

City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Fire/EMS
FROM: CASEY DAVIS, Fire Chief
MEETING: March 23, 2026

SUBJECT:

Consider and take possible action on ordinance amending the city’s fee schedule ordinance for Fiscal Year 2025-26 (CSO#5907-09-2025) by amending fees associated with emergency medical and ambulance services. (Final Reading) *(Staff Contact: Casey Davis, Fire Chief)*

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 <p>Beautiful, Safe, & Vibrant Community</p>	<p>GOAL 3 Enhance emergency response services provided to the community, including emergency medical, police, fire and public dispatch services.</p>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 916 (89th Texas Legislature) continues and formalizes the reimbursement framework originally established under Senate Bill 2476 and governs how political subdivisions may adjust Emergency Medical Services (EMS) rates annually. SB 916 permits political subdivisions to adjust EMS rates once per year, subject to a statutory cap of the lesser of the Medicare Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) or ten percent (10%) of the prior year’s rate.

For Fiscal Year 2026, the Medicare Ambulance Inflation Factor is 2.0%, which establishes the maximum allowable adjustment for the City’s published EMS rates.

The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) requires political subdivisions that set or regulate EMS rates to submit updated rates within the annual reporting window. The reporting window is determined by TDI and may not align with the City’s regular budget cycle. If no rate adjustment is submitted, the previously published rate remains in effect. State law does not allow retroactive or multi-year “catch-up” increases.

The proposed ordinance amends the City's fee schedule to reflect the allowable 2.0% adjustment to the City's currently published EMS rates. This adjustment primarily impacts commercial insurance reimbursement. It does not alter Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement rates, which are governed by federal and state law.

Staff previously consulted with Emergicon during the FY26 budget development process to evaluate whether modifications to the ambulance fee schedule were recommended. At that time, Burleson's rates were consistent with regional standards and industry guidance. The final TDI rule implementing SB 916 was adopted January 30, 2026, which established the formal annual adjustment structure and reporting requirements now in effect.

Moving forward, staff recommends aligning the City's EMS fee schedule with the allowable annual adjustment established under state law, including the Medicare Ambulance Inflation Factor, and evaluating each year's adjustment in accordance with the TDI reporting window.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Council amend Fee Schedule

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

April 17, 2023 – Resolution CSO#5077-04-2023 adopted the Emergency Medical and Ambulance Services Billing Policy.

August 21, 2023 – Resolution CSO#5191-08-2023 amended the billing policy to align with Senate Bill 2476.

January 24, 2024 – City's EMS rates submitted to and published in the TDI EMS Rate Database.

The City Council approved Fee Schedule Ordinance CSO#5907-09-2025, which took effect October 1, 2025, for Fiscal Year 2025–26.

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.

REFERENCE:

Fee Schedule Ordinance CSO#5907-09-2025

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Revenue for Ambulance Billing

STAFF CONTACT:

burlesontx.com | 817.426.9611 | 141 W Renfro Street, Burleson, Texas 76028

CASEY DAVIS
Fire Chief
Cdavis@burlesontx.com
817-426-9173