

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the ) APPLICATION NO. LR-261  
Prescription of Reasonable Rates )  
and Charges for Motor Carriers ) GRANTED AS MODIFIED  
Passengers and Property for Hire )  
subject to the Provisions of ) ENTERED: DECEMBER 13, 2005  
Neb. Rev. Stat. (Reissue 1996), )  
Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3.

BY THE COMMISSION:

### OPINION AND FINDINGS

On September 19, 2005, American Ambulance Service, Omaha, Nebraska filed an application for authority to amend its transportation rates as follows:

Description	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
I. Transportation Rates:		
A. Between points within the immediate Omaha area (includes: Bellevue, LaVista, Ralston, Papillion, and Millard)		
1. One-way	\$34	\$36
2. Round-trip (Same Day)	\$65	\$70
B. Between points in Omaha and points beyond the immediate Omaha area:		
1. Base rate: First 14 miles	\$48	\$48
2. Mile 15 - 74	\$1.25/mi.	\$2.00/mi.
3. Mile 75 and beyond	\$2.50/mi.	\$3.00/mi.
II. Ancillary Rates:		
A. Extra Technician	\$15	\$15
B. Waiting Time (See Notes 1 & 2)	\$35/hour	\$40/hour
C. Weekend/Holiday Service	No extra charge	
D. If patient uses own oxygen	No extra charge	
If patient uses Omaha Ambulance oxygen	n/c	\$10

Note 1: Immediate area includes Omaha, Council Bluffs, Bellevue, LaVista, Ralston, Papillion and Millard.

Note 2: Waiting time defined as when vehicle is out of service.

Note 3: First 15 minutes no charge. After first fifteen minutes, waiting time charged at \$40.00 per hour in one-half hour increments.

Notice of the application was published in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska on September 27, 2005, pursuant to the Commission rules. There were no protests filed.

The Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1246. The certificate authorizes the transportation as a limousine common carrier of handicapped, physically limited and elderly who do not need nor expect to need medical assistance in route in

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vehicles specially designed for the accommodation of wheelchairs, on a demand or advance reservation basis, between points in Nebraska over irregular routes.

According to the Applicant, a rate increase is necessary primarily due to the increased costs of fuel. The Applicant has also experienced increased costs in its insurance programs, employee compensation and other costs associated with operating a business.

After consultation with Commission staff, one adjustment was made to the proposed rate structure. The rates as applied for called requested a sixty percent increase in the mileage rate for miles 15 through 74. The rate adjustment reduces this amount from \$2.00 per mile to \$1.50 per mile, a twenty percent increase rather than the sixty percent proposed.

Applicant's current rates were last authorized in 2003. The proposed rates range from 7 percent to 20 percent. With the costs of gasoline, even at the current levels, having risen well over fifty percent since 2003, and the consumer price index rising somewhat over five percent during that time, the proposed rates do appear to be appropriate. Applicant's proposed rates are competitive with the rates on file for other carriers providing similar services in the Omaha metropolitan area.

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.

## ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Omaha Ambulance Service, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to amend its transportation rates as follows:

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- Note 3: First 15 minutes no charge. After first fifteen minutes, waiting time charged at \$40.00 per hour in one-half hour increments.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2005.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Lowell Johnson*

*Aune C. Boyle*

*Rock Johnson*

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

Chairman

*Gerald L. Vap*

*And S. Pollock*  
Executive Director