



WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM THE DESK OF COUNCILMEMBER CAROL FRAZEY

TO: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM: COUNCLMEMBER CAROL FRAZEY

DATE: AUGUST 3, 2022

RE: ORDINANCE AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE SECTION 5.04 TO ADDRESS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION ON THE EMS OVERSIGHT BOARD AND EMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND TO DEFINE THE PROCESS AND ELEMENTS OF AN EMS LEVY SERVICE PLAN (AB2022-451)

The proposed code amendments include changes to the EMS Oversight Board and EMS Technical Advisory Board, as well as the addition of a section on the EMS Levy and Levy Planning Committee.

This ordinance amendment focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts related to the EMS Oversight Board and Technical Advisory Committee. This includes the following:

- Two new members on the EMS Oversight Board to represent diversity, equity and inclusion,
- Consideration of diversity, equity and inclusion in decision-making by the EMS Oversight Board and the Technical Advisory Committee,
- Establishing that the EMS Oversight Board is subject to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW.

Additionally, the amendment memorializes the process followed to create the 2023-2029 Levy Service Plan with the addition of the following:

- County Council review of the draft plan prior to the EMS Oversight Board's endorsement,
- A section on diversity, equity and inclusion in the levy service plan with a description of activities and strategies,
- Annually tracking demographics of staff, applicants, and training program participants to assess progress,
- Two members on the Levy Planning Committee representing diversity, equity and inclusion,
- EMS Oversight Board will provide an annual review of the Levy Service Plan and current and future revenues and expenses of the EMS Levy.

The ordinance amendment addresses sections 5.04.080 EMS Oversight Board and 5.04.085 EMS Technical Advisory Board. It does not review any sections of this chapter that relate to ambulances. The EMS Manager and Executive will review and update these sections in the future. Section 5.04.100 Violation – Penalties was moved to Section 5.04.075 so as to not apply to sections on EMS Oversight Board or EMS Technical Advisory Board.