



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, March 26, 2013

Council Session

Item G9

#2013-79 - Approving Amending Fee Schedule Relative to Fire Department

Staff Contact: Cory Schmidt, Fire Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: Russ Blackburn, GIFD EMS Division Chief

Meeting: March 26, 2013

Subject: Change in Fee Schedule

Item #'s: G-9

Presenter(s): Russ Blackburn, GIFD EMS Division Chief

Background

The Grand Island Fire Department charges user fees for the delivery of emergency medical service to the public. Three problems have been discovered in our current Fee Schedule.

With Life Team now doing business in Grand Island, we transport fixed wing medical flight teams in our ambulances from the airport to the hospital and back. We billed the patients when we had little to no contact with them; the flight crew does the patient care.

Another problem we have found is businesses that charge patients to take care of them, nursing homes and long term care facilities, are using the Fire Department personnel to lift patients that have fallen and are not injured, usually obese, instead of having proper staff, or in place of buying proper lifting equipment for their patients. To curtail this practice the Fire Department would like to charge business that are being paid to care for a patient if they call to have the Fire Department help lift their uninjured patients.

We get requests from area events to have emergency medical personnel on-site as a precaution and the protection of event participants. We do have a scheduled fee for two people and an ambulance to go to an event, but we do not have a fee for just two EMTs to be on-site without transport capabilities.

Discussion

After discussions with Life Team they have agreed to be billed directly at the cost of \$300 for the round trip transportation of flight crew and patient. The same rate would be billed to other aero medical companies that request transportation.

As for the lift assist fee for businesses, we charge a fee of \$165/ hour to have a staffed fire engine do standby at events. The average lift assist keeps an engine company busy for ½ hour. We would like to charge \$85 to businesses that use Fire Department personnel to supplement their patient care.

The last fee change we would like to make at this time is a fee of \$75 per hour, 2 hour minimum, as an Event EMS Services fee. The fee would be charged to the organizers of an event, but the fees for treatment and transport, if necessary, would still be charged to the patients like usual. The fee covers the overtime to have just two EMTs work the event without an ambulance.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve these three changes to the fee schedule. A charge of \$300 for round trip transportation of a flight crew and patient, an \$85 fee to businesses that use Fire Department personnel to lift uninjured patients, and a \$75 per hour, two hour minimum, fee to have the GIFD provide emergency medical services, without an ambulance, at planned events.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the three changes to the fee schedule. A charge of \$300 for round trip transportation of a flight crew and patient, an \$85 fee to businesses that use Fire Department personnel to lift uninjured patients, and a \$75 per hour, two hour minimum, fee to have the GIFD provide emergency medical services, without an ambulance, at planned events.

RESOLUTION 2013-79

WHEREAS, Grand Island Fire Department has identified three areas of service not currently addressed in the City Fee Schedule; and

WHEREAS, a better billing solution of charging aero-medical companies directly for transportation of their flight crews and patients at \$300 per round trip from the airport to the hospital and back, instead of billing the patient directly; and

WHEREAS, to curtail business who are paid to care for patients, using Fire Department personnel to supplement their staff or equipment to lift uninjured patients, the creation of a fee of \$85 per lift assist call to such facility, and

WHEREAS, and a \$75 per hour, two hour minimum, fee to have the GIFD provide emergency medical services, without an ambulance, at planned events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, to approve the two changes to the fee schedule. A charge of \$300 for round trip transportation of a flight crew and patient and \$85 fee to business, that are paid to care for patients, that use Fire Department personnel to lift uninjured patients, and a \$75 per hour, two hour minimum, fee to have the GIFD provide emergency medical services, without an ambulance, at planned events.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, March 26, 2013.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
March 22, 2013	☐ City Attorney