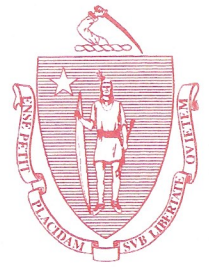




Richard Barrett
Chief

Millis Fire/Rescue

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Andrew Hladick
Deputy Chief

To: Mike Guzinski

Reg: Lift Assist Charges

Date: August 22, 2022

Mike,

With the completion of the Anthology project at 125 Dover Rd set to be in October, I felt this was a good time to discuss the fee for a non transport/non emergency lift assist policy. One of the biggest responses to Assisted Living facilities is for non emergency/non transport lift assist. This is when a patient either falls, slips off a chair, slips out of bed and lands on the floor and is unable to stand or get back into bed or the chair without assistance. Many facilities have a “no lift” policy, which states that their staff will not lift a patient off the floor. They have this policy for many reasons, not enough staff, improperly trained staff and most importantly to reduce injuries to the staff and the patients. When a response is required by the Fire/EMS department and a lift assist only is performed there is no ability to bill for services, EMS billing occurs with a transport to a medical facility. To address the frequent responses for these types of calls many communities have instituted “non emergency/non transport lift assist” fees. The most recent was the Town of Canton, who in 2019 created a \$500 fee for these lift assist. I have included an email conversation that I had with Chief Charles Doody regarding this policy.

To create this fee we cannot just arbitrarily assign a fee without justifying a cost associated with this type of response. To establish a cost, I took the cost of each personnel on the shift that would respond along with the FEMA rate for both the ambulance and engine. Included in the cost would be fuel and maintenance costs as well as the insurance associated with the response as shown below.

Top step Lieutenant hourly salary: \$39.59/hr x 1

Top step Firefighter/Paramedic hourly salary: \$35.34/hr x 2

Top step Firefighter/EMTB hourly salary: \$32.13/hr x 1

FEMA rate for an Ambulance: \$141.76/hr

FEMA rate for a Fire Engine: \$141.96/hr

Total cost for a lift assist: \$426.12 + fuel, insurance, maintenance etc

Total rounded up cost: \$500.00 per lift assist

This cost would only be applied to non emergency/non transport lift assist at a facility, not a residential request.

Initially I had proposed that we would send only the ambulance or the Fire Engine when the ambulance was on another call to these lift assist. After speaking with many Chiefs, they warned against that and advised that many times their staff has been caught off guard due to being dispatched for a lift assist to find a true emergency that required more resources i.e. cardiac arrest, syncopal episodes, fractured extremities, large patients that required more than 2 members to lift and many times for a deceased patient. At no time do we want to put our members in a dangerous position or increase the potential for injury.

Since this project was proposed, I have informed the Board of my concerns of the impact on our Emergency Response departments. When we initially met with the Owners and requested an Impact study, they stated we would see an increase of 5-8 calls weekly (200+ annually). After some discussion and as Chief Doody states below it was agreed that we would see a much higher call for service from the facility. Calls that are common at facilities like these are medicals, lift assist, alarm activations both medical and fire, burnt food and lost or missing patients. The true number of calls that we can expect to these facilities are closer to 10-15+ weekly increasing our call volume another 300-400 calls annually.

I have reached out to the Anthology team to schedule a meeting to discuss their policies and procedures on patient care prior to their occupancy of the facility. Recently they responded to my email and are willing to have a meeting with the Town of Millis to discuss their operations.

I am requesting that the Select Board consider approving a “non emergency/non transport lift assist” fee policy, charging the facility a \$500 fee for each lift assist only response. I look forward to speaking with you and the Board about this policy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Barrett', written in a cursive style.

Richard Barrett

Fire Chief

Mike,

Canton charges \$500 per lift assist at nursing homes and assisted living facilities when staff calls 911 to pick an uninjured resident up off the floor. As a public service we help disabled people and the elderly in out of their home, for example, when they no family or friends to assist. Dr. Valkanas recommends generating a PCR when performing lift assists.

Charlie

Charles E. Doody

Fire Chief

Emergency Management Director

Town of Canton

(781) 575-6654 ext. 3103

Charlie,

Did you negotiate this with the facilities or it's just what you charge? We have one going up in town and i asked to meet with them regarding this exact issue and others i have heard of. Any insight would be appreciated.

Richard Barrett, CFO

Fire Chief/EMD

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They have no choice on what you decide you want to charge. We did an analysis of what the cost of doing a lift assist was. We looked at salary of 5 FF's (engine and amb), time (1 hour min), vehicle cost, (you can use FEMA rates), fuel & maintenance. Then we rounded up to \$500. Gave the proposal to the Board. They approved the policy. We notified all the facilities that it would apply to and implemented the program. Whatever the facility tells you multiply the number of runs you will do by at least 10. If it's corporate they will not pick a patient up off the floor for liability reasons. We thought the \$500 would reduce the number of calls but it didn't. They'd rather pay us than change the policy. Good luck.

Charles E. Doody

Fire Chief

Emergency Management Director

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