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**Finance Committee**

**DEPARTMENT:** Fire/EMS

**FROM:** Casey Davis, Fire Chief

**MEETING:** June 18, 2025

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**SUBJECT:**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide recommendations to the city council on Fire Billing Services. (*Staff Contact: Casey Davis, Fire Chief*)

**SUMMARY:**

Emergicon, the current vendor managing ambulance billing for Burleson Fire/EMS, has recently launched a specialized division called Emergifire, which focuses exclusively on fire service billing. Many insurance carriers include coverage for fire department service charges, particularly those related to fire incidents, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous materials cleanup, and other emergency responses. Many fire departments such as ours lack the administrative capacity or dedicated personnel to pursue these insurance reimbursements, especially for commercial and industrial incidents. As a result, valuable opportunities to recover costs are often lost.

Emergifire offers a billing solution specifically designed for Texas fire departments to recover expenses associated with these services. Burleson Fire/EMS previously participated in a similar billing program years ago and experienced some early success before the program was discontinued. We are now recommending that Council consider re-engaging in this model to support the department's long-term financial sustainability.

As part of this proposal, Council has the ability to establish specific policy parameters to ensure the fire service billing program aligns with the values and expectations of the Burleson community. Options for consideration include limiting billing strictly to insurance companies, ensuring that no individual or business would ever receive a direct bill, and prohibiting the use of third-party collections under any circumstances. The primary intent of implementing this program is to create a responsible and sustainable cost recovery mechanism, not to generate revenue, by capturing reimbursement through existing insurance provisions. This approach allows the City to recover costs for fire and rescue services while maintaining a compassionate, transparent process that protects our residents and local businesses.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends delivering a formal presentation to City Council to consider implementing a new fire service billing program.

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

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

**REFERENCE:**

Insert CSO# if applicable

Insert resolution or ordinance change

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Revenue: Emergifire revenue estimation \$145,000.00

**STAFF CONTACT:**

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