



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1397, Agenda Item #: 77.

3/4/2021

Posting Language

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance on first reading regarding the application submitted by Viking Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a City Ambulance Service, for a non-emergency medical transfer franchise under Chapter 10-2 of the City Code. (Suggested date and time: April 8, 2021, Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX.).

Lead Department

Emergency Medical Services.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

For More Information:

Chief Ernesto Rodriguez, Emergency Medical Services, (512) 972-7148, Assistant Director Kerri Lang, Emergency Medical Services, (512) 972-7211.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

February 2, 2021 - The Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board approved this item and a five year franchise on a vote of 6-0.

Additional Backup Information:

City Ambulance Service initially applied for a non-emergency transfer franchise with the City of Austin in October of 2019. The onset of the COVID pandemic delayed processing of the application in a number of ways. Finally, on February 3, 2021, the Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board meet and voted to recommend that the City grant the franchise. City Ambulance Service is requesting a franchise for a five year term, as permitted by Chapter 10-2 of the City Code.

In order for a private ambulance company to provide non-emergency medical transfer service within the city limits, it must obtain a franchise from the City of Austin. Chapter 10-2 of the City Code requires that a public hearing be held on an application for a transfer service franchise. The purpose of this RCA is to request that the City Council set a public hearing for 4:00pm on Thursday April 08, 2021, regarding this non-emergency transfer franchise application. Currently, three companies hold non-emergency transfer franchises in Austin. Those are: American Medical Response of Texas, Inc. (AMR), Acadian Ambulance Services of Texas, LLC. (Acadian), and Lone Star Ambulance 1, LLC, d/b/a Allegiance Mobile Health (Allegiance).

Non-emergency medical transfers typically occur between nursing home facilities and hospitals and are usually prescheduled by medical personnel.

Staff analysis of City Ambulance Service's franchise application has been completed. The analysis included a review of the applicant's operations, and performance from other operations within the state of Texas. As noted above, the Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board reviewed the staff findings on February 3, 2021,

and approved City Ambulance Service for a five year franchise by a vote of 6-0.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.