

2020-2025 Medic One/EMS Strategic Plan & Levy Reauthorization Process

September 2018 update to the *EMS Advisory Task Force*

Overview:

Beginning January 2018, the region devoted a great deal of time and expertise toward developing a Strategic and Financial Plan (levy) for King County voters to renew in 2019. This all-inclusive process brought together regional leaders, decision-makers and stakeholders to collaboratively develop programmatic and financial recommendations regarding EMS services for 2020 and beyond.

In late May 2018, the *EMS Advisory Task Force* reviewed the **Draft Programmatic Recommendations** and supporting **Financial Plan**. *Task Force* members were receptive to the work presented, and encouraged the subcommittees to proceed with their next steps. Conversation focused on ensuring the Financial Plan could sustain a possible economic downturn, and the Finance Subcommittee was charged with confirming that the proposed reserve funding was adequate and appropriate.

Since that meeting, all four subcommittees have finalized their recommendations – priorities were solidified; budgets refined; and assurances made that the EMS system would be protected under different economic circumstances. On July 31, 2018, the Finance Subcommittee recommended forwarding the **Updated Programmatic Recommendations and Financial Plan** that is based on a **six-year, 27-cent EMS levy** to the *EMS Advisory Task Force* for its consideration and adoption.*

Highlights of the Updated Recommendations:

The proposed **27-cent levy rate** supports a six-year budget of **\$1.115 billion** that:

- Assures that ALS, BLS and Regional Services programmatic needs will be met:
 - Continued full funding of eligible ALS costs; placeholder for the equivalent of a new 1.0 unit if service demands increase beyond what is anticipated;
 - Equitable BLS funding with more streamlined administration; new funding to continue to explore Mobile Integrated Healthcare models to address community needs; and
 - Maintained regional programs that support the system; continued focus on improving patient care and outcomes.
- Rolls \$20 million of 2014-2019 reserves into 2020-2025 reserves for additional security;
- Addresses the *Task Force's* concerns to protect the system from unforeseen financial risk;
- Continues with conservative financial policies and processes that provide stability; and
- Incorporates policies that provide additional protection and flexibility, including the ability to direct balances into reserves, or buy down a future levy rate.

* The July Financial Plan has been updated to reflect the August 2018 financial forecast. This has resulted in a \$5 million revenue increase, and slight expenditure increase, but still a 27-cent levy rate.

MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS)

- **CONTINUE USING** the unit allocation to fund ALS, but with slight revisions to better ensure full funding.
- **INCLUDE A "PLACE HOLDER"** in the Financial Plan to protect the system, should service demands require additional units over the span of the 2020-2025 levy.
- **EXPLORE OPTIONS** regionally to address paramedic workforce needs and increase operational efficiencies through regional collaboration.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS)

- **CONTINUE PROVIDING** the BLS allocation to help offset costs of providing EMS services.
- **CONSOLIDATE** BLS funding awards into a single allocation and contract to streamline and minimize the time, effort, and expense of administering BLS funding; earmark use for specific activities in the contract.
- **DISTRIBUTE** the allocation using a methodology that more accurately reflects agencies' current assessed valuation and service levels. **ADD FUNDING** to ensure consistency in the first year.
- **COMMIT** to exploring a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) model to address community needs.
 - > **ALLOCATE \$4 million** a year of levy funding for MIH;
 - > **DISTRIBUTE** the first year of MIH funding to agencies using the same methodology as the BLS allocation; inflate in future years; and
 - > **ESTABLISH** guidelines to create consistency around data collection, measures and program reporting.

REGIONAL SERVICES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- **CONTINUE** delivering programs that provide essential support to the system.
- **MAINTAIN** regional focus on creating additional efficiencies and system effectiveness to improve patient care and outcomes.
- **RESUME AND DEVELOP** Strategic Initiatives that leverage previous investments made by the region to improve patient care and outcomes.

FINANCE

- **SUPPORT** financial policies that provide stability to the system by:
 - > **Adapting** existing reserve policies to meet King County financial policies
 - > **Incorporating** sufficient reserves to mitigate unforeseen financial risk; and
 - > **Pursuing** an EMS levy length that ensures sufficient funding.
- **RECOMMEND** forwarding the Financial Plan that supports a six year budget of \$1.115 billion with a 27-cent EMS levy to the *EMS Advisory Task Force* for consideration and adoption.