



## **AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

First Reading Item (Postponed) for the City Council Meeting of 2/27/18

First Reading Item for the City Council Meeting of 3/20/18

Second Reading Item for the City Council Meeting of 3/27/18

**DATE:** February 21, 2018

**TO:** Margie C. Rose, City Manager

**FROM:** Robert Rocha, Fire Chief  
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361-826-3900

### **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Recommended Fee Changes**

#### **CAPTION:**

Ordinance amending Corpus Christi Code to adopt ambulance rates schedule and to increase ambulance service permitting fees

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to approve amending Article 4, Chapter 57 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Corpus Christi, relating to the fees charged for ambulance and emergency medical services.

#### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

Throughout 2017, the City of Corpus Christi and MGT of American Consulting Group conducted a User Fee Study of the Corpus Christi Fire Department's Emergency Medical Service fees. A summary of the findings from the study were presented to City Council in December 2017.

The Fire Department conducted a fee study and fees were amended in 2009. Since the most recent fee study conducted by MGT, it was discovered that the Fire Department could earn up to an additional \$3,298,117.34 in revenue per fiscal year with an upwards fee adjustment of only five service fees and the creation of three additional fees.

If the ordinance is amended, the Fire Department will remove 57 of the 60 supplemental fees (see list attached) and replace them with an increased base rate fee for transport of \$1,386. The current average billed amount per transport is \$1,100, which includes an itemization of all fees. This means that, on average, bills will only increase by approximately \$286. Other fee changes include increasing the fee for no transport by \$25 dollars and increasing the hourly rate for oxygen by \$10.

Currently, the Fire Department administers the Ambulance Operating Permits for all private ambulance operators. This entails inspection of ambulances for compliance of Department of Health & Human Services regulations as well as granting Operator

(Business) and Driver permits. The recommended change in fees represents actual costs for providing this service.

In order to maintain an updated fee schedule, the department is also proposing an annual minimum fee adjustment based on South Region CPI-U for Medical Care (min. 1%, max 5%).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Council may choose not to approve ordinance amendments.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

Not applicable

**CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:**

Conformity with City Ordinance

**EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:**

Non-emergency

**DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:**

Fire

Legal

Budget

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

☐ Operating      x Revenue      ☐ Capital      ☐ Not applicable

<b>Fiscal Year: 2017-2018</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Future Years</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Line Item Budget	\$6,000,000.00	\$6,000,000.00	\$12,000,000.00
Encumbered / Expended Amount			
This item	\$1,649,058.67*	\$3,298,117.34	\$4,947,176.01
BALANCE	\$7,649,058.67	\$9,298,117.34	\$16,947,176.01

Fund(s): General Fund

**Comments:** Potential revenue increases are based on MGT projections. Staff is apprehensive to represent such a great increase in potential revenue. However, we are cautiously optimistic that the fee increases may result in a slight increase in revenue. Because we have no historical reference, we cannot provide assurance.

\*Represents pro-rated revenue increase assuming collection of new fees beginning April 1, 2018 through the remaining 6 months in the FY18 fiscal year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approving this amendment.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Ordinance

Presentation