

An Ordinance Establishing a Fee for Lift Assist Services by Trussville Fire and Rescue

WHEREAS, the Trussville Fire and Rescue provides lift assist services to skilled nursing and independent living facilities located in the City when patients or residents in these facilities require assistance with being lifted and moved (“Lift Assist Services”), and the facility is otherwise unable to provide this assistance; and

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing and increased nature of calls received by the City for Lift Assist Services, city officials have determined that it is fair and reasonable to assess a fee to these facilities when providing Lift Assist Services for persons in these facilities; and

WHEREAS, city officials have further determined that the fee to be assessed for providing Lift Assist Services should be paid by the facility, and not the patient or resident, in order to set off a part of the cost incurred by the City for providing Lift Assist Services; and

WHEREAS, the city council hereby finds that this Ordinance is in the best interest of the City and its residents and is adopted to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity, and improve the morals, order, comfort, and convenience of the residents of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TRUSSVILLE, ALABAMA that:

Section 1. The above recitals are found to be true and correct.

Section 2. Sections 34-83 through 34-99 of the City Code are hereby reserved.

Section 3. A new article within Chapter 34 of the City Code, Article V – Lift Assist Services, is hereby adopted, as follows:

ARTICLE V. – LIFT ASSIST SERVICES

“Section 34-100 –Definitions

For the purpose of this Article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them, and all other words and phrases shall have the meanings commonly and ordinarily ascribed to them:

(a) Assisted living facility shall have the same meaning as “assisted living facility” contained in Article V, Section 3, of the Zoning Ordinance, and is incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Domiciliary care facility shall have the same meaning as “domiciliary care facility” contained in Article VI, Section 3, of the Zoning Ordinance, and is incorporated by reference.

(c) Nursing care facility shall have the same meaning as the term “nursing home/nursing care facility” contained in Article V, Section 3, of the Zoning Ordinance, and is incorporated herein by reference.

(d) Lift Assist means a response by Trussville Fire and Rescue to assist in physically moving a person who does not require emergency medical treatment in an assisted living facility, domiciliary care facility, and/or nursing care facility.

(e) Emergency medical treatment means medical treatment of a person beyond an initial assessment routinely performed by Trussville Fire and Rescue which requires transportation to a medical facility.

“Section 34-101 Lift assist fee, records, billing and collection.

(a) When a lift assist is provided by Trussville Fire and Rescue for any person in or on the grounds of an assisted living facility, domiciliary care facility, or a nursing care facility, the respective assisted living facility, domiciliary care facility, or nursing care facility shall be charged a fee as provided in this chapter for the lift assist services.

(b) The fee for providing a lift assist shall be \$250.00 per lift assist.

(c) If after responding Trussville Fire and Rescue personnel determine that the patient will require emergency medical treatment, no lift assist fee under this chapter will be charged.

(d) Trussville Fire and Rescue shall maintain records in connection with lift assist services provided pursuant to this chapter and shall forward the records to the city finance department, which shall be responsible for the billing and collection of accounts due and owing, including the right to contract for billing and collection, subject to the approval of the city council.

“Section 34-102 Review of assessed fee.

(a) Any assisted living facility, domiciliary care facility, or nursing care facility subject to a fee under this chapter may, within twenty-one (21) days of the issuance of such a bill, appeal in writing the assessed lift assist fee to the Fire Chief. Such written appeal shall set forth the reasons why the lift assist fee was incorrectly imposed. The Fire Chief or the Fire Chief’s designee shall within a reasonable time after receipt of an appeal, but no later than thirty (30) days, provide a written response to the submitted appeal denying the appeal or grant relief as found appropriate by the Fire Chief or designee.

(b) Notice of this appeal process shall be included in the notice to the assisted living facility, domiciliary care facility, or nursing care facility of the assessment of the lift assist fee.

(c) The decision of the Fire Chief or the Fire Chief’s designee is final and made in the absolute and sole discretion of the Fire Chief or the Fire Chief’s designee

“Sections 34-103 – 34-110 . – Reserved”

Section 4. All portions of ordinances heretofore adopted by the city council of the City of Trussville, Alabama which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby expressly repealed. Any portions of such ordinances not inconsistent with this ordinance are severable and shall survive to the maximum extent possible.

Section 5. If any part, section, or subdivision of this ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed to invalidate or impair the remainder of this Ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect notwithstanding such holding.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall become effective on September 1, 2025, as provided by law.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS THE 21ST DAY OF AUGUST 2025


Ben Short, Council President


Buddy Choat, Mayor
City of Trussville

Attest: 
Dan Weinrib, City Clerk