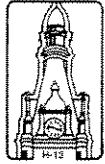


C: Barry Zauben



City
of
Milwaukee

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health

Health Department Administration



Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990
web site: www.milwaukee.gov

July 7, 2005

Alderman Robert Donovan
Chair, Public Safety Committee
200 East Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Donovan:

Pursuant to Milwaukee Codes, it is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Health to review each year ambulance conveyance rates for calls dispatched by the City's Emergency Medical Services-911 dispatch system. The Commissioner of Health is to report these findings and any recommended rate adjustments to the Common Council. My recommendations for rate adjustments have been based on health related cost indexes specified in section 75-15-14-b. In addition I have examined the prevailing rates from other Milwaukee County municipalities and consulted with the City Economist, Dennis Yaccarino.

Attached is information provided by the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) on the health related cost indexes specified in section 75-15-14-b. Between 2003 and 2004 the Milwaukee Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care increased a modest 1.5%. Last year the Council increased allowable fees for BLS-Emergency conveyance by 3.6% to \$370.00 for residents and \$428.00 for non-residents. This increase mirrored a 3.6% in the Milwaukee CPI for medical care.

For this year, I am recommending a modest increase in BLS-Emergency conveyance fees to \$376.00 for residents and \$435.00 for non-residents. This rate is comparable to the fees assessed in other municipalities in Milwaukee County. (Average resident fee: \$385, non-resident: \$397).

Additionally, I am proposing a mileage increase of 6.3% to \$9.94 per mile. The new rate is based on the assumption that the mileage fee is reimbursement for both vehicle maintenance and fuel costs.

For the fuel cost adjustment, I have taken the average cost for gasoline at the end of 2003 (\$1.65) and increased this by 17.7% (2003-2004 CPI Gasoline increase) to \$1.94 per mile. The non-gas portion of the current mileage rate is \$7.70. The 2003-2004 CPI Private Transportation rate increase was 3.9%. By applying the 3.9% increase, we have in a non-gas vehicle maintenance fee of \$8.00 per mile. The new mileage rate of

July 7, 2005

\$9.94 was derived by adding the fuel and non-fuel costs (\$1.94 + \$8.00 = \$9.94). The City of Milwaukee mileage reimbursement rate is considerably higher than any of the suburban areas that were surveyed. The average rate in surrounding municipalities is \$6.13 per mile (range \$5.00 - \$8.00 per mile).

If you have any questions or require further information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health

Attachment

c: William Wentlandt, Fire Chief
Gloria Murawsky, Deputy Fire Chief
Jennifer Meyer, Budget and Policy Manager, Sr.
Fred Hornby, Bell Ambulance
Jim Baker, Curtis Ambulance
Linda Wiedmann, MedaCare Ambulance
Larry Knuth, Paratech Ambulance

Attachment 1

Milwaukee Consumer Price Index for Medical Care-
Percent increase 2003-2004= 1.5%

United States Consumer Price Index Data for Milwaukee
Transportation Costs- Calendar Year 2003-2004

- Transportation +3.70%
- Private Transportation +3.9%
- Motor Fuel +17.7%
- Gasoline +17.7%