

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)  
BILLING FEE STRUCTURE**

**WHEREAS**, Washington County Government is required by law to have and implement an ambulance transport plan within the county that provides for ambulance transport services to anyone in Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, the county has such a plan and contracts with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party service to provide 9-1-1 ambulance services which includes a fee structure that the ambulance service utilizes to bill for services provided; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Forest Grove, along with multiple other fire departments and fire districts throughout Washington County, is a secondary provider of ambulance services when the primary ambulance provider is unable to provide ambulance services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Forest Grove is a federal, state and county registered transport agency, legally permitted to bill for said services when utilized.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FOREST GROVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The Fire Fees in Exhibit 1 of Resolution No. 2022-30 is hereby modified to include Fees for Medical Transport Services at the billing rates established by the Washington County EMS Office.

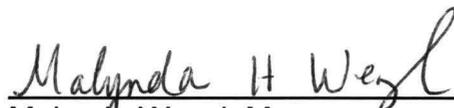
**Section 2.** This resolution is effective immediately upon its enactment by the City Council.

**PRESENTED AND PASSED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.



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Anna D. Ruggles, City Recorder

**APPROVED** by the Mayor this 20th day of March, 2023.



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Malynnda Wenzl, Mayor

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-30 EXHIBIT 1 AMENDED: Forest Grove General Fees and Charges Schedule**

**FIRE**

Emergency Response Cost Recovery Fees and Charges

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Transport Services

Fees set by Washington County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) standardized costs schedule

Motor Vehicle Incidents

\$275.00 min. + 15% admin fee and actual costs of supplies and equipment used

\$275.00 min. + 15% admin fee and actual costs of supplies and equipment used

Fire/Public Safety Incidents

\$425.00 min. + 15% admin fee and actual costs of supplies and equipment used  
(after first half-hour, fees set by State Fire Marshal standardized costs schedule)

\$425.00 min. + 15% admin fee and actual costs of supplies and equipment used  
(after first half-hour, fees set by State Fire Marshal standardized costs schedule)



*A place where families and businesses thrive.*

<i>CITY RECORDER USE ONLY:</i>	
AGENDA ITEM #:	<u>F. 2.</u>
MEETING DATE:	<u>03/20/2023</u>
FINAL ACTION:	<u>RESO 2023-09</u>

**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

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**TO:** *City Council*

**FROM:** *Paul Downey, Acting City Manager*

**PROJECT TEAM:** *Jim Geering, Fire Chief  
Patrick Wineman, Division Chief*

**MEETING DATE:** *March 20, 2023*

**SUBJECT TITLE:** *Resolution Adopting an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Billing Fee Structure*

<b>ACTION REQUESTED:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Order	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational
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*X all that apply*

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**ISSUE STATEMENT & BACKGROUND:**

In this county, in accordance with Oregon State Law, Washington County Government is required to draft and implement an ambulance transport plan that provides for ambulance services (including transport) to protect their entire respective county. Washington County has such a plan, and in order to fulfill that plan, contracts the provision of ambulances services to a private 3<sup>rd</sup> party company on a franchise agreement. As part of that agreement, the Washington County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office establishes the billing rates utilized by the private 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider.

When the 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider is unable to respond to emergencies because all of their resources are committed to other 9-1-1 incidents, the EMS system in Washington County relies on the utilization of fire department and/or fire district ambulances to fill this gap until 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider units can become available again.

While this practice has been in effect for nearly 2 decades, it has historically only occurred on a very infrequent basis (2-3 times a year) and is usually associated with a multiple casualty incident (i.e., multiple patients in a vehicle crash) or during significant weather events (i.e., snow and ice storms).

Over the last year, we have observed a sharp increase in the unavailability of ambulances from the 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider due to a variety of factors. While we continue to address these factors within Washington County, we are still forced to meet a difficult demand with very little other option. During this last November 2022 alone, we observed 55 requests for fire department ambulance transport services in the Forest Grove and surrounding area. These requests require us to take firefighters away from their primary duty protecting our citizens, and temporarily assigning them to the ambulance for transport to an area hospital. The cost to provide this unplanned service is borne by the city.

To recoup some of the costs of this unplanned service, the City can and does bill the people that it transports to an area hospital. Currently the private 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider handles the billing for the City. The City invoices at the billing rates established by the Washington County EMS Office, but those fees are not included in the City fee resolution as are other fees set by other agencies, such as WCCLS. This resolution would add the billing rates to the City's fee schedule.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Approving this resolution will formalize the fees in the City's fee resolution. It will not increase revenue as the money that would be received by the city for these services is the same money (at the same rate established by the county) that the payee would be billed if they were transported by the private 3<sup>rd</sup> party provider.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends City Council approve the attached resolution *Adopting an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Billing Fee Structure*.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Resolution