

Agenda Summary
November 20, 2025

Agenda Item No. B-4
EMS Billing Rate Amendments

Summary: Enclosed is a memo Ed Webster, Fire & Rescue Chief, recommending an adjustment in fees to “align with current Vermont averages, and to establish a fair, sustainable rate structure reflective of the true cost of service delivery.” He further recommends the EMS rate increase take effect 1/1/26.

Town Plan Impact: N/A

Fiscal Impact: Finance and the Fire & Rescue Chief will estimate the additional revenues as part of the FY’27 budget process.

Recommendation: Move to amend the EMS fees effective 1/1/26 as outlined in the attached memo.

STOWE FIRE RESCUE

Date: November 4, 2025
To: Charles Safford, Town Manager
From: Edwin W. Webster Jr., Fire Rescue Chief
Subject: Request for EMS Billing Rate Adjustment

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to request Selectboard approval for an increase in Stowe Fire Rescue's EMS billing rates to align with current Vermont and regional averages and to establish a fair, sustainable rate structure reflective of the true cost of service delivery.

Background

Stowe Fire Rescue (SFR) provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) services 24/7 to the Town of Stowe and surrounding mutual aid communities. Our current EMS rates were adjusted in 2023 however; we are still falling significantly below both the state and national averages.

Increased operational costs, including medical supplies, equipment maintenance, fuel, and personnel wages—have widened the gap between billed revenue and the actual cost of providing high-quality prehospital care. This rate adjustment proposal brings our billing in line with the current Vermont EMS reimbursement averages reported by area services and aligns with Medicare and commercial payer benchmarks.

Since our last increase organizational have been billing for treatment-no transports. This is when we are called and assess a Patient, then Patient denies transport. This will add revenue to our service has on average 40% of our incidents end in no transport. Not all these incidents will be billable for such reasons as; no patient found on arrival or no assessment was completed.

As a reminder, our billing company first bills the insurance company, then bills the patient if there is any difference. If a Patient does not pay for whatever reason, at this time we do not send them to collections.



STOWE FIRE RESCUE

Proposed Rate Schedule

Service Level (HCPCS)	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	% Increase	Increase Amount
BLS – Emergency (A0429)	\$750.00	\$1,500.00	100 %	\$750.00
ALS1 – Emergency (A0427)	\$1,000.00	\$1,800.00	80 %	\$800.00
ALS2 – Emergency (A0433)	\$1,400.00	\$2,716.00	94 %	\$1,316.00
Critical Care Transport (A0433)	\$1,250.00	\$3,210.00	156.8 %	\$1,960.00
Mileage (A0425)	\$21.00	\$33.00	57.1 %	\$12.00
BLS Intercept	\$0.00	\$500.00	—	\$500.00
ALS Intercept	\$0.00	\$300.00	—	\$300.00
Treatment – No Transport	\$0.00	\$450.00	—	\$450.00
Out-of-Service-Area (No Crew Available)	\$0.00	\$432.00	—	\$432.00

Recommendation

Recommendation would be for selectboard to approve EMS rate increase effective January 1, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Edwin W. Webster Jr.
Fire Rescue Chief
Stowe Fire Rescue