



CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE ORDINANCE

MEETING DATE: 09/03/2024

PRESENTER: Robert Fite, Fire Chief

TITLE: An Ordinance of the City of Grand Prairie, Texas, Amending Sections 12-42(b) and 12-42(c) of the Grand Prairie Code of Ordinances to Modify the Fees and Balance Billing Regulations Related to the Provision of Emergency Medical Billing Services; Containing a Savings Clause and a Severability Clause; and Providing an Effective Date

REVIEWING COMMITTEE: (Public Safety Health and Environment Committee on 07/08/2024 and Finance and Government Committee on 07/10/2024)

SUMMARY:

This ordinance updates the EMS fees related to transporting patients to a local hospital. The fire department roughly spends \$33 million to provide Advanced Life Support Services to the visitors and citizens of Grand Prairie for an approximate cost per transport exceeding \$3,400. In an effort to recover the cost associated with providing this service, the fire department is modernizing its billing fees and practices to mirror what most other cities recover throughout the DFW area and the State of Texas. The last time the fire department adjusted this cost recovery fee was in 2004.

In addition, the Texas legislature passed 88(R) SB 2476, which prohibits balance billing individuals with Texas Commercial Insurance Companies. Subsection (c) is being amended to address this change in legislation.

BODY

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, AMENDING SECTIONS 12-42(B) and 12-42(C) OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO MODIFY THE FEES AND BALANCE BILLING REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS); CONTAINING A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. Sections 12-42(b) and 12-42(c) of the City of Grand Prairie Code of Ordinances shall be amended to read as follows:

“(b) Fees. The following fees shall be assessed for emergency medical services:

(1) Transport Fees:

- a. Specialty Care Transport (SCT) means interfacility transportation of a critically injured or ill individual by a ground ambulance vehicle at a level of service beyond the scope of the EMT-Paramedic. The SCT rate of transport shall be \$2,250.
- b. Advanced Life Support, level 2 (ALS2) rate of transport shall be \$1,750.
- c. Advanced Life Support - Emergency rate of transport shall be \$1,600.
- d. Advanced Life Support - Non-Emergency rate of transport shall be \$1,500.
- e. Basic Life Support (BLS) -Emergency rate of transport shall be \$1,400.
- f. Shared transports, where multiple patients share one ambulance, the total rate fee assessed shall be divided equally per patient.

(2) Mileage. A mileage rate of twenty-four dollars (\$24) per loaded mile shall be assessed per for transport to the hospital. Shared transports, where multiple patients share one ambulance, the total rate fee assessed shall be divided equally per patient.

(3) Disposable or Consumables:

- a. Advanced Life Support Disposable supplies shall be billed at \$400 per patient.
- b. Oxygen charge \$110.

(4) Treat and No Transport charge \$175.

(c) Balance Billing. Medicaid, Medicare, and commercial insurance shall be accepted with the balance due by the patient unless such balance cannot be billed to the patient per applicable law or Medicaid or Medicare guidelines.

SECTION 2. The terms and provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed severable and that if the validity of any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be declared invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. The Grand Prairie Code of Ordinances, as amended, shall be and remain in full force and effect save and except as amended by this ordinance.

SECTION 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall be effective October 1, 2024.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS, ON THIS THE 3rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.