

MEDIC ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN & LEVY REAUTHORIZATION

BLS Subcommittee meeting 8/15/2024

Summary

The BLS Subcommittee discussed and endorsed a total BLS funding recommendation for the 2026-2031 levy span.

Attendees

Chair: Armondo Pavone, City of Renton

Nate Blakeslee, Renton RFA

Cynthia Bradshaw, King County EMS Division

Helen Chatalas, King County EMS Division

Cat Cotton, City of Snoqualmie

Andrea Coulson, King County Medic One

Brian Culp, KCFD #27

Lisa Defenbaugh, South King Fire

Markisha Dixon, King County EMS Division

Becky Ellis, King County EMS Division

Jamie Formisano, Eastside Fire & Rescue

Matt Gao, TRIMED

Jay Hagen, Bellevue Fire

Jason Hammond, King County EMS Division

Cory James, NORCOM

Vic Kave, City of Pacific

Ben Lane, Eastside Fire & Rescue

Amy Moorhead, Redmond Fire

Eric Perry, City of Renton

Michele Plorde, King County EMS Division

Josh Pratt, Kirkland Fire

Tom Rea, King County EMS Division

Harold Scoggins, Seattle Fire

Adrian Sheppard, Redmond Fire

Brad Thompson, Valley RFA

Aaron Tyerman, Puget Sound RFA

Todd Wollum, Shoreline Fire

Issues discussed:

BLS funding

Overview:

The regional Medic One/EMS levy provides BLS agencies with funding to help offset the costs of providing EMS services. Agencies receive funding via the BLS Basic Allocation as well as through the BLS-specific programs of BLS Core Services, BLS Training & Quality Improvement, and Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH). The BLS Subcommittee is responsible for determining the BLS Allocation and programmatic funding levels for the next levy span.

Subcommittee members have voiced their interest in increasing total BLS funding levels for the 2026-2031 levy, particularly MIH. After reviewing five funding scenarios at its July 10th meeting, the Subcommittee requested that the EMS Division prepare documents showing:

- individual agency funding levels under **Option C** (which would add \$3 million new funding in the first year of levy); and
- different funding distribution percentages between the Basic Allocation and MIH for **Option C**.

Discussion and Decisions:

1. **BLS funding increase option:** Region partners reiterated that as inflation, population and BLS responsibilities increase, so should the compensation by the EMS levy to BLS. However, they also restated the need to balance the desire for increased funding with concerns about voter tax fatigue.
 - There was consensus to increase BLS funding by at least \$3 million in the first year of the new levy (Option C), with the opportunity to increase up to \$5 million in the first year (Option E) if that can be done within a 26.5 cent levy rate.

2. **BLS funding increase distribution:** Subcommittee members were asked how any increase in funding should be distributed to the different BLS programs – whether it should be added to the BLS Basic Allocation, the MIH program, or split between the two. BLS Basic Allocation funding can be spent on any BLS expense, while MIH funding is earmarked solely for MIH-related activities.
 - Consensus was reached in support of putting 60% of the new funding into the BLS Basic Allocation and 40% into the MIH program.
 - The EMS Division will work with the region to develop exceptions to the use of MIH restricted funds for those agencies unable to fully expend their MIH funding.

Next Steps

The EMS Division will determine the total BLS funding level based on the August 2024 financial forecast and share that information with the BLS Subcommittee. It will then bring the BLS Subcommittee's programmatic recommendations and Financial Plan to the Finance Subcommittee and *EMS Advisory Task Force* in September for review.

Recognizing that the Subcommittee has completed its tasks of developing BLS recommendations for the next levy span, **it was decided that the September 5, 2024, BLS Subcommittee meeting be canceled.** The October meeting will be kept as a placeholder in case the *EMS Advisory Task Force* requires additional work from the Subcommittee following its September 26th meeting.

8/15/2024 BLS Subcommittee meeting
2026-2031 Medic One/EMS levy planning

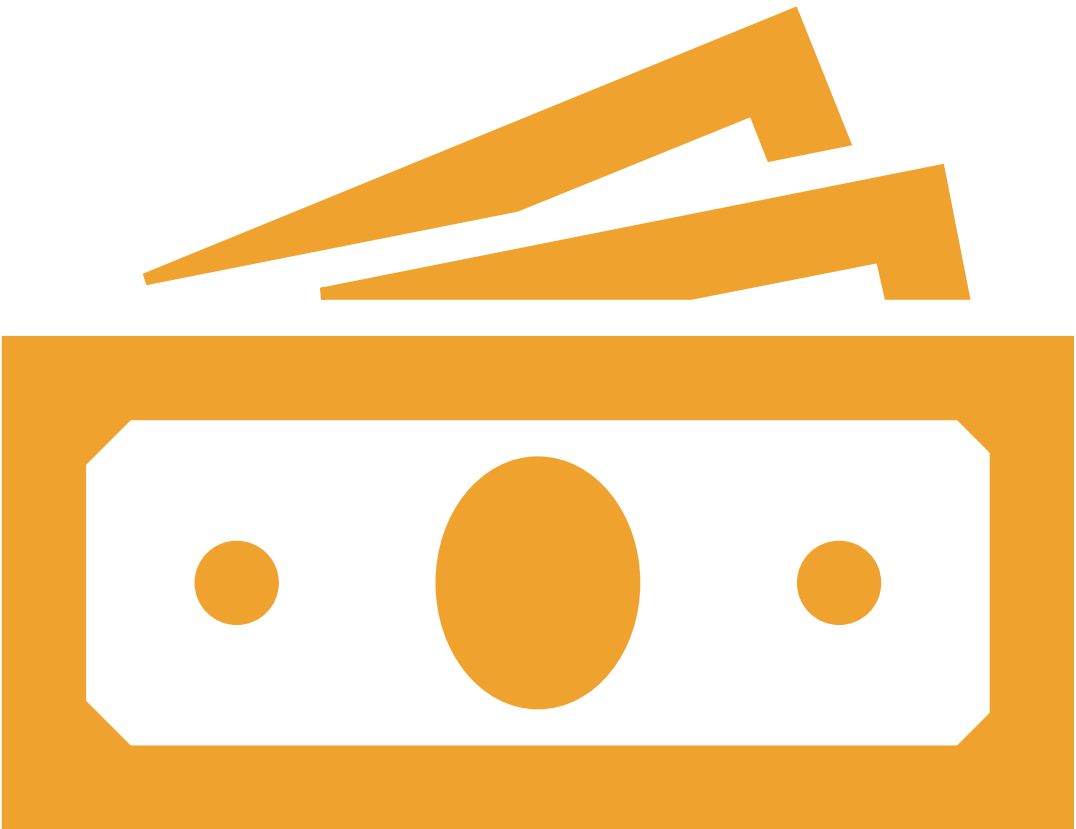
Topics for
discussion

TOPICS

1. BLS Funding Increase Options

2. BLS Funding Increase Distribution

BLS
FUNDING



DECISIONS FOR THE 2026-2031 LEVY SPAN

- 1. BLS funding distribution formula for all programs**
60 % call volume, 40% assessed valuation
Do not reset 1st year
Inflate funding annually by CPI-W + 1%
- 2. Increase total funding for MIH (amount tbd)**
- 3. Roll QI into BLS Basic Allocation**
- 4. Continue with BLS Core Services**
- 5. Total BLS funding level**

Initial
Proposed

INCREASE OPTIONS

Increase Options

	2026-31 PSQ	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
% of proposed levy	26.4%	26.9%	27.4%	28.0%	28.5%	29.0%
2026 Increase above PSQ		\$1 million	\$2 million	\$3 million	\$4 million	\$5 million
Initial proposed increase		\$6.6	\$13.2	\$19.8	\$26.4	\$33.0
PSQ Increase	\$57.3	\$57.3	\$57.3	\$57.3	\$57.3	\$57.3
2020-2025 Baseline	\$175.9	\$175.9	\$175.9	\$175.9	\$175.9	\$175.9
Total	\$233.3	\$239.9	\$246.4	\$253.0	\$259.6	\$266.2
% increase from 2020-25	32.6%	36.3%	40.1%	43.8%	47.6%	51.3%
<i>Levy Rate (cents)***</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>26.1</i>	<i>26.3</i>	<i>26.5</i>	<i>26.7</i>	<i>26.9</i>

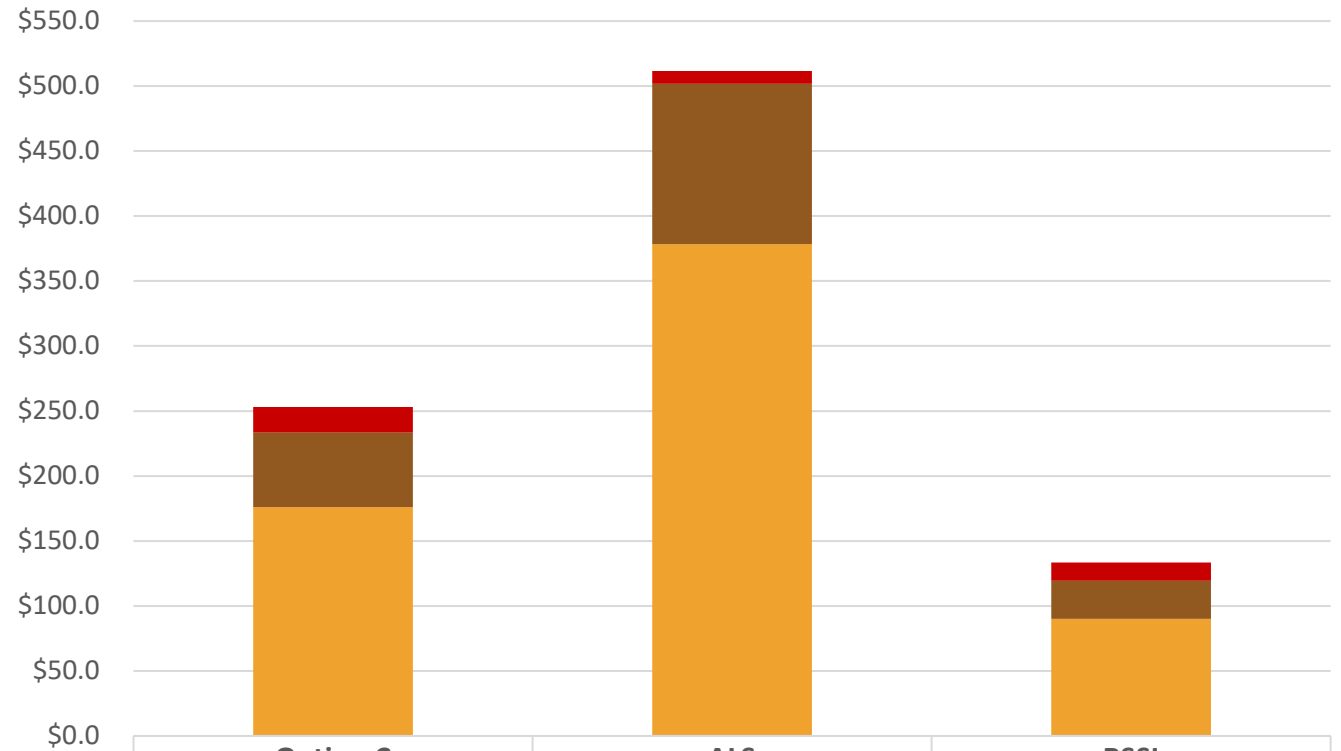
Initial Proposed Increases

ALS	\$9.8 m
RSSI	\$14.1 m

- 2026-2031 PSQ is 32.6% increase from 2020-2025 levy
- Option A matches BLS % of 2020-2025 planned levy
- Numbers in table do not include ALS Support for BLS Activities
- ***Levy rate information preliminary, could change based on future decisions and updated economic forecasts

Comparison to ALS and RSSI

Comparison BLS Options to ALS & RSSI (*\$s in millions*)



	Option C	ALS	RSSI
■ Initial proposed increase	\$19.8	\$9.8	\$14.1
■ PSQ Increase	\$57.3	\$123.4	\$29.2
■ 2020-2025 Baseline	\$175.9	\$378.4	\$90.1

Comparison to ALS and RSSI

	BLS Option C	ALS	RSSI
% of proposed levy	27.8%	56.5%	14.7%
2026 Increase above PSQ	\$3.0	\$1.5	\$2.0
Initial proposed increase	\$19.8	\$9.8	\$14.1
PSQ Increase	\$57.3	\$123.4	\$29.2
2020-2025 Baseline	\$175.9	\$378.4	\$90.1
Total	\$253.0	\$511.6	\$133.4
% increase from 2020-25	43.8%	32.5%	48.0%
<i>Levy Rate (cents)***</i>	<i>26.5</i>	<i>26.5</i>	<i>26.5</i>

- 2026-2031 PSQ is 33% increase from 2020-2025 levy
- Numbers in table do not include ALS Support for BLS Activities
- ***Levy rate information very preliminary and will change (based on July 2024 forecast)

Initial
Proposed

Increase
Option

Recommendation
to Task Force

Initial
Proposed

Distribution
Options

Distribute increased funding to:

- BLS Basic Allocation
- MIH

Distribution Options shown:

- 60% BLS Basic / 40% MIH
- 75% BLS Basic / 25% MIH

Initial
Proposed

Distribution
Options

Basic Information for Consideration

- 2026 numbers are theoretical / modeled
- No agency forecast receives less than previous year
- BLS Basic \$s can be used for any BLS related expense
- MIH \$s can only be used for EMS oriented MIH

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Initial
Proposed

Distribution
Options

Assumptions for all options

2025 allocations based on:

- 50/50 split between AV and Call Volume
- updated AV (2023 for 2024 tax year); 2023 calls
- actual June 2024 CPI-W

2026 allocations based on:

- 40/60 split between AV and Call Volume
- AV and call volumes from 2025 allocation
- Forecast CPI-W +1% at 4.46%

Initial
Proposed

Distribution
Option

Recommendation
to Task Force