



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	4/14/2020
AGENDA SECTION:	Consent Calendar
SUBJECT:	Resolution No. 10418- A Resolution Adopting an Updated Fee Schedule by Adding “Patient Assessment/Treatment- No Transport” to the Ambulance Cost Recovery Program Provided by the Fire Department
FROM:	Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

The Fire Department recommends that the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 10418 - A Resolution Adopting an Updated Fee Schedule by Adding “Patient Assessment/Treatment- No Transport” to the Ambulance Cost Recovery Program Provided by the Fire Department.

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

The Fire Department provides twenty-four hour emergency medical response and ground ambulance transportation to the citizens and visitors of Folsom. Automatic and mutual aid is also provided to adjoining agencies in Sacramento, El Dorado, and Placer Counties upon request. The City’s ambulance program is supported by the General Fund with a major portion of the expenses offset by service fees collected for ambulance transportation to area hospitals.

The Fire Department currently operates three ground ambulances in the City on a daily basis. The three ground ambulances respond to fire and emergency medical incidents throughout the City and are also routinely dispatched as part of the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center Joint Powers Authority to surrounding communities to assist in transporting injured and ill persons to area hospitals.

Due to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the ambulance providers within Sacramento County are able to provide emergency medical services (EMS) for suspected COVID-19 patients who are at their place of residence without having to transport them to a local hospital, which will ultimately allow hospital beds to be available for patients who need them most.

The current fee schedule for emergency ground ambulance transportation services as adopted in Resolution No. 10282 on June 11, 2019, does not include a fee option for “patient assessment/treatment- no transport.” The individual fees adopted within that resolution were equal to the average fee charged by the other ambulance transportation providers in Sacramento County, the South Placer Fire District, and the El Dorado County Ambulance Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

POLICY / RULE

Folsom Municipal Code - 3.25.020 Service Charges. The fees for emergency ground ambulance transportation services shall be established by resolution of the City Council (Ord. 524 § 1, 1984). The City, as the designated Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provider in the City of Folsom, may charge for emergency ground ambulance services and supplies used in providing such services.

ANALYSIS

The Fire Department completed a survey of the fees charged by other ambulance transportation providers within Sacramento County, the South Placer Fire Protection District, and the El Dorado County Ambulance JPA, to determine a reasonable fee for a patient assessment and/or treatment where a patient transport is not conducted. The survey resulted in all other ambulance providers having a fee to perform this type of service for COVID-19 related responses or other responses where patient transportation is not conducted. Additionally, it was confirmed that our third-party ambulance billing company already has the ability to submit this type of invoice to insurance companies, Medi-Cal, and Medicaid for cost recovery.

The following table is a sample of service fees charged by pre-hospital emergency ambulance providers throughout the region specific to a patient assessment and/or treatment where a patient transport was not conducted. The current and proposed City of Folsom “patient assessment/treatment- no transport” ambulance fees are listed below for comparison with the public agencies in the region.

Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado Area “Patient Assessment/Treatment- No Transport”
Ambulance Cost Comparison Survey
 (ALS=Advanced Life Support)

Agency	Patient Assessment/Treat, Non-Transport
Sacramento Metro Fire District	\$393.00
City of Sacramento Fire Dept.	\$283.23
Cosumnes CSD Fire Dept.	\$431.00
South Placer Fire District	\$283.50
El Dorado County Ambulance JPA	\$445.00
City of Folsom Fire (Current)	\$0.00
Regional Average	\$367.15
City of Folsom Fire (Proposed)	\$367.15

The updated ambulance transportation fee schedule will include previously adopted fees as listed within Resolution No. 10282 and the addition of a fee for patient assessment and/or treatment where no transport was conducted. The proposed fee of \$367.15 does not exceed the cost of providing patient assessment and/or treatment by Fire Department emergency medical personnel, and the revenue will be used to partially offset annual operating expenses within the Fire Department to provide this level of service to the community during the COVID-19 health crisis and into the future if this type of service is provided. Staff recommends that the updated fee schedule become effective immediately to allow for cost recovery for this type of service to be conducted.

ATTACHMENT

Resolution No. 10418 - A Resolution Adopting an Updated Fee Schedule by Adding “Patient Assessment/Treatment- No Transport” to the Ambulance Cost Recovery Program Provided by the Fire Department

Respectfully submitted,

Felipe Rodríguez, FIRE CHIEF

RESOLUTION NO. 10418

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN UPDATED FEE SCHEDULE BY ADDING “PATIENT ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT- NO TRANSPORT” TO THE AMBULANCE COST RECOVERY PROGRAM PROVIDED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS; the Fire Department provides emergency ground ambulance services to the residents of the City of Folsom, and,

WHEREAS; the Fire Department provides emergency ground ambulance services to neighboring communities through its membership in the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center Joint Powers Authority; and,

WHEREAS; the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted in a different method for the Fire Department to provide emergency medical services to a patient without having to transport them to a local hospital, and,

WHEREAS; the fees for emergency ground ambulance were adopted by Resolution No. 10282 on June 11, 2019; and,

WHEREAS; it is necessary for the City to establish a fee for emergency ground ambulance services to recover costs for a patient assessment and/or treatment where transportation was not conducted as part of the operations of the emergency medical services provided to the citizens of Folsom and others in need of emergency medical services; and,

WHEREAS; pursuant to Folsom Municipal Code - 3.25.020, fees for emergency transportation services and first responder paramedic services shall be established by Resolution of the City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Folsom that the attached updated fee schedule is adopted for emergency ground ambulance services provided by the Fire Department effective April 14, 2020.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Folsom this 14th day of April, 2020, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Council Members:
NOES:	Council Members:
ABSTAIN:	Council Members:
ABSENT:	Council Members:

Sarah Aquino, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK

**CITY OF FOLSOM
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
FEE SCHEDULE**

	BASE RATES	FEE SCHEDULE (Effective 7-1-19)	FEE SCHEDULE (Effective 4-14-20)
A.	Within Corporate City limits	\$1,791.42	\$1,791.42
B.	Outside Corporate City limits	\$1,791.42	\$1,791.42
C.	Patient Assessment/Treatment- No Transport	N/A	\$367.15
	SERVICES/PROCEDURES		
a.	Mileage (per mile)	\$32.58	\$32.58
b.	Oxygen (with mask or cannula)	\$94.54	\$94.54
c.	Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator	\$66.55	\$66.55
d.	ALS Supplies	\$87.50	\$87.50
e.	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)	\$45.26	\$45.26
f.	Bone Drill	Included in Base	Included in Base
g.	Bag Valve Mask	Included in Base	Included in Base
h.	Advanced Airway Management	Included in Base	Included in Base
i.	Night Call (1900-0700 hours)	Included in Base	Included in Base
j.	Intravenous Therapy	Included in Base	Included in Base
k.	Cervical Collar (extrication)	Included in Base	Included in Base
l.	OB Kit	Included in Base	Included in Base
m.	Restraints	Included in Base	Included in Base
n.	Defibrillation Pads	Included in Base	Included in Base
o.	Pacing Pads	Included in Base	Included in Base
p.	Pulse Oximetry	Included in Base	Included in Base
q.	Emergency Transportation	Included in Base	Included in Base

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