

Medic One/EMS Advisory Task Force

Medic One/EMS Strategic Plan & Levy Reauthorization

Thursday, September 26, 2024

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/82774089750>

Meeting ID: 827 7408 9750

Passcode: 136442

Agenda

- **Opening Remarks & Introductions** (15 minutes)
*Karan Gill, Chief of Staff to King County Executive
Dow Constantine*
- **Subcommittee Recommendations** (20 minutes)
Advanced Life Support – *Keith Scully, Shoreline City Councilmember*
Basic Life Support – *Armondo Pavone, Mayor of Renton*
Regional Services – *Adrian Sheppard, Redmond Fire Chief*
- **Financial Recommendations & Discussion** (40 minutes)
Financial Plan and Sensitivity Analysis “What If” scenarios -
*Drew Pounds, Executive Budget Analyst, King County Office of
Performance, Strategy & Budget*
Finance Recommendations – *Jay Hagen, Bellevue Fire Chief*
- **Levy Issues Discussion** (40 minutes)
Karan Gill
 - ✓ Length
 - ✓ Ballot timing
 - **Rate**
- **Next steps and other items** (5 minutes)
Karan Gill

EMS Advisory Task Force for the 2026-2031 levy planning process

	Name	Organization	Representation Category
1	Karan Gill	Chief of Staff to King County Executive Dow Constantine	King County Executive
2	Reagan Dunn	Councilmember, King County	King County Council
3	Tom Goff	Director of Local and Regional Affairs, King County Council	King County Council
4	Brad Thompson	Fire Chief, Valley Regional Fire Authority, representing the City of Auburn	Cities over 50,000 in population
5	Lynne Robinson	Mayor, City of Bellevue	Cities over 50,000 in population
6	Kevin Schilling	Mayor, City of Burien	Cities over 50,000 in population
7	Jim Ferrell	Mayor, City of Federal Way	Cities over 50,000 in population
8	Brian Carson	Fire Chief, Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, representing the City of Kent	Cities over 50,000 in population
9	Penny Sweet	Councilmember, City of Kirkland	Cities over 50,000 in population
10	Angela Birney	Mayor, City of Redmond	Cities over 50,000 in population
11	Armondo Pavone	Mayor, City of Renton	Cities over 50,000 in population
12	Karen Howe	Deputy Mayor, City of Sammamish	Cities over 50,000 in population
13	Harold Scoggins	Fire Chief, City of Seattle	Cities over 50,000 in population
14	Keith Scully	Councilmember, City of Shoreline	Cities over 50,000 in population
15	Vic Kave	Mayor, City of Pacific	Cities under 50,000 in population
16	Catherine Cotton	Councilmember, City of Snoqualmie	Cities under 50,000 in population
17	Sean Kelly	Mayor, City of Maple Valley	Cities under 50,000 in population
18	Don Gentry	Fire Commissioner, Mountain View Fire & Rescue	King County Fire Commissioners
19	Anita Sandall	Fire Commissioner, Eastside Fire & Rescue	King County Fire Commissioners
20	Jenny Jones	Fire Commissioner, Enumclaw Fire Dept	King County Fire Commissioners

2026-2031 Medic One/EMS Strategic Plan & Levy Reauthorization Process

September 2024 update to the *EMS Advisory Task Force*

Overview:

Since February 2024, the region has devoted a great deal of time and expertise to develop a Strategic Plan and supporting levy for King County voters to renew in 2025. This all-inclusive process has brought together regional leaders, decisionmakers and EMS partners to collaboratively develop programmatic and financial recommendations regarding EMS services for 2026 and beyond.

In late May 2024, the *EMS Advisory Task Force* was updated on how each subcommittee was moving forward with developing its recommendations. *Task Force* members were receptive to the work presented and encouraged the subcommittees to proceed with their next steps. The *Task Force* was interested in keeping with tradition and endorsed pursuing a six-year levy to be run at the General election in 2025, unless the King County Parks levy were also run at that same time. If that were the case, the EMS levy would be run at the Primary election.

Since that meeting, all four subcommittees have finalized their recommendations. On September 11, 2024, the Finance Subcommittee recommended forwarding the **Updated Initial Proposed Recommendations and Financial Plan** that is based on a **six-year, 25-cent EMS levy** to the *EMS Advisory Task Force* for its consideration and adoption.

Highlights of the Updated Recommendations:

- 25 cent levy rate estimated to raise nearly \$1.5 billion over six years;
- Assurances that ALS, BLS and Regional Services programmatic needs will be met:
 - Continues full funding of eligible ALS costs, including a placeholder for a new medic unit if service demands increase beyond the current number of units;
 - Significantly increases funding for BLS and the Mobile Integrated Healthcare program to address community needs; and
 - Maintains regional programs that support the system; continues focus on improving patient care and outcomes.
- Carry forward of \$64 million (\$29.7 million Supplemental and \$34.7 million Rainy Day) of 2020-2025 reserves to help reduce the starting levy rate; and
- Sufficient reserves to protect the system from unforeseen financial risk.

Financial Plan Summary based on August forecast assuming a 25.0 cent levy

Financial Plan Summary
2026-2031 EMS Levy: Updated Proposed

Expenditures & Reserves	Total <i>(in millions)</i>
Total Expenditures	\$1,438.0
Reserves (Programmatic & Rainy Day)	\$68.3
TOTAL Expenditures & Reserves	\$1,506.3
2026-2031 Property Tax Forecast	\$1,470.8
Other Revenues (KC EMS Fund)	\$17.5
Carryforward from 2020-2025	\$64.4
TOTAL Revenues	\$1,552.7
Funds available for KC Supplemental/Economic reserves	\$46.4

(Note: Based on August forecast assuming a 25.0 cent levy)

MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

ALS Subcommittee Report to the EMS Advisory Task Force (9/26/2024)

(Reflects decisions made at 6/12/24 ALS meeting)

Recommendations made by the Subcommittee:

1. **Continue using the ALS allocation** to determine ALS costs.
 - It is designed to include eligible ALS-related operating expenses to prevent cost-shifting to providers.
 - This methodology creates an even playing field and acknowledges that every agency has different cost structures and cost pressures.
 - Annually inflate the Unit, Supervisory and System allocations at CPI-W + 1%, and the Equipment allocation by the appropriate vehicle PPI.

2. **Establish a “place holder”** in the Financial Plan to potentially fund a 12-hour unit in the 3rd (2028) and 5th (2030) years of the levy.
 - This will help protect the system should new units need to be added over the next levy span.

3. **Continue to use reserves and contingencies** to cover costs that fall outside the allocation. Simplify ALS reserves into two categories:
 - a. ALS Supplemental Capacity Reserves, which includes a unit “placeholder” and funding for paramedic facility moves and improvements; and
 - b. ALS Equipment Reserves.

4. **Continue contracting with Sky Valley Fire** (Snohomish County Fire District 26) to provide ALS services to Skykomish/KCFD 50 for the 2026-2031 levy span.

5. **Continue support for the two ALS-based programs** that support the region.
 - a. Sufficiently fund the ALS Support for BLS Activities program without supplemental BLS Training & QI monies (included in BLS budget).
 - b. Continue funding paramedics to train paramedic students at Harborview’s Paramedic Training program (included in Regional Services budget).

MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

BLS Subcommittee Report to the *EMS Advisory Task Force* (9/26/2024)

(Reflects decisions made at the 8/15/24 BLS meeting)

Recommendations made by the Subcommittee:

1. **INCREASE total BLS funding** by at least \$3 million in the first year of the levy with the opportunity to increase up to \$5 million in the first year if that can be done within a 26.5 cent levy rate.
 - a. 60% of this funding will go into the BLS Basic Allocation.
 - b. 40% of this funding will go into Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH).
2. **INFLATE funding annually** at CPI-W + 1%.
3. **INCORPORATE** the BLS Training & QI program funding into the BLS Basic Allocation. Remove requirements that this funding be spent on training and QI activities.
4. **DISTRIBUTE NEW BLS funding and annual increases** using a more equitable distribution methodology of 60% call volume/40% AV. Do not reset the first year of levy funding.
5. **SUPPORT mental wellness and ERSJ/DEI efforts** proposed by the King County Fire Chiefs Association.
6. **DEVELOP exceptions for the use of MIH restricted funds** for those agencies unable to fully expend their MIH funding.

MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

Regional Services Subcommittee Report to the EMS Advisory Task Force (9/26/24)

(Reflects decisions made at the 6/20/24 Regional Services meeting)

Recommendations made by the Subcommittee:

1. **CONTINUE delivering programs** that provide essential support to the system.
Such programs and services focus on superior medical training, oversight and improvement, innovation and effectiveness, and strengthening community interactions and partnerships.

2. **ENHANCE programs** to meet regional needs:
 - Expand regional Initial EMT training
 - Renew Telephone Referral Program
 - Convert STRIVE into an ongoing regional service

3. **MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP Strategic Initiatives** that leverage previous investments made by the region to improve patient care and outcomes:
 - Vulnerable Populations Initiative → ECHO
 - AEIOU Quality Improvement Initiative → PRIME
 - Emergency Medical Dispatch
 - King County Fire Chiefs Association Mental Wellness & ERSJ/DEI proposals

MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

Finance Subcommittee Report to the *EMS Advisory Task Force* (9/26/24)

(Reflects decisions made at the 9/11/24 Finance meeting)

Recommendations made by the Subcommittee:

1. **Conduct a risk analysis** to determine appropriate reserve funding to help safeguard the Medic One/EMS system from unforeseen financial risk.
2. **Support the programmatic recommendations** developed by the other subcommittees and the budgets that support the recommendations.
3. **Support the level of supplemental/economic reserves** included in the Updated Initial Proposed Financial Plan.
4. **Support forwarding the Updated Initial Proposed Financial Plan**, and a levy rate of 25 cents, to the *EMS Advisory Task Force* for its review and consideration.