



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu and
Whatcom County Councilmembers

FROM: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive

RE: Modification to Interlocal Agreement for WHAT-COMM Communications
Center

DATE: October 25, 2022

Enclosed is an interlocal agreement modification #3 between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for your review and signature by the Executive.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

It is the purpose of this agreement to provide a mechanism whereby all Whatcom County Public Safety Agencies may share in the cost of supplemental dispatch technologies administered by What-Comm. See more background details in the attached memorandum from City of Bellingham. This agreement has been reviewed and approved by the What-Comm Board at their most recent meeting.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This is a no-cost amendment to the interlocal agreement.

Please contact Tyler Schroeder at extension 5207 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.



WHAT-COMM Communications Center City of Bellingham

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TOPIC: What-Comm Interlocal Agreement Amendment - 2022

Purpose

To remove outdated language and establish an equipment replacement fund.

Background

The What-Comm Interlocal agreement covers such things as the make-up of our What-Comm Administrative Board, how agencies may be added to What-Comm, how user fees are determined, and the responsibilities of Bellingham Police Department and Bellingham Fire Department to manage the operations and budget of What-Comm and Prospect, respectively.

Amendments to the Interlocal are first approved by the Administrative Board, then by the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County before being consolidated into our previously existing Interlocal agreement.

The current Interlocal Agreement dictates that all fees associated with What-Comm law dispatching be shared by user agencies based on their percentage of use, as determined by population served, the number of commissioned personnel, and their annual call volume. There is no mechanism for agencies who wish to pay for supplemental technologies to do so, without all agencies sharing in these additional costs.

Amendments

The What-Comm Administrative Board approved two amendments to the Interlocal Agreement:

1. Removal of outdated language which referenced transferring 911 calls for police services in the City of Sumas to US Border Patrol. This has not been the practice since Sumas Police joined What-Comm as a user agency in 2019.
2. Addition of language establishing an equipment replacement fund which will be used to purchase critical equipment known to require replacement or refreshment on a set schedule. This fund will provide financial stability and resilience for What-Comm and Prospect dispatch centers.