



Fire Department

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April 11, 2018

Public Safety and Health Committee  
Ald. Robert Donovan, Chair  
City of Milwaukee Common Council Public Safety and Health Committee  
200 East Wells Street, Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

**File Number: 180046** An ordinance relating to charges for patient services provided by the Milwaukee Fire Department

Dear Ald. Donovan and Public Safety and Health Committee Members:

This file proposes to amend the ordinance relating to charges for patient services provided by the Milwaukee Fire Department for 2018. This is an annual increase typically recommended by the Milwaukee County Association of Fire Chiefs (MCAFC) as a uniform rate change throughout the County based on the Medical Care Commodities and Medical Care Service CPI, however, the EMS Contract with Milwaukee County does not bind the municipalities to all maintain the same fee structure. As a result, for the first time in 2018, all Milwaukee County jurisdictions have chosen to set their own rate increases and may likely do the same for subsequent years to come.

After lengthy discussion with the Budget Office we are recommending and supporting a 4% increase across the board to all service and mileage rates. An annual increase is recommended to keep up with rising costs of EMS Services. For some comparison, here is a list of what other Milwaukee County jurisdictions have proposed compared to the City of Milwaukee:

- South Milwaukee - 2.85% overall with some “bundling” of certain charges and a \$200 increase for ALS on-scene care only
- Greendale – 2.85% across the board
- **Milwaukee – 4% across the board**
- Oak Creek – 5% across the board with a few individual changes to medication charges based on medication price changes
- Greenfield – 15% across the board
- North Shore – 17% across the board with a few higher adjustments based on medication costs
- Wauwatosa – Moving forward with 100%+ increase in fees for soft billing and the elimination of collections
- Franklin – TBD – Still reviewing budget needs

The Milwaukee Fire Department will continue to work with our current billing contractor to validate revenue projections for 2018 and 2019 as it is impacted by these rate increases, however, the projected increase in revenues will not directly correlate to the 4% increase. The City of Milwaukee Fire department provides the majority of its services to Medicaid and Medicare patients and will not realize the 4% increase on most of those services due to set fee structures. Approximately 76% of revenue payments are received from Medicaid and Medicare patients, while 23% are from commercial payers and 1% from self-pay.

If you have any questions regarding this file and ordinance change please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Rohlfing", written in a cursive style.

MARK ROHLFING  
Chief

MR/YR