

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) Application No. BR-612/B-1733
Application of Papio Transport)
Service, Inc., Papillion,)
seeking to establish its rates) ORDER GRANTING RATES ON AN
and charges subject to the) EMERGENCY BASIS
Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat.)
Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3.)
) Entered: August 10, 2021

BY THE COMMISSION:

On July 8, 2021, Papio Transport Service, Inc., ("Applicant"), Papillion, filed an application for authority to amend its rates for use in its operations as follows:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Current</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| Wheelchair Rate (one way) | \$40.00 |
| Mileage Rate 1-25 miles | \$1.00/mile |
| Mileage Rate 26+ miles | \$2.00/mile |
| Wheelchair Rental (one way) | \$10.00 |
| Oxygen Charge | \$10.00 |
| Non-Emergency Stretcher Service Rate (one way) | \$200.00 |
| Mileage Rate 1-50 miles | \$3.00/mile |
| Mileage Rate 51+ miles | \$8.00/mile |
| Oxygen Charge | \$10.00 |
| Wait Time | \$20.00/15 minutes |

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Proposed</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| Wheelchair Rate (one way) | \$45.00 |
| Mileage Rate 1-25 miles | \$1.50/mile |
| Mileage Rate 26+ miles | \$3.00/mile |
| Wheelchair Rental (one way) | \$15.00 |
| Oxygen Charge | \$15.00 |
| Non-Emergency Stretcher Service Rate (one way) | \$235.00 |
| Mileage Rate | \$8.00/mile |
| Oxygen Charge | \$15.00 |
| Wait Time | \$20.00/15 minutes |

Emergency action is requested.

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O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Applicant is a Nebraska corporation with its principal address in Papillion, Nebraska. Applicant is a certified carrier that holds Certificate B-1733. The certificate authorizes Applicant to provide transportation of passengers in open class service over irregular routes between points in Douglas and Sarpy counties, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points in Nebraska over irregular routes. The transportation of railroad train crews and their baggage is not permitted, and the HHS Designation is yes. The most recent certificate was granted on October 31, 2019.

Applicant is seeking to amend its existing rates previously granted under Rate Docket BR-574/B-1733.¹ Applicant is seeking to increase its one-way wheelchair rate by \$5.00. Applicant is also seeking to increase its mileage rate for its one-way wheelchair rate for the first 25 miles by \$0.50 and for each mile thereafter by \$1.00. Applicant further seeks to increase its wheelchair rental and its oxygen charge for both its one-way wheelchair rate and its non-emergency stretcher service rate by \$5.00 respectively. Applicant is also seeking to increase its non-emergency stretcher service rate by \$35.00. Lastly, Applicant seeks to get rid of the distinction in its mileage rate for its non-emergency stretcher service by charging \$8.00 per mile, the same rate that Applicant currently charges per mile beginning with mile 51. This would represent an increase of \$5.00 in Applicant's per mile charge for its non-emergency stretcher service for the first 50 miles. A review of Applicant's proposed rates in comparison to rates offered by similar carriers for similar services finds that the proposed rates are reasonable.

In applications such as these, the Commission must find that an emergency situation exists. In its request, Applicant states that COVID-19 has led to a decrease in Applicant's business. The decrease in business as well as an increase in fuel and employment cost make this requested rate increase necessary to maintain a viable business. Therefore, the Commission finds that an emergency basis exists that allows the Commission to grant the application on an emergency basis.

¹ Application No. BR-520/B-1745 *In the Matter of the Application of Papio Transport Service, Inc., Papillion, seeking to establish its rates and charges subject to the Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3, Order Granting Rates on an Emergency Basis (Entered: October 29, 2019).*

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Upon consideration of the application and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application should be granted on an emergency basis effective August 10, 2021.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Papio Transport Service, Inc., Papillion, Nebraska, be, and is hereby, authorized to amend its rates for its services effective August 10, 2021 as follows:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Rates</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| Wheelchair Rate (one way) | \$45.00 |
| Mileage Rate 1-25 miles | \$1.50/mile |
| Mileage Rate 26+ miles | \$3.00/mile |
| Wheelchair Rental (one way) | \$15.00 |
| Oxygen Charge | \$15.00 |
| | |
| Non-Emergency Stretcher Service Rate (one way) | \$235.00 |
| Mileage Rate | \$8.00/mile |
| Oxygen Charge | \$15.00 |
| Wait Time | \$20.00/15 minutes |

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that public notice of this action be published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, pursuant to the provisions of Section 75-121 and Commission Rules.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 10th day of August, 2021.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rod Johnson
Crystal Brader
Mary Keddin
Tom Schram

Dee Watson
 Chair

ATTEST:

Michael S. Hyl
 Executive Director