

Request for City Council Committee Action from the Fire Department

Date: February 14, 2006

To: Don Samuels, Chair, Public Safety and Regulatory Services

Referral to: Paul Ostrow, Chair, Ways and Means Committee and

Barb Johnson, President, City Council

Subject: Fire Department Personal Injury Fees to Automobile Insurance Companies for 911 responses to Personal Injury Accidents; Change Fee Structure from a Flat Rate to a Tier Structure.

Recommendation: City Council authorization and approval for the Minneapolis Fire Department to change their fee structure for 911 responses to personal injury motor vehicle accidents. Fire Department currently charges a flat rate of \$400 per patient. Approve a new tiered fee schedule to charge \$560 per patient for each engine company response, and \$700 per patient for each ladder/rescue company response, to the automobile insurance companies.

Previous Directives: City Council approval on August 22, 2003 to begin charging a fee to Automobile Insurance Companies of \$400 per patient for Fire Department 911 Responses to Personal Injury Accidents.

Prepared or Submitted by:	Marie Swerdfiger	, Admin. Analysi	t II Phone:	673-2545.
Approved by: Bonnie Bleska	achek, Fire Chief ₋			
Permanent Review Comr Note: To determine if applicable s		•		
Policy Review Group (PR Note: The Policy Review Grou that must review all requests r	p is a committee co	-chaired by the Ci	ty Clerk and t	he City Coordinator

Presenters in Committee: Bonnie Bleskachek, Fire Chief

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)
No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
Action requires use of contingency or reserves
Other financial impact (Explain):
_X_Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator
Community Impact (use any categories that apply)
Neighborhood Notification
City Goals
Comprehensive Plan
Zoning Code
Other
Background/Supporting Information:

The City's Revenue Review Study suggested that the Fire Department research and develop the actual costs of responding to motor vehicle accidents. The current fee charge is a fixed flat rate of \$400 per patient.

Based on the industry standard for vehicle depreciation that utilizes factors such as insurance, monthly lease or purchase costs of apparatus and apparatus maintenance costs, and average personnel costs per incident, a tiered fee schedule for the delivery of Fire Department response services was formulated at a rate of \$560.00 each patient for an Engine Response, and \$700.00 per patient for a Ladder/Rescue Company Response.

The new fee structure addresses the current actual response costs of responding to an automobile accident based on the type of company responding. The Minnesota Statute that supports this action is Minn. Stat. § 366.011, Charges for Emergency Medical Services.