

## Blaine County Commission, September 23, 2008

### Adoption of a Revised Schedule of Fees for the Blaine County Ambulance District

#### Executive Summary

**Considerations:** Under Idaho Statutes the Board of County Commissioners serves as the governing board of the Blaine County Ambulance District. The statutes further direct that “the board of county commissioners shall adopt a schedule of fees to be charged for the use of said ambulance service” as provided by the District.

During March of 2008 the Board of County Commissioners received a presentation regarding the overall viability of Ambulance District funding. As follow-up to the ensuing discussion, the Commission took two actions intended to ensure that adequate funding be available for both the operating and capital replacement needs of the District, as follows:

- The Commission directed preparation of appropriate referendum language for a levy-override referendum to appear on the county-wide ballot on May 27, 2008 that would raise the Ambulance District tax cap by \$3.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. This ballot question subsequently passed with more than 80% voter support.
- The Commission further directed that an ambulance fee schedule be prepared that would increase overall fee revenues by 25%, recognizing that user fees were last adjusted in 2001.

The recommended 25% increase in fees was based on both a review of the District revenue requirements and a review of similar fee schedules in comparable jurisdictions (attached).

It is also recommended at this time that staff look further into charges for high-end consumables such as medications, which are not currently covered under this fee schedule, and bring additional amendments to the schedule forward as appropriate.

**Fiscal Impact:** It is estimated that a 25% increase in user fees will result in approximately \$70,000 in additional revenue on a non-Medicare or Medicaid fee base of \$275,000. Fee revenues, which also includes Medicare and Medicaid payments that are not set by the Ambulance District and are therefore not included within this fee schedule, account for approximately 25% of the Ambulance District budget.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of County Commissioners, seated as governing board of the Blaine County Ambulance District, adopt Blaine County Resolution #2008-\_\_\_\_ revising the schedule of fees for services provided by the District, such fees to become effective on October 1, 2008. It is further recommended that staff be directed to bring back additional revisions to the schedule related to consumable supplies subsequent to further review.

**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike McNees, County Administrator

# Blaine County Ambulance District

## Recommended Fee Schedule

### Resolution 2008 - \_\_\_\_

(Replacing Blaine County Resolution 2001-55 effective October 22, 2001)

	Current Fee	Revised Fee
<b>Ambulance and Transport Service</b>		
Advanced Life Support (ALS or BLS)	\$ 550	\$ 690
Mileage Rate – Patient Miles	\$ 9.00/mile	\$ 11.25/mile
Lifeflight – Transfer	\$ 60.00/hour	\$ 75.00/hour
Lifeflight Prepare and Assist	\$ 300.00	\$375.00
Standby – Ambulance w/staff of 2	\$ 90.00/hour	\$115.00/hour
Standby – One equipped EMT w/ radio	\$30.00/hour	\$ 37.50/hour
Technical Rescue (per person)	\$ 30.00/hour	\$37.50/hour
<b>Medical Care Rendered Without Transport</b>		
No patient contact or cancelled en-route	No Charge	No Charge
Basic Life Support (BLS)	\$ 150.00	\$ 190.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS)	\$ 225.00	\$ 290.00
<b>Extrication</b>		
Minor Extrication	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00
Extended Extrication	\$ 450.00	\$ 565.00
<b>All Supplies</b>	Included	Included