



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting of September 3, 2024
 Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of September 10, 2024

DATE: September 3, 2024
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
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Ordinance amending the Fire Prevention Permit fee schedule and Ambulance rates supplementary charges

CAPTION:

Ordinance amending Corpus Christi Code Section 18-4 Fire Prevention permit fee schedule and Section 18-20 Ambulance rates to include a supplementary charge for non-emergency lift assist fee, effective October 1, 2024.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes an amendment to the Corpus Christi Code Section 18-4 Fire Prevention permit fee schedule and Section 18-20 Ambulance rates to include a supplementary charge for non-emergency lift assist fee.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The amendment to Section 18-4 increases permit fees in the Fire Prevention Permit fee schedule for Fire alarm systems, Firework display, Flame effects, Plan reviews, and added permit fee for Fire Final Inspection (for C of O) and Mobile food vehicle/trailer. This also includes revising the Tents and air supported structures permit fees from annually to per inspection. Fire Prevention permit fees haven't been revised since July 28, 2020. The revised Fees are as follows:

<i>Permit Fee</i>	<i>Fee</i>
Fire Final Inspection (for C of O)	75.00 per inspection
Fire alarm systems	150.00 200.00 per floor – per test visit
Fire alarm systems (required 15,000 square foot zones)	150.00 200.00 per zone – per test visit
Fireworks display (aerial)	150.00 200.00 per display
Fireworks display (non-aerial)	150.00 200.00 per display
Flame Effects	150.00 200.00 per display

Mobile food vehicle/trailer (Annual permit)	50.00 per inspection
Plans Review-Sprinkler (up to 20 heads)	300.00 350.00 per review
Plans Review- Sprinkler (21+ heads)	550.00 600.00 per review
Plans Review-Fire Alarm (up to 20 devices)	300.00 350.00 per review
Plans Review- Fire alarm (21-200 devices)	550.00 600.00 per review
Plans Review- Fire Alarm (201+ devices)	550.00 600.00 flat fee + 1.00 each additional device over 200 per review
Plans Review- Fire Line	250.00 300.00 per review
Plan Review – Standpipe or Fire Pump	250.00 300.00 per review
Tents and air supported structures	100.00 annually per inspection

The amendment to Section 18-20 is to include a supplementary charge of five hundred dollars and zero cents (\$500.00) for Non-Emergency Lift assist fees to skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and adult family homes for non-emergency lift assistance that does not require medical assistance, transport for medical care, or transport to a hospital. The Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) responds to lift assistant calls that are non-emergent and do not require medical services. These calls cause emergency units to be out of service and not available for higher priority incidents (cardiac arrest, respiratory illness, seizures, and/or fires) that occur in their response area during that time. This creates longer response times for other units to respond to the emergency. This costs valuable time for patients that are in need of emergency care. Additionally, frequent non-emergent calls result in wear and tear on equipment and increase the potential for personnel injuries. Per HHSC (Texas Health and Human Services Commission) guidelines the licensing standards require all Assisted living facilities to have sufficient staff to maintain safety and ensure that each resident receives the amount of supervision and care required to meet his/her basic needs per [§553.253\(c\)\(3\)](#). On hire all ALF attendants must complete training that includes safety measures to prevent accidents and injuries, emergency first aid procedures including what actions to take when a resident falls and fall prevention per code [§553.253\(d\)\(2\)](#). Additionally, ALF direct care staff must complete one hour of annual training in fall prevention per code 553.253(d)(3). There is no licensing requirement that prohibits ALF staff from assisting a resident after a fall.

The proposed fees will be calculated utilizing:

Captain	\$	43.60
FFII- Engineer	\$	38.63
2- FFII (\$38.63)	\$	77.26
Mileage (\$0.67*15 Miles)	\$	10.05
Apparatus	\$	165.68
Total cost per hour	\$	335.22
Total 1.5 HRs AVG Call (1.5*Cost per HR)	\$	502.83*

Rounding cost to \$500.00

The average call length from start to finish is an hour and a half to respond and get to the service call area, do an assessment, lift the patient, get back to the station and fill out a comprehensive report of the call.

The City will invoice the owner/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 incident. At 180 days, the invoice will be considered delinquent and will be referred to a third-party collection service following notification of the owner/responsible party. The owner/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 to amending the current City code is to continue to use the same Fire Prevention Permit fee schedule and to continue to provide non-emergent services to the private facilities, but as CCFD workload has increased, it has become more critical that public safety resources not be expended for non-emergent work in which hired facility staff are required to handle.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The new and adjusted fees add an estimated \$219,500 in General Fund revenue to the Adopted FY 2024-2025 Budget.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	1020	General Fund
Organization/Activity:	12020	Fire Prevention
Department #:	10	Fire Department
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A	
Account:	308900	Fire Prevention Permits
Amount:	\$69,500.00	

Fund:	1020	General Fund
Organization/Activity:	35100	City Ambulance
Department #:	10	Fire Department
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A	
Account:	308940	Non-Emergency Lift Assist
Amount:	\$150,000.00	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of amending the Ordinance, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance
Ordinance (red-lined)
Presentation