



## COUNTY OF AMHERST



### **Public Information Officer**

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**For Immediate Release**

**June 23, 2020**

### **New Fees Set for Emergency Response**

At its June 16, 2020 meeting, the Amherst County Board of Supervisors adopted ordinance changes to increase the fees for emergency transport services. The goal is to recover more of the County's cost for providing services. Amherst County's fees will still remain lower than many surrounding localities.

The schedule of rates for emergency services provided by County Emergency Medical Services is now set at 150% of the Medicare fee schedule, as it is set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services from time to time. The fee is generally paid by a patient's medical insurance provider.

The Amherst County Combined Emergency System (ACCESS) exists to help citizens with no or inadequate insurance to afford the cost of ambulance service. ACCESS is a subscription program to help citizens pay out-of-pocket expenses, such as health insurance co-payments and deductibles when they need emergency ambulance transportation. EMS ACCESS will also pay any out-of-pocket expenses and the transport fee for a subscriber who does not have insurance. Enrollment in the program is voluntary and currently costs \$75/year. More information and an application for the ACCESS subscription can be found on the County website: [https://www.countyofamherst.com/egov/documents/1592493962\\_90575.pdf](https://www.countyofamherst.com/egov/documents/1592493962_90575.pdf)

Additional programs are available for patients who are unable to meet ambulance transport charges because of financial hardships. Please contact Public Safety at 946-9307 for more information.