

**IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Legislation title:** Authorize Portland Fire & Rescue to charge a fee-for-service for cost recovery of non-emergent lift assist responses to Oregon state licensed commercial assisted living, residential care and nursing facilities within the City of Portland (Ordinance)

**Contact name:** Michael Wong  
**Contact phone:** 503-823-3743  
**Presenter name:** Ryan Gillespie, Interim Fire Chief  
Ken Burns, Division Chief

**Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) to charge a fee-for-service for cost recovery of non-emergent lift assist responses to Oregon state licensed commercial assisted living, residential care and nursing facilities (collectively “nursing facilities”) within the City of Portland.

PF&R responds to requests for non-emergent lift assistance from nursing facilities. These responses reduce PF&R’s response reliability for emergency calls and add extra call volume to resources already taxed by increasing calls for service.

While PF&R will always respond to residents in need, the frequent use of PF&R services by nursing facilities for routine operations is costly, and those costs are not currently being recouped.

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

The fee for providing a non-emergent lift assist shall be \$500 per call and will provide the City with partial cost recovery as each lift assist costs the City approximately \$1,050 for a single engine/truck/squad.

The 2018-19 Adopted Budget decreased General Fund resources by \$5,000 to be offset by \$5,000 in revenue from non-emergent lift assist fees.

**Community impacts and community involvement:**

It is likely that nursing facilities who have been relying on PF&R to perform tasks that their staff is trained to perform will be disincentivized to use emergency services if they must pay for them. Accordingly, PF&R anticipates fewer facilities relying on PF&R and the EMS system for non-emergency lift assists, and PF&R will have improved response reliability when responding to the community’s emergency calls.

The proposed fee will only apply to Oregon state licensed assisted living, residential care, and nursing facilities, and PF&R will continue to respond to independent elderly residents and other residents in need without a fee. If an individual requires emergency medical treatment, or is transported to a hospital, the lift assist fee would not apply. The fee will be billed to the facility and not to the individual resident.

**Budgetary Impact Worksheet**

**Does this action change appropriations?**

- YES:** Please complete the information below.
- NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

189422 Proposed  
Amendments  
3/13/2019  
Hardesty

## ORDINANCE No.

\*Authorize Portland Fire & Rescue to charge a fee-for-service for cost recovery of non-emergent lift assist responses to Oregon state licensed **commercial** assisted living, residential care and nursing facilities within the City of Portland (Ordinance)

The City of Portland ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds:

1. Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) responded to approximately 345 requests for non-emergent lift assistance for residents from assisted living facilities, residential care facilities and nursing facilities (collectively "nursing facilities") during FY 2017-2018.
2. Lift assistance is defined as the manual lifting of a person who does not require medical treatment or transportation to a hospital from the floor or ground to a standing or seated position where that person has fallen and cannot mobilize themselves to get back up. In other words, it is the use of a PF&R firefighter or EMS member to singularly or in tandem with nursing **home** staff lift an elderly, clinically obese, or immobile person from the ground.
3. Emergency medical treatment is defined as treatment beyond the initial assessment routinely performed by Portland Fire & Rescue.
4. PF&R diligently responds to non-emergent lift assist calls, but these responses have an impact both fiscally and on staff resources. Each non-emergent lift assist is dispatched as an emergency medical service call and costs the City of Portland approximately \$1,050, even though staff of these facilities can and should be trained to perform non-emergent lift assists.
5. At this time, facilities are not billed for these types of calls. To increase fiscal resources to deal with non-emergent lift assist calls, a cost-based fee-for-service is necessary so that PF&R may at least partially recover the costs of providing a service that nursing facility staff should be performing.
6. Cost recovery would be billed to the facility, not the individual resident.
7. The lift assist fee does not apply to individual residential locations such as independent senior living residences, private houses, or private apartments. It only applies where nursing staff are available on site to perform the non-emergent lift assist.
8. If PF&R is sent on a call for a lift assist, but it is determined that the individual requires emergency medical treatment or transportation to a hospital, the lift assist fee will not apply.

9. The fee for providing a non-emergent lift assist to a nursing facility resident at a nursing facility shall be ~~\$500.00 per lift assist.~~ **\$200.00 for the first lift assist. The fee for a second lift assist requested in the same calendar year at the same facility shall be \$450.00. The fee for three or more lift assists in the same calendar year at the same facility shall be \$850.00 per lift assist.**
10. **A facility that is assessed a lift assist fee pursuant to this Ordinance shall have the right to appeal the assessment of a fee. Such appeal shall be to the Fire Chief or designee.**
11. PF&R shall maintain records in connection with services provided pursuant to this ordinance and shall forward the records to PF&R's Management Services Division, which shall be responsible for the billing and collection of accounts due and owing, including the right to contract for billing and collection.
12. PF&R will implement the fee beginning on April 5 12, 2019, with no retroactive application.
13. Exhibit A is a copy of the lift assist operating procedure.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council directs:

- a. Portland Fire & Rescue is authorized to charge a fee-for-service, as shown in Exhibit A, for cost recovery of non-emergent lift assist responses to Oregon state licensed assisted living, residential care and nursing facilities within the City of Portland.

**Section 2. The Council declares that an emergency exists to prevent delays in implementing the lift assist operating procedure. Therefore, this ordinance shall be in full force and effect on April 12, 2019.**

Passed by the Council:

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty  
Prepared by: Ryan Gillespie, Interim Fire Chief  
Date Prepared: January 17, 2019

**Mary Hull Caballero**  
Auditor of the City of Portland  
By

Deputy