

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE RECOVERY OF COSTS BY FEES FROM USERS OF  
FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside Beach Fire Department "Department" is authorized to provide emergency response relating to the protection of lives and property within the town limits and otherwise by contract or agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Department in years past has provided services to its citizens through tax revenues and certain fixed fees; and

WHEREAS, the emergency services response activity to incidents continues each year; and

WHEREAS, Section 6-1-330 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina provide authority for a local governing body to adopt service or user fees, and a public hearing was held on \_\_\_\_\_ this matter; and

WHEREAS, Section 5-7-60 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina authorizes a municipality to perform many of its functions and provide many of its services in areas outside the corporate limits by contract and to make charges therefore; and

WHEREAS, Section 4-21-10 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina provides authority for a governing body of a county to provide fire protection and ambulance services by contract with municipalities and for the charging of a service fee for services; and

WHEREAS, it is fiscally prudent and advisable to charge a fee for services including, but not limited to, motor vehicle accidents, collisions, motor vehicle fires, motor vehicle extrications, hazardous materials spills or discharge, structure fires, false alarms, fire inspections, utility line failure, and fire cause and origin investigations; and

WHEREAS, it will be cost effective to utilize a third-party Fire/EMS billing service to bill and collect for fire engine response fees and such contract should be employed; and

WHEREAS, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, the Surfside Beach Town Council approved a contract with Innovapad for the provision of such services, as recommended by the Chief of the Surfside Beach Fire Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Surfside Beach, that:

**Section 1. Short Title.**

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Town of Surfside Beach Emergency Services Cost Recovery Ordinance.

**Section 2. General Purpose**

This Ordinance is adopted in order to provide reimbursement to the Town of Surfside Beach for a portion of the costs incurred by the town for certain emergency services provided.

**Section 3. Fee Collection Authorized**

The owner or occupant of a structure, vehicle, or property to which the fire department or other department of the service area provides fire suppression, emergency management services,

vehicle extrication, hazardous material mitigation, emergency medical care, or other fire department services, (collectively referred to in this article as "Emergency Response Services") or any person or entity causing the need for the fire or emergency services department to respond and/or provide any emergency response service (the "Responsible Party") shall pay the cost of such service. Cost Recovery Fees are set forth in the EXHIBIT A of this Ordinance and are hereby found to not exceed the town's actual expense in providing such emergency response services. The fees enacted herein apply to any services rendered by any town department to whatever property or person, whether within the city/county or if requested by any other entity, or if supplied by the town pursuant to any interlocal cooperation agreement.

**Section 4. Fees and Charges**

The cost recovery fees will be collected in the amounts found in Exhibit A, which may be revised periodically with approval by Town Council.

**Section 5. Severability**

If any provision of this ordinance or the application hereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, or in any exception to or limitation upon any provision contained herein be held to be unconstitutional, invalid or ineffective, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

**Section 6. Repealer**

All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances that are in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Town Council authorizes the recovery of costs and fees for fire and emergency response activity through a third-party Fire/EMS billing service, as authorized by Town Council, and pursuant to Ex. A.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon second reading by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Surfside Beach.

**BE IT ORDERED AND ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Surfside Beach, South Carolina, in assembly and by the authority thereof, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021.

**Surfside Beach Town Council**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Hellyer, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Scoles, Pro Tempore

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce H. Dietrich, Town Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Drake, Town Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Holder, Town Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Keating, Town Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Pellegrino, Town Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheri Medina, Town Clerk

**EXHIBIT A**

All incidents will be billed using “hourly” rate per apparatus. Elapsed time is from Alarm to Last Equipment Clear or In Quarters or In Service, whichever is later, and rounded up to the nearest hour. There will be additional itemization for materials consumed and any special procedure costs that you provide. (Note: We will substitute the flat rate for the hourly rate for any incident that does not meet the minimum flat rate requirements. Additional line itemizations i.e. Consumable Materials/damaged equipment costs will not be affected by the hourly rate or flat rate determinations). All hourly rates include the personnel to man the apparatus, as does the flat rate.

**Heavy Apparatus** - \$305 per hour (Includes engines, aerials, rescues, air/light units, etc.)

**Light Apparatus** - \$225 per hour (Includes brush units, support vehicles, etc.)

**Command Staff Vehicles** - \$195 per hour (Battalion buggies, EMS Supervisors, etc.)

Additional Procedural and Materials/Equipment Line Itemization:

**Extrication** (without use of hydraulic tools) -\$835

**Extrication** (with use of hydraulic tools) - \$2,015

**Extrication with the use of hydraulic tools and with Landing Zone**

**Landing Zone command and control (with extrication use of hydraulics)** - \$2335

**Landing zone command and control (with extrication services w/o hydraulics)--** \$1025

**Landing zone command and control (without extrication services)** \$900

**Light Tower** - \$47 per hour (Operation of Light tower and generator to provide scene lighting).

**Consumable Materials/Damaged Equipment** – at replacement cost / (adheres to average costing which may be updated periodically per market increases. A current rate sheet must be supplied)

FLAT RATES: (minimum if combined hourly rates per apparatus do not meet minimum rates below)

**Level 1/MVA FLAT RATE** - \$535.00

Scene safety & Hazard control including hazard assessment & securing including containment of hazard Materials (i.e. hazardous material spills such as gasoline/diesel fuel, motor oil, coolant or antifreeze) which may be flammable, dangerous to the environment, or cause other hazards such as slippery conditions, debris cleanup from roadway, vehicle systems safety assurance (i.e. disable potential ignition sources such as electrical/power supply systems), fire suppression stand-by, perimeter command and control, to protect involved parties, non-involved parties establishing a safe environment for mitigating damages and injuries & to protect the safety and welfare of the General Public, until scene has been secured of all hazards

**Structure Fire/Vehicle: Fire/Hazmat Flat Rate** - \$600