

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the	)	APPLICATION NO. LR-287
Prescription of Reasonable	)	
Rates and Charges for Motor	)	GRANTED AS MODIFIED ON
Carriers Passengers and	)	AN EMERGENCY BASIS
Property for Hire subject to	)	
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, 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	\$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

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

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- 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-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 vehicles specially designed for the accommodation of wheelchairs, on demand or advance reservation basis, 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. Payroll costs have increased 23 percent, benefits such as health insurance have increased 31 percent, insurance costs have increased 24 percent, and fuel costs have increased 36 percent. These increases have occurred since the last increase granted in 2005.

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 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

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exists for the granting of this application on an emergency basis.

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.

## 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. <u>Transportation Rates:</u>	
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
B. Between points in Omaha and points beyond the immediate Omaha area:	
1. Base rate: First 14 miles	\$48
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II. <u>Ancillary Rates:</u>	
A. Extra Technician	\$15
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D. If patient uses own oxygen	No extra charge
If patient uses Omaha Ambulance oxygen	\$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.

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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. 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 J. V. [Signature]* Vice Chair

ATTEST:

*Reg. Johnson*  
*Tim Schuman*

*Michael [Signature]*  
Executive Director

//s// Frank E. Landis