

CODE

**CITY OF REDMOND
ORDINANCE NO. _____**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF REDMOND ADOPTING
A NEW CHAPTER 3.88 OF THE REDMOND MUNICIPAL
CODE TO RECOVER CERTAIN COSTS OF PROVIDING
BASIC LIFE SUPPORT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
TRANSPORT, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND
ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Redmond currently provides basic life support ("BLS") emergency medical services ("EMS") and BLS emergency medical services transport ("BLS Transport") without charge; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35A.11.020, as an exercise of the power granted by RCW 35.27.370(15), the City Council of the City of Redmond has discretion to charge fees to those receiving EMS Transport from the City; and

WHEREAS, such BLS Transport user fees are often covered by medical insurance policies, including but not limited to Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, funds derived from the voter approved King County Levy are insufficient to fully fund the City's BLS Program and BLS Transport costs; and

WHEREAS, as a result, BLS Program and BLS Transport services must be subsidized by funds from the City's General Fund; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the taxes paid by City residents contribute to the General Fund and to the provision of the BLS Program and BLS Transport costs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that those benefiting from the City's BLS Transport should be charged a fee to reimburse the City for at least some portion of the cost of the BLS Transport.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Redmond Municipal Code.

Section 2. Adoption of Chapter. A new chapter 3.88 is hereby adopted to read as follows:

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TRANSPORT FEES

Sections:

3.88.010 EMS transport fee imposed.

3.88.020 Medicare and Medicaid.

3.88.030 Policy and financial assistance.

3.88.010 EMS transport fee imposed.

A. All persons receiving emergency medical services transport ("EMS transport") by the city's fire department after November 1, 2024, shall be charged and billed an EMS transport fee ("the fee"). The initial fee is set at one thousand dollars per transport plus twenty dollars per mile.

The fee will be reviewed annually, and, effective January 1st of each year, may be administratively increased by an adjustment to reflect the current published annual change in the Seattle Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers as needed in order to maintain the cost recovery objectives established by the city council with a comprehensive fee study at least every fifth year.

The chief operations officer or designee shall establish a procedure to implement, bill, and collect fees.

B. A resident of the city, or an employee transported from their place of employment within the city, who supplies the city with the medical insurance information and documentation needed to bill their insurance provider for the fee, and who assigns their insurance benefits for the same to the city, shall not be billed for that portion of the fee that is in excess of amounts paid by their insurer(s).

C. A person who does not meet the criteria set forth in subsection (B) of this section, who supplies the city with the medical insurance information and documentation needed to bill their insurance provider for the fee, and who assigns their insurance benefits for the same to the city, shall be billed for that portion of the fee that is in excess of amounts paid by their insurer(s).

D. A person, regardless of residence or status as an employee within Redmond, who does not supply the city with the medical insurance information and documentation needed to bill their insurance provider or who fails to assign such benefits to the city because they are unwilling, or because they do not have any type of insurance coverage for such charges, may be billed for the entire fee.

E. The fee herein imposed shall not apply to persons transported by the city's fire department from jurisdictions outside the city's boundaries so long as those jurisdictions do not charge an EMS transport fee.

F. The city may enter into agreements with surrounding cooperating EMS transport agencies to bill patients under the same provisions as that of a resident of Redmond in reciprocity for the same consideration given to the residents of Redmond.

G. The use of the term "insurance" or any variation thereof in this section shall include Medicare, Medicaid, or any other state or federally recognized medical insurance program.

H. The use of the term "EMS transport" in this section shall mean transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and the provision of medically necessary supplies and services, including BLS ambulance services as defined by the state

(Chapter 18.73 RCW). 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). Basic emergency medical technicians perform noninvasive, basic emergency treatment.

3.88.020 Medicare and Medicaid.

Charges for the EMS transport authorized by this chapter shall be construed and implemented in a manner consistent with Medicare and Medicaid requirements, including a Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program, when applicable. If any method or procedures authorized by this chapter for the purpose of establishing, implementing, imposing or collection of charges for EMS transport is found to conflict with Medicare and/or Medicaid requirements, the conflicting part of this chapter shall be inoperative to the extent the same conflicts with Medicare and/or Medicaid requirements. The operation of the remainder of this chapter shall remain unaffected.

3.88.030 Policy and financial assistance.

A. The city's policy is that ability to pay is not a condition of service. All aspects of emergency medical services the city currently provides, including EMS transport, shall be provided to all patients without

discrimination toward those with no ability or inadequate means to pay.

B. The chief operations officer or designee shall establish a program consistent with criteria and rules set forth in WAC 246-453-001 through 246-453-060 to provide financial assistance and debt forgiveness to persons that do not have the ability to pay for some or all of the fee.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 4. Effective date. This ordinance shall become effective five days following the date of publication of a summary in the city's official newspaper or as otherwise provided by law.

ADOPTED by the Redmond City Council this _____ day of _____,
2024.

CITY OF REDMOND

ANGELA BIRNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL XANTHOS, MMC, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DANIEL P. KENNY, CITY ATTORNEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
SIGNED BY THE MAYOR:
PUBLISHED:
EFFECTIVE DATE:
ORDINANCE NO.