

Whatcom County
Emergency Medical Services Administration
1500 N. State Street, Suite 205, Box 5
Bellingham, WA 98225



To: Whatcom County Council
From: Deborah Arthur, EMS Manager
Through: Kayla Schott-Bresler, Deputy Executive
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
Date: May 14th, 2026
Subject: Follow-Up: EMS Presentation – May 26 County Council Meeting

Dear Councilmembers,

As a follow-up to our November 14, 2025 commitment regarding fiscal accountability and a comprehensive EMS system assessment, I want to confirm that the EMS system will be presenting several topics at your May 26th, 2026 Council meeting.

Proposed agenda items include:

- **Financial Update (D Arthur)**
 - End of 2025 actuals vs. projections
 - Cost Cutting Measures
 - Updated reserve policy
 - Core Financial Risks
- **EMS Governance and Membership (D Arthur)**
 - Update
- **Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) (Chief Russell, WCFD7)**
 - Overview of the three payment components and how they are determined
 - Timing of payments and reconciliation lag
 - Long-term sustainability considerations
- **Dispatch (time permitting) (D Arthur)**
 - Prospect and What-Comm overview
 - Expected costs to the EMS system

We appreciate your continued partnership and look forward to the discussion.

Sincerely,

Deborah Arthur