

ORDINANCE NO.

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 29 - 2022

MAY 4, 2022

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Codified Ordinances, Part Two, General Legislation/Fees; Article Seven, Billing for Emergency Medical Services; Section 270-53 (B) Ambulance Service, by increasing the Special Event stand-by per hour fee (includes 2 Paramedics and 1 ambulance) from \$100 to \$160; and establishing a Special Event stand-by (per hour) for 1 Paramedic and 1 ambulance) at \$96.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That Section 270-53 (B) Ambulance Service shall be amended to read as follows:

The billing department will encode the charges as established below based on level of service provided, or by the patient's reported condition at the time of the dispatch:

[Amended 12-7-2016 by Ord. No. 15334]

Ambulance Service	Amount	
BLS – Emergency	\$600	
ALS1 – Emergency	\$920	
ALS treat no transport	\$460	
ALS2 – Emergency	\$950	
Specialty care transport (SCT)	\$1,100	
Mileage (per loaded mile)	\$12.70	
Rescue service	\$940	
Special event stand-by (per hour) <u>(includes 2 Paramedics and 1 ambulance)</u>	\$400	<u>\$160</u>
<u>Special event stand-by (per hour)</u> <u>(includes 1 Paramedic and 1 ambulance)</u>		<u>\$ 96</u>
BLS encounter charge	\$100	
Trip sheet fees	\$25	

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

LEGISLATIVE TEMPLATE

- **What Department or bureau is Bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?**

Fire Department - EMS

- **Summary and Facts of the Bill**

This Bill seeks to update the amount charged for Ambulance Stand-By rate which is charged during special events.

- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **What does the Bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish**
 - **What are the Benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this**
 - **How does this Bill related to the City’s Vision/Mission/Priorities**

The current City ordinance charging \$100.00 an hour for an EMS crew does not meet our costs, and at times isn't appropriate for a standby service. Events of mass gathering or that are dangerous in nature generally require an EMS unit stand by for potential medical issues at the event. This can be a football game for the school district or college, or a street festival, fair, or 5k run/walk. When the event plan requires EMS, we currently charge \$100.00 per hour of coverage. While most events just have one ambulance with two paramedics on board, we still lose money covering the event.

As of today, based on the average top step hourly rate for paramedics and the cost of benefits and insurance, it is roughly \$64.00 an hour per person to staff the event. That's \$128.00 per hour for an ambulance crew to attend. This doesn't include fuel, wear and tear, etc. on the vehicle(s) present which is an additional cost of \$32 per hour.

The suggestion is to raise the cost to \$160.00 an hour for an EMS crew to provide coverage at a standby event. If for some reason the event requires a single provider, \$96.00 per hour is appropriate, but these should be rare. I would also like the verbiage to include potential additions for extra crews as deemed appropriate by the special events coordinator. Historically, we don't charge for city sanctioned special events. But when we provide service to private events, we need to meet our costs.

- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **Cost (Initial and ongoing)**
 - **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

Increasing the standby rate charged for events will more appropriately cover our costs and increase revenue for the City.

- **Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts; if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.**

Non-City special events where City EMS has been requested to be on Stand-by.

- **Priority status/Deadlines, if any**

Now that Spring is upon us and with the warmer weather more special events held by private parties will be happening. The sooner this Bill is approved, the sooner the City will be able to charge for its actual cost to provide the Stand-By EMS service.

- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**

Increasing the rate for Stand-By EMS services will more fully cover the actual cost to provide this service.