



MASON J. POOLER
FIRE CHIEF



CITY of WEST ALLIS
FIRE DEPARTMENT

To: Honorable Mayor Devine and Members of the Common Council
From: Chief Mason J. Pooler
Date: December 22, 2017
Re: Recommendation for Changes in Ambulance Fees

During the December 5, 2017 Common Council meeting, you approved a new EMS rate schedule after reviewing a recommendation from the West Allis Fire Department based on consideration of the rates of surrounding communities and the increase in costs associated with providing EMS care. In review of the proposed and adopted rates, we realized in hindsight that our city typically broke away from other area communities with one fee in particular.

We have never charged a “*BLS Service and/or Treatment without Transport (Resident)*” charge and I’m suggesting we continue to keep that rate at \$0.00, as opposed to the fee of \$13.21 as originally approved. My logic for this is our residents pay taxes that support the EMS services we provide and some level of service should be covered by those dollars. When a resident isn’t sure if an ambulance is needed or not, I’d like them to be able to err on the side of safety and call 911 without fear of receiving a bill. In addition, this charge is not covered by Medicare or Medicaid. With nearly 70% of our collections coming from these sources, the result would be those citizens who are the least able to pay for this charge would become the most impacted by this out of pocket cost.

I’d ask that we amend the EMS fee schedule adopted last month to continue a zero dollar charge for “*BLS Service and/or Treatment without Transport (Resident)*.”

If approved tonight, the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners will receive the same proposed change at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

I will be available to address any of your concerns. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.