

## Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Jun 18, 2024 - Bryan City Council Second Regular Meeting
Category	6. Statutory (Automatic Approval) Agenda - This agenda consists of items previously approved by Council action such as adoption of items that are part of an approved budget or capital improvement projects, first and only readings of ordinances, interlocal agreements, or action that is required by law or delegated to the City Manager. Items may be removed from the statutory agenda for separate consideration at the request of two Councilmembers.
Subject	M. Adoption of a resolution of the City Council of City of Bryan, Texas, establishing new ambulance transport and medical services rates, repealing Resolution No. 4015, and providing an effective date
Type	Action (Statutory)
Preferred Date	Jun 18, 2024
Absolute Date	Jun 18, 2024
Fiscal Impact	No
Budgeted	No
Budget Source	N/A
Goals	<a href="#">Public Safety</a> <a href="#">Quality of Life</a> <a href="#">Service</a>

### Summary:

The Bryan Fire Department (BFD) provides Emergency Medical Ambulance Service to the citizens of Bryan and Brazos County according to Resolution No. 4015 passed in 2022 that authorized the following rates:

- Basic Life Support (BLS): \$1,200.00 plus \$19.00 per loaded mile for each individual transported regardless of location.
- Advanced Life Support 1 (ALS1): \$1,400.00 plus \$19.00 per loaded mile for each individual transported regardless of location.
- Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2): \$1,650.00 plus \$19.00 per loaded mile for each individual transported regardless of location.
- Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2): \$1650.00 for services that result in non-transport because of death ("dead on scene").
- Treat and Release: \$650.00 for emergency response that results in a treat and release against medical advice.
- Community Paramedic: \$200.00 for Fire Department community paramedic response.
- Oxygen - \$130
- BLS Supplies - \$200
- ALS Supplies - \$400

To be in line with Texas Department of Insurance approved rates, staff recommends an updated billing plan as follows:

- Basic Life Support (BLS): \$1,400.00 plus \$19.00 per loaded mile for each individual transported regardless of location.
- Advanced Life Support 1 (ALS1): \$1,650.00 plus \$19.00 per loaded mile for each individual transported regardless of location.
- Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2): \$2,400.00 plus \$19.00 per loaded mile for each individual transported regardless of location.
- Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2): \$2,400.00 for services that result in non-transport because of death ("dead on scene").

In addition, the following rates and fees remain the same:

- Treat and Release: \$650.00 for emergency response that results in a treat and release against medical advice.
- Community Paramedic: \$200.00 for Fire Department community paramedic response.
- Oxygen - \$130

- BLS Supplies - \$200
- ALS Supplies - \$400

Definitions:

- BLS is defined as no interventions or only BLS interventions; examples include C-spine precautions, oxygen, bleeding control.
- ALS1 is defined as any of the above plus one (1) ALS intervention, such as EKG or IV.
- ALS2 is defined as two (2) or more ALS interventions.

**Staff Analysis and Recommendation:**

As a vital component of the community's safety and well-being, the Bryan Fire Department's ambulance services provides timely and effective medical assistance to all individuals in need. The Department's commitment is to save lives and ensure provided services are sustainable and reflect the true costs of operations.

The recent Senate Bill 2476, passed by the 88th Texas State Legislature, has brought significant changes to the billing of ambulance services. This legislation better ensures insurance companies are fully accountable for covering costs billed by emergency medical services (EMS), directly to all ground ambulance providers. However, the legislation still allows for patient responsibilities, such as deductibles, copays, and coinsurance.

Despite these advancements, an important issue remains unaddressed for municipal ground ambulance providers (e.g., BFD). A gap in the current law unintentionally exempts city-operated ambulance services from receiving the full, fair rates for services as outlined by the Texas Department of Insurance. This underfunding can impact the City's ability to maintain high-quality and responsive ambulance services.

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has established approved rates equivalent to 325% of the current Medicare rate. Commercial insurance plans now pay the lesser of either the billed rate or 325% of the Medicare approved rates.

Staff recommends approval of the Resolution with the new ambulance rates. The new rates are in line with the Texas Department of Insurance approved rates, and potentially increase revenue to cover increased operating costs enabling a more sustainable model of emergency response and ambulance transport.

**Options:**

1. Approve the proposed Resolution, and therefore, the updated billing rates.
2. Do not approve the proposed Resolution resulting in not updating rates (i.e., keeping current rates in place).

**Attachments:**

1. Proposed Resolution for Ambulance Transport and Medical Services

[RES\\_EMS Rates 2024.pdf \(116 KB\)](#)