



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
SPECIAL MEETING

#17-0998

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: September 13, 2017

TITLE: Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances to Increase Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Transport User Fees

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt an ordinance amending Section 13-151 of the Code of Ordinances to increase Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Transport User Fees.

Background

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is an integral part of the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department's daily service provided to the citizens, neighbors, and visitors to the City of Fort Lauderdale. Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue currently deploys fifteen (15) full-time Advanced Life Safety (ALS) Units and one (1) twelve hour (12) Peak Rescue ALS Unit daily. The fifteen (15) full-time ALS Units provide service twenty-four (24) hours per day, 365 days per year. A component of this EMS service is the actual transport of patients from the incident scene to a receiving hospital for further treatment and evaluation.

Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue averages over 33,000 patient contacts annually resulting in an average exceeding 27,000 annual transports to local medical facilities.

The associated costs for this service have increased dramatically since the last fee adjustment (CAR 10-1568, 11/10/2010). In an attempt to mitigate the rising costs associated with this service, the Fire Rescue Department is requesting the City Commission increase the EMS Transport Fees to the following levels:

EMS Transport Fees	Old Rate	Proposed Rate	\$ Change
BLS ambulance transport (per patient/per transport)	\$700	\$950	\$250
ALS 1 ambulance transport (per patient/per transport)	\$700	\$950	\$250
ALS 2 ambulance transport (per patient/per transport)	\$750	\$1,000	\$250
Plus, transport mileage (per patient/per mile)	\$13	\$13	\$0
Plus, oxygen charge (per patient if applicable)	\$30.30	\$30.30	\$0

Resource Impact

There is no current fiscal year impact.

The increased Emergency Medical Service (EMS) transport user fees will result in an estimate annual increase of \$750,000 and total projected revenues of \$7,400,000. Due to the reimbursement limitations relative to Medicare and Medicaid, and the impact of the “self-insured” pay class, the new fee structure will not allow for 100% cost recovery but will maximize the City’s ability to recover reasonable costs based on available funding sources.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Internal Support Cylinder, specifically advancing:

- Goal 12: Be a leading government organization, managing our resources wisely and sustainably.
- Objective 1: Ensure sound fiscal management

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Fee Analysis

Exhibit 2 – Florida Agency Fee Comparison

Exhibit 3 – Draft Ordinance

Prepared by: Paul Vanden Berge, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue

Department Director: Robert F. Hoecherl, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue