



ADAM A. HOUSE  
Fire Chief

# Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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## ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the  
**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT  
SPECIFYING THE ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDICAL AID  
AND AMBULANCE TRANSPORT USER FEES FOR THE SACRAMENTO  
METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District ordains as follows:

### SECTION 1. Purpose

- 1) The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is a political subdivision of the State of California (State) and is duly organized and existing pursuant to the State constitution and laws. The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is organized under the Fire Protection District Law (California Health and Safety Code 13800) to provide fire protection, emergency medical services, and related services within its jurisdiction.
- 2) The mission of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is to provide professional and compassionate protection, education and service to our community. The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District's service area includes designated portions of Sacramento County and Placer County, encompassing approximately 359 square miles and serving a population of over 729,000 residents.
- 3) The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is charged with the solemn duty of delivering prompt, skilled, and compassionate emergency medical services (EMS) to individuals experiencing emergencies within its jurisdiction. In the delivery of EMS, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District shall ensure the highest standards of pre-hospital assessment, stabilization, and treatment, utilizing advanced protocols and equipment operated by professionally trained personnel, pursuant to standards of the Local and State Emergency Medical Services Agencies. Furthermore, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is responsible for the safe and efficient transport of patients to appropriate medical facilities, safeguarding the health and welfare of all residents and visitors while upholding the principles of integrity, accountability, and excellence in public service.
- 4) The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish how costs for EMS delivery are regulated and recovered, and to ensure consistent billing for emergency medical care.

**SECTION 2: Definitions**

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

- 1) "Ambulance" means a specially equipped vehicle designed to transport sick or injured people to medical facilities, often providing emergency care during transit.
- 2) "Ambulance and First Responder Fee Study" means the November 26, 2025, Final Report, conducted to understand the total costs of providing EMS services, ensure that fees do not exceed the costs of providing those services, and provide an opportunity for the District's Board to evaluate a revised policy and fee amounts.
- 3) "Ambulance Transport" means the conveyance of a patient by Ambulance from the scene of a medical emergency to a medical facility.
- 4) "Balance Billing" means billing a patient for the difference between billed charges and amounts paid by insurance when prohibited by law.
- 5) "Board of Directors" or "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District.
- 6) "District" means the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District.
- 7) "Emergency Medical Services" or "EMS" means pre-hospital medical assessment, stabilization, treatment, transport, and related support services provided by District personnel or contracted providers.
- 8) "Fee Schedule" means the schedule of fees adopted by resolution of the Board of Directors.
- 9) "First Responder" or "First Responder Unit" means a dispatched engine, truck, or squad unit that provides initial medical care or scene stabilization upon arrival.
- 10) "Medical Aid" generally refers to EMS provided by District personnel or its contracted providers.
- 11) "Mobile Integrated Health" or "MIH" is a program of the District that is integrated in EMS delivery and designed to prevent unnecessary emergency room transports and reduce patient readmissions by providing specialized Medical Aid.
- 12) "Patient Care Report" or "PCR" means the documentation system used by EMS to record, manage, and share patient data during emergency encounters which streamlines care via instant data access, improving accuracy, billing and patient handover.
- 13) "PCR Release Form" means the HIPAA-compliant authorization form which allows the District to share specific patient treatment data with insurance companies, payers, legal entities, and billing agencies to process payments.
- 14) "Related Add-Ons" means itemized fees for related services or equipment including vehicle mileage, cardiac monitoring, oxygen, and medications.
- 15) "User" means any individual or responsible party receiving or benefiting from EMS.

**SECTION 3: Adoption and Compliance**

The District adopts this Ordinance pursuant to the authority granted to the District under applicable state and local laws.

- 1) All Users and entities within the jurisdiction of the District shall be subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.
- 2) The District may adopt administrative policies and may utilize contracted billing providers.

**SECTION 4: Establishment of Medial Aid and Ambulance Transport User Fees**

This Ordinance hereby establishes User fees for Medical Aid and Ambulance Transport services.

- 1) User fees shall be set forth in a Fee Schedule adopted by resolution of the District Board of Directors and may be amended from time to time.
- 2) User fees shall not exceed the reasonable cost of providing service, as calculated in the Ambulance and First Responder Fee Study.

**SECTION 5: Administration of Fees**

- 1) The Director of EMS shall oversee administration of User fees. Fees shall be applied when documented patient care occurs as described herein.
  - a. Transport: Transport fees shall apply when EMS result in both the dispatch of a First Responder Unit and the Ambulance Transport of a patient by District personnel or its contracted providers, including either Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Life Support (ALS) services.
  - b. Automatic Aid with Transport: Automatic Aid with Transport shall apply when District personnel or its contractor(s) provide Ambulance Transport, but the First Responder Unit is provided by another agency, regardless of jurisdiction.
  - c. Treatment On Scene: Treatment on scene fees shall apply when a PCR is created and the PCR Release form is signed, but the patient is not transported by the District or its contracted providers. If the PCR Release form is not signed, the Treatment On Scene fee shall apply if vitals were taken or procedures were performed. Definitions for vitals and procedures shall be set forth in policy.
  - d. MIH Service – On Scene: MIH service on scene fees apply when an MIH unit provides treatment on scene alongside a First Responder Unit.
  - e. MIH Service – Supplemental: MIH service – supplemental fees apply when an MIH unit provides medical evaluation, education, or care coordination, whether by phone or in-person, after the initial 911 encounter.
  - f. Related Add-Ons: Related add-on fees apply when supplemental services and equipment are medically necessary. For example, mileage fees apply on all Ambulance Transports to account for the distance traveled during transport, and are supplemental to the Transport Fee.

- 2) Low-income assistance and billing dispute procedures shall be established through District policy.

### **SECTION 6: Imposition of Fees**

- 1) User fees shall be imposed when emergency medical services are rendered and documented patient care occurs by District personnel or its contracted providers.
- 2) User fees shall be applied uniformly, as allowed by law.
- 3) The District shall comply with insurance contractual billing limitations. The District may choose to accept actual amount of payments from the insurance carrier for emergency response. The District shall not engage in Balance Billing where prohibited by law or payer contract.
- 4) For administrative efficiency the District may combine multiple User fees established under this Ordinance into a single billing statement or invoice when appropriate. This consolidation shall not affect the individual fee amounts or Users' obligation to pay for all services rendered.

### **SECTION 7: Payment Requirements**

- 1) Payment shall be remitted in accordance with the terms specified in the billing statement issued by the District or its contracted billing provider.
- 2) Late payments may be subject to additional fees.

### **SECTION 8: Exemptions**

This Ordinance hereby establishes exemptions and waivers to User fees as described below.

- 1) Low Income Assistance Program: The District provides a low-income assistance program intended to waive or reduce expenses for Medical Aid and Ambulance Transport User fees for qualifying individuals who meet current poverty income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
  - a. To apply, patients or their designees must submit a completed Low-Income Assistance for Medical Billing application to the EMS Division along with required proof of income—such as a current IRS W2, recent tax return, or unemployment check stubs—and a government-issued identification.
  - b. Upon review of the completed application and documentation, the Director of EMS may approve the application, adjust the amount due, or deny the request.
- 2) Financial Hardship Waiver: The Fire Chief or designee may waive applicable fees or costs when he/she or their designated representative determines it is in the best interest of the District to do so.

### **SECTION 9: Fee Adjustments**

Adjustments to the adopted Medical Aid and Ambulance Transport User Fee Schedule shall be as follows:

- 1) Annual Program Fee Adjustment: Beginning July 1, 2027, and subsequently each year on July 1, or as soon as possible thereafter; the Chief Financial Officer, with notice to the Fire Chief, shall authorize the adjustment of User fees as follows:
  - a. Fees shall be multiplied by the percentage increase, if any in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Series Title Medical Care in the U.S. City Average, All Urban Consumers, Not Seasonally Adjusted, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics for the twelve (12) month period ending December 31 of the preceding calendar year.
  - b. Any decrease in the CPI shall not result in any decrease in User fees.
- 2) By Resolution of the Board of Directors: The Board of Directors may adjust User fees by resolution following adoption of a fee study or as required by law.

**SECTION 10: Repeal of Prior Ordinances**

All former Medical Aid and Ambulance Transport User fee ordinances or parts thereof conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance hereby adopted are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 11: Validity**

If any fee or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, that holding shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining fees or provisions and the Board declares that it would have adopted each part of this Ordinance irrespective of the validity of any other part.

**SECTION 12: Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force on and after thirty (30) days from the date of its passage, and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days from the date of its passage it shall be published once with the names of the members of the Board of Directors voting for and against the same, said publication to be made in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Sacramento.

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced and read at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, held on the **14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026**, by the following roll call vote:

- AYES:** President Costa, Directors Clark, Goold, Jones, Rice, Saylor, Stark, Webber, and Wood
- NOES:** None
- ABSENT:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None

The foregoing Ordinance was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, held on the **28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026**, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** President Costa, Directors Clark, Jones, Rice, Saylor, Stark, Webber, and Wood

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** Director Goold

**ABSTAIN:** None

**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT**

By:   
President, Board of Directors

**ATTEST:**

  
Marni J. Rittburg, CMC, CPMO  
Clerk of the Board



# Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

10545 Armstrong Ave., Suite #200, Mather, CA 95655 · (916) 859-4300 · Fax (916) 859-3700

ADAM A. HOUSE  
Fire Chief

## RESOLUTION NO. 2026-026

### A RESOLUTION OF THE SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT ADOPTING THE MEDICAL AID AND AMBULANCE TRANSPORT USER FEE SCHEDULE

**WHEREAS**, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District ("District") is a political subdivision of the State of California ("State") and is duly organized and existing pursuant to the State constitution and laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the District charges medical aid and ambulance transport user fees to recover the costs of providing treatment and transport services to patients; and

**WHEREAS**, the District periodically reviews and updates its Medical Aid and Ambulance Transport User Fee Schedule to ensure fees reflect actual costs of service delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 14, 2026, the District's Board of Directors ("Board") adopted Resolution 2026-022, which accepted the Ambulance and First Responder Fee Study and found it sufficiently authoritative to establish a new Medical Aid and Ambulance Transport User Fee Schedule; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District does hereby adopt the Medical Aid and Ambulance Transport User Fee Schedule, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, which shall be effective July 1, 2026.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026. I, **MARNI RITTBURG**, BOARD CLERK OF SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing Resolution was introduced and passed at a regular meeting of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Board by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** President Costa, Directors Clark, Jones, Rice, Saylors, Stark, Webber, and Wood  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Director Goold  
**ABSTAIN:** None

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT

ATTEST:

  
Marni J. Rittburg, CMC, CPMC  
Clerk of the Board

By:   
President, Board of Directors

Attachment:  
Exhibit A: Medical Aid and Ambulance Transport User Fee Schedule

### Medical Aid and Ambulance Transport User Fee Schedule

Fee	Amount
Transport	\$3,495
Automatic Aid with Transport	\$2,963
Treatment On Scene	\$532
MIH Service	\$3,388
MIH Service - Supplemental	\$1,165
Mileage	\$53
Oxygen	\$194
Cardiac Monitor	\$148

#### Annual Adjustment.

Beginning July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter on July 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the Chief Financial Officer, with notice to the Fire Chief, is authorized to adjust User Fees as follows:

1. Fees shall be adjusted by the percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Series Title: Medical Care in the U.S. City Average, All Urban Consumers, Not Seasonally Adjusted, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics for the twelve (12) month period ending December 31 of the preceding calendar year.
2. In the event of a decrease in CPI, User Fees shall not be reduced.