

FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE BILLING

Authority

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to municipal home rule ordinance authority and Title 30-A M.R.S.A. S3001.

Purpose

The Town of Thorndike is engaged in providing fire suppression, fire rescue and fire safety services and is organized as a municipality under the laws of the State of Maine; and in consideration of services rendered hereby desires to set the following billing policy for Fire Department services.

Services

The Town of Thorndike will seek payment for the cost of services provided by the Town of Thorndike Fire Department. Services for which the Town of Thorndike shall seek payment include but are not limited to:

- (a) Scene and safety control at traffic accidents;
- (b) Extrication from vehicles, equipment, or structures
- (c) Fluid or other hazard mitigation operations;
- (d) Structure, equipment, or vehicle fires, including any measures taken to prevent their occurrence;
- (e) Emergency Medical Service personnel and Life Flight assistance

Fees for Services

Upon adoption of this Ordinance, the Board of Selectmen is authorized to review and set the fees as they deem in the best interest of the Town of Thorndike.

- (a) Explanation of Charges
 - (1) Command & Control Scene Safety. Positioning of fire apparatus and personnel so as to protect the scene from other traffic and deny entry into the scene of unauthorized personnel. Police can move traffic around the area the fire department has deemed as the safe zone for the occupants of the vehicles and the rescuers on the scene. Scene control may also include initial assessment of victims, basic life support, safely staging other incoming agencies responding to

this incident. Prioritizing victim for treatment and transport, and may also include a pulled hose line for protection of people on scene from possible fires and fumes or residue from such things as gasoline and air bag propellants. The most important function is establishing incident command of the scene, which is the fire department's responsibility at emergency incidents of this nature, and to coordinate with other responding agencies for their needs at the scene.

(2) Disentanglement/Extrication. Anytime a person has to be lifted or taken out of an emergency situation or forcible entry is necessary to gain proper access to victims the fire department will assist ambulance or EMS (Emergency Medical Services) personnel in a coordinated effort or on their own. This could include, but is not limited to: car accidents, industrial accidents, below grade rescues, or even high angle rescues to name just a few. Ropes, ladder devices, air monitoring equipment, self contained breathing apparatus, hydraulic equipment, shoring, saws, cribbing air bags are just a few types of equipment used in extrication issues.

(3) Fire Suppression. Fire suppression at a traffic accident is any time fire department personnel have to contain or extinguish a fire. It can also be the laying of hose lines and positioning a hand line for the protection of individuals at the scene because of fire, smoke, or leaking fluids, such as gasoline.

(4) Hazard Mitigation. Anytime fire department personnel have to deal with any hazardous substances via containment or absorption with pads for carbon-based substances like gas or oil, or removal via pads and sand or other means permitted by the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection). This could be a car accident, trucking accident, equipment accident or an accident at a fixed facility. The mitigation of all hazardous materials and substances is done in conjunction with the DEP.

(b) Billing Procedures

(1) First billing on or about the 15th of each month for all reports submitted for billing in the prior 30-day period. Terms-30 days, with the same billing to all parties involved in the same incident.

(2) Second Notice, if invoice has not been settled in 60 days.

(3) 90 day notice sent by certified mail.

(4) Collection Agency to be contacted.

(c) Considerations for Write Off

(1) When the claim was not paid for a valid reason, including an existing mutual aid agreement.

(2) Upon written request, the Board of Selectmen is authorized to consider writing off claims due to extenuating circumstances.

Severability

If any section of this Ordinance is declared by the courts to be invalid, such decision shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this Ordinance.

Conflicts with Other Ordinances

This Ordinance shall not in any way impair or remove the necessity of compliance with any other applicable rule, ordinance, regulation, by law, permit, or provision of law. Where this Ordinance imposes a greater restriction upon the use of Fire Department Services, the provisions of this Ordinance shall control.

Administration

It shall be the duty of the Select Board to effectively pursue the requirement of this Ordinance for payment of services rendered by the Fire Department as specifically outlined above.

FEES TO BE ESTABLISHED ANNUALLY BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN