



Medical Services Interlocal and Mutual Aid Agreement with CareFlite

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION

MAY 5, 2025

Purpose

- Establish a newly negotiated EMS mutual aid agreement with CareFlite ground ambulance service to replace the previous agreement, providing clearer alignment with current operational practices, roles, and response expectations.
- Improve coordination for both emergency and non-emergency medical responses
- Create a structured process for handling interfacility transport requests



What is a Mutual Aid Agreement

Mutual aid refers to a collaborative arrangement between two or more emergency service providers to assist one another during times of need.

The fundamental idea behind mutual aid is that emergency situations and disasters can sometimes overwhelm the resources of a single agency or jurisdiction.

Key Highlights

- Mutual aid for EMS responses when requested
- Each agency operates under its own medical control and protocols
- Use of designated Burleson Fire facilities by CareFlite
- CareFlite given first opportunity for interfacility transports
- No expenditures proposed as part of this agreement
- Supersedes all prior oral or written agreements

Medical Oversight & Equivalency

- Each party retains medical autonomy under their Medical Director
- Agreement requires certification of substantial medical equivalency by Medical Directors of each agency
- Either party may revoke this certification, ending the agreement

Facility Use & Inter-Facility Transport Provisions

CareFlite is authorized to stage EMS units at designated Burleson Fire stations

Interfacility transport requirements:

- *CareFlite will be offered first opportunity to respond to Inter-facility Transfers in Burleson*
- *Emergency or Critical care transfers must be initiated within 30 minutes*
- *Non-emergency transfers must be initiated within 2 hours*
- *If CareFlite is unable to meet this requirement, they are to promptly notify Burleson dispatch for alternative transport.*

Burleson Fire/EMS retains the right to respond to any transport situation within the City of Burleson at its discretion.

Billing & Financial Terms

Mutual Aid Services:

- Provided at no cost to either party under normal operations.

Patient & Third-Party Billing:

- The Answering Agency (CareFlite or Burleson Fire/EMS) is responsible for billing the patient or their insurance.
- Each agency operates under its own billing system and rate structure.

Membership Programs:

- Neither agency is required to honor subscription or membership programs from other jurisdictions.

Additional Services:

- If services beyond normal mutual aid are requested, a separate written agreement must be made in advance, including scope and cost.

Agreement Term & Renewal

Initial Term:

- The agreement term is for one (1) year.

Automatic Renewal:

- Automatically renews for successive one-year periods, unless terminated by either party.

Termination Options:

- Either party may terminate at any time with 30 days' written notice
- Immediate termination is permitted in the event of a material breach or if either agency's Medical Director determines that medical equivalency standards are no longer being met.



Council Action Requested

Approve

- Staff recommends approval of the Medical Services Mutual Aid Agreement with CareFlite a Texas non-profit corporation