

**WHATCOM COUNTY**

Emergency Medical Services  
1500 N. State St., Suite 205  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
From: Deborah Arthur, EMS Manager  
Re: 2026 Contract Amendment: City of Bellingham  
Date: November 20, 2025

Dear Executive Sidhu,

Please find enclosed contract amendment for your consideration and approval.

**Background and Purpose****City of Bellingham: Removal of Lateral to Paramedic Training Funding contract [C#202509011](#)**

The original 2026 Paramedic Training Program contract, C#202509011, with the City of Bellingham included funding for up to three (3) lateral paramedic hires, totaling \$224,823. The City of Bellingham Fire Department (BFD) has since confirmed that it does not expect to hire lateral paramedics in 2026, and therefore, this funding will not be utilized unless an extraordinary, unforeseen staffing need arises.

To accurately reflect BFD's current operational plan and ensure levy funds are used as intended, this amendment removes the lateral paramedic training portion of Exhibit C. It reduces the maximum contract amount from \$1,008,442 to \$783,619.

(See contract amendment for details.)

Because support for three lateral paramedics remains a long-term element of the EMS levy plan, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been drafted to reaffirm the County's commitment to BFD for these positions over the remainder of the levy cycle.

**Funding Amounts and Source**

Amendment is funded through the EMS Levy Fund 12401001 and is consistent with the EMS Levy Plan (2023–2028).

**Summary of Requested Actions**

WCEMS Administration respectfully requests approval of the following amendments:

1. Amendment to the City of Bellingham Contract (C#202509011)
  - Removes lateral paramedic training funding
  - Decreases total contract by \$224,823
  - Revises Exhibit C accordingly

Please contact Deborah Arthur at (360) 927-1155 or [darthur@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:darthur@co.whatcom.wa.us) with any questions regarding this request or the associated contracts.