



# Gwinnett County Government Communications Division NEWS RELEASE

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## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT CHARGES RAISED TO COVER COSTS**

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Feb. 1, 2011) – Gwinnett commissioners today raised the charge for Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services emergency medical transports by \$225 per trip, covering more of the cost of providing emergency medical transport services. The change takes effect immediately and will increase the base cost of emergency transport in Gwinnett County from \$750 to \$975.

“Engage Gwinnett recommended that we continue to evaluate the best practices in other jurisdictions,” said Gwinnett County Fire Chief Bill Myers. “It made a lot of sense to study this area of operations to find out how our emergency medical transport fees compare to the market and how they align with our actual costs. In the current economic environment, we recognize the need to do all we can, within reason, to make services like this as self-supporting as possible. This increase moves us one step closer in being able to accomplish that goal.”

Gwinnett will charge the same fee for an ambulance trip as neighboring Rockdale and Athens-Clarke counties. Gwinnett County’s additional \$15 per mile charge will remain unchanged. All neighboring jurisdictions charge a mileage fee over and above their base charge, ranging from \$7 to \$15. The fees are expected to increase county revenues by an estimated \$1.5 million a year, which will assist in closing an \$18 million budget deficit.

Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services maintains a fleet of 23 ambulances that are strategically based across the County’s 30 fire stations. In 2010, those ambulances handled more than 31,000 emergency medical transports to hospitals in Gwinnett County and the metro Atlanta area. All emergency vehicles, including fire trucks, are staffed with personnel trained to assist with fire, rescue and medical emergencies.

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