



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager

FROM: James P. Duggan, Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department
Michael Newhouse, Medical Services Officer, Tacoma Fire Department

COPY: City Council and City Clerk

SUBJECT: Ordinance – Amending Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 6B.50.060 to authorize charges for non-transport related emergency medical advanced life support services and establish the 2015 base rate for the services.

DATE: November 13, 2014

SUMMARY:

An Ordinance amending Chapter 6B.50.060 of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) to allow charges for non-transport related emergency medical advanced life support (ALS) services and establish a base rate for such services.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

Passage of this ordinance will further the Council’s Strategic Policy Priority to “strengthen and support public safety, human services, public education, and diverse higher learning opportunities in Tacoma.”

BACKGROUND:

TMC 6B.50.060 authorizes charges to persons transported by a City of Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) ALS ambulance for services at rates set by ordinance with adjustment for cost of living increases. TFD now proposes amending the TMC to include charges for non-transport related emergency medical services, such as diabetic or asthmatic stabilization. The proposed ordinance also establishes a 2015 base rate of \$300.00 for such charges.

ISSUE:

Due to improvements in emergency care, ALS providers are more frequently able to stabilize some emergency medical conditions and provide requisite care without resorting to transport to hospital emergency rooms. Insurance plans increasingly accept charges for non-transport related ALS intervention. TFD proposes amending the TMC to include a base fee for non-transport related ALS to help support the continuation of the ALS program.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the ordinance is not adopted, TFD will continue to provide the services but will be unable to charge for such services, resulting in an estimated net two-year EMS Special Revenue Fund revenue reduction of about \$160,000 for 2015–2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

TFD recommends approval of this ordinance.



FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1155 EMS Special Revenue	609100	Various	\$160,000
TOTAL			\$160,000

* General Fund: Include Department

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1155 EMS Special Revenue	609100	4342260	\$485,000
1155 EMS Special Revenue	609100	4342261	\$-275,000
1155 EMS Special Revenue	609100	4342262	\$-50,000
TOTAL			\$160,000

POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
N/A			
TOTAL			

This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: The new charges are proposed for the 2015–2016 biennium, effective January 1, 2015. The proposed additional charges are expected to raise \$160,000 for 2015–2016.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? They are included as part of the proposed TFD 2015–2016 budget.