



# Board Agenda Background

**Date:** 1/20/2026  
**To:** Board of County Commissioners  
**Through:** Colton Rohloff, County Manager  
Aaron Crawley, EMS Director  
**From:** Aaron Crawley, EMS Director  
**Subject:** Consideration of Approval to Adjust the Ambulance Fee Schedule

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## RECOMMENDATION

Clear Creek County Emergency Medical Services (CEEMS) staff recommends approval of the attached adjustments to the Ambulance Fee Schedule.

## BACKGROUND

The purpose of this item is to seek the Board of County Commissioner's (BOCC) review and approval of the proposed increase to the Ambulance Fee Schedule. This proposal is based on the 2026 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Ambulance Fee Schedule for rural ambulance service areas.

## ANALYSIS

CEEMS now relies on three primary funding sources: the ambulance sales tax, mills, and ambulance fees for services rendered. Over the past several years, EMS costs and expenditures have increased significantly. CEEMS adjusts fees based on the current CMS rates to maintain financial stability.

To remain financially sustainable, CEEMS must evaluate fee increases in alignment with recommendations from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the State of Colorado. These new suggested rates are outlined in the attached document and are based on the updated CMS Ambulance Fee Schedule for 2026.

Assuming year-over-year consistency in reimbursement rates, implementing these updated fees could generate up to \$115,000 in additional reimbursements. However, it is important to acknowledge that commercial insurance reimbursement rates are not set on a defined schedule. Despite fee increases, commercial insurers may not significantly adjust their reimbursement amounts. As a result, a higher portion of the cost could ultimately be passed on to patients.

## CONCLUSION

Clear Creek EMS faces increasing costs and expenditures that require careful consideration of funding adjustments to maintain financial sustainability. The attached document provides a comparison of the current ambulance fee schedule, Medicare reimbursement rates, and the CMS-recommended fee schedule specific to our service area.

## FISCAL IMPACT

Adopting these updated rates could generate up to \$115,000 in additional reimbursements.

## ATTACHMENT:

1. Ambulance Fee Schedule Adjustment 2026 Rates