



January 31, 2013

Honorable Mayor
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

Communication from the Fire Chief requesting Section 38-22 of the City Ordinance be repealed and recreated as follows to update our ambulance billing structure.

“Sec. 38-22 - Ambulance Billings

1. The following rate structure will be utilized when billing for Emergency and Non-Emergency responses to medically related calls for assistance received through the 911 Joint Dispatch Center.

- a. Invalid Assistance for non-emergency assistance where no transport or medical assistance is needed.
 - \$95.00 Basic fee for service
- b. Basic Life Support response and transport to a medical facility.
 - ~~\$425.00~~ \$500.00 City of Racine or Contracted Area of Service Resident
 - ~~\$475.00~~ \$625.00 Non-resident living outside the City of Racine or Contracted Area of Service
- c. Advance Life Support response and transport to a medical facility.
 - ~~\$600.00~~ \$650.00 City of Racine or Contracted Area of Service Resident
 - ~~\$650.00~~ \$750.00 Non-Resident living outside the City of Racine or Contracted Area of Service
- c1. Advance Life Support response and NO Transport – ON SCENE care only
 - \$400.00 City of Racine or Contracted Area of Service Resident
 - \$500.00 Non-Resident living outside the City of Racine or Contracted Area of Service.
- d. Advance Life Support Tier 2 response and transport to a medical facility.
 - ~~\$700.00~~ \$750.00 City of Racine or Contracted Area of Service
 - ~~\$750.00~~ \$825.00 Non-Resident living outside the City of Racine or Contract Area of Service
- e. Loaded mileage rate from the emergency scene or incident to the hospital.
 - ~~\$10.00/mile~~ \$13.00/mile City of Racine or Contracted Area of Service
 - \$13.50/mile Non-Resident living outside the City of Racine or Contracted Area of Service.
- f. Billable supplies including but not limited to the following:
 - \$ 90.00 Combi-tube intubation
 - \$100.00 Defibrillation
 - \$ 60.00 IV Therapy
 - \$ 90.00 ET Intubation
 - \$ 40.00 Routine disposables
 - ~~\$ 10.00~~ \$60.00 Oxygen Cannula (0-4 liters)
 - ~~\$ 15.00~~ Oxygen Mask (5+ liters)
 - \$150.00 Spinal Immobilization



\$100.00 Excessive weight patient over 400 pounds
\$ 50.00 Blue code drug resuscitation
\$100.00 Blue Code Lucas Device

At the request of the Fire Chief the City's Emergency Medical Services billing agency, LifeQuest, undertook a rate comparison study of the City's charges for Emergency Medical Services and compare those charges against similar communities in Wisconsin. Communities included in the survey are Watertown Fire Dept, West Allis Fire Dept, Beaver Dam Fire Department, Dells-Delton EMS, Wausau Fire Dept, Eau Claire Fire Dept, Oshkosh Fire Dept, Manitowoc Fire Dept, and Oak Creek Fire Dept. All mentioned agencies provide Emergency Medical Technician Basic and Paramedic services.

The result of the survey provided an overall average of charges for the different categories of response, and also included a recommendation from LifeQuest to the City of Racine for rate adjustment. Copies of the survey are available for review.

The results of that survey reflected the City of Racine charges for Emergency Medical Services were less than surrounding communities. In an effort to make sure our rates are comparable with other Fire and EMS agencies in Wisconsin we recommend making the above noted changes to ordinance 38-22.

Fiscal Note: There will be an increase in 2013 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) revenues for account 101.300.7280 where the revenue is accounted for within the fire department budget. We anticipate an increase of \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen,
Fire Chief