

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND, WASHINGTON,
AMENDING CHAPTER 13.06 OF THE RICHLAND MUNICIPAL
CODE RELATED TO AMBULANCE UTILITY FEES.**

WHEREAS, since 1976, the City of Richland has provided emergency medical transport services to Richland citizens; and

WHEREAS, Richland City Council is authorized by RCW 35.21.766, RCW 35.27.370(15), and Chapter 13.06 of the Richland Municipal Code to set fees, rates, and charges to support an ambulance utility, emergency medical services (EMS) and ambulance transport service; and

WHEREAS, the current ambulance transport fee of \$1,042.00 for Richland residents, \$1,563.00 for non-residents, and the per-mile rate of \$14.00 were set by Richland City Council on September 6, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35.21.766(3), the monthly service fee for operation of the utility was established based on the costs of regulating ambulances services; and

WHEREAS, the current mileage rate has fallen behind the recommended range, including Washington State's average rate; and

WHEREAS, an increase from \$14.00 per mile to \$24.00 per mile will bring the rate within the recommended range; and

WHEREAS, the current daily service fee of \$0.3771 (\$11.47 monthly equivalent) was set by Richland City Council on April 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a three-year funding approach was developed to support staffing of Fire Station No. 76 that consists of both general and medical utility funds, including a \$0.0365 (\$1.11 monthly equivalent) increase to the daily service fee in the second year; and

WHEREAS, to execute the funding strategy developed to support Fire Station No. 76, the daily service fee will increase on utility bills generated on or after February 1, 2025 from \$0.3771 per day to \$0.4136 per day, which equates to \$12.58 monthly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. Richland Municipal Code Section 13.06.330, entitled Billing for ambulance transports, as first enacted by Ordinance No. 28-06, and last amended by Ordinance No. 2022-77, is hereby amended to read as follows:

13.06.330 Billing for ambulance transports.

A. Each person who is transported by the city’s EMS program shall be billed by the city at a rate of \$1,042.00, provided that the patient is a city resident or is employed at (and transported from) a place of business within the city and the patient:

- 1. Supplies the city with all requested information and documentation, including, but not limited to, insurance information and medical records relative to billing for the ambulance service; and
- 2. Assigns to the city the patient’s right to receive payment from all applicable third-party payers.

B. A patient who is not a city resident and is not employed at and transported from a place of business within the city shall be subject to a 50 percent surcharge on such transport services.

C. A mileage rate of ~~\$24.00~~ ~~\$14.00~~ per mile will also be charged, regardless of resident or nonresident status.

D. Reciprocity. The ambulance service shall be provided within the city’s ambulance response and mutual aid areas at no additional cost to any resident of the cities of Pasco and Kennewick who resides:

- 1. In a household that pays a charge similar to the utility charge; and
- 2. In a city that provides medical and ambulance services within its ambulance response and mutual aid areas to Richland residents at no additional cost.

E. The city shall have reciprocity with each of these cities unless they cease to have an ambulance utility or withdraw from the reciprocal agreement.

Section 2. Richland Municipal Code Section 13.06.400, entitled Charges established, as first enacted by Ordinance No. 28-06, and last amended by Ordinance No. 2024-13, is hereby amended to read as follows:

13.06.400 Charges established.

The daily ambulance utility fee shall be as follows effective for utility bills generated on or after ~~June 1, 2024~~ March 1, 2025:

User Classification	Rate
Residential	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per unit
Multifamily Residences	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per unit
Adult Family Homes*	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per facility

User Classification	Rate
Assisted Living Facilities*	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per facility

24-Hour Nursing Facilities*	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per facility
Group Homes*	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per facility
Physicians Clinics*	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per facility
Schools*	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per facility
Commercial/Business	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per unit
City Public Areas	\$0.3771 <u>\$0.4136</u> per day – per parcel or area

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be published in the official newspaper of the City of Richland on January 26, 2025 and take effect on March 1, 2025.

Section 3. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, that decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

Section 4. The City Clerk and the codifiers of this Ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's errors/clerical errors, section numbering, references, or similar mistakes of form.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 21st day of January, 2025.

Theresa A Richardson
Theresa Richardson, Mayor

Attest:

Jennifer Rogers
Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Heather Kintzley
Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

First Reading: January 7, 2025
Second Reading: January 21, 2025
Date Published: January 26, 2025