

To: Commissioners Court  
From: Dudley Wait, Chief of EMS  
Date: April 9, 2026  
**Subject: Update to EMS Rates for Ambulance Services**

In 2023 the Texas Legislature enacted SB 2476 (88<sup>th</sup>) that allowed subdivisions of the State of Texas to submit rates approved by elected bodies for ambulance services to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). This legislation required Texas regulated insurance plans (about 35% of health plans in the state) to pay these submitted rates in full in exchange for governmental EMS agencies to not balance bill the individuals that have these insurance plans. This bill allowed for annual rate increases equal to the annual Medicare inflation factor. This bill also was to sunset at the end of 2025 due to anticipation that the Federal Government would have taken action by then related to balance billing by all ground EMS.

In 2024, EMS did not propose a rate increase for FY 2025 in its ambulance fees and so no adjustment was made with TDI even though Medicare Inflation factor was 2.4%. In late 2025, knowing that SB2476 (88<sup>th</sup>) was sunsetting and the federal government had not moved on ground ambulance balance billing for the federally regulated insurance plans, the legislature passed SB 916 (89<sup>th</sup>) to continue this process for the next biennium.

TDI initially indicated that rate submission for SB 916 (89<sup>th</sup>) would be a "fresh-start" so we set our rates for FY 2026 to encompass not just the inflation factor for 2026 but we adopted the 2025 rate of 2.4%. When TDI began taking new rate updates, they had determined it would not be a fresh start, but would be limited to the 2.0% increase for 2026.

Due to this, we need to edit our rates for ambulance services down 0.4% from the last rate setting so we are in-line with the TDI regulations.