

Re: Proposed Ambulance Transport Fees

Greetings,

It is vital that the Sacramento Fire Department seek cost recovery for services provided to maintain current service levels. The last adjustment to the Ambulance Fee Schedule occurred on June 26, 2012. The costs to provide services has increased each year.

The Fire Department contracted with MGT of America to conduct an analysis of its Ambulance Transport Fees. The analysis shows that the Fire Department needs to update its Ambulance Fee Schedule to keep pace with the rising supply, equipment, and personnel costs necessary to operate an ambulance transport program. The proposed fee increases have considered Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, medical, and actual operating costs. The current and proposed fees are listed on the following page.

Staff plans to recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed EMS Transport Fees and the new First Responder Fee, as well as implement an annual fee adjustment to help offset rising labor, service, and supply costs.

Workshops to discuss the fee proposal will be held at the Public Safety Center, Hall of Honor, located at 5770 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento, and are scheduled as follows:

August 31, 2017	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
September 7, 2017	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
September 17, 2017	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Sacramento Fire Department - Proposed EMS Transport Fees

ALS 1 Bundled Transport Fee

Current Rate: \$1,450.80

Proposed: \$1,826.28

ALS 2 Bundled Transport Fee

Current Rate: \$1,450.80

Proposed: \$1,826.28

BLS Bundled Transport Fee

Current Rate: \$1,295.60

Proposed: \$1,630.92

Sacramento Fire Department - Proposed First Responder Fee

First Responder Fee

Proposed: \$283.00

First Responder Fee

What is a First Responder User Fee?

A First Responder User Fee, permitted under Section 13916 of the California Health and Safety Code, is cost recovery for first responder paramedic services.

It has become an industry standard to fund the enhanced paramedic level of service provided by fire engine and ladder truck companies. A number of other fire departments in the Sacramento Area also charge this fee.

Essential Public Service

The use of property taxes was designed to fund fire suppression and basic medical care only. Communities have come to expect paramedic (advanced) level of care and it is considered an essential public service.

Fee

The fee is based on actual personnel, equipment, and material costs; a public agency cannot profit from a fee. This fee will only be charged to patients who receive medical care from a first responder unit (Engine or Truck). The cost partially captures an hourly staffing rate for a Captain, Engineer and two Firefighter's. It also includes the cost of apparatus and the indirect hourly cost billed to SFD. Since pre-hospital care is a critical component of the healthcare system, most medical insurances cover the First Responder User Fee.

Sacramento Fire Department proposes to adopt a First Responder fee in the amount of \$283.00. The First Responder Fee will be charged to every patient that is provided the initial care and then is transported in an ambulance by Sacramento Fire Department or any other agency.