

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) APPLICATION NO. BR-312
Prescription of Reasonable Rates)
and Charges for Motor Carriers) GRANTED AS MODIFIED
Passengers and Property for Hire)
subject to the Provisions of) ENTERED: DECEMBER 12, 2006
Neb. Rev. Stat. (Reissue 2003),)
Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3.

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On April 7, 2006, Platte County Ambulance Co., dba Midwest Medical Transport Co., Columbus, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to establish transportation rates for handicapped or incapacitated passengers as follows:

Description	Proposed Rates
1. Base Rate (Trips up to fourteen miles from point of origin; one way)	\$36
Base Rate (Round Trip, same day service)	\$70
2. Out-of-town trips	\$36
a. Mileage 1-14	\$0.00/mile
b. Mileage 15-75	\$2.15/mile
c. Mileage 76 and over	\$3.00/mile
3. Waiting Time:	
a. First 15 minutes	No Charge
b. Next 30 minutes	\$18 per ½ hr
4. Extra attendant:	\$15/hr from time of pick-up to destination
5. Oxygen Tank	\$15
6. Chair usage charge (If client chooses to stay at appointment and use Midwest's chair, a fee will be charges for the use of the chair)	
a. Regular chair	\$10.00
b. Extra-wide chair	\$15.00

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1588. The Certificate authorizes the transportation of handicapped or incapacitated passengers between

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points in Columbus, Fremont, and Grand Island and between points in said cities, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points in Nebraska over irregular routes.

According to the Applicant, the proposed rates are based on projected income and expenses. The proposed rates are necessary to cover operating costs, especially the increased cost of gasoline that the industry has experienced over the last two years. The proposed rates are believed to be sufficient to produce a reasonable profit and still maintain a quality service.

The proposed out-of-town rate is higher than the other proposed increases due to several factors. The mileage that is charged by the applicant is for loaded miles only. The applicant experiences an increase in costs such as hourly wages and higher gasoline costs for these runs with no compensation being received for the increased "dead head" miles that such trips incur.

The proposed rates represent a thirteen percent increase in the base, one-way trip and a ten percent increase in the round trip with an additional four miles being included in the base trip. There is no change in the out-of-town mileage rate for trips up to seventy-five miles, and a forty percent increase in mileage charges for trips over seventy-five miles. The applicant is waiving the holiday and weekend rates, adding a charge for the use of its wheelchairs if the client chooses to stay at their appointment, reduced the charge for the provision of an oxygen tank and did not change the waiting time charge.

The applicant last received a rate change when its rates were established in September of 2002. Since that time the cost of gasoline has risen from well under two dollars per gallon to nearly three dollars per gallon as of the time of this order. The Commission is also aware that insurance costs have also increased as well as workers compensation insurance.

The Commission finds that, overall, the rates as proposed are reasonable and should be approved. The Commission finds that the increase in the rate for out-of-town trips of forty percent is too extreme. The Commission finds that this rate should be approved at \$2.60 per mile, an increase of twenty percent. This increase is supported by cost factors, other providers rates as approved by the Commission in the past and is reasonable.

The proposed rates are competitive with other carriers providing a similar service with like equipment. The application is filed in compliance with Section 75-308 (Rates) R.R.S. 2005 and the Commission rules.

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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 effective December 19, 2006.

O R D E R

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective September 8, 2006, Platte County Ambulance Co., dba Midwest Medical Transport Co., Columbus, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to establish transportation rates for handicapped or incapacitated passengers as follows:

Description	Rates
1. Base Rate (Trips up to fourteen miles from point of origin; one way)	\$36
Base Rate (Round Trip, same day service)	\$70
2. Out-of-town trips	\$36
a. Mileage 1-14	\$0.00/mile
b. Mileage 15-75	\$2.15/mile
c. Mileage 76 and over	\$2.60/mile
3. Waiting Time:	
a. First 15 minutes	No Charge
b. Next 30 minutes	\$18 per ½ hr
4. Extra attendant:	\$15/hr from time of pick-up to destination
5. Oxygen Tank	\$15
6. Chair usage charge (If client chooses to stay at appointment and use Midwest's chair, a fee will be charges for the use of the chair)	
a. Regular chair	\$10.00
b. Extra-wide chair	\$15.00
c. Paramedic	\$25/hour

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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 12th day of
December, 2006.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

David Wap
Anne C. Boyle
Frank E. Landis

ATTEST:

Lowell C. Johnson
Chairman
AdS P. H. H.
Executive Director

//s// Lowell C. Johnson
//s// Frank E. Landis