Amendment to the County of Alameda and the City of Albany 2011 Emergency Medical Services First Responder Advanced Life Support and Ambulance Agreement

Lance Calkins, Fire Chief

SUMMARY

The City of Albany and Alameda County have an agreement for Emergency Medical Services First Responder Advanced Life Support and Ambulance Services Agreement. Included in the 2011 Agreement is a provision that provided that ambulance fees would be frozen until such time as the private ambulance transport rates exceed the City of Albany ambulance transport fees. On October 25, 2018 the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency approved and authorized an increase in private ambulance transport rates. The private ambulance transport rates currently exceed the City of Albany ambulance transport fees, which allows for a change in the City of Albany rates.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2018-134 approving a rate increase that equals the private ambulance transport rates.

BACKGROUND

On October 3, 2011 the City Council approved the current agreement with Alameda County. The final approved Agreement has a date of November 1, 2011. Exhibit K of the agreement placed a restriction on future rate adjustments until the private provider rates exceeded those charged by the City of Albany.

DISCUSSION

The Albany Fire Department continues to seek reimbursement dollars to continue fire department ambulance transport and enhance emergency services to the community. Allowing the City Manager to execute an amendment effecting the user fee adjustments to the Ambulance Provider Agreement between Alameda County and the City of Albany will allow the City of Albany to recover needed funds to provide continued ambulance transport services.
Increasing ambulance transport rates will allow the City of Albany to collect ambulance reimbursement consistent with the rates charged by other ambulance providers in the Bay Area. It will also assist the City of Albany in sustaining the Albany Fire Department emergency transport service. The updated rates are included as Attachment 1 to this staff report.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

N/A.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There are no costs to the City of Albany approving the user fee adjustments. Staff has estimated that the new rates may result in additional ambulance cost recovery. An exact impact is not possible to determine due to fluctuations in collection rates and the number of calls.

**Attachments**

1. Emergency Medical Services First Responder Advanced Life Support and Ambulance Transport Services Agreement Exhibit K – Updated Rates
2. Resolution No. 2018-134
October 25, 2018

City of Albany
Nicole Almaguer, City Manager
1000 San Pablo Ave
Albany, CA 94706

Dear Ms. Almaguer:

This letter constitutes notice that the former Acting EMS Director of the County of Alameda EMS Agency had approved an increase in the Bundled Base Rate User Fee that may be charged by the County’s 911 Ambulance Transport Service Provider, Paramedics Plus, to $2,181.38. Under the terms of the City of Albany’s current Emergency Medical Services First Responder Advanced Life Support and Ambulance Transport Services Agreement, your City may consequently increase its Bundled Base Rate to $2,181.38 effective September 1, 2018.

**UPDATED EXHIBIT K**

ALAMEDA COUNTY 911 SYSTEM CONTRACTOR’S USER FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Effective 9/1/2018*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bundled Base Rate</td>
<td>$2,099.50</td>
<td>$2,181.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mileage/Mile</td>
<td>$48.81</td>
<td>$50.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen</td>
<td>$161.61</td>
<td>$167.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Treat, Non-transport Rate</strong></td>
<td>$433.85</td>
<td>$450.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* It is understood that these rate increases are conditional on each city's ability to demonstrate that the charges are not considered taxes under the California Constitution (art. XIIIIC sec. 1e). Each city will be responsible for vetting this issue for their individual Councils. Actual effective date based on City Council approval.

** This rate shall be limited to patients who receive a medical intervention, such as intravenous medication administration, and subsequently refuse transport. Patient assessment, including ECG monitoring, does not constitute treatment.

All other terms and conditions of your Agreement with the County, and as amended, shall remain in full force and effect. Please acknowledge receipt and understanding of this notification as provided below, and return an original signed copy to the Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency no later than November 16, 2018 at the following address:

Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency
Attention: Perrie Santiago
1000 San Leandro Blvd, Suite 200
San Leandro, CA 94577
Please also forward a copy of any documentation reflecting approval of the User Fee increase by your City Council.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (510)618-2055.

Sincerely,

Anne Kronenberg
Interim EMS Director
Alameda County EMS Agency

Acknowledged by (Signature)
For: City of Albany

Nicole Almaguer, City Manager
Name and Title

Date
RESOLUTION NO. 2018-134

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO FIRST RESPONDER ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AND AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, On October 3, 2011 the City Council approved an agreement with the Alameda County Medical Services for Advanced Life Support Services; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement has a date of November 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Exhibit K of the Agreement establishes Contractor User Fees – which regulate the fees charged for ambulance services; and

WHEREAS, periodically Alameda County reviews the allowed fees and charges and EMS providers are allowed to amend their agreement to reflect the updated fees; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County Emergency Medical Services has approved an increased fee for ambulance transport services and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors has adopted an updated fee schedule as shown in Exhibit K, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Albany does hereby authorize an amendment to the November 1, 2011 Agreement with the County of Alameda.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Manager is hereby authorized on behalf of the City of Albany to execute the amendment and any related documents, which will update “Exhibit K – Contractors User Fees- 911 System.”

PEGGY MCQUAID, MAYOR