

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT
Between
North County Regional Fire Authority
And
Whatcom County Emergency Medical Services/Whatcom County
Paramedic Training Program

Whatcom County Emergency Medical Services, (hereinafter the “County”), and North County Regional Fire Authority, (hereinafter the “Department”), in consideration of the mutual covenants herein, agree as follows:

- I. **Purpose:** This Agreement will provide paramedic training for up to one (1) North County Regional Fire Authority Firefighter/EMT in the 2024 Paramedic Training class (the “Program”) administered by the Bellingham Fire Department (BFD), accreditation affiliation through Bellingham Technical College (College), and funded by the Whatcom County EMS Levy.
- II. **Program Administration:** It is understood that the Department shall be responsible for the direct supervision of their respective employee and that nothing in this Agreement will interfere with the employer/employee relationship or the functioning of the Department. In compliance with applicable law and State records guidelines, both parties will maintain documentation and/or records relevant to the Program.
- III. **Financial Responsibility:** The 2024 Paramedic Training Program is paid for by the Whatcom County Countywide Emergency Medical Services Fund. The Department is responsible for all wages, benefits and insurance coverage for its participant.
- IV. **Financial Agreement:** The Department will pay the County for direct costs of student participation and a portion of common costs for the 2024 Program as described in **Exhibit A - Detail of Student Costs**. One-half of the agreed total student cost will be paid when the Program is half-complete and the remaining second half is paid once the Program has been completed.
- V. **Program Sponsorship:** The College shall be the sponsoring institution and, as such, the Program will operate within the College’s appropriate policies and procedures.
- VI. **Program Approval:** The Program is approved through the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Washington State Department of Health. Accreditation is granted through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

VII. Responsibilities of the Department:

- A. Provide recommendation for enrollment of student into the Program by the Fire Chief and the Department Medical Program Director.
- B. Obtain concurrence from the College, County, Paramedic Training Medical Program Director and BFD for the selection of qualified EMTs for enrollment in the Paramedic Training program.
- C. Provide weekly or monthly, depending on need, direct leadership and preceptor liaison with the Paramedic Training Lead Instructor for the purposes of monitoring student progress and activities.
- D. Reimburse the County for agreed expenses as described in Exhibit A.

VIII. Objectives of Paramedic Training Course:

- A. The Program will include the pre-requisite (60-hour/5-Credit) Anatomy and Physiology Course through a combination of online and laboratory learning.
- B. The Program will include and require students to complete approximately 1300 clinical hours. Preceptorships will be provided by the Bellingham Fire Department. Students will see approximately 500 patients while precepting on the ALS units. Clinical hours will include training with the hospital emergency department, operating room, intensive care unit & maternity units, along with observation days at Children's Hospital and Harborview Medical Center as part of the Program experience. On average students will administer approximately 150 IVs and approximately 20 Intubations during their clinical hours.
- C. The Program will include 650 classroom hours for both didactic and simulation lab learning.
- D. Provide weekly or monthly, depending on need, student progress reports to the Department liaison.
- E. Provide student evaluations (Approximately 20).
- F. Provide physician-level student evaluations of students for paramedic certification.
- G. The Program will strive to prepare the student for National Registry of EMT's (NREMT) testing and certification.

IX. Paramedic Training Program admission requirements:

- A. Eligible Advanced Life Support Departments and Whatcom County Fire Departments or District employees meeting admission requirements as set forth in RCW 18.71.205 and WAC 246.976.041, will be considered for the program upon recommendation of the Paramedic Course Director. Enrollment is not open to the public.
- B. All students accepted for admission must have current Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification and a high school diploma or equivalent as per Washington State Department of Health (DOH) guidelines.
- C. Out-of-County students must be affiliated with an Advanced Life Support Agency and will have the recommendation of the Fire Chief and Out of County Medical Program Director or Supervising Physician to enroll in the Paramedic Training Program.

X. Program Contacts:

College Supervisor: Matthew Santos, Dean of Allied Health, Bellingham Technical College, 3028 Lindbergh Ave., Bellingham, WA, 98225, (360) 752-8316, msantos@btc.org

Paramedic Training Medical Program Director: Dr. Ralph Weiche, 1800 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225 (360) 778-8413 rweiche@cob.org

Whatcom County EMS Paramedic Course Liaison: Steven Cohen, BS, EMS Training Specialist; 800 E. Chestnut St. Bellingham, WA 98225 (360) 820-6157 scohen@co.whatcom.wa.us

Bellingham Fire Department; Course Director: Div. Chief Scott Ryckman MS, Medical Services Officer, Bellingham Fire Department, 1800 Broadway, Bellingham, WA, 98225, (360) 778-8413, sryckman@cob.org

Paramedic Lead Instructor: Cap. Todd Fisher, Bellingham Fire Department, 1800 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225, (360) 778-8413, tfisher@cob.org

- XI. Nondiscrimination:** There will be no discrimination against any participant covered under the Agreement because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status or genetic information in programs or activities including employment, admissions, and educational programs.

- XII. Liability:** Each party to this Agreement will be responsible for the negligent or willful acts or omissions of its own employees, officers, volunteers or agents in the

performance of this Agreement. Neither party will be considered the agent of the other, nor does either party assume any responsibility to the other party for the consequences of any act or omission of any person, firm, or corporation not a party to this Agreement.

XIII. Term of the Agreement: This Agreement will become effective upon date of final signature and will terminate upon completion of paramedic training. Completion of training is determined after all requirements for graduation and certification have been met. Termination of this Agreement shall be effective thirty (30) days following written notice of termination provided by either party in the case a student is unable to complete or is academically terminated from Paramedic Training. If modifications to this Agreement are deemed necessary, such changes shall be approved by the Department and the County unless such modifications are required based on State, Federal or Local law.

XIV. Entire Agreement: This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties, and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements, commitments, or understandings concerning the matters provided for herein.

Authority: The parties represented and covenant that they are authorized to sign as authorized agents of their respective college/agency.

ACCEPTED, agreed, and signed as of the date first set forth below

EXECUTED, this _____ day of _____, 2023, for North County Regional Fire Authority:

Department Approval:

John Cermak, Fire Chief
North County Fire Regional Fire Authority
8117 267th St.
Stanwood, WA 98

EXECUTED, this _____ day of _____, 2023, for Whatcom County:

Tyler Schroeder, Deputy County Executive

Approved as to Form:

Christopher Quinn per Email 10/20/23
Office of Prosecuting Attorney, Civil Division

Exhibit 'A'

Student Tuition Costs

FEE SCHEDULE FOR NORTH COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

Item	Description	Per Student	Total
Preceptor Fees	Assigned Student Paramedic Preceptors (up to 1 Students, 12-month cost, \$588.35 per month, 14-months)	\$7,060.20	\$7,060.20
Evaluation Fee	Formal Evaluation Reports (Up to 1 student)	\$1,690.00	\$1,690.00
Student Equipment	Books, Stethoscopes, calipers, IV supplies, Disposable mannequin supplies, physiology training anatomy dissection parts, Platinum Program, PALS/NRET testing, CAAHEP, Clinical Training Site visit, Safety Clothing for clinical (1 Student)	\$7,392.00	\$7,392.00
Bellingham Technical College Costs	Course MPD Fees, BTC Fees, A&P Pre-Course, Program Instructors, Accreditation Fees and Facilities	\$9,143.75	\$9,143.75
Whatcom County Administration Costs	WCEMS Administration and Contract Support Services	\$2,926.00	\$2,926.00
TOTAL		\$28,211.95	\$28,211.95