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- 29 1) Deleting the definitions of “assisted living facility” and “nursing care facility” as superfluous
30 in this specific ordinance.
31 2) Modifying the definition of “emergency medical treatment” to clarify that an emergency is to
32 be determined by RFD.
33 3) Modifying the definition of “lift assists” to broaden its scope beyond just those requested by
34 assisted living and nursing care facilities.
35 4) Modifying the definition of “private ambulance service” to broad its scope beyond just
36 transport to and from assisted living and nursing care facilities.
37 5) Modifying the language for billing practices, both for medically related calls and lift assist
38 responses, so that they are consistent with one another (see subsections 38-22(a) and (b);
39 6) Moving the original subsections 38-22(b), (c), and (d) down below billing practices (now
40 subsection (b)) so that the newly named subsections (b), (c) and (d) are applicable to all types
41 of billings including non-emergency lift assists; and
42 7) Modifying subsection (b) for lift assists billing so that it applies to any person or entity
43 making such request and reorganizing the remainder of the section to make it easier to read.
44 No substantive changes were made to the billing or fee schedule.

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46 **BUDGETARY IMPACT:** N/A

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48 **OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:** Deny the proposed changes and leave the ordinance as it currently exists.

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50 **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** This is a policy decision to be made by the Common Council.

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52 **ATTACHMENT(S):** Ordinance 0006-24 Ambulance Billing and Lift Assist Costs Recovery – Redline.

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63 **Ordinance 006-24 – Ambulance billing and lift assists costs recovery – Redline.**

64 **Sec. 38-21. Definitions.**

65 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them
66 in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

67 *Advanced life support (ALS)* means a higher level of emergency medical care, usually provided by EMT-
68 intermediates or paramedics. Typically ALS includes invasive techniques such as IV therapy, intubation and/or drug
69 administration.

70 *Advanced life support level 2 (ALS2)* means ALS skills plus, but not limited to, ventilatory support involving
71 tracheal intubation, pharyngo-tracheal lumen airway, esophageal obturator airway, trans-tracheal catheter
72 ventilation; advance IV access including IO application, and external jugular venous access diagnostic testing
73 including EKG interpretation; advanced treatment options with drugs or electro-conversion, and advance perfusion
74 support. ALS 2 generally will involve life-threatening or life-ending emergencies.

75 ~~*Assisted living facility* means a residential setting that provides assisted living services for remuneration to
76 four or more persons who reside in such residential setting and are not related to the owner of the residential
77 setting and, except as provided herein, includes a home, an apartment, or a facility. Assisted living does not
78 include a home, an apartment, or a facility in which (i) casual care is provided at irregular intervals or (ii) a
79 competent person residing in such home, apartment, or facility provides for or contracts for his or her own
80 personal or professional services if no more than 50 percent of the persons residing in such home, apartment, or
81 facility receive such services.~~

82 *Basic life support (BLS)* means fundamental emergency treatment that is provided until more precise medical
83 treatment can begin. The constellation of emergency procedures needed to ensure a person's immediate survival,
84 including CPR, control of bleeding, treatment of shock and poisoning, stabilization of injuries and/or wounds and
85 basic first aid.

86 *Emergency medical treatment* means treatment beyond an initial assessment ~~routinely performed by the
87 Racine Fire Department and that which is in response to a medical emergency, as determined by the Racine Fire
88 Department.~~

89 *Hazardous materials emergency* means an occurrence or an event that involved the uncontrolled release of
90 emanate threat of a hazardous material into the environment which creates the potential or possibility of harm to
91 human health, property or the environment.

92 *Lift assist* means a response by the Racine Fire Department to assist in physically moving or lifting a person
93 who does not require emergency medical treatment. ~~or transportation in an assisted living facility and or nursing
94 care facility.~~

95 *Medical emergency* means an injury or illness that is acute and poses an immediate risk to a person's life or
96 long-term health. These emergencies may require assistance of the fire department based emergency medical
97 technicians (EMT) or paramedics pre-hospital. Dependent upon the severity of the emergency and the quality of
98 any treatment given; it may require the involvement of multiple levels of care, from EMTs to an emergency room
99 physician through to a specialist surgeon.

100 *Motor vehicle accident* means any collision between two or more motor vehicles; a collision between a
101 motor vehicle and personal or real property; a collision between a motor vehicle and a non-motor vehicle,
102 including unlicensed vehicles.

103 *Mutual aid box alarm system (MABAS)* means a mutual aid system developed by the fire service to allow fire
104 departments who are experiencing an extraordinary community incident to call resources from surrounding
105 communities to assist with the extraordinary community incident at no cost to the municipality. Under MABAS

106 municipalities must be capable of covering more than 90 percent of the routine day-to-day calls utilizing internal
107 resources. Also under MABAS, municipalities not only receive assistance for extraordinary incidents, but the
108 municipality must share their internal resources with outlying municipalities experiencing extraordinary incidents.

109 ~~*Nursing care facility* means a facility where medical care, nursing care, rehabilitation, or related services and~~
110 ~~associated treatment are provided for a period of more than 24 consecutive hours to persons residing at such~~
111 ~~facility who are ill, injured, or disabled.~~

112 *Private ambulance service* means any entity licensed by the State of Wisconsin or other states to provide
113 private (not municipal based) ambulance transport of patients to, from or between the hospital, to a residence,
114 home, hospital to an assisted living facility, or any residential living facility ~~home to hospital or assisted living~~
115 ~~facility to hospital transport~~ by way of a licensed motor vehicle.

116 *Response* means any and all instances when one or more members of the Racine Fire Department are called
117 out to the scene of an incident involving an emergency situation that is beyond the capabilities of local first
118 responders and local emergency personnel. The emergency situation could involve the presence or suspected
119 presence of a dangerous, hazardous or toxic substance, life-threatening or life-ending emergencies, fire, mass
120 rescue, trench rescue, and high or low angle rope rescue.

121 (Ord. No. 13-11, pt. 2, 1-17-12; Ord. No. 0011-22, pt. 1, 11-1-22)

Sec. 38-22. Ambulance billings and lift assist cost recovery.

(a) The ~~fee schedule as established by the common council will be utilized when~~ billing for emergency and non-emergency responses ~~for~~ medically-related calls for assistance received through the 911 joint dispatch center ~~shall be determined by the fee schedule as established by the common council, categorized~~ as follows:

(1) *Basic life support on scene care or invalid assistance for non-emergency assistance where no transport or medical assistance is needed:*

City of Racine or contract area of service resident
Non-resident living outside the City of Racine or contracted area of service

(2) *Basic life support response and transport to a medical facility.*

City of Racine or contracted area of service resident
Non-resident living outside the City of Racine or contracted area of service

(3) *Advance life support response and transport to a medical facility.*

City of Racine or contracted area of service resident
Non-resident living outside the City of Racine or contracted area of service

(4) *Advance life support response and no transport—On scene care only*

City of Racine or contract area of service resident
Non-resident living outside the City of Racine or contracted area of service

(5) *Advance life support tier 2 response and transport to a medical facility.*

City of Racine or contracted area of service
Non-resident living outside the City of Racine or contract area of service

(6) *Loaded mileage rate from the emergency scene or incident to the hospital.*

(7) *Billable supplies including, but not limited to, the following:*

Combi-tube intubation
Defibrillation
IV Therapy
ET Intubation
Routine disposables
Oxygen Cannula (0-4 liters)
Oxygen Mask (5+ liters)
Excessive weight patient over 400 pounds
Blue code drug resuscitation
Blue code Lucas Device

Oxygen

- ~~(b) The fire chief in his/her sole discretion, shall have the authority to waive ambulance billing fees upon written request from a patient or a patient's estate based on the totality of the request which must include a declaration of financial hardship.~~
- ~~(c) A contracted fire and EMS billing agency is hereby directed to issue invoices for such emergency services and to collect such fees on behalf of the City of Racine and to deposit such fees in the city's general fund, which shall be used to purchase fire department equipment, fire department training, EMS training supplies for the City of Racine Fire Department.~~
- ~~(d) When appropriate, charges not collected shall be turned over to the tax refund intercept program (TRIP) or a collection agency at the discretion of the City of Racine.~~
- (be) The billing for a lift assist response where no transport is required by the fire department ambulance crew, shall be determined by the fee schedule as established by the common council, categorized as follows:-

<u>1 to 2 assists to a single address—No fee</u>
<u>3 to 5 assists to a single address</u>
<u>6 to 7 assists to a single address</u>
<u>8 to 9 assists to a single address</u>
<u>Each additional occurrence above 9 assists to a single address</u>

- (1) The city may charge any recover, from any property owner, facility, entity or private ambulance provider the city's expenses for any non-emergency lift assist response who requests any services provided by the Racine Fire Department in connection with providing a lift assist to any person.-
- ~~(2) The city shall charge a fee to the identified assisted living facilities, nursing care facilities, or private ambulance service for services provided by the Racine Fire Department in connection with providing a lift assist to any person.~~
- (23) The fee for providing such lift assist shall be for services accumulated in a single calendar year from January 1 through December 31, and are defined in the fee schedule as established by the common council. Breakdown categories for charging fees are:

1 to 2 assists to a single address—No fee
3 to 5 assists to a single address
6 to 7 assists to a single address
8 to 9 assists to a single address
Each additional occurrence above 9 assists to a single address

- (34) The fire department shall maintain records in connection with services provided pursuant to this policy, and shall create billing documents, and shall forward records to the fire department's contracted billing agent who will be responsible to invoice affected property owner, facility, entity or private ambulance provider. If fees become delinquent, they will progress through the normal EMS billing cycles, per the current contract with the billing agent. If the billing is not paid within 180 days of invoicing the balance due shall constitute a special charge against the property where the assistance was provided under Section 66.601(16) of the Wisconsin Statutes, and shall be placed on the annual tax roll for collection as a special charge. All proceedings related to the collection of real estate taxes shall apply.

(45) Any property owner, facility, entity or private ambulance provider assisted living facility, nursing care facility or private ambulance provider subject to a fee under this policy may within 30 days of the date issuance of such a bill, appeal to the City of Racine Finance Committee in writing.

(c) The fire chief in his/her sole discretion, shall have the authority to waive ambulance-billing fees for any emergency or non-emergency response or transport, upon written request from a patient or a patient's estate based on the totality of the request which must include a declaration of financial hardship.

(d) A contracted fire and EMS billing agency is hereby directed to issue invoices for such emergency services and to collect such fees on behalf of the City of Racine and to deposit such fees in the city's general fund, which shall be used to purchase fire department equipment, fire department training, EMS training supplies for the City of Racine Fire Department.

(e) When appropriate, charges not collected shall be turned over to the tax refund intercept program (TRIP) or a collection agency at the discretion of the City of Racine.

(Ord. No. 13-11, pt. 3, 1-17-12; Ord. No. 02-16, pts. 1—8, 6-20-16; Ord. No. 0028-19, pt. 73, 11-12-19; Ord. No. 0011-22, pt. 2, 11-1-22)