

WCEMS County-Wide Levy Renewal 2023-2028



Levy Plan Development

This proposal is to renew the EMS Levy at the .295 per thousand of assessed value as designed in the 2016 to 2022 Funding Work Group Plan.

The 2023 to 2028 Strategic Plan provides funding recommendations from the EMS Levy Planning Committee and the EMS Oversight Board. (2 year process)

2023 to 2028 Strategic Plan Mission

To recommend a funding strategy and mechanism that will support and sustain a countywide EMS System that includes full funding of the ALS system and to better support BLS response agencies.



Levy rate of 29.5¢/\$1,000 AV



29.5¢ formulation assumes:

- No City or County General Fund contributions
- Current sales tax revenue is preserved
- Transport fee revenue is preserved
- ALS costs are fully funded
- GEMT revenue continues through the levy plan life
- Preserves Current Programs
- BLS costs are supplemented
- \$2.57 million per ALS Unit
 - Five Paramedic Units in Whatcom County
 - Projected to be up **\$3.2 million** by 2028

The 2023 to 2028 Plan – EMS Care in Whatcom County is an integrated system among 13 Fire-Based Agencies utilizing a tiered response system serving over 224,000 people. The Levy provides support for both ALS and BLS in these areas.

Advanced Life Support (ALS)

- Paramedics (Approximately 60 Salaries)
- 5 ALS Medic Units (2.5 mil per year per unit)
- Community Paramedics (3) \$600,000 per year
- Paramedic Training \$1.5 mil per year
- EMS Dispatch Fees \$2.2 mil per year
- EMS Medical Service Officers and EMS1 Captains \$1.2 mil per year (6 positions)
- County Medical Program Director \$90,000 per year
- Supervising Physicians (2) \$130,000 per year
- EMS Administration \$450,000 per year

Basic Life Support (BLS)

- Approximately 600 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)
 - BLS/EMT's are dispatched for every EMS call.
 - As much as 75% of EMS call responses and transports are BLS only.
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- 2023-2028 Levy introduced the BLS Allocation Recommendation to support BLS equipment, medical supplies, training and personnel. \$1.5 mil per year.
 - Patient Movement System (Stryker System) \$600,000 Annual Costs.



EMS Levy Finance Committee Reserve Policy

The EMS fund balance should be approximately 70% of the current year's budgeted operating expenditures and shall be budgeted at no less than 50% of these expenditures. With other revenue sources, this would allow funding for one year if a levy fails to be renewed.

Should a reserve fall below its minimum target balance, The EMS Administrator in consultation with the EMS Finance Advisory Committee shall create a plan to bring the Reserve to the balance described in this policy. The plan shall be approved by the TAB, and EOB Committee before presenting to the County Executive and adopted for replenishing the reserve balance to the target.





Impacts with a Levy Rate of 19.9 ¢/\$1,000 AV

A difference of approximately \$5.0 mil per year.

- Does not consider inflation, eliminates all programs and does not respond to system growth.
- May require a super majority (60%) to increase in 2028.
- Fund deficit of almost \$30 mil in 2028.
- WC has one of the lowest EMS Levy Rates in the State. Most are maxed at .50.

Defunded Programs:

- Community Paramedics
- Paramedic School
- 5th Medic Unit
- BLS Allocation

