

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Heartland Van,
 LLC, Burbank, South Dakota,
 seeking to establish its rates
 and charges subject to the
 Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat.
 (Reissue 2014), Chapter 75,
 Articles 1 and 3.

) APPLICATION NO. BR-481
)
)
) GRANTED ON AN EMERGENCY
) BASIS
)
)
) ENTERED: MAY 19, 2015
)

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND FINDINGS

On May 13, 2015, Heartland Van, LLC, Burbank, South Dakota, filed an application for authority to establish its rates as follows:

Description	Proposed
Ambulatory/Wheelchair patients:	
Per Trip first three miles	\$40.00
Per mile after three miles (rounded down to the nearest dollar)	\$2.00/mi
Stretcher Service	\$150.00
Per mile charge	\$2.50/mi

Emergency action is requested.

Applicant is a certificated carrier which holds Certificate Number B-1890. The certificate authorizes the transportation of wheelchair clients by van in Dakota, Dixon, Thurston and Wayne counties. Transportation of wheelchair and ambulatory clients in Cedar and Knox counties. RESTRICTION: The transportation of railroad train crews and their baggage is not authorized. HHS Designation: Yes. The Certificate was granted on May 12, 2015.

The Applicant is establishing its rates for use in this certificate. The Applicant represents to the Commission that the proposed rates are based upon anticipated expenses in vehicle maintenance, fuel expenses, insurance premiums, advertising and other overhead charges.

The application consists of two distinct sections. The first section is a standard fare charge for individuals in a van that are either ambulatory or in wheelchairs. This charge of \$39.00 for the first three miles and \$2.00 per mile would apply

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to all passengers. The Commission finds that this rate is reasonable and should be granted on an emergency basis so that the Applicant can begin its operations with this service as soon as possible.

The second part of the proposed rate is a charge for stretcher service. This rate would apply only to those individuals who are bound in a stretcher for some health reason. An initial investigation indicates that this service requires more than the driver to assist in the transportation of the individual and often necessitates the use of specialized equipment and services. It appears that this service is distinct from that required of regular wheelchair service. The Commission finds that the proposed rate is reasonable for the service that it is proposed.

In applications such as these, the Commission must find that an emergency situation exists. Such a situation exists in this application as the Applicant cannot begin operations under its certificate as granted until the rates are approved. Therefore, the Commission finds that an emergency basis exists that allows the Commission to grant the application on an emergency basis. The Commission further finds that the proposed rates to be approved in this Order are reasonable.

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 May 22, 2015.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Heartland Van, LLC, Burbank, South Dakota, be, and it is hereby, authorized to establish rates for its services on an emergency basis effective May 22, 2015, as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate</u>
<u>Ambulatory/Wheelchair patients:</u>	
Per Trip first three miles	\$39.00
Per mile after three miles (rounded down to the nearest dollar)	\$2.00/mi
Stretcher Service	\$150.00
Per mile charge	\$2.50/mi

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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. 2014, and the Commission rules.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 19th day of May, 2015.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING

Tim Schram

Gerald L. Vap
Chairman

Crystal Knodes

ATTEST:

Red Jones

Steve Meredith
Executive Director

//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Gerald L. Vap