

Meeting Date (?) 11/10/2015

Subject Matter* (?) Ambulance Hardship Program
This must match rolling agenda entry

Department of Origin* FINANCE

Submitted By* William Smith

Type of Meeting* BCD Special Regular

Classification* Public Hearing Consent Statutory Regular

Ordinance* None First Read Second Read First & Only Read

Strategic Initiative* Public Safety Service
 Economic Development Infrastructure
 Quality of Life

Agenda Item Description* A resolution establishing an ambulance and emergency medical service fee hardship assistance program that allows for patients or their responsible parties to apply for hardship assistance and receive a reduction of the outstanding balance for ambulance services provided by the City of Bryan, Texas (the City).

Summary Statement* During the May 26, 2015, City Council Workshop meeting, Staff was directed to investigate the possibility of establishing a program providing for the reduction of fees for ambulance and emergency medical services provided to residents of the City and surrounding areas based on certain guidelines pertaining to the ability of the patient or responsible party to pay. Staff worked in conjunction with Digitech Computer, Inc. (Digitech), the City's ambulance billing firm, in an effort to develop a program to meet the requirements of City Council.

The proposed program guideline and policy are attached as Exhibit A to the resolution included in this Council Action Form. The program will use the Federal Poverty Guidelines as periodically published in the Federal Registry to determine the eligibility of patients or their responsible parties

Staff Analysis & Recommendation* The historic average collection percentage for uninsured patients is less than 5%. If the patient or responsible party are given the opportunity to lower the outstanding balance of the amount owed for ambulance and emergency medical services, it may lead to a higher total collection percentage for these amounts.

The program will be administered by Digitech based on the guidelines attached at no additional cost to the City, if approved. Since Digitech provides initial billing for ambulance service, this process will allow for efficient administration of the program.

Eligibility for the program is determined based on the Federal Poverty Level as periodically reported by the Federal Registry.

- A brief summary of the guidelines for eligibility are as follows:
- A 100% reduction to the outstanding balance owed by the patient or responsible party if the Adjusted Gross Income falls below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level.
 - A 75% reduction to the outstanding balance owed by the patient or responsible party if the Adjusted Gross Income falls below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.
 - A 50% reduction to the outstanding balance owed by the patient or responsible party if the Adjusted Gross Income falls below 175% of the Federal Poverty Level.
 - A 25% reduction to the outstanding balance owed by the patient or responsible party if the Adjusted Gross Income falls below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Waived amounts are not reported on a patient's or a responsible party's credit report

Options*

(In Suggested Order of Staff Preference)

- Approve the Resolution
- Amend the Resolution, which may require approval at a future City Council meeting
- Do not approve the resolution and provide direction to Staff

Funding Source*

This Resolution requires no additional funding; Digitech's contract with the City is funded through the Finance department's approved annual budget.

Attachments

Resolution Ambulance Hardship Program.docx

27.09KB

Please detail attachments and note attachments available for viewing in City Secretary's Office:

Dept. Head Signature



JOE HEGWOOD

**Deputy City Manager
Signature**



Hugh R. Walker

City Manager Signature



City Attorney Signature



Janis K. Hampton