



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Mary Hallman, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Fire Department
Toryono Green, Fire Chief
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution XXXXX – Amendment No. 2 to Pierce County Fire District 10 Interlocal Agreement
– December 13, 2022
DATE: November 28, 2022

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

Approving an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for Consolidation of Fire Department Operations and Facilities between Tacoma Fire Department and Pierce County Fire District 10 (FD10).

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s recommendation is based on the need to adjust the current deployment model of EMS resources within FD10 and within the City of Tacoma to best meet the needs of Tacoma Fire Department’s (TFD’s) tiered response system while also ensuring timely and appropriate EMS services in both response areas.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Community members within the City of Tacoma and FD10 will all potentially be impacted. TFD reviewed response data for all areas served by emergency services, to include response times and call volume experienced by each EMS resource. Data reveals that, by adjusting the current resource deployment model, Advanced Life Support (ALS) services will be improved in the Downtown, South, and East portions of the City of Tacoma as well as within the response zone of FD10.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

The number of ALS incidents in the Downtown, Southern, and Eastern portions of the City of Tacoma continue to rise while the availability of ALS resources within TFD remains unchanged. Relocating Medic Unit 3 from FD10 Station 12 (located in the City of Fife) to TFD Station 2 (located at S. 27th and Tacoma Avenue) will increase the ALS transport resources available to the areas in Tacoma that have proven most in need.

EMS services located within FD10 will also improve – with this amendment a Basic Life Support (BLS) transport company, staffed with two Firefighter-EMTs, will respond from Station 12. Also included in this amendment, a Firefighter-Paramedic will be positioned on Engine 12, also deploying from Station 12. Positioning the Firefighter-Paramedic on the engine company provides the opportunity for an ALS assessment of every EMS patient Engine 12 responds to and faster ALS interventions when necessary.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents
Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Changing the location of Medic 3 to the downtown core of Tacoma increases the availability of ALS transport companies proximal to the areas of the city with the highest EMS call volume. An increased availability of



advanced life support services in the areas of greatest need will result in more timely emergency medical responses, of the highest level of EMS services available to the community members who have the greatest needs. Having an increased number of medic units visible and available in the areas of the city which have the highest need, as well as receiving an ALS response more quickly than is currently available increases the positive public perception of, and the actual, safety and overall quality of life for Tacoma residents.

ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably, your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives or actions that City Council or staff could take. Please use table below.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Do not approve amendment and leave TFD deployment unchanged.	No positive impact provided if deployment is unchanged.	The increasing EMS needs in downtown, South, and East Tacoma are not met as efficiently as possible; Fire District 10 residents will bear the cost of private BLS transport as they are unable to apply their EMS levy to the cost of a private ambulance transport.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Evaluating the response times and the number of EMS incident responses by Medic companies 2, 3, 4, and 5 will indicate the level of success that the movement of Medic 3 has had on decreasing response times as well on balancing the workload for TFD ALS personnel. Evaluating the response times, transport times, and requests for ALS transport to FD10 service area will determine the effectiveness of the EMS resource allocation and fire station 12. Impacts will be reported to Council after Second Quarter 2023.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to approve the contract amendment to the Consolidation of Fire Department Operations and Facilities Contract with Pierce County Fire District 10. The Fire Commissioners from FD10 verbally agreed to sign the amendment at their October 10th Commissioners' Meeting. Upon presentation of this request to Council on December 13, commissioner signatures will have been obtained on the amendment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

NONE

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

The changes proposed in the amendment utilize existing personnel and transport vehicles, they are simply being reallocated.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

One attachment: Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for Consolidation of Fire Department Operations and Facilities (Currently unsigned. Signed copy will be available on 13 December 2022.