

FIRE DEPARTMENT

130 W. ST. PAUL AVENUE
 WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN 53188-5172
 TELEPHONE 262/524-3651 FAX 262/524-3670

December 3, 2014

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

Dear Ald. Pieper,

The fire department is seeking the approval from the Finance Committee and Common Council to increase its fee structure for providing ambulance service to the community. Earlier in the year, the department was directed by the City Administrator to analyze all fees charged by the department and make recommendations for increases. As part of the analysis, it was identified that due to constraints imposed by Act 20, increasing fees associated with fire prevention and inspection activities would have limited benefit. We have been provided with an opinion by the City Attorney's office that the fees for providing emergency medical services (EMS) can be increased and are not restricted by the restraints imposed by Act 20.

A fee schedule adjustment for EMS was last approved by Council on August 7, 2012. This approval included a fee increase to be implemented in early 2013. Based on input from representatives of our billing company, Andres Medical Billing (AMB) and Finance department staff, we are seeking an approximate 5% increase to be effective January 1, 2015. The following is a table showing our EMS fee structure from 2009 – present (including the proposed increase for 2015).

	<u>Resident</u>				<u>Non-Resident</u>				<u>Mileage (res & non-res)</u>
	<u>ALS</u>	<u>ALS2</u>	<u>BLS</u>	<u>ALS No Transport</u>	<u>ALS</u>	<u>ALS2</u>	<u>BLS</u>	<u>ALS No Transport</u>	
2009	\$600.00	\$750.00	\$475.00	\$300.00	\$700.00	\$850.00	\$610.00	\$300.00	\$12.00
2010	\$712.00	\$845.00	\$593.00	\$300.00	\$900.00	\$975.00	\$800.00	\$300.00	\$14.00
2011	\$712.00	\$845.00	\$593.00	\$300.00	\$900.00	\$975.00	\$800.00	\$300.00	\$14.00
2012	\$760.00	\$925.00	\$650.00	\$300.00	\$950.00	\$1,100.00	\$850.00	\$300.00	\$20.00
2013	\$800.00	\$1,000.00	\$700.00	\$300.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$900.00	\$300.00	\$24.00
2014	\$800.00	\$1,000.00	\$700.00	\$300.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$900.00	\$300.00	\$24.00
Proposed	\$840.00	\$1,050.00	\$735.00	\$200.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,260.00	\$945.00	\$300.00	\$25.00



As part of developing this request, fees charged by other communities served by AMB were reviewed. According to the information provided to us, charges range as follows (approximately 160 communities throughout the Midwest were included):

	<u>Resident</u>			<u>Non-Resident</u>		
	<u>ALS</u>	<u>ALS2</u>	<u>BLS</u>	<u>ALS</u>	<u>ALS2</u>	<u>BLS</u>
High	\$1,650.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,650.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,275.00
Low	\$455.00	\$455.00	\$305.00	\$455.00	\$455.00	\$305.00
Average	\$1,052.50	\$1,277.50	\$790.00	\$1,052.50	\$1,277.50	\$790.00

In reviewing the information provided, it is challenging to compare communities. AMB has stressed the need to consider the philosophy of the community and the charges reimbursed by insurance companies. Our proposed fee increases are within usual and customary rates reimbursed by insurance companies and are comparable to communities in the area.

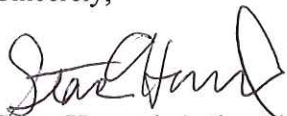
	<u>Resident</u>			<u>Non-Resident</u>		
	<u>ALS</u>	<u>ALS2</u>	<u>BLS</u>	<u>ALS</u>	<u>ALS2</u>	<u>BLS</u>
Brookfield	\$775.00	n/a	\$600.00	\$925.00	n/a	\$725.00
*North Shore	\$687.00	\$791.00	\$602.00	\$812.00	\$936.00	\$729.00
*Pewaukee	\$850.00	n/a	\$600.00	\$950.00	n/a	\$700.00

**Communities that bill for supplies separately, impacting their fees*

Analysis provided by AMB indicates that the City would annually receive approximately an additional \$55,000, if these fees were increased. The impact of these fee increases is limited to persons with insurance and those who have chosen to not purchase insurance under the affordable care act (uninsured). As a note, the City is limited on the fees that can be charged to patients covered by Medicare and Medicaid. Staff of the fire department and the finance department will continue to work with AMB, exploring our options to increase revenue. If these options are found to be viable, they will be presented to the committee prior to preparing the 2016 budget.

Staff will be available at the meeting on December 9, 2014 to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Steve Howard, Acting Fire Chief
City of Waukesha

Copies: Mayor Shawn Reilly
City Administrator Ed Henschel
Finance Manager Rich Abbot
Pat Mannix, Andres Medical Billing

