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Mémorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Roger Kolman, City Manager
Re: Proposed Ambulance Ordinance
Date: 01/03/2022

BACKGROUND

In 1978 the City of Coweta began a no charge ambulance service for citizens that were participants in a utility fee to offset costs of operations. Below is a brief history of the changes that have occurred in the program since its inception.

Ordinance Number	Date Adopted	Significant Changes
269	1/23/1978	*Implemented compulsory utility fee program *Created the gratuitous ambulance service *Ambulance to/from hospital *Allowed city to serve other municipalities with similar utility fee program
311	12/7/1981	*Excluded utility customers residing or having businesses outside of city limits from participating in the subscription and therefore the gratuitous service
314	3/1/1982	*Raised utility fee amount *Required non-participants in utility fee program to pay reasonable fees of treatment and transport
425	12/21/1991	*Set base fee for treatment and transport *Charged nursing homes a fee per resident
536	9/5/2000	*Created Section 8-516 of the City Code allowing the city manager to reimburse other ambulance providers for the cost of transport when responding when Coweta EMS was unavailable
560	10/1/2001	*Eliminated concept of gratuitous ambulance service *Implemented concept of no-cost service supplemental to insurance *Participation by non-residents of city unclear *Replaced Section 8-516 that was created by previous ordinance.

Recently a non-resident subscriber of the utility fee program was transported by another ambulance provider under a mutual aid request and found that the city's program did not provide the benefits that they had expected. In an effort to inform the public about the program, and to try and add equity for those that live along Coweta's borders and utilize its utility services, staff has prepared the accompanying ordinance.

This ordinance, utilizing concepts from the existing Coweta ordinance and similar ordinances in Bixby, Owasso, Jenks and Broken Arrow provides:

- That residential and commercial properties outside of the city limits that have some or all city utilities may participate in and benefit from the utility fee program.
- Clarifies the limits to liability for payment of costs by participants based upon the coverage by private medical insurance or federal/state programs.
- Allows those residential and commercial properties outside of the city limits the option to opt out of the program.
- Charges owners of multi-family and nursing home properties with single meter service based upon an assumed 75% of occupancy.
- Creates an appeal process for patients regarding ambulance bills received and for owners of multi-family and nursing home properties when special circumstances apply.
- Creates a process for subscribers to the service that are without private medical insurance or participation in state/federal programs to request a reduction of their ambulance bill.
- Clarifies the costs to be paid by non-subscribers to the program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance 848.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Ordinance 848