Kaylee Galloway

From: Scott Farrell <sjfarrell297@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 3:43 PM

Subject: Levy Rates/Funding by County - IAFF Local 106 Response

Attachments: County Levy Rates.xlsx

Hello everyone,

As mentioned last night at the County Council meeting, attached is the 2024 Levy rates (the latest data) for Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap, Yakima and Spokane County. The source is MSRC.org, they pull data from the WA Dept of Revenue. In addition, keep in mind dispatch fees in Whatcom County are also paid by the EMS Levy, in many of these other jurisdictions the public pays an additional 2/10ths of 1% to cover dispatch fees.

You will see that only three jurisdictions in the 2024 Table (click on 2024 Table Tab at bottom of page) that have a lower levy rate than Whatcom County. This includes Medical Lake in Spokane County (We assume the Levy no longer exists based on the 0) Thurston County Medic One that shows both a levy and a Levy Lid lift which when added together is higher than Whatcom County. Outside of those two the only service (out of 66 jurisdictions) that has a lower levy rate than Whatcom County is Snohomish Fire District #10.

We understand there are other variables like population size and assessed valuation of an area, however the fact that the Whatcom County EMS Levy rate is virtually second last out of 66 existing jurisdictions is also a strong indicator of a funding issue. Even at the full Levy Rate voted and approved by the voters the Whatcom County Levy rate would be lower than 48 other jurisdictions and sixteenth from the bottom of the list.

In addition, during the EMS Levy Planning process it was articulated from operations level personnel hat the 29-cent levy rate would not be enough to fund the system and maintain the reserve. Keep in mind these are the professionals in the fire service with a unique understanding of the day-to-day operations and costs. Their suggestions and professional advice were ignored, resulting in putting all of us in the position we are in today, fighting to get the funding the voters approved. Forward planning, budgeting, resistance to fund the system adequately and timely contract execution and explanations should take responsibility.

IAFF Local 106 will continue to encourage the EOB, the TAB the County Council and County Executive in the following areas:

- *Follow the Voters intent, take the banked capacity and maintain all current services in the approved Fire Based Levy Plan and as voted on by the public. These are directed and designated funds for only EMS Levy use.
- *We ask the EOB, TAB and the County Executive review their designated roles in the EMS Levy processes in regard to financial decisions and then operational decisions. We appreciate all the hard work that has been done by all of you, our intentions are the same, work hard and provide a good service to the public. To work properly all these individuals and groups should only fulfill the intent of their positions.
- *We continue to encourage all parties to rely on our fire service professionals (Fire Chiefs and Division Chiefs/MSO's) when making operational decisions and in regard to long term planning. This is their profession

and should be relied on, the impacts of not doing this in regard to funding is already being seen. The fire community as a whole has never been so in line with each other.

*We request a formal review of the Citizen at Large positions on the EOB. One current member has a personal interest at some level with a business that he has to some extent referenced in EOB meetings, the other is an employee of the EMS office. Considering there are an estimated 235,000 people in Whatcom County we find it hard to believe with all things being equal these members were chosen through an objective appointment process.

*We request a review of how the Chair of the EOB is appointed, who has general supervision and oversight of the EOB and what the term limits are for all EOB members?

*We request that Executive Sidhu refrain from incendiary comments in regard to our members' wages, paramedic class and the system being too expensive without providing any documented facts. With all due respect the Executive does not have a deep understanding at any level of our work. In addition, the easy and simplistic tag line of being too expensive is both inaccurate and is rarely followed by any data or facts.

Our members' wages are based on RCW 45.56 and the collective bargaining laws in Washington State between employees and employers. We bargain with our employer with comparable jurisdiction across Washington State. Out of our 10 comparable jurisdictions we are in the middle of them in regard to pay, not at the top. Any of our members that "Made more than the Mayor" fulfilled their 47.4-hour workweek, their 2472 annual contracted hours as well as additional hundreds and in some cases thousands of additional annual hours. Lobbing out incendiary comments without the facts is divisive and in no way is working to correct the problem at hand. In addition, statements like this are unnecessary and alienate our members that are out doing great work every day in the community on and off duty.

The paramedic class has been run with a skeleton staff for decades only recently getting additional administrative staff and another part time instructor. Most importantly it has a formula based on decades to produce medics that can work in Whatcom County. The Whatcom County medic class is proven and respected, bringing firefighters from multiple other jurisdictions to the class. The idea that you can parachute medics in that have a paramedic card from a random school elsewhere and that they would first pass the entry level firefighter qualifications and then pass our Whatcom County evaluations is flawed. These medics rarely make it through our process, only I-5 medics that have worked in an I-5 system have a consistent chance of making it through our process. In addition, there is no time savings or money savings with a model of lateral medics and I-5 medics are not lining up to come to Whatcom County due to proximity and in a lot of cases lower wages.

The other model of sending medics out of town to be trained is another flawed system that is both costly and a major impact on members wishing to be paramedics. The pay for members while away training, travel, food and housing results in a cost prohibitive program. The time away from home will severely impact paramedic student application numbers. The above-mentioned two models have also been talked about in the past and been found to be cost prohibitive and unworkable.

Again, please engage the fire service professionals, they already have seen this and have these answers. In the most simplistic of explanations If we needed to know how to farm, we would talk to a farmer, not a paramedic, if we needed to wire a house we would talk to an electrician, not a fire chief. We are asking all of you to consider doing the same things.

Sorry for the lengthy email, we have spent years standing by listening to comments about our members and the system, we are no longer willing to do that. We work in a cost-effective system that just needs to be funded at the appropriate level. We have also looked at the EMS Levy budget and as you know most of it is fixed costs.

Thank you to everyone for all the hard work you are putting in, it is appreciated. We are asking once again to focus on the issues at hand and not our members' bargained wages, the paramedic class or baseless claims lobbed out about the system in general, especially without an educated or experienced based reference point.

I am happy to talk with anyone at your convenience about the work we do on a daily basis, we are also willing to be part of discussions and solutions based on data and facts.

Thanks,

Scott Farrell
President
Bellingham/Whatcom County
Firefighters
IAFF Local 106
(425) 212-8329

County										2022 Annexation Assessed Valu	2022 Annex Tax Du		laximum Allowable Levy Under 101% Calculatio		
Whatcom Yakima	EMS Countywide EMS	60,840,837,172 31,953,707,823		13,394,873 7,988,427	13,259,616 4,690,065	677,807,181 357,394,834	0.25259 0.17128	818,717,474 523,830,697	896,950,973 536,588,029	0		99,792 46.546	13,663,212 4.844.726	0.295 0.25	0.01 0.01
	EMS - Medic One	59,970,587,483		12,871,029	12,376,158	909,835,286	0.20683	565,074,709	643,381,162	0	0	182,925	12,871,029	0.5	0.01
	EMS - Medic One Non Sr LL	59,364,453,734		6,566,147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	EMS FD #2	99,613,293		42,915	41,957	1,243,000	0.43312	17,512,603	19,397,988	0	0	0	42,915	0.5	0.01
	EMS FD #4 EMS FD #8	7,212,294,486 5,912,698,185			3,411,377 1,562,782	133,371,274 97,704,166	0.5 0.2749	94,235,233 69,838,377	105,894,661 73,829,517	0	0	4,526	3,516,702 1,605,269	0.5 0.5	0.01 0.01
Spokane Spokane	EMS City of Spokane	35,011,799,812		17,318,372	16,866,797	332,234,025	0.2749	803,966,623	816,338,169	0	0	116,790	17,318,372	0.5	0.01
	EMS FD #11	137,314,253		39,927	38,590	2,504,100	0.30314	22,678,164	22,045,223	0	ŏ	0	39,927	0.35	0.01
Spokane	EMS FD #12	81,283,208		33,407	32,791	560,270	0.44095	3,879,606	4,865,320	0		40	33,407	0.5	0.01
	EMS FD #13	697,570,132	0.32642	227,702	223,679	4,601,900	0.32535	7,759,450	7,868,203	0	0	290	227,702	0.5	
Spokane Spokane	EMS FD #10 EMS City of Cheney	1,559,265,990 1,206,232,878	0.36017	561,594 372,670	545,222 365,397	28,160,300 7,694,990	0.37237 0.29995	72,577,898 22,792,233	76,054,058 22,608,100	0	0	434 1,256	561,594 372,670	0.5 0.5	0.01 0.01
	EMS City of Medical Lake	518,899,373	0.50095	0	151,464	3,625,600	0.23553	7,818,035	8,379,402	0	0	1,230	151,464	0.5	0.01
	EMS City of Rockford	67,893,321	0.46083	31,287	29,746	2,348,600	0.5	1,947,149	1,940,963	0	0	66	31,287	0.5	0.01
	EMS FD #4	7,845,927,663	0.36898	2,894,978	2,828,693	57,421,259	0.34112	49,714,818	55,237,114	0	0	18,410	2,894,978	0.5	0.01
	EMS FD #5 EMS FD #10	2,082,306,333 2,639,750,054	0.5	1,041,153 580,745	1,059,490	69,467,883 10,463,900	0.5	36,361,832 4,917,878	31,390,916 7,654,115	0	0	0	1,107,305	0.5 0.22	0.01
Snohomish	EMS FD #10	700,326,328		322,828	298,898	2,031,940	0.39715	2,024,793	7,654,115 5,646,584	0	1 0	5,189	322,828	0.22	0.06
	EMS FD #17	3,037,181,752	0.44419	1,349,097	1,583,174	51,305,300	0.41238	7,904,194	6,832,027	0	0	3,464	1,624,227	0.5	0.01
	EMS FD #19	889,371,314		315,203	309,822	4,991,900	0.33551	10,188,873	11,751,856	0	0	608	315,203	0.5	0.01
	EMS FD #21	2,021,108,550	0.39399	796,299	767,859	9,272,683	0.35561	18,340,906	16,838,607	0	0	1,572	796,299	0.5	0.03
	EMS FD #22 EMS FD #24	1,411,733,734 597,430,720	0.24788	349,942 298,715	342,125 182,669	18,625,100 4,034,400	0.23506 0.27311	12,322,827 1,932,796	14,494,275 2,436,252	0	0	18	349,942 183,771	0.5 0.5	0.01
	EMS FD #24 EMS FD #25	219,345,574		62,761	61,722	744,600	0.27522	1,884,942	1,796,245	0	0	461	63,030	0.5	0.01
	EMS FD #26	1,006,277,670	0.5	503,139	517,958	5,151,500	0.5	38,370,474	38,827,662	0	0	0	520,534	0.5	
Snohomish	EMS Edmonds	15,352,931,155		4,349,145	4,283,046	42,333,508	0.27524	38,940,612	46,720,278	0	0	11,616	4,349,145	0.5	0.01
Snohomish	EMS Everett	26,907,976,118 17,195,681,450	0.37418	10,068,304 8,597,841	9,848,758 3,376,849	280,851,978 363,156,620	0.37155 0.24577	238,676,569 85,824,304	205,033,025 74,271,363	0	0	4,206	10,068,304 3,468,941	0.5 0.5	0.01
	EMS Marysville EMS Mukilteo	7,410,005,099	0.2753	2,039,955	2,013,820	363,156,620 13,931,976	0.24577	64.395.118	74,271,363	0	0	2,251	2,039,955	0.5	0.01
Snohomish	EMS Bothell	7,876,354,008		2,087,234	0	123,583,379	0.10007	67,644,557	34,334,846	Ö	ő	0	2,000,000	0.265	0.01
Snohomish	EMS North County RFA #14/18	10,681,449,341		5,340,725	2,979,335	283,840,079	0.2808	66,740,719	71,473,486	0	0	0	3,088,831	0.5	0.01
Snohomish	EMS South County RFA	59,968,804,950		20,850,000	18,085,577	469,217,903	0.32765	263,603,058	204,193,434	7,353,598,908	2,577,158	0	21,016,796	0.5	0.01
	EMS Snohomish RFA #7/8 Medic 1 EMS	41,743,518,558 31,983,479,182		11,902,910 9,680,453	11,559,720 9,481,826	360,876,181 328,518,536	0.26258 0.31599	180,272,717 583,910,595	211,733,525 632,271,110	1,118,700	315	132,518	11,902,910 9,680,453	0.5	0.01 0.01
Pierce	EMS FD #3	18,489,641,063		8,133,888	7,602,156	134,810,985	0.41147	109,170,399	114,094,351	0	0	20,131	8,133,888	0.5	0.06
Pierce	EMS FD #5	19,290,553,767		9,645,277	9,542,796	141,728,815	0.5	132,772,306	130,071,632	0	0	11,592	10,199,171	0.5	0.06
	EMS FD #6	41,636,571,364	0.5	20,818,286	20,935,860	594,765,495	0.5	284,470,979	313,025,776	0	0	27,807	21,470,408	0.5	0.01
Pierce Pierce	EMS FD #10 EMS FD #13	4,537,028,767 825,747,004		1,300,577 358,532	1,279,862 336,749	18,623,000 3,890,865	0.30461	21,251,305	23,088,220 1.023,931	0	1 0	2,244	1,300,577 358,532	0.5	0.01 0.06
Pierce	EMS FD #14	299.551.119			118.683	646,500	0.41022	5.124.869	5.424.320	0	0	415	120.550	0.5	0.00
	EMS FD #16	4,779,912,853	0.34399	1,644,243	1,609,433	42,525,211	0.33345	30,631,097	31,803,848	0	0	4,535	1,644,243	0.5	0.01
Pierce	EMS FD #17	3,957,512,387	0.5	1,978,756	2,039,852	37,632,574	0.5	48,565,143	52,447,061	0	0	4,086	2,083,154	0.5	0.01
Pierce	EMS FD #18 EMS FD #21	2,813,885,883 12,648,834,173		1,217,466 6,324,417	1,140,175 5,058,573	17,080,500 287,138,351	0.40121	32,419,033 50,773,130	34,979,111 55,007,401	0	0	2,027	1,217,466 5,485,036	0.5 0.5	0.06 0.06
Pierce Pierce	EMS FD #21	27,367,475,425		9,968,056	11,733,028	287,138,351 655,821,636	0.39933 0.23618	221,965,358	232,581,207	0	0	8,286 10,000	12,015,250	0.5	0.06
Pierce	EMS FD #23	342,797,612		131,813	128,677	4,326,700	0.39384	6,852,195	6,482,259	0	0	355	132,169	0.5	0.01
Pierce	EMS FD #26	297,801,933	0.27263	81,190	79,546	2,946,300	0.288	2,846,948	3,087,434	0	0	67	81,258	0.5	0.01
Pierce	EMS FD #27 EMS Tacoma	612,046,701 42,461,227,446	0.5	306,023	200,174	9,458,700 505,638,191	0.3522	4,478,179	4,197,701 478.810.586	0	0	714 44.132	206,320 12.543.163	0.5 0.5	0.01 0.01
Pierce Pierce	EMS Tacoma EMS Buckley	42,461,227,446 1,113,794,358		21,230,614 334,793	12,208,209 318,389	505,638,191 42,035,140	0.28355 0.28872	568,274,413 5,484,951	478,810,586 6,048,925	0	1 0	44,132 1,083	12,543,163 334,793	0.5	0.01
Pierce	EMS Eatonville	438,024,080	0.50055	219,012	225,389	2,414,000	0.20072	7,621,979	8,106,113	0	0	637	229,487	0.5	0.01
	EMS Fircrest	1,466,669,294	0.38726	567,987	561,281	984,100	0.38303	4,586,953	4,915,718	0	0	716	567,987	0.5	0.01
	EMS South Prairie	79,144,297		23,166	22,690	429,300	0.29972	262,214	315,174	0	0	120	23,166	0.5	0.01
	EMS Steilacoom EMS Dupont	1,523,826,747 2,570,593,127	0.43702	665,947 1,285,297	655,813 877,379	7,195,493 4,211,000	0.41998 0.34876	13,615,755 24,898,713	14,026,900 26,748,253	0	0	554 9.615	665,947 897,236	0.5 0.5	0.01 0.01
Pierce	EMS Carbonado	112,243,074		41,240	40,008	2,176,000	0.36016	207,951	20,740,253	0	0	9,615	41,240	0.5	
Pierce	EMS Wilkeson	76,433,131	0.27747	21,208	20,859	311,000	0.26433	427,346	718,065	0	0	58	21,208	0.5	0.01
	EMS Bremerton	6,211,981,987		2,299,694	2,230,894	73,617,054	0.37612	71,862,220	78,219,976	0	0	18,806	2,299,698	0.5	0.01
	EMS FD Dist #1 Silverdale(Central Kitsa	15,391,631,892		6,528,561	6,323,911 3,896,938	247,583,452 115,050,150	0.43263 0.3046	75,454,796 26,419,647	89,548,448 31,941,398	0	0	34,301	6,528,562	0.5	0.01 0.01
Kitsap	EMS FD #2 Bainbridge Island EMS North Mason RFA	13,460,238,119 108,175,722		3,981,296 30,957	1,088,804	115,050,150 42,802,636	0.3046	9,302,525	31,941,398 9,927,253	0	1 0	10,352 3,529	3,981,303 1,117,355	0.4	0.01
Kitsap	EMS FD Dist #7 South Kitsap	15,185,346,051		6,434,411	6,175,431	340,811,089	0.42368	77,283,952	92,363,636	0	1 0	52,838	6,434,418	0.5	0.01
Kitsap	EMS FD Dist #10 North Kitsap	5,655,768,319	0.37396	2,115,042	2,041,098	49,535,010	0.37009	23,244,348	27,090,310	0	0	35,204	2,115,045	0.5	0.01
Kitsap	EMS FD Dist #18 No Kitsap/Poulsbo	7,084,091,003	0.37956	2,688,859 187,577,189	2,545,077 182,815,207	151,571,581 11,237,463,770	0.37425 0.20922	44,917,593 8,059,087,633	51,291,939 8,286,186,693	0	0	61,608 587,453	2,688,861 187,581,915	0.5 0.265	0.01 0.01
King	EMS County wide														

County	District	Assessed Value 2024	Levy Rate (2024)	Levy Amount (2024)	Highest Prior Levy	New Construction Assessed Value
Spokane	EMS City of Medical Lake	518899373	0	0	151464	3625600
 Thurston	EMS - Medic One Non Sr LL	59364453734	0.11061	6566147	0	C
Thurston	EMS - Medic One	59970587483		12871029	12376158	909835286
Snohomish	EMS FD #10	2639750054		580745	0	10100000
Whatcom	EMS Countywide	60840837172		13394873	13259616	
King	EMS County wide	8.27132E+11		187577189	182815207	11237463770
Snohomish	EMS FD #22	1411733734		349942	342125	18625100
 Yakima	EMS	31953707823		7988427	4690065	
Snohomish	EMS Bothell	7876354008		2087234	0	
Spokane	EMS FD #8	5912698185		1605269	1562782	97704166
Pierce	EMS FD #26	297801933		81190	79546	2946300
Snohomish	EMS Mukilteo	7410005099		2039955	2013820	
Pierce	EMS Wilkeson	76433131		21208	20859	
Snohomish	EMS Edmonds	15352931155		4349145	4283046	
Snohomish	EMS Snohomish RFA #7/8	41743518558		11902910	11559720	
Snohomish	EMS FD #25 EMS North Mason RFA	219345574 108175722		62761 30957	61722 1088804	744600 42802636
Kitsap Pierce	EMS FD #10	4537028767		1300577	1279862	18623000
Spokane	EMS FD #10	137314253		39927	38590	2504100
Pierce	EMS South Prairie	79144297		23166	22690	
Kitsap	EMS FD #2 Bainbridge Islan	13460238119		3981296	3896938	
Pierce	EMS Buckley	1113794358		334793	318389	42035140
Skagit	Medic 1 EMS	31983479182		9680453	9481826	
Spokane	EMS City of Cheney	1206232878		372670	365397	7694990
Spokane	EMS FD #13	697570132		227702	223679	
Pierce	EMS FD #16	4779912853		1644243	1609433	42525211
Snohomish	EMS South County RFA	59968804950		20850000	18085577	469217903
Snohomish	EMS FD #19	889371314	0.35441	315203	309822	4991900
Spokane	EMS FD #10	1559265990	0.36017	561594	545222	28160300
Pierce	EMS FD #22	27367475425	0.36423	9968056	11733028	
Pierce	EMS Carbonado	112243074	0.36742	41240	40008	2176000
Snohomish	EMS FD #4	7845927663	0.36898	2894978	2828693	57421259
Kitsap	EMS Bremerton	6211981987		2299694	2230894	73617054
Kitsap	EMS FD Dist #10 North Kits	5655768319		2115042	2041098	
Snohomish	EMS Everett	26907976118		10068304	9848758	
Kitsap	EMS FD Dist #18 No Kitsap/	7084091003		2688859	2545077	151571581
Pierce	EMS FD #23	342797612		131813	128677	4326700
Pierce	EMS Fircrest	1466669294		567987	561281	984100
Snohomish	EMS FD #21	2021108550		796299	767859	
Pierce	EMS FD #14	299551119		120550	118683	
Spokane	EMS FD #12	81283208		33407	32791	560270
Kitsap	EMS FD Dist #7 South Kitsa	15185346051	0.42373	6434411	6175431	340811089
Kitsap	EMS FD Dist #1 Silverdale(0	15391631892	0.42416	6528561	6323911	247583452

Spokane	EMS FD #2	99613293	0.43081	42915	41957	1243000
Pierce	EMS FD #18	2813885883	0.43266	1217466	1140175	17080500
Pierce	EMS FD #13	825747004	0.43419	358532	336749	3890865
Pierce	EMS Steilacoom	1523826747	0.43702	665947	655813	7195493
Pierce	EMS FD #3	18489641063	0.43992	8133888	7602156	134810985
Snohomis	sh EMS FD #17	3037181752	0.44419	1349097	1583174	51305300
Spokane	EMS City of Rockford	67893321	0.46083	31287	29746	2348600
Snohomis	sh EMS FD #15	700326328	0.46097	322828	298898	2031940
Spokane	EMS FD #4	7212294486	0.4876	3516702	3411377	133371274
Spokane	EMS City of Spokane	35011799812	0.49464	17318372	16866797	332234025
Snohomis	sh EMS FD #5	2082306333	0.5	1041153	1059490	69467883
Snohomis	sh EMS FD #24	597430720	0.5	298715	182669	4034400
Snohomis	sh EMS FD #26	1006277670	0.5	503139	517958	5151500
Snohomis	sh EMS Marysville	17195681450	0.5	8597841	3376849	363156620
Snohomis	h EMS North County RFA #14	10681449341	0.5	5340725	2979335	283840079
Pierce	EMS FD #5	19290553767	0.5	9645277	9542796	141728815
Pierce	EMS FD #6	41636571364	0.5	20818286	20935860	594765495
Pierce	EMS FD #17	3957512387	0.5	1978756	2039852	37632574
Pierce	EMS FD #21	12648834173	0.5	6324417	5058573	287138351
Pierce	EMS FD #27	612046701	0.5	306023	200174	9458700
Pierce	EMS Tacoma	42461227446	0.5	21230614	12208209	505638191
Pierce	EMS Eatonville	438024080	0.5	219012	225389	2414000
Pierce	EMS Dupont	2570593127	0.5	1285297	877379	4211000