

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 30-37.(a).- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE RATES., DIVISION 2.- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES., ARTICLE II.- FIRE DEPARTMENT., CHAPTER 30.- FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION. TO UPDATE THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) TRANSPORT RATES TO REFLECT CURRENT SERVICE COSTS, ALIGN WITH OTHER FLORIDA MUNICIPAL EMS SYSTEMS AND AID THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR KEY WEST RESIDENTS AND VISITORS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Key West Fire Department EMS Division provides 24-hour Advanced Life Support emergency medical response and ambulance transport services to the City's permanent population, as well as the significant visitor and transient population that contributes to the community's economy; and

WHEREAS, as an island community, Key West experiences unique operational challenges, including:

- Higher personnel and staffing costs
- Increased fleet maintenance and replacement costs
- Elevated fuel and supply logistics expenses
- Limited regional redundancy for mutual aid resources
- Increased call volume during peak tourism periods and special events; and

WHEREAS, a review of EMS transport rates across comparable municipal EMS agencies throughout the State of Florida indicate

the City's current rates are below many prevailing market benchmarks, particularly for Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency transport; and

WHEREAS, EMS transport rates represent the maximum allowable charges. Actual reimbursement amounts are determined by Medicare and Medicaid fee schedules and payments received from private insurance providers, in accordance with applicable billing regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City finds it necessary to update the City's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transport rates to reflect current service costs, align with other Florida municipal EMS systems and aid the long-term sustainability of EMS services for Key West residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the Mayor and City Commission approve the proposed EMS transport rate adjustments for the Key West Fire Department, as appears below marked Exhibit A. and made a part of this ordinance; and

**Exhibit A.**  
**EMS Transport Rate Comparison and Proposed Adjustments**

<b><u>Service Type</u></b>	<b><u>*Current Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Dollar Change</u></b>	<b><u>% Increase</u></b>
BLS Emergency Base	\$600	\$800	+\$200	+33.3%
ALS Emergency Base	\$750	\$950	+\$200	+26.7%
ALS-2 Base	\$950	\$1,100	+\$150	+15.8%
Mileage (per mile)	\$14.50	\$18.50	+\$4.00	+27.6%

(\*Ord. No. 15-04, §1, adopted March 3, 2015)

WHEREAS, with the most recent EMS rate adjustment occurring more than ten (10) years ago, the proposed EMS rate adjustments shown above in Exhibit A. represent a rate realignment; however, even with these adjustments, the City's rates will remain within a reasonable range compared to similar municipal EMS providers throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, approval and adoption of this ordinance amending EMS transport rates for the Key West Fire Department will:

- Update EMS transport fees for the first time since 2015;
- Improve cost recovery for emergency medical services;
- Align the City's EMS rates with comparable Florida municipal EMS systems;
- Support the continued delivery of high-quality emergency medical care to residents and visitors and serve as a vital investment in public health, readiness and community safety; and
- Promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of, and visitors to, the City of Key West;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That Section 30-37(a).- *Emergency medical service rates.*, Division 2.- *Emergency Medical Services.*, Chapter 30.- *Fire Prevention and Protection.*, Article II.- *Fire Department.*, Chapter 30.- *Fire Prevention and Protection.* of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Key West, Florida is hereby amended to read as follows\*\*:

**"Sec. 30-37. Emergency medical service rates.**

(a) The following service charges or fees are levied for the provision of emergency medical services:

Basic life support transport fee	<del>\$600.00</del>	<u>\$800.00</u>
Advanced life support 1 transport fee	<del>\$750.00</del>	<u>\$950.00</u>
Advanced life support 2 transport fee	<del>\$950.00</del>	<u>\$1,100.00</u>
Mileage fee (per mile)	<del>\$14.50</del>	<u>\$18.50</u>

\*\* (Coding: Added language is underlined; deleted language is ~~struck through~~ at first reading. Added language is double underlined and ~~double struck through~~ at second reading.)

Section 2: If any section, provision, clause, phrase or application of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall be construed as reasonable and necessary to achieve the lawful purposes of this Ordinance.

Section 3: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances of said City in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby superseded to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4: This Ordinance shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the presiding officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

\* REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK \*

Read and passed on first reading at a regular meeting held  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Read and passed on final reading at a regular meeting held  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Authenticated by the presiding officer and Clerk of  
the Commission on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Filed with the Clerk \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Mayor Danise Henriquez	_____
Vice Mayor Donald "Donie" Lee	_____
Commissioner Lissette Carey	_____
Commissioner Aaron Castillo	_____
Commissioner Monica Haskell	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Greg Veliz	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
DANISE HENRIQUEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
KERI O'BRIEN, CITY CLERK