



AGENDA REPORT

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

910 Calle Negocio
2nd Floor
San Clemente, California
www.san-clemente.org

Meeting Date: September 3, 2024

Agenda Item: 8A

Submitted By: Finance and Administrative Services

Prepared By: Jake Rahn, Finance Manager
Matthew Schmelzel, Management Analyst

Subject:

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION REVISING AMBULANCE TRANSPORT FEE RATE AND ADOPTION SCHEDULE

Fiscal Impact:

If adopted as proposed, there would be a potential increase of an estimated \$138,000 in ambulance revenues based on current transport data, which would help offset the cost of providing the services. Actual impacts are dependent on the adopted fee schedule and various transport criteria.

Summary:

The Orange County Health Care Agency’s (OCHCA’s) ambulance transport fees are reviewed and revised annually, establishing County ambulance rates in effect. The resolution before the City Council would align the City’s adoption cycle directly with the County’s implementation of transport rates based on the OCHCA’s assessment of estimated actual ambulance transportation costs. This is a cost recovery issue for the City.

Background:

On May 17, 2016, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 16-31 setting ambulance transport fees based on the maximum ground emergency ambulance rates as established by OCHCA and approved by the County Board of Supervisors. The City’s current ambulance transport fees as of January 1, 2024 are shown below:

Calendar Fee Schedule	Basic Life Support (BLS)	Advance Life Support (ALS)
*Resident	\$1,852.14	\$2,285.97
Non- Resident	\$2,052.14	\$2,485.97
Mileage		\$21.34
Oxygen Per Unit		\$96.95
Medical Supplies		\$38.37

The City of San Clemente is allowed to set its own rates for ambulance services; however, best practice is to use OCHCA rates as a basis to set the City’s fees. OCHCA periodically performs rate reviews based on actual cost increases, as well as fee study surveys across the State of California. Incorporating the OCHCA fee structure ensures that the City is establishing fees based on a cost review and that fees being charged do not exceed the cost to provide the service and are comparable with other cities and Orange County private ambulance companies.

Rates are typically adjusted by OCHCA in July of each year. However, the City has traditionally adopted the fees on January 1st of each year causing a 6-month lag time between County and City adoption. This delay impacts revenues, reduces cost recovery, and requires staff's notification to the ambulance billing company. Alignment of the fee schedule adoption cycle will facilitate administrative efficiency by allowing the City's ambulance billing provider (Wittman) to adjust rates at each OCHCA adoption cycle. City staff evaluated the impact of the rate adoption delay with Wittman and determined for FY 2023-24 \$138,060 of revenues were lost through this implementation delay. Actual future revenue impacts will be dependent on OCHCA adoption rates, number of service calls, type of transport, use of supplies, payment methods and other variables.

The OCHCA fee schedule also includes a charge type for standby time that was not adopted in Resolution No. 16-31. Beginning with the onset of Covid-19, there has been lasting effects on delayed hospital admission times, adopting OCHCA's standby time rate of \$144.48 will ensure improved cost recovery.

Staff's recommendation is for the City to adopt all established charges and fee schedule adjustments on July 1st each year or at the established adoption cycle as determined by the Orange County Health Care Agency and approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

As proposed, the City will continue to provide discounts to residents including the \$200 discount for resident transports and the ambulance transport subscription program at a cost of \$40 annually for all household dependents. The proposed ambulance transport fees to be implemented are shown below:

Calendar Fee Schedule	Basic Life Support (BLS)*	Advance Life Support (ALS)*
Resident	\$2,038.14	\$2,512.19
Non- Resident	\$2,238.88	\$2,712.19
Mileage		\$23.28
Standby Time		\$157.63

*Oxygen and Medical supplies included in base rates

Council Options:

- Adopt Resolution No. 24-136, which would revise ambulance transport fees and adoption cycle and repeal Resolution No. 16-31.
- Adopt Resolution No. 24-136 with modifications.
- Continue the Item and direct staff to provide additional information.
- Deny the request to Adopt Resolution No. 24-136 and maintaining current ambulance transport fees and adoption cycle.

Environmental Review/Analysis:

This is not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Recommended Actions:

Staff Recommendation

Adopt Resolution No. 24-136, which would revise ambulance transport fees and the adoption cycle and repeal Resolution No. 16-31.

Attachment:

1. Resolution No. 24-136
2. Orange County Health Care Agency’s Maximum Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates
Effective July 1, 2024
3. Resolution No. 16-31

Notification:

Published in the San Clemente Times on August 15, 2024 and August 29, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-136

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING A REVISED AMBULANCE TRANSPORT FEE RATE AND ADOPTION SCHEDULE AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 16-31, AS IT RELATES TO AMBULANCE TRANSPORT FEES

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to adjust the City's emergency ambulance service fees for full cost recovery as authorized by Charter 8 of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the maximum allowable emergency ground ambulance rates are established by the Orange County Health Care Agency and are related to and do not exceed the cost of providing ambulance transport services; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2016, City Council adopted resolution No. 16-31 providing for the adoption of Orange County Health Care Agency Maximum Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates effective January 1 of each year; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Health Care Agency has received approval from the Orange County Board of Supervisors to adjust emergency ambulance service rates effective July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Health Care Agency's schedule for updating emergency ambulance service rates is typically July 1 of every year; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2024, the City held a duly noticed public hearing regarding the proposed ambulance rates.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of San Clemente does hereby find, determine and resolve as follows:

SECTION 1. That the above recitations are true and correct and incorporated fully herein.

SECTION 2. That Resolution 16-31 and any other resolution in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and of no further force or effect.

SECTION 3. That all the fees set forth in the fee schedule as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein fully by this reference are less than or equal to the estimated cost of providing the service for which the fee or service charge is levied and are hereby approved and established.

SECTION 4. That the ambulance transport fees set forth in Exhibit "A" shall be adopted automatically by the City of San Clemente July 1 of each year or other effective date established and adopted by the Orange County Health Care Agency and approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors in the amounts so approved and adopted except that a \$200.00 discount per transport will be applied to San Clemente residents for Basic

Life Support and Advance Life Support transportation fees.

SECTION 5. That all established charge types will be incorporated and adopted automatically by the City of San Clemente July 1 of each year or other effective date established and adopted by the Orange County Health Care Agency and approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors in the amounts so approved and adopted.

SECTION 6. That the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of September, 2024.

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of
San Clemente, California

Mayor of the City of San
Clemente, California

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) §
CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE)

I, LAURA CAMPAGNOLO, City Clerk of the City of San Clemente, California, do hereby certify that Resolution No. 24-136 was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of San Clemente held on the _____ day of September 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Clemente, California, this _____ day of _____, _____.

CITY CLERK of the City of
San Clemente, California

Approved as to form:

Elizabeth A. Mitchell, City Attorney



VERONICA KELLEY, DSW, LCSW
AGENCY DIRECTOR

JASON AUSTIN, MA, MFT
ASSISTANT AGENCY DIRECTOR

MINDY WINTERSWYK, DPT, PCS
DIRECTOR OF SPECIALIZED MEDICAL SERVICES

TAMMI McCONNELL, MSN, RN, MICN, PHN
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

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SANTA ANA, CA 92701
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

May 7, 2024

TO: Orange County Fire Chiefs
Orange County City Managers
Orange County Ambulance Service Providers

FROM: Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN, EMS Director
Tammi McConnell, MSN, RN

SUBJECT: REVISION TO MAXIMUM EMERGENCY GROUND AMBULANCE RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024

On December 20, 2022, the Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted Board Resolution 22-163, changing the methodologies for adjusting the maximum Basic Life Support (BLS) and maximum Advanced Life Support (ALS) ground emergency ambulance rates by using the percentage change in the transportation portion of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, Western Region as compiled and reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 12-month period ending with the last day of the prior month, February.

In addition, the Health Care Agency Director or his/her designee is authorized to make an annual adjustment to the above maximum rates, effective July 1 of each year, by multiplying the rates by the percentage change in the aforementioned index and timeframe. As such, effective July 1, 2024, the [Maximum BLS Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates](#) are adopted as follows:

Type of Charge	Basis for Charge	Effective 7/1/2023	Effective 7/1/2024
Emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) Base Rate ^{1,2}	Applicable for urgent or Code 3 response at the request of a public safety employee	\$2,052.14	\$2,238.88
Emergency Advanced Life support (ALS) Base Rate ^{1,2}	Applicable for urgent or Code 3 response at the request of a public safety employee	\$2,525.45	\$2,712.19
Mileage	Per patient mile or fraction thereof.	\$ 21.34	\$ 23.28
Standby time	Per 30 minutes after the first 30 minutes.	\$ 144.48	\$ 157.63

¹ BLS & ALS Base Rates apply in Orange county Fire Authority Jurisdictional areas (except for Buena Park, San Clemente and Westminster)

² Oxygen & medical supplies included in base rates

If you have any questions, please contact Eileen Endo at (714) 834-3507.

TM:ec#5032

RESOLUTION NO 16-31

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA, REVISING AMBULANCE TRANSPORT FEES, AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO 12-61, EXHIBIT "A" AS IT RELATES TO AMBULANCE TRANSPORT FEES

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to increase the City's emergency ambulance service fees as authorized by Charter 8 of the Municipal Code, and

WHEREAS, maximum allowable emergency ambulance service rates are established by the Orange County Health Care Agency and are related to the cost of providing the corresponding services, and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Health Care Agency has received approval from the Orange County Board of Supervisors to adjust emergency ambulance service rates effective November 1, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Health Care Agency and the Orange County Board of Supervisors periodically adjust emergency ambulance service rates, typically based on the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County "All Items" consumer price index, and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires that the City of San Clemente emergency ambulance service fees reflect those established by the Orange County Health Care Agency and the Orange County Board of Supervisors,

NOW, THEREFORE, The City Council of the City of San Clemente does hereby resolve as follows

Section 1 The fee schedule as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference represents or is less than the estimated cost of providing the service for which the fee or service charge is levied and are hereby approved and established

Section 2 Resolution 12-16 and any other resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and of no further force or effect

Section 3 The ambulance transport fees set forth in Exhibit "A" shall be adjusted on January 1 of each year after the date this resolution is adopted to reflect the established rates in effect at that time as set by the Orange County Health Care Agency and as approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors. A \$200.00 per transport discount will be applied to San Clemente residents on BLS and ALS transport fees

Section 4 The fee for reimbursement of mileage will be applied to all resident and non-resident transports. Mileage will be charged per patient mile or fraction thereof. The mileage fee set forth in Exhibit "A" shall be adjusted on January 1 of each year after the date this resolution is adopted to reflect the established rates in effect at that time as set by the Orange County Health Care Agency and as approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.


Section 5 The fee for reimbursement for administering Oxygen will be applied to all resident and non-resident transports when the service is applicable. The Oxygen fee set forth in Exhibit "A" shall be adjusted on January 1 of each year after the date this resolution is adopted to reflect the established rates in effect at that time as set by the Orange County Health Care Agency and as approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Section 6 The bundled fee for reimbursement of expendable medical supplies will be applied to all resident and non-resident transports. The single bundled fee will be charged when any medical supplies are used. The mileage fee set forth in Exhibit "A" shall be adjusted on January 1 of each year after the date this resolution is adopted to reflect the established rates in effect at that time as set by the Orange County Health Care Agency and as approved by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Section 7 The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of May 2016

ATTEST



City Clerk of the City of
San Clemente, California



Mayor of the City of San
Clemente, California

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) §
CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE)


I, JOANNE BAADE City Clerk of the City of San Clemente, California, do hereby certify that Resolution No 16-31 was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of San Clemente held on the 17th day of May 2016, by the following vote

AYES BROWN DONCHAK HAMM WARD, MAYOR BAKER

NOES NONE

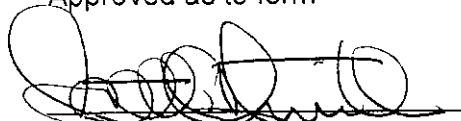
ABSENT NONE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Clemente, California this 15TH day of MAY, 2016



CITY CLERK of the City of
San Clemente, California

Approved as to form



City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"
PARAMEDIC/AMBULANCE FEES

Pursuant to the provisions of the indicated Sections of Chapter 20, of the Code of the City of San Clemente, the following fee schedules covering ambulance transport services provided by the Orange County Fire Authority, under contract with the City of San Clemente, are hereby approved and established as shown below

Section 20-12(e) Paramedic/Ambulance Fees

(1) Paramedic Level of Service (ALS)		
Resident of San Clemente	\$1,091	96
Non-Resident	\$1,291	96
(2) EMT/Ambulance Level of Services (BLS)		
Resident of San Clemente	\$704	61
Non-Resident	\$904	61

Mileage Fees

(1) Mileage (Per Patient mile or fraction thereof)		
Resident of San Clemente	\$16	87
Non-Resident	\$16	87

Oxygen Fees

(1) Oxygen (includes mask or cannula), applicable when administered		
Resident of San Clemente	\$82	74
Non-Resident	\$82	74

Expendable Medical Supplies

(1) Bundled amount per incident where supplies are used		
Resident of San Clemente	\$32	66
Non-Resident	\$32	66