



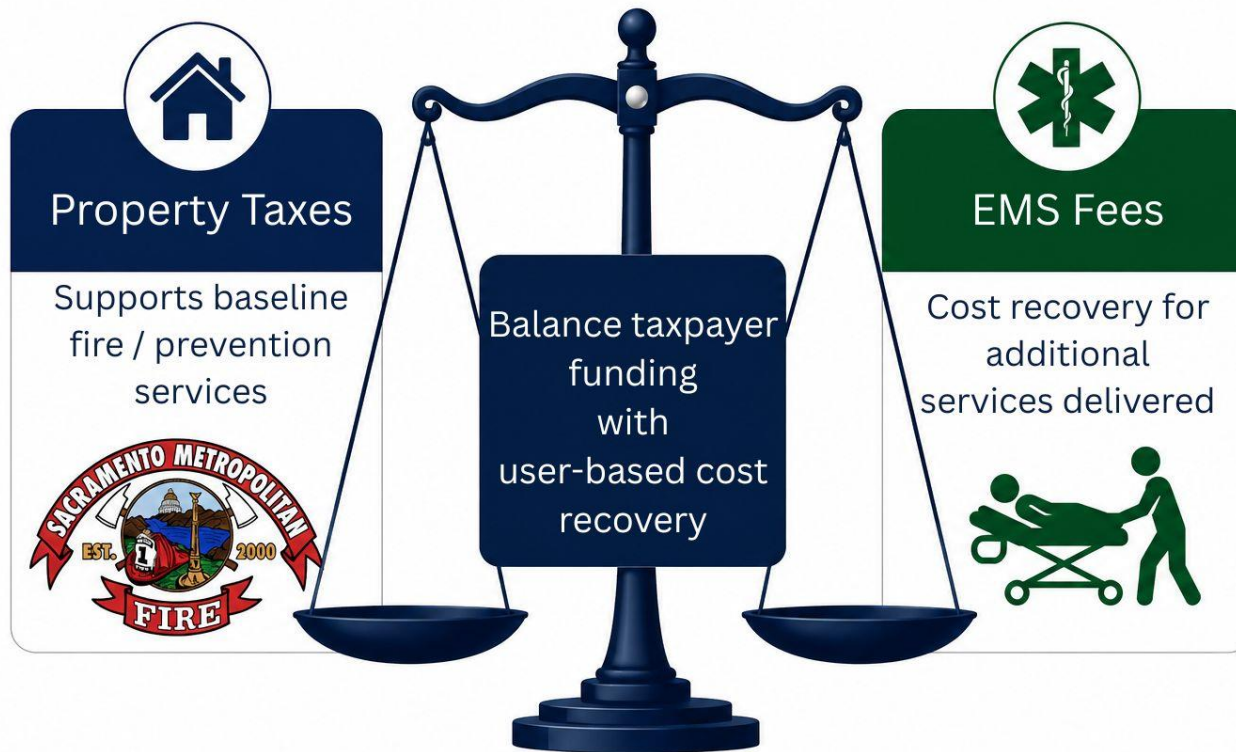
EMS Fee Ordinance Update

Presented by:

Deputy Chief Adam Mitchell and Assistant Chief Jon Rudnicki

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Why EMS Fees Exist





EMS Cost Recovery Overview

- EMS costs continue to increase (staffing, equipment, readiness)
- Fee recovery currently ~30% of actual costs
- Federal reimbursement limits (Medicare/Medicaid)
- Fees align with industry standards and peer agencies



History of EMS Fee Ordinance

- Last comprehensive study completed in 2017
- Updates made in 2023 based on comparable agencies
- 2025 EMS Fee Study provides full operational and financial review



EMS Fee Study Process

- Board direction and strategic intent
- Service delivery and operational modeling
- Financial modeling based on cost of service
- Policy and ordinance development
- Implementation planning



Board Engagement and Feedback

- Initial study presented September 2025
- Board provided direction on key areas
- Follow-up discussions and clarification (December 2025 presentation)
- Consensus direction incorporated into ordinance and fee schedule



Workforce Feedback

- Letters and input from field personnel
- Concerns included fairness, transparency, and patient impact
- Staff reviewed and incorporated feedback where feasible
- Communication plan developed to support workforce understanding



Key Ordinance Updates (High-Level)

- Clear billing triggers tied to documented patient care
- Defined service categories (Transport, Treatment on Scene, MIH, Add-ons)
- Clarified automatic aid billing structure
- Expanded patient protections (low-income and hardship programs)
- Added reference to billing policies and procedures



Fee Schedule – Key Changes

- Staff recommendation based on EMS Fee Study
- Elimination of night charge (Board direction)
- Addition of MIH service fees
- Separate line items for transport with/without first responder
- Improves transparency and alignment with service delivery



Ongoing Fee Adjustments

- Annual CPI-based adjustments each July 1
(been in place for years)
- Maintains alignment with rising EMS costs
- Ensures long-term sustainability



Policy & Procedure Flexibility

- Ordinance references EMS billing policies and procedures
- Includes low-income assistance and billing dispute processes
- Allows updates without reopening ordinance
- Improves responsiveness to issues post-implementation



Internal & External Communication Plan

- Internal: workforce education, FAQs, quick reference tools
- External: transparency with public and stakeholders
- Goal: consistent messaging and reduced confusion
- Reinforces that billing does not influence clinical care



Implementation Steps

- Finalize ordinance and fee schedule
- Adopt resolutions
- Update policies and procedures
- Coordinate with third-party billing provider
- Rollout communication plan



Summary

- Targeted updates based on the study, Board input, and workforce feedback
- Improves clarity, consistency, and transparency
- Maintains sustainable EMS cost recovery
- Supports both workforce and community



Staff Recommendation

5/14/26

- Adopt EMS Fee Study

5/28/26

- Adopt the resolution updating the EMS Fee Ordinance
- Adopt the proposed fee schedule
- Adopt the resolution rescinding the previous ordinance



EMS Fee Ordinance

Questions and Comments