

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 24-203, **Version:** 1

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**PRESENTER:**

Sandy Paulos, Director of Finance

**SUBJECT:**

Approval of the first reading of an ordinance amending the New Braunfels Code of Ordinances Chapter 54-Fire Prevention and Protection; Emergency Medical Services, Section 54-146 Mitigation Rates for the delivery of emergency and non-emergency services by the Fire Department; moving and amending definitions in Ordinance 2015-66, Exhibit A, to Sec. 54-146; and moving all fees to Appendix D, Fee Schedule; providing a savings clause; and declaring an effective date.

**DEPARTMENT:** Fire Services

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** All

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

A presentation regarding these proposed fee adjustments was given at the July Council Retreat and then again at the January 16, 2024, Council meeting. At these meetings, staff was given direction to move forward with implementation of the proposed fee adjustments including changes to the Fire Prevention and Protection related fees, more specifically for Fire Incident Recovery (Mitigation Rates) related fees. The Fire Incident Recovery related fees have not been adjusted since implementation in 2015. These adjustments would bring the fees more in line with benchmark cities and help cover increased costs related to fuel, salaries, and operating costs to respond to fire incidents. As a reminder these charges are billed to insurance companies, not individuals.

The proposed rates are based on a 26% CPI adjustment as recommended by our Fire Incident Billing Company.

If approved, the change for the Fire Incident Recovery fees will have an implementation date of April 1, 2024.

The proposed fee adjustments are as follows:

**INCIDENT BILLING THROUGH FIRE RECOVERY USA**

**MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS**

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Level 1	\$435	\$546
Level 2	\$495	\$623
Level 3 - Car Fire	\$605	\$760

**ADD-ON SERVICES**

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Extrication	\$1,305	\$1,641
Creating a Landing Zone	\$400	\$502

**ADDITIONAL TIME ON-SCENE (Per Hour)**

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Engine On-Scene	\$400	\$503
Truck On-Scene	\$500	\$629
Misc. Equipment	\$300	\$378

**HAZMAT**

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Level 1	\$700	\$881
Level 2	\$2,500	\$3,146
Level 3	\$5,900	\$7,426

**OTHER**

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
False Fire Alarms*	\$175	\$200
Fire Investigation (Per Hour)	\$275	\$346

\*After the third false fire alarm

**ISSUE:**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Any additional revenue generated by these fee adjustments will be incorporated into the FY 2025 Budget to help offset increased costs and cover unfunded resource needs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance.