



AMERICAN CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD AGENDA
JUNE 24, 2025

STAFF REPORT
CONSENT
ITEM NUMBER: 6.

TITLE

First Responder Fee Adjustment for Medical Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution adjusting the First Responder Fee for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to \$730.30 per incident to better align with actual service costs and regional rates. Formal adoption by the Board of Directors would follow under Ordinance 2019-02.

CONTACT

Geoff Belyea, Fire Chief

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

On November 5, 2019, the Board of Directors passed and adopted Ordinance 2019-02, establishing a First Responder Fee for Emergency Medical Services. California Health and Safety Code Sections 13146.2(b), 13217(b), 13862, 13869, 13871, 13874, 13916, and 17951, together with Chapter 8, Division 1, Title 7 of the California Government Code, authorize the District to adopt a First Responder Fee and to charge and collect a fee to defray the cost of providing District services.

In prior years, adjustments have been tied to the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI); however, newly updated cost data from FY 2023-2024 shows that the actual average cost of response per call is \$730.30—higher than the current fee of \$576.25. This figure includes salaries, benefits, mileage, supplies, and a 27% overhead rate.

Given this cost data and the regional benchmarks, staff recommends a fee adjustment to \$730.30, which more accurately reflects the full cost of service delivery and ensures financial sustainability.

The proposed increase is supported by the following cost pressures:

- Substantial increases in fuel prices for emergency vehicles
- Dispatch Services
- Higher costs for medical equipment and disposable supplies, including medications, PPE, and oxygen
- Rising labor and benefit costs driven by contractual obligations and inflation

The current fee of \$576.25 is no longer adequate to recover these costs.

The proposed fee of \$730.30 remains competitive and reasonable compared to other agencies in the region in the following table:

Agency	Fee (2025)
Vacaville	\$1,820
Berkeley Fire	\$812
San Ramon Valley	\$800
AMR-Napa County	\$791
America West-Napa County	\$780
Moraga-Orinda	\$753
American Canyon (Proposed)	\$730.30
Contra Costa County Fire	\$687
City of Vallejo	\$561
City of Fairfield	\$553
City of Benicia	\$501
City of Napa	\$338*

*Note: The City of Napa's Fee is significantly lower due to a voter-approved Paramedic Tax.

As a reminder, for District residents, we utilize a "compassionate billing" approach whereby whatever amount of the First Responder Fee that is paid by a patient's medical insurance is considered payment in full, with no balance billing for the remaining amount; and the entire fee would be waived for those District residents without medical insurance.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed adjustment from \$576.25 to \$730.30 per incident represents a 27% increase, or \$154.05. This increase will enhance cost recovery for EMS services. Based on current call volume, the estimated additional annual revenue is approximately \$23,311.30.

BOARD PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Public Safety: "Ensure American Canyon remains a safe community"

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The approval of the proposed resolution is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15060(c)(2) because the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment; and Section 15060(c)(3) because the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3 because it is a governmental financing mechanism that has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly. In addition,

the resolution is not a project under CEQA Regulation Section 15061(b)(3) because it has no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution 2025-10 First Responder Fee](#)
2. [First Responder Fee Analysis](#)