



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Douglas Schulze, City Manager

PREPARED BY: A'ja Wallace,
Lincoln Bogard, Administrative Services Director

MEETING DATE: November 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Update on Cost Recovery Services for First Responder (EMS/Fire)
Medical Billing Fees Collected by Wittman Enterprises LLC for the City of
Banning

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND:

On March 24, 2020, the City Council directed staff to return with a resolution to implement an Emergency Medical Services Billing Program Fee and Related Write Off Policy modeled after the Cities of Indian Wells, Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert. The emergency medical services billing program fee is paid by insurance. Insurance will be billed directly whenever possible. If insurance information isn't available, the statement will clearly indicate that the bill should be submitted to insurance for payment. No collection activities are proposed in the event a bill is not paid.

On May 26, 2020 City Council authorized the Agreement with Wittman Enterprises LLC to begin the Emergency Medical Services Billing Program which allows Wittman Enterprises LLC to bill medical insurance companies (at no cost to the public) for medical Fire/EMS response fees. This program is intended to recover costs and generate revenue for the City.

Staff will continue to evaluate, on an annual basis, the services provided to the City by Wittman Enterprises LLC to confirm that it is appropriate to continue receiving said services.

JUSTIFICATION:

Staff is reporting the fees and revenues received from inception (second quarter of FY2021) through the first quarter of FY2025. Finance staff meets quarterly with Wittman staff for a status update and to address any concerns that may need clarification. The City would like to emphasize that as a resident of the City, you are protected from out-of-pocket costs related to emergency medical services. It is important to understand as a resident, you will not be held financially responsible for any balances for these services beyond what is paid by the insurance. However, the City will bill (for the resident to contact their insurance directly, if the insurance is not previously provided) to recover costs related to the medical emergency. Recovered funds support the City's emergency responses to critical life and health situations within the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Please see Attachment 1 for the administrative costs (cost to administer and revenues associated with the program).

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

BUDGETED?:

Yes

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

Yes

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Attachment 1-Costs versus Revenue Wittman Enterprises LLC.pdf](#)