
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Fire
FROM: Casey Davis, Fire Chief
MEETING: July 22, 2024

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion and provide staff direction regarding Burleson Fire/EMS delivery of ambulance transportation services. (*Staff Contact: Casey Davis, Fire Chief*)

SUMMARY:

In line with our commitment to transparency and keeping the Burleson City Council informed, Burleson Fire/EMS is pleased to provide a comprehensive update on the ambulance service since its launch on October 1, 2023.

Overview of Service Performance

Since the initiation of the new ambulance service, our team has diligently monitored and responded to 911 emergency calls. The call volume and successful patient transports are key indicators of our service's effectiveness. The attached PowerPoint presentation provides a detailed breakdown of emergency call volume and corresponding response times since October 2023, reflecting our dedication to delivering timely and efficient emergency medical services to our community.

Inter-Facility Transports

Beyond emergency responses, our EMS system, in collaboration with CareFlite, has actively engaged in inter-facility transports. This involves the seamless transfer of patients between medical facilities, ensuring continuity of care. Our report outlines the frequency and nature of these inter-facility transports. Notably, since early December 2023, there has been a decrease in the frequency of Burleson Fire/EMS providing these inter-facility transports, with CareFlite Ground Ambulance Service taking on the primary role.

Billing Status and Trends

As part of our contracted services with Emergicon for ambulance billing, we are committed to providing regular updates on the current billing status. Although there was a delay in billing initiation until late December, we are pleased to report a positive trend within the projected cash per transport projections from Emergicon.

Proposed EMS Subscription Plan

In response to the Council's request for more information from the last EMS update, we are exploring the implementation of an EMS subscription plan for billing purposes. This plan aims to offer citizens a cost-effective option for ambulance services, providing peace of mind and financial predictability. The proposed subscription plan options would be available to individuals with private insurance or Medicare, covering costs not covered by insurance except for obligated deductibles. Below are the proposed options:

Option 1: Open Enrollment Plan

- **Annual Fee:** Recommended at \$65 per household.
- **Coverage:** The subscription plan would cover the cost of ambulance services, potentially reducing the financial burden on our residents during emergencies.
- **Enrollment Period:** August – September, with a secured list of beneficiaries communicated to Emergicon and updated annually.
 - If a qualified applicant wishes to join after the open enrollment period, their coverage will extend only through the remainder of that year's subscription plan.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Must be a resident or work within the City limits of Burleson.
 - Enrolled in a medical insurance plan for the head of household, spouse, and any unmarried dependent children under 25 years of age who are full-time students.
 - Other dependents must have court-documented guardianship papers.
 - Medicaid recipients cannot participate in this program.
 - Medicare recipients.

Option 2: No Subscription Plan

Continue to operate without a subscription plan.

The new Ambulance Transport System has significantly enhanced our emergency response and patient care capabilities. I look forward to discussing these updates in more detail at the upcoming council meeting and welcome any questions or feedback from the council members.

RECOMMENDATION:

Insert staff recommendation

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

List date and description of any prior action related to the subject

REFERENCE:

During the City Council Regular Meeting on 02/05/2024, the Council requested a six-month update on ambulance billing data and a review of the necessity of a subscription plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Explain fiscal impact if any

STAFF CONTACT:

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