

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS ADJUSTING BASE AMBULANCE TRANSPORT RATES

WHEREAS, the San Marcos Fire Department provides basic and advanced life support services to the City and unincorporated area of the San Marcos Fire Protection District as authorized by County of San Diego Contract #562228; and

WHEREAS, there has not been an adjustment to the base ambulance transport rates since 2015; and

WHEREAS, San Marcos Fire Department's current base transport rates are the second lowest among County transporting agencies for both Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) transports. This ranking includes both public and private ambulance companies under contract to provide transport services to various exclusive operating areas; and

WHEREAS, the annual adjustment of ALS and BLS transport rates every July will utilize Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) standard Ambulance Inflation Factor (AIF) methodology. The AIF is a calculated percent change to payment limits for ambulance services. The AIF percentage applied to the base transport rates will incorporate the two AIF percentages (positive or negative) from the two calendar years that comprise of the previous fiscal year. The AIF is calculated by reducing the Calculated Percent Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) by the Multi-Factor Productivity (MFP), even if this equates a negative AIF update. If a negative AIF is calculated, the Fire Department will suspend any base transport rate increase. If a negative AIF is calculated for two consecutive fiscal years, the ALS and BLS transport rates will be reevaluated by Fire Department staff and appropriately adjusted, if needed; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department will adjust base ambulance transport rates by utilizing the current average ALS and BLS transport rate among North Zone agencies and applying the defined AIF. The Fire Department will adjust the ALS transport rate to \$1,710 and BLS transport rate to \$1,369. This adjustment of rates would place the Fire Department's ALS and BLS rates at number 19 out of the 25 agencies in the County, with 25 representing the lowest rate; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action does not have the potential to cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by Public Resources Section 21065, and is exempt from CEQA or other environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)..

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ambulance transport rates are hereby amended as follows:

1. The base ambulance transport rate for ALS services shall be adjusted to \$1,710 effective following City Council approval. The rate will automatically be adjusted by the AIF every July.
2. The base ambulance transport rate for BLS services shall be adjusted to \$1,369 effective following City Council approval. The rate will automatically be adjusted by the AIF every July.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of San Marcos, at a regularly scheduled Council Meeting thereof, this 14th day of July, 2020 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:

Rebecca D. Jones, Mayor
City of San Marcos

ATTEST:

Phillip Scollick, City Clerk
City of San Marcos