

MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Council Members
From: Mike Hilley, EMS Manager
Subject: Community Paramedic Interlocal
Date: March 3, 2021

Requested Action:

We are asking the Council to approve the amendment to the interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Fire Protection District #7 (FD7) for the purposes of extending the current agreement through 2022 and adding the vehicle rental and durable equipment to the budget.

The current agreement with FD7 expires July 31, 2021. This amendment will extend the agreement through the end of 2022 and provide the budget authority as adopted through the biennial budget process through Ordinance 2020-068.

Background and Purpose:

Community Health programs are evolving with associated outreach programs that include the Ground Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) team. FD7 has operationalized a Community Paramedic/Health program as modeled by the Bellingham Fire Department since 2019. The combined efforts of both ALS agencies providing these services has resulted in a significant reduction of the overuse of 911 by those enrolled in the program. This model is being expanded into the county with additional Community Paramedic's and Sheriff's Deputies supported by case workers from the GRACE Team which includes four case management specialists, a community health worker (CHW), a part-time Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), Program Manager and Administrative Assistants.

The goal of the program is to direct patients to the right care at the right time in an effort to reduce frequent use of the 911 system for both EMS and Law Enforcement. The Community Paramedic commitment is programmed through the life of the current levy as outline in the interlocal agreement.

Funding Amount and Source:

This amendment increases the contract by \$296,994 through the EMS Levy Fund.