

April 15, 2025

# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RONNIE R. VILLANUEVA  
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

April 4, 2025

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 25-023

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: *RV* Ronnie R. Villanueva, Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: PROPOSED EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORT SERVICES FEE  
INCREASE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

## SUMMARY

Section 22.210.2 of the Administrative Code instructs the Fire Chief, in cooperation with the Office of the City Administrative Officer, to review the rates for Emergency Ambulance charges and to make recommendations for modification to the City Council on a yearly basis.

The attached letter on the Proposed Emergency Ambulance Transport Services Fee Increase will be submitted to City Council for approval.

The letter recommends an increase in the Emergency Ambulance Services fees as follows:

1. Increase the Advanced Life Support (ALS) fee from \$2,625 to \$2,915 (+11.05%)
2. Increase the Basic Life Support (BLS) fee from \$1,747 to \$1,862 (+11.05%)
3. Maintain the Mileage rate from \$20 to \$29 per one-way mile (+47.37%)

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit the letter to the City Council.

Board report prepared by Ngozi Mbamalu, Senior Management Analyst II, Bureau of Administrative Services.

Attachments

**BOARD OF FIRE  
COMMISSIONERS**

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SHARON DELUGACH  
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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
CALIFORNIA



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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[HTTP://WWW.LAFD.ORG](http://www.lafd.org)

April 7, 2025

The Honorable City Council  
C/O City Clerk  
200 North Spring Street, Room 360  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Members:

**FY 2024-25 Emergency Ambulance Transport Services Fee Increase**

In accordance with the Los Angeles Administrative Code, Article 4 Medical Services Division Section 22.210.2, the Fire Chief, in cooperation with the City Administrative Officer, shall have authority to set rates providing ambulance and helicopter transport services, review the schedule of charges, and recommend to the City Council any changes or modifications.

A recommendation for an increase in the fees for emergency ambulance transport services is submitted for your consideration in compliance with the City's financial policy of full cost recovery. The recommendation is based on the most recent cost analysis and has been reviewed and concurred by the City Administrative Officer.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the City Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. Increase the Advanced Life Support (ALS) fee from \$2,625 to \$2,915 (+11.05%).
2. Increase the Basic Life Support (BLS) fee from \$1,862 to \$2,068 (+11.05%).
3. Increase the Mileage rate from \$20 to \$29 per one-way mile (+47.37%).
4. Request the City Attorney to amend the Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.210.2 Schedule of Charges for Emergency Service table to reflect the changes in the ALS and BLS rates.

**FINDINGS**

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) is committed to providing outstanding emergency medical services, fire protection services, and fire prevention services to the citizens of the City of Los Angeles. The LAFD is ready to respond to emergencies and disasters 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Resources dedicated to responding to

emergency medical service type incidents are staffed by LAFD firefighters trained as Emergency Medical Technicians and/or Paramedics. These resources include paramedic rescue ambulances, basic life support ambulances, assessment engines, and assessment light forces.

The cost of the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Program consists of direct and indirect costs including salaries, supplies, and expenses related to operations of the EMS Program. These costs determine the emergency ambulance transport service fees. The EMS Program consists of 100 percent of the costs for paramedic rescue ambulances and basic life support ambulances, and the proportional costs for engine companies that respond to emergency medical incidents.

Based on the FY 2023-24 field platoon duty personnel (direct costs) and the approved Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) 41 rates (indirect costs), the annual cost of the EMS program amounts to \$491.5 million. In order to recover the cost of the Emergency Medical Service Program, the ALS and BLS fees must be increased to \$2,915 and \$2,068, respectively, and the mileage rate to \$29 per mile. This calculation was based on an average of 179,098 billable transports. In comparison, the rates for the Los Angeles County as of July 1, 2024 will be \$3,329 for ALS, \$2,223 for BLS transports, and \$29 per mile.

The table below summarizes the current LAFD and proposed Emergency Ambulance Service fees for the fiscal year FY 2024-25 and reflects an 11.05 percent increase in the ALS and BLS fees for FY 2024-25.

Emergency Ambulance Transport Service	LAFD Current Rates as of FY 2021-22	LAFD Proposed Rates for FY 2024-25	Percent Increase
ALS Fee, per transport	\$2,625	\$2,915	11.05%
BLS Fee, per transport	\$1,862	\$2,068	11.05%
One-Way Mileage, per mile	\$ 20	\$29	47.37%

## REVENUE

The proposed fee increase would result in additional receipts of \$3.7 million annually. However, given the six-month timeline for amending the ordinance, the estimated implementation date is January 1, 2025. Therefore, the increase in the ALS and BLS rates is projected to be \$1.85M for EMS transports in FY 2024-25.

## FISCAL IMPACT

The LAFD will continue to monitor and report on the Emergency Ambulance Transport fee for services to ensure that rates meet the full cost of operations. Revenue from this fee increase will be deposited into the Revenue Source Code 4451 Emergency

The Honorable City Council  
April 8, 2025  
Page 3

Ambulance Services. The 2024-25 Estimated Revenue of \$154 million does not include \$1.85M for six months of anticipated receipts. Revenue projections assume that the fee increase will be implemented by January 1, 2025. The recommendations stated in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies in that the City will charge a fee for service where permitted and feasible. There is no additional impact on the General Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ronnie Villanueva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronnie" and last name "Villanueva" clearly distinguishable.

RONNIE R. VILLANUEVA  
Interim Fire Chief

Attachment

## Los Angeles Fire Department

## FY2023-24 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROPOSED FEE ANALYSIS

Total cost to provide Emergency Ambulance Transport Services	FY 2020-21 Allocated Cost	FY 2023-24 Allocated Cost
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:		
Personnel and Expenses	\$368,336,704	\$428,247,027
FIRE SUPPRESSION:		
Engine	\$37,489,337	\$46,493,113
Light Force	\$10,396,164	\$16,802,756
<b>*Total EMS Costs:</b>	<b>\$416,222,205</b>	<b>\$491,542,897</b>
	Mileage	-\$20,619,553
	<b>Total Program cost less mileage</b>	<b>\$470,923,344</b>
* This consists of 100-percent of EMS Program, 8.77 percent of Engines, 4.82 percent of Light Forces and excludes readiness time. Costs include servicing all transports and non-transport services.		

LAFD Current Rate Allocation (Eff. January 1, 2022)	Estimated Reimbursement - Current Allocation/Rates		Estimated Billable Transports	Current Rates
Advanced Life Support (ALS)	\$311,666,250	73.49%	118,730	\$2,625
Basic Life Support (BLS)	\$112,405,216	26.51%	60,368	\$1,862
Total Emergency Services	\$424,071,466	100.00%		

LAFD Proposed Rate Allocation (Eff. January 1, 2025)	Estimated Reimbursement - Proposed Allocation/Rates		Estimated Billable Transports	Proposed Rates
Advanced Life Support (ALS)	\$ 346,099,477	73.49%	118,730	\$ 2,915
Basic Life Support (BLS)	\$ 124,823,867	26.51%	60,368	\$ 2,068
Total Emergency Services	\$470,923,344	100.00%		

0220-04558-0006

**TRANSMITTAL**

TO The Fire Department	DATE 03/26/25	COUNCIL FILE NO. --
FROM The City Administrative Officer	COUNCIL DISTRICT All	

**Proposed Emergency Ambulance Transport Services Fee Increase for FY 2024-25 for the Los Angeles Fire Department**

In accordance with the Los Angeles Administrative Code, Article 4 Medical Services Division Section 22.210.2(b)(c), the Fire Chief shall have authority to set rates providing ambulance and helicopter transport services to members of pre-paid health plans for the purpose of providing patients transportation directly to a designated hospital. The Fire Chief in cooperation with the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) shall at intervals of not more than one year review the schedule of charges and recommend to the City Council any changes or modification. After review of the transmittal, the CAO concurs with the Los Angeles Fire Department on the proposed fee increase for the Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support, and mileage rates, which represent a full recovery of City incurred costs to provide these services.



Matthew W. Szabo  
City Administrative Officer

MWS:AC:04250108d

CAO 649-d