



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. **VIII. H.**
6/19/2012

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

**INTRODUCED, SET FOR PUBLIC
HEARING JULY 3, 2012, AND
FINAL ADOPTION JULY 27, 2012.**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Ordinance to be introduced, set for public hearing July 3, 2012, and final adoption July 17, 2012, relating to the Ambulance Code, amending Article II of Chapter 6 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code, 2010, Section 6-100 to clarify definitions; Section 6-101 to account for delinquencies, failure to pay the Medical Service Program fee, and terms and conditions of the Medical Service Program (Totalcare program); and Section 6-104 to address funds that will be retained by the City from the funds received from utility customers for the program.

Background

The Medical Service Program was initially adopted by Ordinance 23,765 on December 17, 2008 and went into effect in October 2009. The Medical Service Program provides utility customers the option of paying for TotalCare benefits from the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) on a monthly basis on their utility bill. The current program, outlined in Chapter 6 of the Municipal Code, does not contain the TotalCare program details, but references the EMSA program. In addition, the program does not provide a method for removing a utility customer from the program for nonpayment.

This ordinance amendment incorporates the details of the program into the ordinance so that the program structure and rules are spelled out in City ordinances. If changes are proposed to the TotalCare program in the future, amendments to the ordinance will be brought to the City Council for consideration.

The ordinance also makes provision for removing customers from the program who do not pay their bill. For the vast majority of utility customers who have water service this is not an issue because water service will be immediately interrupted for non-payment and the account eventually closed. There are, however, a few thousand customers who are on well water and have rural trash service. The City does not have a good way to compel those customers to pay their bill since the City has determined it is a public health issue to pick up residential refuse from all Oklahoma City residences. Some of these customers have not opted out of the Medical Service Program and show as participating even though they have not paid for the service. Adding Section 6-101 (e) will allow the Utilities Department to remove customers from the program who are significantly behind on paying their utility bill.

Review

Finance Department

Recommendation: Ordinance be introduced, set for public hearing July 3, 2012, and final adoption July 17, 2012.

Attachment