

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT
Between
North Whatcom Fire and Rescue
And
Whatcom County Emergency Medical Services/Whatcom County
Paramedic Training Program

Whatcom County Emergency Medical Services, (hereinafter the "County"), and North Whatcom Fire and Rescue, (hereinafter the "District"), in consideration of the mutual covenants herein, agree as follows:

- I. **Purpose:** This Agreement is meant to provide paramedic training for up to two (2) North Whatcom Fire and Rescue Firefighter/EMT's in the 2021 Paramedic Training class administered by the Bellingham Fire Department (BFD), accreditation affiliation with Bellingham Technical College (College), funded by the Whatcom County EMS Levy.
- II. **Program Administration:** It is understood that the County and the District shall be responsible for the direct supervision of their respective employees and that nothing in this Agreement will interfere with the employer/employee relationship or the functioning of the District or County herein named. In compliance with applicable law and State records guidelines, both parties will maintain documentation and/or records relevant to the program in this Agreement.
- III. **Financial Responsibility:** The 2021 Paramedic Training Program is paid for by the Whatcom County Countywide Emergency Medical Services Fund. The County shall reimburse District for the wages and benefits of the paramedic students while they are in the training class and up to 50% of the eligible sick leave accruals banked at the time of graduation and the employee is transferred to the ALS agency. County will provide reimbursement to District not to exceed \$236,000, as presented in Exhibit A "Budget". District will invoice the County monthly for actual wages and benefits of the students, supported by general ledger detail.
- IV. **Program Sponsorship:** The College shall be the sponsoring institution and, as such, the program will operate within the College's appropriate policies and procedures.
- V. **Program Approval:** The paramedic training 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).
- VI. **Responsibilities of the District:**
 - A. Provide recommendation for enrollment of student into Paramedic Training by the

Fire Chief and the respective Department's Medical Program Director.

- B. Obtain concurrence from the College, County, Paramedic Training Medical Program Director and BFD for the selection of qualified EMT's for enrollment in the Paramedic Training program.
- C. Provide weekly or monthly, depending on need, direct leadership liaison with Paramedic Training Lead Instructor for the purposes of monitoring student progress and activities.

VII. Responsibilities of the County:

- A. Secure budget authority from the Whatcom County Council to fund the 2021 program costs for paramedic training as presented in Exhibit A.
- B. Participate as a member of the Paramedic Program Advisory Committee.

VIII. Objectives of Paramedic Training Course:

- A. Paramedic Training will provide the pre-requisite (60-hour/ 5 Credit) Anatomy and Physiology Course through a combination of online and laboratory learning.
- B. Paramedic Training will provide approximately 1300 clinical hours to the Paramedic Candidate which includes working on Whatcom County ALS units under the supervision of experienced paramedics known as "preceptors." Students generally see about 500 patients when working on the ALS units. In addition, these clinical hours 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 learning experience. Students average about 150 IV's and about 20 Intubations during this time.
- C. Paramedic Training will provide 650 classroom hours for both didactic and simulation lab learning.
- D. Provide weekly or monthly, depending on need, progress reports to the District liaison. North Whatcom Fire and Rescue:
Chief Jason Vanderveen, P.O. 286 Lynden, WA 98264 (360) 318-9933
jvanderveen@nwfrs.com
- E. Provide Paramedic Student Evaluations (Approximately 20).
- F. Provide Physician-Level Evaluations for certification.
- G. 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 Training 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.

X. Program Administration:

College Supervisor: Julie Samms, Associate Dean, Bellingham Technical College, 3028 Lindbergh Ave., Bellingham, WA, 98225, (360) 752-8316, jsamms@btc.edu

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

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

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

Paramedic Lead Instructor: Capt. Rob Stevenson, 1800 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225. rstevenson@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. Each party shall insure its own employees.

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 _____, 2021, for North Whatcom Fire and Rescue

District Approval:

Jason Vanderveen, Fire Chief

EXECUTED, this _____ day of _____, 2021, for Whatcom County:

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Approved as to Form:

Christopher Quinn per email 03/22/21
Office of Prosecuting Attorney, Civil Division

Exhibit 'A' BUDGET

Student Tuition Costs

	DESCRIPTION	COST PER STUDENT
Student Wages and Benefits	Preceptor, Classroom and Lab Hours	\$107,000
50% Sick Leave Transfer	Employer Transfer of Sick Leave based on actuals	\$11,000 (year-end estimate)
Total per student		\$118,000
GRAND TOTAL	Two Students	\$236,000