



City Council Agenda Bill

20067

Bill Number

Subject: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Contract Proposal

Summary Statement: On 7/23/13 County Council directed the County Executive to initiate contract negotiations with the City of Bellingham for three paramedic ambulance to be provided by the City and one paramedic ambulance to be provided by Fire District 7. In addition the Council asked for continuation of the City's EMS supervisor (EMS-6) and requested two year contracts be negotiated.

Previous Council Action: 2012 City/County Joint Resolution

Fiscal Impact: The proposed contract would be to supply the three paramedic ambulance for \$4,426,533 plus an additional \$180,000 to supply the 24/7 EMS supervisor. All user fees collected for work done by the funded ambulance/supervisor would be remitted to the County held EMS fund. Additionally the proposal increases the City General Fund Contribution from the budgeted 2014 \$1,078,452 to \$1,125,000.

Funding Source: General Fund and contract for service.

Attachments: Joint Resolution 2012-13

Meeting Activity	Meeting Date	Staff Recommendation	Presented By	Time
Committee Briefing Council Direction Requested	05-Aug-2013	Provide Direction to Staff	Roger Christensen	10

Council Committee:
Public Works / Public Safety
Stan Snapp, Chair
Terry Bornemann; Gene Knutson

Committee Actions:

Council Action:

Agenda Bill Contact:
Roger Christensen

Reviewed By	Initials	Date
Fire Chief		
John Carter	<i>JC</i>	7/30/13
Legal		
Mayor	<i>PMA KL/ML</i>	7/30/13

Working Together for County Wide Emergency Medical Services

Jack Louws, County Executive
Whatcom County
311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 676-6717

Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham
210 Lottie Street
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Joint Resolution

Whatcom County Council No. 2012-016
Bellingham City Council No. 2012-13

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM AND WHATCOM COUNTY ADOPTING THE JOINTLY RECOMMENDED BUSINESS MODEL FOR COUNTY WIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2010 Whatcom County Council resolved to send a notification letter to the City of Bellingham to discontinue the existing Interlocal Agreement regarding Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Provision of Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance Service; and

WHEREAS, stakeholders of the current EMS system were tasked with the responsibility of developing a "model" of a single, unified countywide EMS system with a countywide administrative component which addresses the following tenets outlined in Whatcom County Resolution 2010-052:

1. Training and implementation of new paramedics, as needed with population and call volume growth, that does not carry a single-agency employment or union membership requirement unless appropriate for a given fire district based upon its existing employment practices.
2. Assignment of paramedic responder duties, as well as transport of patients at all "levels" of response including Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life (ALS), in a manner that can be served by any responding fire agency in Whatcom County as agreed upon through a coordinated and centrally-administered plan.
3. An EMS system granting equal representation and cooperation between and among all county fire districts and city fire departments
4. A "component" approach to administration of a system which may consist of EMS responder unit components, as well as a training component, an invoicing and collections component, and other operational components as needed
5. System-wide unification through an active EMS Administrative Board oversight, with regular reporting and accountability requirements directed to the Whatcom County council as needed; and

WHEREAS, an EMS policy committee was formed by both Councils, ensuring equitable representation of the City of Bellingham (COB) and the County, and the policy committee appointed subcommittees to address the issues listed above; and

WHEREAS, one of the subcommittees formed was the Business Model Subcommittee that was tasked with developing an EMS Business Model recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Business Model Subcommittee met on numerous occasions and drafted a business model recommendation for both councils' consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Bellingham and the County Executive accepted the business plan recommendation, with modifications, as outlined below:

MEDIC ONE OVERSIGHT BOARD

To ensure transparency and equity of EMS oversight, administration and management a business model is recommended that includes the establishment of an Oversight Board of 9 voting members with a 7 member quorum. The Oversight Board is to be represented by the following:

County Executive	Bellingham City Mayor
County Council Member	Bellingham City Council Member
Medical Community Citizen Representative	
Financial/Budget Citizen Representative	
County Fire Commissioner	
Citizen at Large (Bellingham)	
Small City Mayor	

The County and City Councils will appoint their respective Representative. The Financial/Budget Citizen Representative and Medical Community Citizen Representative will be appointed jointly by both the Executive and Mayor. The small city mayors will appoint the Small City Mayor representative. The Bellingham Mayor will appoint the Bellingham Citizen at Large Representative. The County Fire Commissioners Association will appoint the County Fire Commissioner. The Oversight Board is responsible for making all operational and financial recommendations to both councils. The Oversight Board will meet at least quarterly to review and make recommendations, as needed, to both City and County Councils regarding administration, operations, levels of service, and EMS financial reporting. Beyond the overall operations review, the Oversight Board will be primarily responsible for framing the ongoing vision of a unified EMS system.

The Oversight Board's role, composition, and staffing will be defined into an interlocal agreement, and/or appropriate legislative enactments. The City and County Councils retain full legislative authority, including authority with respect to interlocal contracting which will address, administrative, operational and financial matters.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Technical Advisory Board (TAB) will be responsible for assisting with the planning and delivery of the ALS service, and those components of the basic life support system (BLS) impacted by ALS service. The TAB will provide recommendations and information on operational, educational and logistical components of the ALS programs to the Oversight Board. The TAB will consist of members of the fire and medical services community with expertise in specific areas as follows:

County Fire District (1)	Bellingham Fire Department (1)
County Administration (1)	COB Administration (1)
Hospital Representative (1)	Medical Program Director (1)
ALS service providers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatcom County Fire District 7 (1) • Bellingham Fire Department (1) 	
What-Comm Center (1)	
Paramedic Training Education provider (1)	
Whatcom County EMS Council (1)	

The County Executive will appoint the TAB members representing County Administration. The City of Bellingham Mayor will appoint the TAB members representing the Bellingham Fire Department and City of Bellingham Administration. As ALS service providers, Fire District 7 and Bellingham Fire Department will each appoint one (1) TAB member. The Whatcom County Fire Commissioners Association will appoint one (1) TAB member. The EMS Council shall appoint one (1) TAB member. The County Executive and City of Bellingham Mayor will jointly appoint one (1) Hospital-Medical community member. The TAB's role, composition, and staffing will be incorporated into an interlocal agreement, and/or appropriate legislative enactments.

EMS SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

The County shall contract for ALS/EMS System Administration. The County and City will negotiate a contract for the City to provide ALS/EMS System Administration services for the initial contract term. Agencies under contract and receiving County EMS funds shall report to the Oversight Board for administrative and operational issues related to countywide ALS/EMS coordination and service delivery. The contract for ALS/EMS System Administration services will include all components related to central administration, including ambulance billing, medical direction, paramedic training, ongoing paramedic education and recertification, central purchasing, and/or operational ALS paramedic care. EMS Administration will work with the TAB in developing broad scope operational procedures and policies for seamless delivery of paramedic services throughout Whatcom County. EMS Administration shall regularly produce reports and analysis of system performance. The EMS Administration shall coordinate with the TAB and Oversight Board to develop recommendations for a plan for stabilizing the EMS system that will serve all of Whatcom County now and into the future. The recommended plan will include reliable funding and consistent service based on defined levels of service.

ALS SERVICE PROVIDERS

The County shall contract with ALS Service providers. The County and City will negotiate a contract with Bellingham and Ferndale/District 7 service providers under the direction of the EMS Administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council and Bellingham City Council request that the County Executive and City of Bellingham Mayor:

1. Collaborate, negotiate, and execute initial contracts for EMS Administration and ALS system providers, consistent with the tenets contained herein and thereafter,

2. Take appropriate action to establish and to appoint an Oversight Board and Technical Advisory Board as outlined herein, to be submitted to the Whatcom County and Bellingham City Councils for confirmation and execution, and development of mid-range and long range plans for a sustainable and unified EMS system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the timeline goal for completing the required contracts, agreements, legislative actions, and board appointments shall be January 1, 2013, with understanding that full implementation of contract provisions occur no later than January 1, 2014. Until such time, the existing 2007 EMS Interlocal agreement between the City of Bellingham and the County remains in full effect.


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the County Executive and City of Bellingham Mayor recommend for approval by both Councils the EMS Business Model as outlined above to include the creation of the EMS Oversight and Technical Advisory Boards, responsible for developing a sustainable and unified EMS System plan.

FOR WHATCOM COUNTY:

Passed by Council this 5th day of June, 2012



Kathy Kershner, Council Chair


ATTEST
Dana Brown-Davies, Clerk of the Council

Approved as to Form:

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

FOR THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM:

Passed by Council this 4th day of June, 2012


Council President

APPROVED by me this 8th day of June, 2012.


MAYOR KELLI LINVILLE

Finance Director
ATTEST



Office of the City Attorney
Approved as to Form

