

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



## BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: February 22, 2022

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**To:** Village Board of Trustees

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** Bob Grabowski, Fire Chief

**Topic:** Ambulance Billing Rates / GEMT Program

### PURPOSE

The Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (HFS) has introduced a supplemental payment methodology, the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program. This program allows public providers to receive supplemental payments above the current 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.

Homewood will participate in GEMT for the first time in 2022 with an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that was passed by the Village Board in September 2021. Per the IGA, 50% of the incremental difference of each Medicaid transport is invoiced and reimbursed to the State on a quarterly basis.

Additionally, 25% of the EMS calls are for lift assist or treat/non-transport. Currently the Village does not charge a fee for those calls, but is seeking to recover part of the cost. These changes to the fee schedule require Board approval.

### PROCESS

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 will be 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 \$3,197.54 for each Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport and \$2,644.40 for each Basic Life Support (BLS) transport. Before the GEMT program, 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 a higher cost than the billing rates for any other patient (i.e.: Private insurance). Per Homewood's Ordinance, the Village's current billing rates are:

- Basic Life Support: \$1,100.00 (resident) / \$1,300.00 (non-resident)
- Advanced Life Support: \$1,300.00 (resident) / \$1,500.00 (non-resident)

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Under the current fee structure, the Village is not receiving the maximum amount permitted under the GEMT program, or any amount for lift assist/non-transport calls. If the Board approves the proposed billing rate and changes to the fee schedule, Homewood will be able to improve cost recovery for the emergency transport of Medicaid patients, as well as \$100 for lift assist/non-transport calls.

The Village Board's approval of the IGA was the first phase of Homewood participating in the GEMT program. The second phase is adjusting the billing rates to match the approved rates by the State.

It is important to note that Homewood will **NOT** be billing the residents and non-residents the difference between the new rates (approved by Medicaid) and what is paid by their private insurance or Medicare (balance billing). A representative from PBS, the Village's ambulance billing company, will be available at the meeting to answer any questions the Board may have.

### OUTCOME

The ambulance fees charged by the Village will match the fees established by the State for Medicaid patients and will enable Homewood to recover the actual costs for providing these services. In addition, the Village will be able to recover a portion of the cost for lift assist and treat/non-transport calls.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

### LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

### RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Approve an ordinance amending the "Fire" section of the fee schedule increasing the ambulance billing rates to match the GEMT billing rate approved by the State of Illinois; and adding a fee of \$100 for lift assists and treat/non-transport calls.

### ATTACHMENT(S)

Ordinance