



THE CITY OF
BURLESON
TEXAS

SB 916 Compliance & FY26 Ambulance Fee Schedule

3/23/2026 Council Meeting

Discussion Objectives:

Council Direction:

- Provide update on Texas Senate Bill 916
- Review current published EMS ambulance billing rates
- Discuss allowable annual adjustment (2.0% FY26)
- Confirm submission to TDI by March 23, 2026
- Ensure compliance with state reimbursement requirements

Prior Council Action:

- April 17, 2023 – Adopted EMS Billing Policy
- August 21, 2023 – Updated for SB 2476 compliance
- Rates submitted to TDI January 24, 2024
- SB 916 now governs annual rate adjustments
- The City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending the City's Fee Schedule Ordinance (CSO#5907-09-2025) on March 2, 2026. The original ordinance became effective October 1, 2025, for Fiscal Year 2025–26. The proposed amendment will be considered for second reading on March 23, 2026, and, if approved, will take effect in accordance with the ordinance.

What Was SB 2476? (Passed 2023)

- Prohibited balance billing for certain out-of-network ground EMS transports
- Protected patients from surprise ambulance bills
- Required cities to submit EMS rates to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)
- Created the statewide EMS Rate Database
- Required insurers to reimburse based on published political subdivision rates
- Shifted payment disputes toward insurer accountability rather than patient liability
- Effective September 1, 2023 and expired September 1, 2025
- Council and Burleson Fire/EMS supported and advocated for the passage of legislation such as SB 916 to provide long-term stability and clarity in EMS reimbursement.
- SB 916 replaced SB 2476 and remains in force until the Legislature amends or repeals it.

Fee Schedule Review – FY26 Budget

- Staff reached out to Emergicon during FY26 budget development to evaluate whether Burleson should modify its ambulance fee schedule.
- Emergicon advised that our current rates remain in line with industry standards and their statewide client recommendations.
- At the time of budget preparation, no formal TDI rule had been adopted requiring changes to our submitted rates.
- SB 916 passed during the 89th Texas Legislature (September 1, 2025)
- The final TDI rule implementing SB 916 was adopted January 30, 2026
 - Applies to Political Subdivisions that set EMS rates

What SB 916 Changes

Annual Adjustment Limits:

- SB 916 continues most provisions of SB 2476 and makes them ongoing law, with specific changes to annual rate adjustments and reimbursement rules.
- Rates may be adjusted **once per year**
- TDI determines and announces when the reporting window opens.
- For FY26, the turnaround between rule adoption (January 30, 2026) and the submission deadline (March 23, 2026) was compressed.
- **Increase capped at lesser of:**
 - Medicare Ambulance Inflation Factor (FY26 = 2.0%)
 - OR 10% of prior year rate

Important:

- Multi-year “catch-up” increases prohibited
- If no rate submitted, previously published rate remains in effect
- Reimbursement tied to TDI-published rate

What SB 916 Changes

Topic	SB 2476	SB 916
Passed	2023	2025
Main Focus	Stop balance billing	Control annual rate increases
Created TDI Database?	Yes	Continues
Allows Annual Adjustments?	No	Yes
Caps Annual Increase?	No	Yes (Medicare - AIF or 10%)
Affects Consumer Billing?	Yes	Continues
Affects Reimbursement Mechanics?	Yes	Continues

Why Consider Adjusting the EMS Fee Schedule?

Protects EMS Financial Stability:

- Maintains purchasing power against inflation (state-capped at 2.0% FY26)
- Prevents gradual erosion of reimbursement over time
- State law does not allow multi-year or retroactive adjustments (No “catch-up” opportunity)

Primarily Impacts Commercial Insurance:

- Adjustment applies mostly to private/commercial insurance reimbursement
- Does not increase Government payors such as Medicare or Medicaid payments

Maintains Local Rate Authority:

- Ensures Burleson controls its published reimbursement rate
- Aligns with state law and TDI reporting requirements

Current EMS Fee Schedule & FY26 Proposed Adjustment (2.0%)

Service	Current	+2.0% Calculation
ALS-E-A0427	\$1,600	\$1,632.00
ALS-Non-Emergent-A0426	\$1,600	\$1,632.00
ALS2-A0433	\$1,750	\$1,785.00
BLS-Non-Emergent-A0428	\$1,400	\$1,428.00
BLS-E-A0429	\$1,400	\$1,428.00
Specialty Care Transport (SCT-A0434)	\$2,200	\$2,244.00
ALS DISP - A0398	\$400	\$408.00
BLS DISP - A0382	\$350	\$357.00
O2 - A0422	\$150	\$153.00
Mileage - A0425	\$24.00	\$24.48
Treatment No Transport (TNT - A0998) (TNT fee shall apply only when an ALS intervention is performed)	\$175	\$178.50

Proposed Ongoing Approach

- Staff recommends adopting a policy that the City's Emergency Medical Services fee schedule adjust annually based on the allowable increase established under state law, based on the Medicare Ambulance Inflation Factor.
- Texas Department of Insurance establishes the reporting window independently of the City's budget calendar, staff will monitor the allowable adjustment each year and update TDI rate.
- Staff will bring updates for Council consideration as needed or at Council's direction.

Council Feedback

- Does Council desire to modify the EMS fee schedule this year, not to exceed the 2.0% maximum permitted under state law?
- Does Council support allowing the EMS fee schedule to adjust annually in accordance with the allowable increase established under state law?