



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Ambulance Rate Schedule Adjustments

MEETING DATE: June 20, 1991

PREPARED BY: City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council review the requested amended rate schedule for ambulance service in the City of Lodi and take action as deemed appropriate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The City Code provides that the City Council "reserves the right to finally determine and fix by resolution, the rates to be charged by the operator of the ambulance service." Mr. Michael N. Nilssen, owner-operator of Lodi Ambulance Service, has, in accordance with the provisions of the City Code, filed with the City a request to amend the ambulance rates charged in the City of Lodi. A copy of the requested new rate schedule is attached (Exhibit A). Also attached (Exhibit B) is a copy of an order of the County Board of Supervisors and an accompanying Board resolution establishing the County ceiling for ambulance rates. The request of Lodi Ambulance Service is in accordance with the new ceiling.

The rate for Basic Life Support (non-emergency calls such as transferring a patient from one hospital to another) would increase by approximately 12%. The Basic Life Support rate for emergency calls would increase by approximately 35%. The current Basic Life Support rate includes the emergency rate, and according to data gathered by the County of San Joaquin's Emergency Medical Services Agency, this was not sufficient to cover costs. The Advance Life Support rate would also be increased by approximately 12%. This charge is made when medical treatment is required during the transportation to the hospital of a seriously ill or injured person. The other rates would be increased as follows: Might Call, 10%; Oxygen, 12%; and Mileage, 11%. The new rates would be effective the day following City Council action. A copy of the appropriate City of Lodi resolution is also attached (Exhibit C). The rate ceilings established by the Board of Supervisors are based on a number of factors. These include data gathered in a State-wide survey of fees in other areas; an analysis of Medicare reimbursement rates; the ambulance company's financial statements; and an internal audit of each company's operating procedures, pay scales, equipment, and other factors.

APPROVED: _____

THOMAS A. PETERSON

Ambulance Rate Schedule Adjustments
June 20, 1991

All of the other ambulance companies in the County have filed requests with the Board of Supervisors to implement the same new rate schedule at the ceiling established by the Board. The City of Lodi is the only City in the County which requires City Council review and approval of ambulance rate schedules. The ambulance company has requested that the City of Lodi consider transferring this authority to the County and this matter will be the subject of a "Shirtsleeve" meeting this fall. Staff has no problem with this request.

Mr. Nilssen will be in attendance at the City Council meeting to present this request and to answer any questions Councilmembers may have.

FUNDING: None required

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. Peterson
City Manager

TAP: br

Attachments

LIFE MEDICAL INDUSTRIES, INC.

	PROPOSED RATES (to be implemented 06-21-91)	EXISTING RATES (06-01-90)
ALS Base Rate	\$470.00	\$420.00
BLS Base Rate	\$265.00	\$236.00
Emergency	\$ 55.00	-
Night	\$ 55.00	\$ 50.00
Oxygen	\$ 37.00	\$ 33.00
Mileage	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.00



EXHIBIT B

San Joaquin

Emergency Medical Services Agency

A Division of Health Care Services

May 30, 1991

Thomas A. Peterson, City Manager
City of Lodi
Call Box 3006
Lodi, California 95241-1910

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The San Joaquin EMS Agency conducted its annual review of ambulance rates. This analysis and staff's recommendations were presented to the Board of Supervisors on May 21, 1991. The Board of Supervisors adopted a revised schedule for ambulance rates. A copy of the Board order and new rate schedule is enclosed for your information.

The charges listed represent the maximum ambulance rates that can be levied by the ambulance provider, unless an exemption is approved by the City and by the County. Individual increases for all charges are approximately 12%. The Ambulance Ordinance requires ambulance providers to post changes in their rates at least thirty (30) days prior to implementation, and receive the approval of the EMS Agency.

During 1990, staff initiated a study to evaluate the advisability of changing the ambulance rate structure to a single charge system. This analysis will continue during the 1991-92 fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Elaine L. Hatch
EMS Coordinator

/dl

cc: Michael N. Smith, Director, Health Care Services
D. DeSelms, Ambulance Ordinance Officer
Michael Nilssen, Life Medical Industries

Enclosure

Before the Board of Supervisors,
County of San Joaquin, State of California

B- 91-768

MOTION: ~~WILHOIT~~ / SIMAS

ADJUSTMENT TO COUNTY AMBULANCE RATES PURSUANT TO
AMBULANCE ORDINANCE #3245

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution revising the maximum ambulance rates for the County of San Joaquin for emergency medical services, effective May 21, 1991; and,

- IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Health Care Services to continue the evaluation of changing the ambulance rate structure to a single emergency charge system.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above order was passed and adopted on MAY 21 1991 by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors, to wit:

AYES: WILHOIT, COSTA, SOUSA, SIMAS, BARBER

NOES: NCNE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Copies to: _____



JORETTA J. HAYDE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Joaquin
State of California

By JORETTA J. HAYDE
Deputy Clerk.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

R-91-371

RESOLUTION SETTING AMBULANCE RATES

-000-

Effective May 21, 1991

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors hereby sets the emergency ambulance rates under the Ordinance Code of San Joaquin County, Section 4-7909 as follows:

I. POLICIES

- A. Ambulance providers may charge rates equal to or below the rates listed in Section II & III below.
- B. The rate structure applies to county areas and to incorporated areas where the City Council has adopted the ordinance.
- C. Changes in rates must be posted with the EMS Agency at least thirty (30) days prior to its implementation.
- D. The base rate charged to patients will be consistent with the patient's treatment and in accordance with San Joaquin County's policies and procedures (e.g. patients receiving BLS care are charged the BLS base rate. Patients receiving ALS care are charged the ALS base rate).

II. MAXIMUM RATES FOR BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) SERVICES

Base Rate	\$265.00
Emergency	\$ 55.00
Night.	\$ 55.00
Oxygen	\$ 37.00
Mileage	\$ 10.00

III. MAXIMUM RATES FOR ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS) SERVICES

Base Rate*	\$470.00	*includes emergency
Night Call	\$ 55.00	
Oxygen	\$ 37.00	
Mileage	\$ 10.00	

IV. CHARGES ABOVE MAXIMUM RATES

An ambulance provider may charge above the rates listed in Sections 11 and III above after meeting the following conditions:

- A. The ambulance provider **must** present justification for its higher charges to the **City Council** within its service zone.
- B. Upon the City Council approval and the Board of Supervisors' concurrence **with** the higher charges, the ambulance providers may set higher fees for its service areas.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 21st of May, 1991 by the following vote of the **Board of Supervisors to wit:**

AYES : WILHOIT, COSTA, SOUSA, SIMAS, BARBER?

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ATTEST: JORETTA J. HAYDE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of San Joaquin,
State of California

GEORGE L. BARBER
GEORGE BARBER, CHAIRMAN
aoard of Supervisors
County of San Joaquin
State of California

By MARY ANNE CHIU
Deputy clerk



DIST: COB-Orig. ; CAP-2
County Counsel, HCS-2

RESOLUTION NO. 91-113
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A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL
APPROVING AMENDED FEE SCHEDULE FOR SERVICE PROVIDED BY
LIFE MEDICAL INDUSTRIES, INC.

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RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Lodi does hereby approve the amended fee schedule for service provided by Life Medical Industries, Inc., to be implemented June 21, 1991, as shown on Exhibit A, attached hereto and thereby made a part hereof.

Dated: June 20, 1991

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 91-113 as passed and adopted **by** the City Council of the City of Lodi in an adjourned regular meeting held June 20, 1991 by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members - Pennino, Pinkerton, Sieglock and
Hinckman (Mayor)

Noes : Council Members - None

Absent: Council Members - Snider

Alice M. Reimche
Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

LIFE MEDICAL INDUSTRIES, INC.

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	PROPOSED RATES (to be implemented 06-21-91)	EXISTING RATES (06-01-90)
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ALS Base Rate	\$470.00	\$420.00
BLS Base Rate	\$265.00	\$236.00
Emergency	\$ 55.00	-
Night	\$ 55.00	\$ 50.00
Oxygen	\$ 37.00	\$ 33.00
Mileage	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.00

=====

CITY COUNCIL

DAVID M HINCHMAN, Mayor
JAMES W PINKERTON, Jr

Mayor Pro Tempore

PHILLIP A PENNINO

JACK A SIEGLOCK

JOHN R (Randy) SNIDER

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET

P.O BOX 3006

LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241-1910

(209) 334-5634

FAX (209) 333-6795

THOMAS A PETERSON
City Manager

ALICE M REIMCHE
City Clerk

BOB McNATT
City Attorney

June 25, 1991

Michael Nilssen
Life Medical Industries
P.O. Box 692170
Stockton, CA 95269

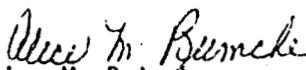
Dear Mr. Nilssen:

This letter will confirm action taken by the Lodi City Council at its adjourned regular meeting of June 20, 1991 whereby the City Council adopted Resolution No. 91-113 amending the rate schedule for ambulance service in the City of Lodi. A certified copy of Resolution No. 91-113 is attached.

Further, the City Council determined that prior to future rate reviews, staff is to join with the San Joaquin Emergency Medical Services Agency in reviewing Life Medical Industries' financial statements.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call this office.

Very truly yours,


Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

AMR/jmp