



CITY OF LONG BEACH

FIRE DEPARTMENT

H-1

3205 Lakewood Boulevard • Long Beach, CA 90808-1733 • Telephone (562) 570-2500 • FAX (562) 570-2506

MICHAEL DuREE
FIRE CHIEF

July 21, 2015

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the supporting documentation into the record, conclude the public hearing, and adopt the attached Resolution amending the Master Fee and Charges Schedule by adopting the Fire First Responder Fee. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

The Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD) proposes to implement a First Responder Fee to partially offset the costs of providing emergency medical services. In Fiscal Year 15, the Department has budgeted \$11.3 million in ambulance transport revenue, which includes \$400,000 in budgeted Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) revenue. The annual budgeted cost of providing paramedic services totals \$22.1 million annually, far exceeding budgeted revenue.

Additionally, there is a significant cost associated with providing fire engine responses to medical incidents, which comprise approximately 85% of all responses. A fire engine is staffed with four personnel -- three Emergency Medical Technicians and one Paramedic. The fire engine is typically the first apparatus to respond to an incident and there is currently no mechanism by which the Department can recover the costs of services provided by fire engine personnel. Similarly, when ambulances respond to a medical emergency and the patient is not transported, there are no fees charged to offset these costs.

The Department proposes to charge a \$250 Fire First Responder Fee to patients that are medically evaluated and treated by Fire staff on a first responder unit. This would be separate, and in addition to, the current ambulance fees that are charged when there is a transport. The amount of the fee is consistent with what other California agencies charge (attached) and assumes full recovery of personnel, apparatus, emergency medical supplies and equipment, and administrative costs.

Administration
(562) 570-2510
FAX (562) 570-2506

Fire Prevention
(562) 570-2560
FAX (562) 570-2566

Operations
(562) 570-2530
FAX (562) 570-2564

Support Services
(562) 570-2501
FAX (562) 570-2556

As noted above, there are significant costs associated with an emergency medical response, which includes a fire engine and an ambulance, and the six Fire staff members associated with the apparatus. A patient evaluation and assessment involves a medical history and the taking of vital signs, such as blood pressure, pulse, breathing, and body temperature, and also often includes monitoring heart activity and measuring blood sugar. Patients are often treated on-scene as well. An example of treatment is the intravenous administration of glucose for altered diabetic patients, which is a frequent occurrence.

Patients who are evaluated and/or treated would receive a bill for the First Responder Fee from the City. If the Fire Department transports the patient as a result of the emergency response, the First Responder Fee would be added to the bill for ambulance transport services. Those patients who are covered by a private insurance policy or Medicare/MediCal would have an opportunity to provide their medical insurance information to the City. The City would then submit the bill to the appropriate insurance company or governmental agency.

This item was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Kendra Carney on June 30, 2015 and by Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on June 24, 2015.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is requested on July 21, 2015, so that the Fire Department may begin to recover costs for emergency medical responses in a timely manner.

FISCAL IMPACT

Although very difficult to project, the annual gross First Responder Fee revenue is roughly estimated to be approximately \$1.8 million, which would be partially offset by about \$200,000 in additional annual costs associated with the billing and collection of fees, including staffing, supplies, postage, and software maintenance. The net annual revenue to the General Fund (GF) is, therefore, preliminarily estimated at \$1.6 million, once the program is established.

The implementation of a First Responder Fee will also allow the LBFD to maximize future GEMT funds that the City currently receives as a supplement to normal ambulance revenue. Under the GEMT program, ambulance service providers are reimbursed for a portion of the difference between the full costs of providing Medical Transportation Services (MTS) to individuals covered by MediCal and the amount of MediCal revenue received for these services. Currently, GEMT reimbursement applies only to the costs of providing MTS. Future GEMT legislation will be introduced that, if passed, will allow ambulance service providers to claim reimbursement for the non-MTS components of providing services at medical emergencies. This would include cost recovery for a portion of the cost of medical services provided by EMT and Paramedic staff on fire engines, as well as the cost of medical services provided by Paramedics

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

July 21, 2015

Page 3

and Ambulance Operators on ambulances when there is no patient transport. However, local governments will only be able to recover costs under this program if they are currently charging customers for the non-MTS component of the response. The implementation of the Fire First Responder Fee would satisfy this requirement.

It is City financial practice with regard to a new revenue program, where the revenue is highly uncertain, to wait and see what the revenue pattern will actually be before budgeting a significant amount of revenue. This program will also take some time to establish a revenue pattern. As a result, the first year this revenue would be fully budgeted is FY 17. If the First Responder Fee is approved, the City will establish what the revenue pattern is in FY 16 and then budget for it in FY 17.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Binett" followed by a circled "P" and "Michael DuRee".

MICHAEL DuREE
FIRE CHIEF

ATTACHMENTS

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. H. West".

PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

ATTACHMENT

California Fire Agencies with First Responder Fees

<u>Fire Agency</u>	<u>First Responder Fee</u>
Alameda County Fire Department	\$433
Alhambra Fire Department	\$250
Anaheim Fire Department	\$350
Contra Costa County Fire Department	\$400
Corte Madera Fire Department	\$325
Cosumnes Community Services District Fire Department	\$143
El Dorado County Fire Department	\$317
Folsom Fire Department	\$225
Novato Fire Department	\$425
Sacramento Fire Department	\$225
Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District	\$276
Tracy Fire Department	\$300

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH AMENDING THE MASTER FEE
AND CHARGES SCHEDULE BY ADOPTING THE FIRE
FIRST RESPONDER FEE

WHEREAS, the Long Beach Fire Department ("LBFD") proposes to
implement a First Responder Fee to partially offset the costs of providing emergency
medical services; and

WHEREAS, in FY15, the LBFD has budgeted \$11.3 million in ambulance
transport revenue, which includes \$400,000 in budgeted ground emergency medical
transportation revenue; and

WHEREAS, the annual budget cost of providing paramedic services totals
\$22.1 million annually, far exceeding budget revenue; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant cost associated with providing fire engine
response to medical incidents, which comprise approximately 85% of all responses; and

WHEREAS, the LBFD proposes to charge a \$250 First Responder Fee to
patients that are medically evaluated and treated by Fire staff on a first responder unit;
and

WHEREAS, the Fee is consistent with what other California agencies
charge and assumes full recovery of personnel, apparatus, emergency medical supplies
and equipment, and administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, at a duly noticed public hearing, took public
testimony and input regarding certain proposed new service fees and charges; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Government Code Section
66016, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the public hearing at which this Resolution is
adopted, notice of the time and place of the hearing was mailed to eligible interested

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

1 parties who filed written requests with the City for mailed notice of meetings regarding
2 new fees or service charges; and

3 WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Government Code
4 66016, data regarding the estimated cost of the services and the revenue sources
5 anticipated to provide the services was available for public review and comment for ten
6 (10) days prior to the public hearing at which this Resolution was adopted; and

7 WHEREAS, publication of the notice of public hearing was given in
8 accordance with the provisions of the Government Code Section 6062a, ten (10) days in
9 advance of the public hearing at which the adoption of this Resolution was considered;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby
11 resolves as follows:

12 Section 1. The facts set forth in the Recitals of this Resolution are true
13 and correct and are hereby incorporated by reference herein as though set forth in full.

14 Section 2. The City Council finds that the First Responder Fee provisions
15 contained in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated by reference, provide for the
16 charging of reasonable Fire First Responder Fees to patients that are medically
17 evaluated and treated by Fire staff on a first responder unit.

18 Section 3. The City Council hereby adopts and approves the new,
19 increased, or adjusted fees and charges as set forth and described in Exhibit "A",
20 attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, as though set forth in full,
21 word for word. The fees and charges set forth in said Exhibit "A" shall thereafter be
22 incorporated into those fees and charges previously adopted and approved by the City
23 Council by Resolution and shall collectively be known as the Master Fee and Charges
24 Schedule of the City of Long Beach and may be made available to the public for its
25 information and review.

26 Section 4. Adoption of the new fees and charges set forth and described
27 in this Resolution for the specified City services, as shown in Exhibit "A" attached hereto
28 and incorporated herein by this reference, are intended to recover costs necessary to

1 provide the services within the City for which the fees are charged. In adopting the new
2 or increased fees and charges set forth in this Resolution, the City Council of the City of
3 Long Beach is exercising its powers under Article XI, Section 7 of the California
4 Constitution.

5 Section 5. All requirements of California Government Code Sections
6 66000, et seq., are hereby found to have been satisfied.

7 Section 6. The fees and charges adopted and all portions of this
8 Resolution are severable. Should any of the fees or charges or any portion of this
9 Resolution be adjudged to be invalid and unenforceable by a body of competent
10 jurisdiction, then the remaining fees and/or Resolution portions shall be, and continue to
11 be, in full force and effect, except as to those fees and/or Resolution portions that have
12 been adjudged invalid. The City Council of the City of Long Beach hereby declares that it
13 would have adopted each of the fees or charges and this Resolution and each section,
14 subsection, clause, sentence, phrase and other portion thereof, irrespective of the fact
15 that one or more of the service fees, charges or sections, subsections, clauses,
16 sentences, phrases or other portions of this Resolution may be held invalid or
17 unconstitutional.

18 Section 7. All provisions of prior City Council ordinances and resolutions
19 establishing Fire First Responder Fees are hereby rescinded and repealed in part or in
20 whole to the extent of any conflict between said ordinances and resolutions and the
21 provisions established by this Resolution.

22 Section 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption
23 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City
2 Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2015,
3 by the following vote:

4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

EXHIBIT "A"

EXHIBIT A

List of Proposed Fee Adjustments for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY 15)					
Fee Description	Current Fee	Requested Fee	Per	Annual Revenue Change	Fund
Department: Fire					
MEDICAL TRANSPORT					
First Responder Fee	\$0	\$250	Patient that is medically evaluated and treated by Fire staff on a first responder unit	*	GENERAL
TOTAL (All Funds)				*	