

WHATCOM COUNTY
Emergency Medical Services
800 E Chestnut, Suite 3C
Bellingham, WA 98225



Mike Hilley
WCEMS Manger

MEMORANDUM

To: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
From: Mike Hilley, EMS Manager
Re: Amendment to Contract #201801022 Whatcom County Fire Districts and Departments.
Date: September 15, 2023

Enclosed is the Second Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement (known as the First Response Contract) between Whatcom County and the Fire Districts/Departments of Whatcom County (201801022-2)

- **Background and Purpose**

This Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom County Fire Protection Districts and Departments provides for the extension of the terms of the current contract that expired December 31, 2022. This amendment extends the contract until December 31, 2023.

In addition, this Amendment provides for the equitable distribution of the 2023 Basic Life Support Allocation totaling up to \$1.5 million for all as defined in the 2023 through 2028 EMS Levy Plan. This amendment includes all Districts but one for a total amount of \$1,476,119.52. Fire District no. 5 is receiving their allocation in the amount of \$23,880.48 through a separate contract no. 202304015-2.

- In **November 2022**, Whatcom County executed **Amendment 1** to provide a one-time BLS Allocation for the Basic Life Support Fire Agencies during the time between January 1, 2022 to December 15, 2022.
- In **December 2022**, the Fire Chiefs Association asked to extend the current agreement to December 31, 2023 to align the First Response Contract with the current levy cycle and the Advanced Life Support Contracts terms. This request resulted in the development of **Amendment 2**.
- In **February 2023**, the Fire Chiefs Association were presented with a simple contract extension labeled as **Amendment 2** to contract number 201801022. The Amendment extension documents were distributed for signatures to be secured at the Fire Departments/Districts upcoming leadership meetings. (The signature process takes about 4 to 8 weeks)

- In **Mid-March 2023**, A Scriveners Error was discovered as related to **Amendment 1**, the 2022 BLS Allocation where **Amendment 3** corrected the error. **Amendment 3** with the correction was distributed to the Fire Chiefs Association and the Fire Districts/Departments for signatures.
- In **Early June 2023**, the Fire Chiefs and WCEMS worked towards a Draft Amendment for the Annual Basic Life Support Allocation labeled as **Amendment 4**. **Amendment 4** defined the amounts and terms for the 2023 BLS Allocation. This amendment provides for the one-time distribution of EMS levy funds for the reimbursement of qualifying expenses incurred between January 1, 2023 and December 15, 2023 associated with the provision of Basic Life Support (“BLS”) services in Whatcom County.
- In **August of 2023**, the Fire Chiefs Association informed WCEMS that the Fire Departments/Districts would not sign **Amendment 2** (February 2023 Document) or **Amendment 4** (June 2023). They requested to combine **Amendment 2** and **Amendment 4** into a single amendment labeled as **Amendment 2**.
- To expedite the requested changes proposed in amendments 1 and 4 we consolidated them into a single **Amendment 2** agreed to by all parties.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

The funding source is the EMS Levy Fund, not to exceed \$1,476,119.52

Please contact Mike Hilley at (360) 927-1155 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.