

CITY OF MINNETRISTA



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Subject: Excessive Call Ordinance Discussion

Prepared By: Jasper Kruggel, City Administrator

Meeting Date: February 18, 2025

Issue: Attached you will find an ordinance from the City of Maple Plain that allows their city to bill residents for excessive calls taken by their fire department. Lift assists can be a major component of fire calls and a significant impact to expenses related to fire departments.

Overview: Staff would like to engage City Council in a discussion related to the possibility of adopting an ordinance that allows for the billing of lift assist in our community. Attached you will find an ordinance adopted by the City of Maple Plain that addressed “Excessive Calls”.

Currently, the St. Bonifacius and Mound Fire Departments field around 45 lift assists annually in Minnetrista. Minnetrista does not have any existing assisted living facilities, which generally are the properties with the most reoccurring lift assist requests.

The consideration of an ordinance of this nature would be proactive, establishing a mechanism to bill back excessive calls that utilize our contracted fire departments.

A couple of items to consider if such an ordinance is desired to be are:

- What is the threshold that determines “excessive calls”?
- What is the fee that is appropriate for billings?

Recommended City Council Action: Staff requests for direction from City Council on how to proceed with consideration of an excessive call ordinance related to fire department usage.

Mission Statement:

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.

ORDINANCE NO. ____

CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MAPLE PLAIN CITY CODE CHAPTER 1
REGARDING EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDED TO
ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLE PLAIN DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. The Maple Plain City Code Chapter 1 is hereby amended as set forth below to add the following language:

Section 1-19. – Lift Assist Emergency Services.

- (a) *Purpose.* Assisted living facilities are required to have the staffing to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of their residents, including mobility needs. Minn. Stat. § 144G.41. The City Council finds that the City has limited staff and resources and that repeated service responses to assisted living facilities present a burden to the community by limiting the availability of law enforcement, public safety protection, and first responder services to other residents of the City. Minn. Stat. §§ 366.011 and 415.01 authorizes the City to charge for emergency services.
- (b) *Definitions.* The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Assisted living facility means any facility that is licensed by the state department of health pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 144G.10 and meets the definition of “assisted living facility” contained in Minn. Stat. § 144G.08, subd. 7, as it may be amended from time to time.

City Administrator means the City Administrator or designee.

Lift assist means a response by a peace officer or firefighter to a call for service or assistance to physically move a person who does not require and is not provided by Public Safety any emergency medical services or any services related to patient transportation, care, treatment, or health care. Lift assist also includes non-emergent fall response. Regardless of how classified by dispatch, the determination that a service call is a lift assist is at the discretion of the responding peace officer or fire fighter.

Non-emergent fall response means a response by peace officer or firefighter to a reported fall where the individual is uninjured or has minor injuries not requiring transport and for which facility staff request assistance primarily for lifting.

Public Safety means the collective reference to the West Hennepin Public Safety and City Fire Department or other entity that provides fire protection.

Service call means a single dispatch of Public Safety West Hennepin Public Safety Department, City Fire Department or other entity that provides fire protection, or both, to an assisted living facility.

- (c) *Fee imposed.* An assisted living facility shall pay for each lift assist service call as set forth below:

<u>Fee Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1 to 5 service calls within a 1-year period	\$250.00 per service call
6 to 8 service calls within a 1-year period	\$500.00 per service call
9 or greater service calls within a 1-year period	\$850.00 per service call

The above fee may be set by agreement between the City and an assisted living facility, which agreement will include, among other things, provisions similar to subsection (d) below.

- (d) *Invoice, delinquency, and collection.*
- (1) Public Safety shall maintain records in connection with service calls and shall forward the records to the City Administrator.
 - (2) The City Administrator shall be responsible for the collection of accounts due and owing for each service call. The City Administrator shall invoice each assisted living facility at least quarterly for service calls received with payment being due within 30 days of the invoice date. Unpaid invoices shall be considered delinquent and accrue interest at a rate of eight percent per annum.
 - (3) Unpaid delinquent amounts not paid by September 1 may be certified to Hennepin County for collection as a service charge as provided for in Minn. Stat. § 366.012.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publications as required by law.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Maple Plain this _____ day of _____,
2025.

Julie Maas-Kusske, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacob Kolander, City Administrator

Published in the _____ on _____, 2025.