

TO: Alpena County Administrator Osmer and
Alpena County Courts & Public Safety Committee

CC: City Manager Smolinski and, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director Soik

FROM: Deputy Chief Andy Marceau

SUBJECT: 2026 Ambulance Fee Schedule

DATE: November 17, 2025

In consultation with our contracted EMS billing provider, Mobile Health Resources (MHR), it was recommended that we review and update our ambulance service fee schedule to ensure it remains aligned with current allowable and approved reimbursement rates. These updated rates were released at the end of October due to a revised timeline by Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Third-party insurers—including Medicare, Medicaid, and BCBS—set allowable ambulance service fees and revise them annually. Failing to update our charges results in underbilling, which effectively uses local tax dollars to subsidize insurance company profits and reduces available operating revenue. Maintaining up-to-date rates is essential for long-term sustainability and our ability to provide high-quality EMS services to Alpena County.

Based on the newly published allowable fees, I will be recommending the following ambulance rate adjustments to the Alpena City Council, effective **January 1, 2026**:

Service	Current	Proposed	Difference	% Change
Mileage per mile	\$15.49	\$16.26	\$0.77	5.0%
Advanced Life Support 1 (ALS1)	\$668.49	\$701.91	\$33.42	5.0%
Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2)	\$884.15	\$928.36	\$44.21	5.0%
BLS Emergent and Non-emergent	\$540.12	\$567.12	\$27.00	5.0%
SCT (MICU)	\$1044.89	\$1097.13	\$52.24	5.0%



*Provider of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services for the City of Alpena
and Advanced Life Support Ambulance for Alpena County*

Our interlocal ambulance agreement with Alpena County requires County approval only when proposed increases exceed 5%. Because all recommended adjustments fall within the 5% threshold, no additional approval from the Alpena County Board of Commissioners is required prior to implementation.

This memo serves as official notification that the **proposed 2026 Ambulance Fee Schedule** was approved at the Alpena City Council meeting on November 17, 2025, with an effective date of January 1, 2026.

Ambulance

Basic Life Support Base Rate (1)	\$	567.12
Mileage per mile (2)	\$	16.26
Patient Assist	\$	175.00
Advanced Life Support 1 (ALS1) Base Rate (1)	\$	701.91
Advanced Life Support 2 (ALS2) Base Rate (1)	\$	928.36
Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU/SCT) (1)	\$	1097.13
Intercept	\$	350.00
Nursing Assist (per hour)	\$	40.00
Ambulance standby, for-profit events (per hour)	\$	125.00
Ambulance standby, for mutual aid fires (per hour)	\$	00.00
ACSD Inmate Transport to MidMichigan Alpena	\$	250.00
Treat No-Transport	\$	250.00

(1) \$200 discount on rates for county residents.

Up to \$200.00 discount on rates for county residents, applied to any outstanding balance after insurance payments with a limit of one (1) discount applied per household per year. If the balance is less than \$200.00, the discount will be equal to the outstanding balance. If the balance is more than \$200.00, the full \$200.00 discount will be applied, and the resident is responsible for the remainder of the bill. Discounts do not apply for Patient Assist and Treat-No Transport.

(2) Per mile transport, one-way, origin to destination.

Per the ambulance agreement with Alpena County, "If current Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross/Blue Shield or third-party private payer (accept assignment) reimbursement programs are changed so as to affect those agencies' payment program for services which affects the Ambulance Fee Schedule, then both parties agree to amend the Ambulance Fee Schedule for ambulance services to reflect those changes, so that the prevailing ambulance fees shall be maintained. The City shall notify the County of any changes of ambulance fees. If the increase in fees is greater than five (5) percent, the County shall respond within 30 days. If no response, those changes in fees shall be adopted."

Oxygen

\$ 40.00