

Utility Board Meeting

EMS Rate Updates

October 28, 2025



Agenda

1. 2026 EMS Rate Update
 - Background
 - Primary Drivers
2. Staff Recommendation
3. Questions

EMS Rate History

❑ **Originated in 1996**

- ❑ Tied to the average budgeted salary and benefit costs of four Firefighters.
- ❑ Additional hires increased the capacity to handle simultaneous Emergency Medical Service calls during high-call demand.

❑ **The current rate structure was implemented during the 2011-2012 biennium**

- ❑ A flat rate structure with the same rate for each customer class.

EMS Rate Update

- ❑ **Primary Driver**

- ❑ Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)

- ❑ CPI-W Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue June measurement.

2026 EMS Rate Recommendation

- ❑ Staff recommends an increase of 4.97 percent from 2025 rates.
- ❑ Single-family bill impact: \$0.58 every other month in 2026

Customer Class	Bi-Monthly Charge		\$ Change	% Change
	2025	2026		
Single Family Residential	\$1168	\$12.26	\$0.58	4.97%
Multi-Family Residential	\$1168	\$12.26	\$0.58	4.97%





Questions

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CPI-W Historical Rate Increases

EMS Rate Increase*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
CPI-W First Half	0.50%	2.30%	3.20%	3.60%	2.20%	1.90%	3.30%	8.60%	6.50%	4.20%
CPI-W June	1.10%	2.00%	3.00%	3.60%	1.70%	1.00%	6.30%	9.50%	4.50%	3.60%

**CPI-W percentages are shown as the year they are applied to but are measurements of the prior year (i.e., 2016 = 2015's measurement).*