



MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Council Members
From: Mike Hilley, EMS Manager
Subject: Community Paramedic Interlocal
Date: July 19, 2019

Requested Action:

We are asking the Council to approve the interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Bellingham Fire Department (BFD) for the purposes of expanding the successful BFD Community Paramedic Program by adding one Community Paramedic vehicle rental and durable equipment.

Background and Purpose:

Community Health programs are evolving with associated outreach programs that include the Ground Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) team. The Bellingham Fire Department has operationalized a Community Paramedic/Health program over the last four years citing a significant reduction of the overuse of 911 by those enrolled in the program. The Bellingham model is being expanded into the county with additional Community Paramedics 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. To expand this program, WCEMS will be adding two Community Paramedics mid-year of 2019. BFD will provide an additional Paramedic funded by the EMS Levy and through a separate agreement Fire District 7 will provide a Paramedic financed by the North Region Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) through the Medicaid Demonstration Project. The BFD Community Paramedic commitment is programmed through the life of the current levy as outline in the interlocal agreement.

Funding Amount and Source:

The EMS Levy Fund as budgeted through ASR 2019-6074 in the amount of \$140,000 and ASR 2019-5770 in the amount of \$170,000 for the community paramedic program.