
City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Fire/EMS
FROM: Casey Davis, Fire Chief
MEETING: September 2, 2025

SUBJECT:

Consider and take possible action on an ordinance establishing mitigation rates for emergency and non-emergency services. (First Reading) (*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, lacks the administrative capacity or dedicated personnel to pursue the 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 reengaging in this model to support the department's long-term financial sustainability.

As part of this proposal, Council may establish policy parameters to ensure the fire service billing program reflects the values and expectations of the Burleson community. Key options for consideration include affirming the City's intent that billing for emergency and non-emergency services be directed to the responsible party's insurance provider whenever possible; allowing direct billing to businesses that specifically request it; and prohibiting the use of third-party collection practices under all circumstances.

The Fire Response Cost Recovery Plan was presented to the Finance Committee on June 18, 2025 where the committee provided their approval of the recommendation. Following the review with the Finance Committee, the proposal was presented to Council on July 21, 2025 for discussion and feedback. It was the recommendation of Council to provide a final review of the proposal.

The proposal before Council includes three key actions: an amendment to the contract with Emergicon to incorporate services provided by Emergifire; an ordinance establishing mitigation rates; and a resolution adopting an emergency and non-emergency management and services billing policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance as presented.

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

June 18, 2025 Presented the proposed Fire Response Cost Recovery plan to the Finance Committee, providing staff with direction with the proposal.

July 21, 2025 Presented the proposed Fire Response Cost Recovery plan to Council providing staff direction with the proposal.

REFERENCE:

New Ordinance # TBD

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed Expenditure/Revenue:
Account Number(s): 1012201-47151
Fund: 101
Account Description: (Fire/EMS Charges for Services)

STAFF CONTACT:

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