



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-2885, **Agenda Item #:** 69.

9/2/2021

### **Posting Language**

Approve an ordinance amending Exhibit A to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Austin Fee and Fine Ordinance (Ordinance No. 20200812-002) and Exhibit A to the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 City of Austin Fee and Fine Ordinance (Ordinance No. 20210811-002) to authorize waivers from personal payment of certain emergency services fees relating to the discount and charity care fees for Emergency Medical Services.

### **Lead Department**

Emergency Medical Services Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

This item has no fiscal impact.

### **For More Information:**

Jasper Brown, Interim EMS Chief, Emergency Medical Services Department (EMS) 512-972-7201; Carlos Ledesma, Acting Assistant Director, EMS, 512-972-7222.

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

August 12, 2020 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20200812-002, that authorized fees, fines, and other charges to be set or charged by the City for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 beginning on October 1, 2020 and ending on September 30, 2021. Ordinance No. 20200812-002 included a discounted fee for Basic Level Service, Advanced Level Service (1) and Advanced Level Service (2).

November 12, 2020 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20201112-012 that authorized an update to Fiscal Year 2020-2021 City of Austin Fee and Fine Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2020812-002) updating fees for Emergency Medical Transports.

August 11, 2021 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20210811-002, that authorized fees, fines, and other charges to be set or charged by the City for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 beginning on October 1, 2021 and ending on September 30, 2022. Both ordinances included a discounted fee for Basic Level Service, Advanced Level Service (1) and Advanced Level Service (2).

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The Emergency Medical Services Department is updating its charity care program to provide waivers for emergency transports at the Basic, Advanced, and Advanced 2 level of services. Historically, the waiver has only applied to individuals experiencing homelessness and patients who died with no known estate. The following categories of individuals are proposed to be added to Charity Care and as such the City Manager is requesting approval to allow the EMS Chief to only obtain payment for these fees from the Texas Charity Care Program.

The City shall provide hardship assistance with no obligation to pay personally for ambulance transport

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services to those uninsured patients who meet one of the following criteria:

- a. Experiencing homelessness, or has received care from a facility that offers temporary or transitional housing or shelter or other supportive services to persons experiencing homelessness within 12 months from the Date of Service;
- b. Patient is deceased with no known estate to pay for the services;
- c. Incarcerated, or has been incarcerated within 12 months before the Date of Service, evidence of arrest shall be considered incarceration for eligibility purposes;
- d. Currently (at the time of billing) eligible for Medicaid, but did not have Medicaid on the Date of Service;
- e. Eligible for the Medical Assistance Program (MAP);
- f. Eligible for State-funded prescription programs;
- g. Eligible for participation in Women, Infants and Children programs (WIC);
- h. Eligible for food stamps;
- i. Eligible for subsidized school lunch program;
- j. Eligible for other need-based federal, state or local assistance programs including but not limited to Lone Star Card Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Section 8 Housing;
- k. Residence address is subsidized housing, or individuals eligible for rent voucher from the federal/state housing authority or City;
- l. Credit Score from major credit reporting agency at or **below 500** within 12 months after the Date of Service;

Other conditions which, in the discretion of the Chief, are consistent with the purpose, intent and terms of the Policy and comply with applicable law.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Safety.