FY 2023 will be an estimated revenue increase of \$211,640.90. This number is an estimate because the fiscal impact depends on EMS call volume and collection rates for those calls.

Funding Detail:

Fund:	1020	General Fund
Organization/Activity:	35100	City Ambulance
Mission Element:	888	Revenue
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A	
Account:	321000	Emergency Calls

Amount \$211,640.90

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council approve the 3% increase to the EMS fee schedule, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance