

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: March 28, 2023

To: Village Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Bob Grabowski, Fire Chief

Topic: Ambulance Billing Rates / GEMT Program

PURPOSE

Amend the fees for Paramedic Transportation to match the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Cost Report Calculation filed by the Village with the State of Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. This requires changes to the Fee Schedule, which requires Board approval.

PROCESS

Last year, the Village of Homewood entered into a yearly agreement with The Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (HFS) Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program. This program allows public providers to receive supplemental payments above the current HFS fee schedule rates. Supplemental payments can be received as long as the actual cost to provide these services exceeds the reimbursement amount allowed under the HFS fee schedule. These supplemental payments to public providers are for Medicaid patients only.

In order to participate in the GEMT program, staff completed a cost report that identified the 'cost per transport' for the Village. A new cost report is required every year for participation in the program. Based upon the actual cost for Homewood to provide ambulance service, HFS has determined that the Village should receive \$3,488.65 for each Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport and \$3,031.61 for each Basic Life Support (BLS) transport. These increased revenues are then shared with the State, each receiving 50 percent. Before the GEMT program (in 2021), the Village received \$396.15 for each ALS transport and \$333.60 for each BLS transport from Medicaid through the State.

Legally, the Village cannot bill a Medicaid patient at a higher rate than the billing rates for any other patient (i.e. private insurance). Last year, the Board approved the increase in fees so that all billing would match the GEMT rate established by the State. Rather than bringing these rate changes to the Board each year, the attached ordinance has added language that will allow staff to change the GEMT rates for BLS and ALS transports each year based on what is calculated by the State without changing the Homewood Fee Schedule.

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OUTCOME

The paramedic transport fees charged by the Village will match the fees established by the State each year for Medicaid patients, and will enable Homewood to recover the actual costs for providing these services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass an ordinance amending the “Fire” section of the fee schedule allowing the Paramedic Transportation fees to match the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Cost Report Calculation filed by the Village with the State of Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Ordinance