

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the	)	APPLICATION NO. LR-286
Prescription of Reasonable	)	
Rates and Charges for Motor	)	
Carriers Passengers and	)	GRANTED AS MODIFIED ON
Property for Hire subject to	)	AN EMERGENCY BASIS
the Provisions of Neb. Rev.	)	
Stat. (Reissue 1996), Chapter	)	
75, Articles 1 and 3.	)	ENTERED: JANUARY 8, 2008

BY THE COMMISSION:

### OPINION AND FINDINGS

On December 10, 2007, Omaha 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	\$36	\$37
2. Round-trip(Same Day)	\$70	\$71
B. Between points in Omaha and points beyond the immediate Omaha area:		
1. Base rate: First 14 mi.	\$48	\$48
2. Mile 15 - 74	\$1.50/mi.	\$2.10/mi.
3. Mile 75 and beyond	\$3.00/mi.	\$3.10/mi.
II. Ancillary Rates:		
A. Extra Technician	\$15	\$15
B. Waiting Time (See Notes 1 & 2)	\$40/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	\$10	\$10

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

Emergency action is requested.

The Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate B-1250. The certificate authorizes the transportation of handicapped or incapacitated passengers and their baggage between points in Nebraska over irregular routes.

The Applicant cites the rising costs of gasoline and increases in insurance, wages and employee benefits as the reasons behind the application. According to the Applicant, payroll expenses have increased 13 percent, benefits including health insurance have increased 39 percent, insurance has increased 21 percent, and fuel expenses have increased 27 percent. These increases cover the period of 2006 and 2007.

After consultation with Commission staff, one adjustment was made to the proposed rate structure. The rates as applied for requested a forty percent increase in the mileage rate for miles 15 through 74. The rate adjustment reduces this amount from \$2.10 per mile to \$1.70 per mile, a thirteen percent increase rather than the forty percent increase proposed.

Applicant's current rates were last authorized in 2005. The proposed rates as modified range from 1.5 percent to 13 percent. Applicant's proposed rates are competitive with the rates on file for other carriers providing similar services in the Omaha metropolitan area.

In light of the increases in costs as detailed above that businesses such as the Applicant's have been experiencing, the Commission finds that a sufficient basis exists for the granting of this application on an emergency basis.

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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 as modified on an emergency basis.

## 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:

Description	Rates
I. Transportation Rates:	
A. Between points within the immediate Omaha area (includes: Bellevue, LaVista, Ralston, Papillion, and Millard)	
1. One-way	\$37
2. Round-trip (Same Day)	\$71
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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.

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

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provisions of Section 75-121, R.R.S. 2003, and the Commission's rules.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 8th day of January, 2008.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Gerald S. Up*

*Victor L. Lewis*  
Chair

ATTEST:

*Phil R. H. H.*

Executive Director

*Paul Johnson*  
*Tim Schram*

//s// Frank E. Landis