

October 8, 2025

Candy Stockton, M.D., MPH
Humboldt County Public Health Officer
529 I Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Dr. Stockton,

In accordance with the requirements of §551-6 of the Humboldt County Ambulance Ordinance, we are seeking an increase in rates charged for ambulance services within Zone #1. Our last rate increase became effective October 8, 2024. This rate increase is targeted to cover annual wage, benefit and operating expense increases.

Arcata-Mad River Ambulance receives no subsidy for providing emergency and non-emergency ambulance service. All our revenue is derived from fees for service and is highly dependent on the payer mix of our patient population. The proposed rate increase will have no effect on the 85% of our patients covered by Medicare and Medi-Cal as those rates are set by state and federal fee schedules. They will also have no effect on patients who are not covered by insurance and have no ability to pay. The new rates are anticipated to apply only to those covered by private commercial insurance, approximately 8% of our patients. Of our approximately 3,700 transports a year, only about 300 patients will be affected by the proposed increases. Legislation that went into effect last year guarantees that the rates will also not apply to those without insurance as their invoices must be reduced to the Medicare allowed rates.

Our largest single expense is payroll which is scheduled to increase by a minimum of 3% per year. Our last rate increase was designed to provide a 10% increase in wages to retain our personnel in light of the shortage of paramedics nationally, and the resulting increased wage pressure. That increase was implemented in 2024. Since payroll and other operation expenses increase annually, we propose that our rates also increase annually. An annual adjustment was requested in our last increase proposal submitted in December 2023, but it was inadvertently omitted in the document that was submitted for board action. We are requesting a 13% increase in our rates in 2026, and a subsequent increase of 8% the following 2 years. Our current rates are below. Our proposed rates for the next three years follow.

Current Rates

ALS/BLS Base Rate for all emergency responses	3,325.00
ALS inter-facility transfer	3,325.00
Mileage – ALS/BLS per mile	50.00
Oxygen	100.00
Night Call 1900-0700	100.00
Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Emergency Base Rate	1,100.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS)-2 Base Rate	3,540.00
Specialty Care Transport (SCT/CCT)	4,475.00
Standby time per 15 minutes	85.00
Cardiac Monitor (incl. in base except for Medi-Cal)	50.00
Isolette	100.00
Spinal Immobilization	200.00
Extrication/Off Road Rescue	200.00
Emergency Response Fee without transport	300.00
Medical Disposables/Medications	at cost

Proposed Rates

	2026	2027	2028
ALS/BLS Base Rate for all emergency responses	3,760.00	4,060.00	4,385.00
ALS inter-facility transfer	3,760.00	4,060.00	4,385.00
Mileage – ALS/BLS per mile	56.50	61.00	66.00
Oxygen	100.00	100.00	100.00
Night Call 1900-0700	100.00	100.00	100.00
Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Emergency Base Rate	1,245.00	1,345.00	1,450.00
Advanced Life Support (ALS)-2 Base Rate	3,760.00	4,060.00	4,385.00
Specialty Care Transport (SCT/CCT)	5,050.00	5,450.00	5,885.00
Standby time per 15 minutes	85.00	90.00	90.00
Cardiac Monitor (incl. in base except for Medi-Cal)	50.00	50.00	50.00
Isolette	100.00	100.00	50.00
Spinal Immobilization	200.00	200.00	200.00
Extrication/Off Road Rescue	200.00	200.00	200.00
Emergency Response Fee without transport	300.00	300.00	300.00
Medical Disposables/Medications	at cost	at cost	at cost

Arcata-Mad River Ambulance is dedicated to continuing to provide the best possible ambulance services to northwestern Humboldt County as we believe we have done since 1962. This rate increase will allow us to continue to provide the level of service that our communities deserve, and continue to provide a competitive wage and benefit package for all our experienced EMT's and paramedics.

If any further information or documentation is needed, please let me know.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas J. Boileau, Director.

Enclosure: \$149 application fee