

Resolution No. 1055

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNTYWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) LEVY, PURSUANT TO RCW 84.52.069

WHEREAS, EMS is a complex, coordinated response and emergency medical care system, that requires people and agencies, to perform an essential role as part of a coordinated, and seamless system of emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, the EMS system has evolved over 40 years, and has transitioned into a tiered level of service; and

WHEREAS, Fire districts and agencies provide first responder services and Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service and Bellingham Fire Department, and Fire District 7 provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance service; and

WHEREAS, the Countywide Emergency Medical Service system serves all of Whatcom County including Bellingham, Blaine, Ferndale, Everson, Lynden, Nooksack, and Sumas; and

WHEREAS, the existing EMS property tax levy is due to expire at the end of 2022; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are essential to the people in our community, and stable funding is a practical solution for providing EMS services at current levels, meeting future demands, and sustaining the system into the future; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Emergency Medical System Oversight Board (EOB) recommended a funding strategy and levy rate that will support and sustain a countywide EMS system; and

WHEREAS, the EOB formally endorsed the same 29½ cent EMS levy that was proposed six years ago; and

WHEREAS, the EOB formally endorsed a plan that will maintain and enhance the current level of service and continue the programs currently in place through 2029. These include:

- ALS and BLS services for local fire and emergency response departments.
- Programs that support functions and services across the entire EMS system.
- Maintaining sustainable reserves.
- Providing the funding for five ALS Units.
- Providing BLS support through training programs, equipment exchange program, a common Electronic Patient Care Reporting Software, and direct funding to districts for BLS expenses.

- Continues an administrative support system to manage the system effectively and efficiently.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lynden City Council that it supports the passage of the 2022 EMS levy on the November ballot which provides for long term, stable and dedicated funding for countywide Emergency Medical Services.

APPROVED this 17th day of October, 2022.

MAYOR SCOTT KORTHUIS

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK PAMELA D. BROWN

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT A. CARMICHAEL