

CHAPTER 5- AMBULANCES

Proposed Ordinance Revisions

Purpose

- The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the ambulance service in the City of Abilene by issuance of a license of public convenience and necessity.
 - Establishes the license requirements
 - Addresses the Conduct of Business expectations

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-1: Definitions
 - Added: Designated Call Types including
 - Alpha
 - Bravo
 - Charlie
 - Delta/Echo
 - Added: Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-2 Exceptions
 - In the current ordinance (d) and (e) covered the same type of exception.
 - Removed: (d)

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-3 Schedule of Emergency Rates:
Posting
 - Changed: Posting of “base rate and mileage charge per loaded mile”
 - Removed: Posting requirement of “rates to be charged”

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-23 Application and Fee
 - Replace: \$500 fee with “a fee as adopted by Council”
 - Replace: List of required information (a)-(k) replaced with “any information the Licensee Officer considers necessary....”

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-24 Fee
 - Replaced the annual fee of \$100 with a fee “as determined by Council”

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-25 Public Hearing and Notice
 - Requirement increased from 30 days to 60 days

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-27 Prerequisites to Issuance
 - Remove the requirement that “all operators shall provide similar emergency service and transfer service per city requirements”

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-28 Conditional Licenses
 - City Manager has authority to grant a conditional license
 - Added (e): A conditional license remains in effect until a license of convenience and necessity is granted
 - Added (f): Addresses a conditional license due to a suspension under Section 5-33

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-29 Performance Security
 - The required amount is reduced from \$825,000 to \$10,000
 - Limited to a letter of credit or performance bond
 - Required written notice of termination extended to 120 days (from 90 days)

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-30 Insurance-Minimum Coverage
 - Business automobile liability increased from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000
 - If coverage requirements increase, the City will give 120 days notice. (Increase from 90 days)

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-33 Revocation or Suspension of License
 - Remove (b) which stated, “The operator has been convicted of a felony or any criminal offense involving moral turpitude.”
 - Change (l) to include involuntary bankruptcy
 - Allows the City Manager authority to grant a conditional license if a suspension occurs

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-46 Number of Units
 - Requires 5 Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICU) dedicated to 911 calls
 - Previous requirements:
 - 2 MICU- staffed 24/7
 - 2 MICU- on call
 - 2 Reserve units

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-47 Personnel
 - Remove the requirement to provide and maintain a list of certified personnel
 - (This information is available online.)

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-48 Joint Response
 - An exception to joint responses is made for emergency calls to Dyess AFB and the Texas Department of Corrections prison units.

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-51 Promptness of Service
 - Changes due to EMD designated call types:
 - Bravo/Delta/Echo
 - 90% under 10 minutes
 - Report required of any response greater than 30 minutes
 - Alpha/Charlie
 - 90% under 30 minutes
 - Report required of any response greater than 60 minutes
 - Exception for Dyess AFB and any Texas Department of Corrections prison unit

Significant Changes- Proposed

- *Section 5-52 Identification*
 - Simplified:
 - Uniform color/scheme must be approved
 - Ambulances must be identified as required by the Texas Department of State Health Services

Significant Changes- Proposed

- *Section 5-54 Dispatch*
 - Remove the requirement for licensee to have certified dispatchers
 - Clarify that the staffing of a business office is required during all City of Abilene regular business hours

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-55 No Assignment
 - Requires approval by the City Council

Significant Changes- Proposed

- Section 5-57 Financial Records and Audit
 - Added (c)- “The provisions of this section do not apply to a licensee that does not receive a subsidy from the City of Abilene.”