

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-27

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND, WASHINGTON,
AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 13.06.330
RELATED TO BILLING FOR AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS.**

WHEREAS, since 1976, the City of Richland has provided emergency transport service to Richland citizens; and

WHEREAS, Richland City Council is authorized by RCW 35.21.766, RCW 35.27.370(15), and Chapter 13.06 of the Richland Municipal Code to set fees, rates, and charges to support an ambulance utility, emergency medical services (EMS), and ambulance transport service; and

WHEREAS, the current ambulance transport fee went into effect on June 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35.21.766(3), the monthly service fee for operation of the utility was established based on the costs of regulating ambulance services; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 cost-of-service study indicated a need to increase the transport fee based on rising service costs, and to allow users of the system to contribute a more equitable share; and

WHEREAS, the ambulance base transport fee needs to increase from \$660.00 to \$1,042.00 for Richland residents, increase from \$990.00 to \$1,563.00 for non-residents, and increase the mileage rate from \$10.00 per mile to \$14.00 per mile; and

WHEREAS, all adjustments to the ambulance utility rates will be effective January 1, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. Richland Municipal Code Section 13.06.330, entitled Billing for ambulance transports, as first enacted by Ordinance No. 28-06, and last amended by Ordinance No. 31-20, is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. Each person who is transported by the city's EMS program shall be billed by the city at a rate of ~~\$660.00~~ \$1,042.00, provided the patient is a city resident or is employed at (and transported from) a place of business within the city and the patient:

1. Supplies the city with all requested information and documentation, including, but not limited to, insurance information and medical records relative to billing for the ambulance service; and

2. Assigns to the city the patient's right to receive payment from all applicable third-party payers.

B. A patient who is not a city resident and is not employed at and transported from a place of business within the city shall be subject to a 50 percent surcharge on such transport services.

C. A mileage rate of \$14.00 ~~\$10.00~~ per mile will also be charged, regardless of resident or nonresident status.

D. Reciprocity. The ambulance service shall be provided within the city's ambulance response and mutual aid areas at no additional cost to any resident of the cities of Pasco and Kennewick who resides:

1. In a household that pays a charge similar to the utility charge; and
2. In a city that provides medical and ambulance services within its ambulance response and mutual aid areas to Richland residents at no additional cost.

E. The city shall have reciprocity with each of these cities unless they cease to have an ambulance utility or withdraw from the reciprocal agreement.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be published in the official newspaper of the City of Richland on September 11, 2022 and take effect on January 1, 2023.

Section 3. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 4. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's errors/clerical errors, section numbering, references, or similar mistakes of form.

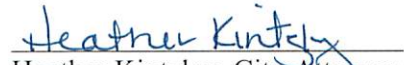
PASSED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 6th day of September, 2022.


Michael Alvarez, Mayor

Attest:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:


Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

First Reading: August 16, 2022
Second Reading: September 6, 2022
Date Published: September 11, 2022