



Medicare to Pay Guam for the First Time for Ambulance Use

A release from the Governor's Office • Contact Janna Fernandez at 475-9309 or Janna.Fernandez@Guam.gov

“All these years the government has been throwing this money away. Now, because of the focused efforts of GFD, the Lt. Governor, and the fiscal team, we’re collecting this money. Now we’ll have more revenue for life-saving ambulances, fire trucks, and supplies.”

- Governor Eddie Baza Calvo

Guam Fire Department Achieves Revenue Milestone

Medicare, for the first time, will reimburse the Guam Fire Department for their subscribers' use of GFD ambulances. The reimbursement of \$157,428.99, covering billings for nearly half of the fiscal year, is happening because GFD implemented its successful Ambulance Billing Program and got it accredited by Medicare. GFD anticipates generating about \$300,000 each year from Medicare billings at its current fee structure for ambulance use. This is revenue GFD never billed or collected before.

Funds to Purchase and Maintain Emergency Vehicles and Supplies

Revenue generated from Medicare payments, and all payments for the Ambulance Billing Program, will be deposited into GFD's Fire, Life, and Medical Emergency Fund (F.L.A.M.E.). These funds are for critical maintenance and repair on emergency rescue and firefighting vehicles, to purchase emergency life support and medical equipment, and to train and certify Emergency Medical Technicians and paramedics.

Collaborative Efforts Make this Possible

GFD's Captain Darren Burrier and their Administrative Services Officer Tanya Bejado worked closely with personnel from Guam Memorial Hospital Medical Director and ER Staff, Department of Administration, Treasurer of Guam, and staff from the offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Guam to complete and push the necessary paperwork for the Medicare approval process.

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