



**CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

City Council Meetings of January 5th, 2026 and February 2nd, 2026

From: Michael Foss, Fire Chief/EMD

Subject: City Council to consider adoption of Resolution #10-26 at the February 2nd, 2026 meeting of the Franklin City Council. Adoption of Resolution #10-26 will result in an increase to the City of Franklin ambulance service fees in accordance with the newly adopted State of New Hampshire Senate Bill 245-FN.

Recommended Motion for January 5th, 2026 Meeting of the City Council:

"I move that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing date for 6:00 pm, at the February 2nd, 2026 meeting of the Franklin City Council for consideration to adopt Resolution #10-26, and to authorize the Franklin City Manager and Fire Chief to enter into contract negotiations regarding ambulance billing fees with New Hampshire health insurance carriers. It is understood that upon successful negotiations during the contract process, that the Franklin City Council will need to vote to approve the proposed drafted contracts. Adoption of Resolution #10-26 will result in an increase of Ambulance Billing Fees.

Mayor calls for a second, discussion and vote.

Recommended Motion for the February 2nd, 2026 Meeting of the City Council:

"I move that the Franklin City Council adopt Resolution #10-26, and authorize the Franklin City Manager and Fire Chief to enter into contract negotiations regarding ambulance billing fees with New Hampshire health insurance carriers. It is understood that upon successful negotiations during the contract process, that the Franklin City Council will need to vote to approve proposed drafted contracts. Adoption of Resolution #10-26 will result in an increase of Ambulance Billing Fees.

Mayor calls for a second, discussion and vote.

Background:

New Hampshire Senate Bill 245 (SB 245) became law in July 2025, banning surprise billing for ground ambulance services starting January 1, 2026. The purpose of this law is to protect Emergency Medical Service patients from unexpected bills by setting temporary rates (325% of Medicare) and directing a cost study for permanent rates, ensuring fair pay for EMS providers. In order to ensure fair payment to EMS providers in the State of New Hampshire, contracts need to be established with private insurance carriers.

Though the City of Franklin does not have to enter into contact negotiations, it is in the best interest of our community to work to negotiate to 325% of Medicare billable rates. If a successful contract negotiation is not reached in the process with New Hampshire's Ambulance insurance provider's (Aetna Anthem/Matthew Thornton, Centene/ Celtic, Cigna, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, UnitedHealthcare, Wellsense Health Plan), then the City of Franklin will only be able to collect the standard New Hampshire

Medicare Rate or the “non-participating” insurance rate. Further, Senate Bill 245 prohibits the City of Franklin from being able to “balance bill” patients for the remainder of the fees owed. Senate Bill 245 does allow for the City of Franklin to be reimbursed the full 325% of Medicare by the insurance providers so long that the negotiation process is in good standing.

Fiscal Impact: Failure to participate in the negotiation process, and to further not adjust the Ambulance Service Fees will result in the City of Franklin losing a significant amount of revenue in the FY26 Budget line 01-2-000-35095 “Ambulance Billing”.

Alternatives: The alternative is to forego the adoption of Resolution #10-26 and only collect the standard Medicare rate for private insurance payers. This will most likely result in a shortage of revenue for the City of Franklin FY26 adopted budget.

Attachments:

- **Proposed Resolution #10-26**



CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
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RESOLUTION #10-26

A Resolution to increase Ambulance Service Fees in accordance with the State of New Hampshire's adopted Senate Bill 245-FN.

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2026 beginning July 1, 2025, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council authorized the City Manager and Fire Chief to enter into ambulance billing contract negotiations with New Hampshire's private insurance carriers, and;

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire adopted Senate Bill 245-FN which allows for ambulance service providers to bill up to 325% of the standard Medicare rate, and;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Franklin to increase its ambulance billing rates so that FY26 revenue does not see a dramatic decrease in collected fees;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, February 2nd, 2026, the City Council of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby vote to adopt resolution #10-26 which increases Ambulance Service Fees to the following:

- Basic life support, bundled, 325% above Medicare - (\$1,567.83 January 1st, 2026 Rate)
- Advanced life support I, bundled, 325% above Medicare - (\$1,861.83 January 1st, 2026 Rate)
- Advanced life support II, bundled, 325% above Medicare - (\$2,694.74 January 1st, 2026 Rate)
- Mileage, bundled, 325% above Medicare - (\$45.92/mile January 1st, 2026 Rate)
- Specialty care (Specialty Care Transfer) - (\$3,184.68 January 1st 2026 Rate)
- Non-transport treatment/treat and release - \$350 (No change)

By a roll call vote.

Roll Call:

Councilor Carrier _____

Councilor Johnston_____

Councilor Forge _____

Councilor Boyce _____

Councilor Prive _____

Councilor Hoppe _____

Councilor Hallett-Cook _____

Councilor Warner _____

Councilor Jacobson _____

Approved: _____

Mayor Morrill

Passed: _____

I certify that said vote has not been amended or repealed and remains in full force and effect as of the date of this Certification and that _____ is the City Clerk for the City of Franklin, Franklin, New Hampshire.

A true copy, attested: _____

City Clerk

Date: _____