

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TOWN CODE SECTION 17-400 AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 17-402 TO AUTHORIZE CHARGES FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES VEHICLES

WHEREAS, over the past year the Town of Blacksburg has reviewed the possibility of imposing reasonable charges for the use of emergency medical services vehicles, as permitted by Virginia Code § 32.1-111.14, and now finds that such charges are necessary, based on increasing call volumes and costs, to assure the provision of adequate and continuing emergency medical services and to preserve, protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution on June 12, 2023, as required by Virginia Code § 32.1-111.14, authorizing the Town of Blacksburg's exercise of this power.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Blacksburg:

1. That Blacksburg Town Code § 17-400 is hereby amended and re-enacted and section § 17-402 is added as follows:

Section 17-400. Composition.

- (a) The town's rescue squad shall be a voluntary organization known as the Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad. It shall provide emergency medical and rescue assistance to the citizens of the town and its environs.
- (b) The Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad is recognized as an integral part of the safety program of the town. It is organized exclusively for the benefit of the general public without charge, *except for emergency medical services vehicle charges authorized by Town Code § 17-402. The term "emergency medical services vehicle" has the definition contained in Virginia Code § 32.1-111.1.*

Sec. 17-402. - Cost reimbursement for use of emergency medical services vehicles.

- (a) *As authorized by Virginia Code § 32.1-111.14, reasonable charges shall be made for the use of emergency medical services vehicles in responding to emergency medical services calls, including charging insurers from emergency medical transportation services as authorized by Virginia Code § 38.2-3407.9. The Town's policy governing charges for the use of emergency medical services vehicles shall be approved by the town council. The funds received from the payment of these charges shall be placed in a special account and used solely to defray the cost of providing emergency medical services.*

- (b) *No person will be denied medically necessary transport in an emergency medical services vehicle due to an inability to pay or their lack of health insurance.*
- (c) *Fees for emergency transport service are as follows:*
- (1) *A fee of 170% of the Medicare allowable rates as they may be established by the federal government from time to time, shall be charged for Basic Life Support ("BLS"), Advanced Life Support Level 1 ("ALS1"), Advanced Life Support Level 2 ("ALS2"), and per mile for ground transport mileage.*
 - (2) *Basic life support is transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and the provision of medically necessary services, including BLS ambulance services as defined by the state. The ambulance must be staffed by an individual who is qualified in accordance with state and local laws as an emergency medical technician basic (EMT)-Basic.*
 - (3) *Advanced life support, level 1 is the transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and the provision of medically necessary services including the provision of an ALS assessment or at least one ALS intervention.*
 - (4) *Advanced life support, level 2 is the transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and the provision of medically necessary services including: (1) at least three separate administrations of one or more medications by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous infusion (excluding crystalloid fluids); or (2) ground ambulance transport and the provision of at least one of the ALS 2 procedures listed below:*
 1. *Manual defibrillation/cardioversion;*
 2. *Endotracheal intubation;*
 3. *Central venous line;*
 4. *Cardiac pacing;*
 5. *Chest decompression;*
 6. *Surgical airway;*
 7. *Intraosseous line.*
 - (5) *Ground Transport Fee: shall be assessed per statute mile from the location of the incident scene, or from the center point of the emergency demand zone, if applicable, where an incident scene or address is located, to a hospital or other facility where a patient is transported, or to a landing zone for air medical transport, as set forth in the associated rules and regulations.*
 - (6) *Where lawful and appropriate, consumable supply fees associated with the delivery of prehospital medical treatment.*

2. That this ordinance shall be effective on January 1, 2025.
3. That the Town of Blacksburg EMS Cost Recovery Policies dated November 12, 2024, as presented to the Town Council, are hereby approved.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Introduction: _____

Public Hearing & Action: _____

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Rescue Chief

Town Attorney