



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu and
Whatcom County Councilmembers

FROM: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive

RE: Amendment to WHAT-COMM Interlocal Agreement *TKS*

DATE: February 17, 2022

Enclosed are two (2) originals of a Modification to an Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for your review and signature by the Executive.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

To provide a mechanism for user agencies to share in the cost of supplemental dispatch technologies administered by What-Comm. 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 enforcement 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.

The proposed amendment would allow for agencies, on a voluntary basis, to participate in cost sharing for supplemental services administered by What-Comm moving forward. The method of assigning cost shares is intentionally undefined in the amendment. Cost allocations will be dependent on the technology improvements brought forward in the future depending on the technology and allocated to the agencies that are willing to pay for them.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This is a no-cost amendment to the interlocal. Future budget decisions will be made consistent with this amendment in the future. The Whatcom County funding source for What-Comm is the EMS Levy Fund EMS/Fire related costs and the General Fund for the Sheriff's Office law enforcement portion.

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