

AGENDA



Thursday, March 11, 2010

**Emergency Medical Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 20**

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 EMS Fee Schedule of Ordinance No. 20090914-004, to approve changes made by Travis County Commissioners Court to the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 STAR Flight patient transport fees.

For More Information: Ernesto Rodriguez, EMS Director, 972-7148

Prior Council Action: September 14, 2009 - Fiscal Year 2009-2010 EMS Fee Schedule was approved.

Patient transport fees for the STAR Flight air ambulance program are set by Travis County Commissioners Court, but also require approval from the City Council in accordance with the terms of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City and Travis County. STAR Flight is owned and operated by Travis County but STAR Flight fees are billed and collected by the City EMS Department on behalf of Travis County. Since Travis County owns the helicopters, holds the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) license, and funds 100% of the operating costs related to STAR Flight, Travis County receives 100% of the revenue collected from STAR Flight patient transports.

On January 26, 2010, the Travis County Commissioners Court approved changes to the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 STAR Flight patient transport fees. The changes approved by the court will bring STAR Flight transport fees to Medicare allowables and also help the county offset rising maintenance costs for the STAR Flight Program. Once approved by City Council, the new fees will become effective. The changes made by the Commissioners Court are listed below:

Transport Fees Travis County Resident: Base Fee Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Approved: \$2,700. Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Amended: \$3,400.

Transport Fees Non-Travis County Resident: Base Fee Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Approved: \$7,000. Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Amended: \$7,500.