



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Steve Howard, Fire Chief

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May 19, 2021

Ald. Joseph Pieper, Chair  
Finance Committee  
1011 W. Glenn Drive  
Waukesha, WI 53188

Subject: Review and Update of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fees

Dear Ald. Pieper,

The City of Waukesha Fire Department is recommending that the Finance Committee and Common Council adopt a fee increase for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The department has worked closely with representatives of Andres Medical Billing (AMB) to conduct a rate analysis as part of our 2022 budget preparation, and as a result, we are requesting a \$100 increase for both Advanced Life Support (ALS) service and Basic Life Support (BLS) service. These fee increases are consistent with "Usual and Customary" payments from private insurance and would generate an additional \$21,360 from private insurance in 2021 (if implemented July 1, 2021), an additional \$39,020 in 2022 (implemented January 1, 2022), and an additional \$35,320 in 2023 (implemented January 1, 2023). Attached is the rate analysis provided by AMB, which is based on our actual 2020 demographics.

The fees for EMS were last revised and adopted with effective dates of October 1, 2019 and October 1, 2020 (see attached rate history chart). A number of years ago, the City implemented a "Soft Collection Policy", which has been very successful. The policy was developed so City of Waukesha residents would not incur "out of pocket" expenses related to Emergency Medical Services.

The fee schedule adopted in 2019, was based on "Usual and Customary" payments made by private insurance, which was higher than some surrounding communities, but comparable with Midwest communities utilizing a soft collection policy. The increase being requested is consistent with comparable communities (comparable information attached).

Per past requests of the Finance Committee, the department continues to work closely with our billing company and the Finance Department to ensure that our rates are regularly evaluated and adjusted accordingly. The proposed increases will generate an additional \$95,700 (approx.) over the course of the next few years, as defined above, without increasing fees paid by city residents.



As always, feel free to contact me with any questions. Fire Department staff will be present at the Finance Committee meeting to provide additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Howard".

Steve Howard, Fire Chief  
City of Waukesha

Attachments (3)

Copies:        Finance Committee members  
                 Mayor Shawn Reilly  
                 City Administrator Kevin Lahner  
                 Finance Manager Bridget Souffrant

