



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Steve Howard, Fire Chief

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August 9, 2019

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 2020 budget preparation, and as a result we are requesting a \$100 increase for Advanced Life Support (ALS) service and a \$100 increase for Basic Life Support (BLS) service. These fee increases are consistent with "Usual and Customary" payments from private insurance and would generate an additional \$56,480 from private insurance in 2020, with an additional \$56,480 in 2021. **Attached** is a rate analysis provided by AMB that is based on our actual 2018 demographics.

The fees for Emergency Medical Services were last reviewed and adopted effective date of October 1, 2017 (see **attached** rate history chart). The City had previously implemented a "Soft Collection Policy", which has been very successful. The policy was developed so City of Waukesha residents would not have to pay any "out of pocket" expenses related to Emergency Medical Services.

The fee schedule adopted in 2017, was based on "Usual and Customary" payments made by private insurance, which was higher than some surrounding communities, but comparable with Midwest communities in the utilizing a soft collection policy. The increase being requested is consistent with that of the comparable communities. (comparable information **attached**).



EMS Fees Review (continued)

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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 \$56,480 in 2020 and 2021, 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,

Steve Howard, Fire Chief  
City of Waukesha

Attachments (3)

Copies: Finance Committee members  
Mayor Shawn Reilly  
City Administrator Kevin Lahner  
Finance Manager Rich Abbott

