



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Fire Department

Date: December 3, 2009
To: Don Samuels, Chair, Public Safety & Regulatory Services
Committee
Referral to: Paul Ostrow, Chair, Ways & Means Committee

Subject: Increase to tiered fee schedule charged to automobile insurance companies for fire department responses to personal injury accidents as authorized by Minn. Stat. § 366.011.

Recommendation: Authorize the fire department to increase the current fee structure from \$560.00 per patient for each engine company response and \$700.00 per patient for each ladder or rescue company response to \$577.00 and \$721.00, respectively.

Previous Directives: On August 22, 2003 the City Council authorized the fire department to commence charging a flat fee of \$400 for any response to a personal injury automobile accident. On March 10, 2006 the City Council authorized the current tiered fee structure.

Department Information

Prepared by: Karen Lowery Wagner Approved by: Fire Chief Alex Jackson Presenters in Committee: Karen Lowery Wagner
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Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ___ Date _____
- Civil Rights Approval Approval ___ Date _____
- Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval ___ Date _____

Financial Impact *(delete all lines not applicable to your request)*

- Request provided to the Finance Department

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification
- City Goals
- Comprehensive Plan
- Zoning Code
- Other

Supporting Information:

Minn. Stat. § 366.011 allows municipalities to “impose a reasonable service charge for emergency services, including fire, rescue, medical, and related services...” Standard automobile insurance policies provide for the payment of such fees imposed by responding emergency medical and rescue agencies. The City Council authorized the fire department to commence imposing a \$400 flat fee for any response to a personal injury automobile accident in 2003 and further authorized the department to adopt a tiered fee schedule in 2006 of \$560.00 per patient for each engine company response and \$700.00 per patient for each ladder or rescue company response. This request seeks authorization to increase the fees charged pursuant to the tiered schedule by 3%. This request reflects increases to the costs of providing such services by the fire department.