

**E. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORT FEES**OPENING STATEMENT

This public hearing is held pursuant to § 15.2-2204, Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended to receive public comment on an ordinance amending Article V, Chapter 7 of the Southampton County Code, increasing service fees for emergency ambulance transport, beginning April 1, 2009. The fees for Basic Life Support (BLS) services are proposed to increase from \$300 to \$350, the fees for Advanced Life Support (ALS-2) services are proposed to increase from \$500 to \$575, and the ground transport mileage (GTM) rate is proposed to increase from \$8.00 to \$10.50 per mile. All proposed increases are consistent with recent revisions to Medicare payment policies for emergency ambulance transportation services and are intended to assure the provision of adequate and continuing emergency services and to protect and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare.

These are the first increases imposed since we originally adopted the fees in 2005 – the rates reflect the maximum amounts that Medicare (and private insurers) will pay for emergency ambulance services.

For your reference, please note that ambulance transportation fees currently generate between \$150,000 to \$200,000 in revenue per year – partially mitigating the \$718,455 cost of contractual EMS services.

These fee increases are expected to generate between \$25,000 and \$40,000 in additional revenue per year.

The notice of public hearing was published in the Tidewater News on March 8 and March 15, 2009 as required by law. After conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors will consider the comments offered this evening and will proceed to adopt, reject or defer action on the proposed ordinance.

MOTION REQUIRED: If the Board is so inclined, a motion is required to adopt the attached ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN ARTICLE V, CHAPTER 7 OF THE
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY CODE, 1991, AS IT RELATES TO SERVICE FEES FOR
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Southampton County, Virginia that Section
7-80 (c) of the Southampton County Code be, and hereby is amended and reordained as follows:

CHAPTER 7
ARTICLE V
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

Sec. 7-80. Service fees for emergency ambulance transport.

(c) The schedule of rates for emergency ambulance transport services by the respective
rescue squads in Boykins, Capron, Courtland and Ivor shall be as follows:

BLS	\$300	\$350	
ALS-1	\$425		
ALS-2	\$500	\$575	
GTM	\$8.00	\$10.50	per mile in addition to transport charges.

This ordinance shall become effective at 12:01 a.m., April 1, 2009.

ADOPTED: March 23, 2009