

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the ) APPLICATION NO. BR-421  
Prescription of Reasonable )  
Rates and Charges for Motor )  
Carriers Passengers and ) GRANTED ON AN EMERGENCY  
Property for Hire subject to ) BASIS  
the Provisions of Neb. Rev. )  
Stat. (Reissue 2011), Chapter )  
75, Articles 1 and 3. ) ENTERED: JUNE 18, 2013  
(Papio Transport Service, )  
Inc.)

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPININON AND FINDINGS

On June 6, 2013, Papio Transport Service, Inc., Papillion, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend rates for its use in its operations as follows:

Description	Current Rate	Proposed Rates
Regular Rate	\$25.00 one way	\$32.00 one way
After Hour Rate	\$35.00 one way	Deleted

Delete: (Normal business hours are 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Central Time Monday through Saturday. After hour rate applies to all pick-ups before or after normal business hours.)

Delete: Additional Charges: If the primary passenger needs a medical escort, or needs to have additional family members accompany them, including foster parents or children, the charge is \$7.00 per additional passenger.

If client uses Papio oxygen: \$10.00

Interstate Rate \$1.32/loaded mile

Emergency action is requested.

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate Number B-1733. The certificate authorizes the transportation of passengers in open class service over irregular routes between points in Douglas and Sarpy counties and between points in said counties. HHS Designation: Yes. Transportation of Railroad Train Crews: No.

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The Applicant received authority to operate from the Commission under Certificate Number B-1733 on April 21, 2009. The Applicant is amending its rates for use in this certificate.

The Applicant is seeking to raise its rates from \$25.00 per trip one way to \$32.00 per trip one way. The Applicant is also proposing the addition of a charge for oxygen that Papio provides of \$10.00, as well as the deletion of the After Hour Rate and the Additional Passenger Charge.

The primary justification for this increase is that the company is entering into contracts with entities seeking their services as a wheelchair provider that are willing to pay the requested \$32.00 per trip. In particular, the service is requested to be provided in Sarpy County.

The Applicant submitted to the Commission several other reasons for the proposed increase. Fuel costs have changed dramatically over the past few weeks, and have generally ended higher than past levels. There does not appear to be relief in sight in the immediate future. This cost factor will impact the Applicant more as it uses vehicles with a mileage rate lower than that for other types of vans. The Applicant is also needing additional income to offset maintenance costs as their repair costs are have increased in part due to the wheelchair vans and the special equipment that is involved with that type of vehicle.

The proposed rate for service of \$32.00 appears to be reasonable. Other companies are receiving \$33.00 or more for wheelchair transportation, and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Service is able to authorize up to \$38.00 per trip for one-way transportation of this service type. The Commission approved the rate of \$32.00 per trip on May 10, 2013, for Handivan Services, which also operates in the Omaha area.

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The Commission is aware of the increase in the cost of fuel that has occurred in the past few weeks. These costs are not expected to decrease in any significant amount throughout 2013 and result in an increase in the costs for operations such as that run by the Applicant.

In applications such as these, the Commission must find that an emergency situation exists. Such a situation exists in this application. The Applicant has requested that the rate be changed so that it can take advantage of a contract that will allow it to benefit from the proposed rates. The Applicant should be placed in a position that will allow it to make use the proposed rates for the contract and not place the Applicant in a position that will negatively impact its ability to pursue this contract fully.

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 June 21, 2013.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective June 21, 2013, Papio Transport Service, Inc., Papillion, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend rates for its use as follows:

Description	Rates
Regular Rate	\$32.00 one way
If client uses Papio oxygen:	\$10.00
Interstate Rate	\$1.32/loaded mile

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that public notice of this action be published in the Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, pursuant to the provisions of Section 75-121. R.R.S. 2012, and the Commission's Rules.

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MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 18th day  
of June, 2013.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Tim Schram*

*Anne Boyce*

Chair

*Gerald J. Voss*

//s// Anne Boyce

//s// Frank E. Landis

ATTEST:

*John Davidson*

Deputy Director