



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kathryn Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget
Andy Cherullo, Director of Finance
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance - Approve the EMS Tax Levy – November 15, 2022
DATE: October 26, 2022

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

The City of Tacoma is required by state law to annually approve the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy on property taxes. Staff recommends that the City Council authorize an \$112,483.62 increase from the previous year to the City’s EMS Levy amount for 2023, which is a percentage increase of 0.94045%.

BACKGROUND:

In order to increase the City’s highest lawful EMS levy, the City is required to pass an ordinance that authorizes the percent and dollar increase over the district’s actual levy from the previous year.

The City of Tacoma must take two actions to set the EMS property tax levy for 2023:

- Approve the total EMS levy amount to be collected – State law requires that the City adopt an ordinance that states how much in property taxes the City is requesting to collect in 2023.
- Approve the percentage and dollar increase over the prior year’s actual EMS levy – State law requires that the City Council approve a separate ordinance or resolution that states the percentage and dollar increase of this year’s levy request over the prior year’s actual levy. This action establishes the City’s highest allowable levy amount.

This ordinance will allow the EMS levy to be set at the highest allowable amount, \$12,073,041.41. The highest allowable levy is a 0.94045% and \$112,483.62 increase over the previous year’s actual levy including refunds of \$11,960,557.79.

The assessed values in the EMS property tax boundary have increased since 2012 and the current valuation is \$43,554,587,891.00. The current EMS levy rate is \$0.28 per \$1,000 in assessed value, which is lower than the maximum of \$0.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value. The revenue amount proposed is consistent with revenues budgeted in 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

A public hearing will be held on November 1, 2022.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility

The City’s budget is one of the most basic and important ways that we demonstrate our commitment to the community. In the budget development process, and with this Proposed Budget, we are honoring City Council Resolution No. 40622, which directs staff to keep anti-racism as a top priority in budget development and to prioritize anti-racism in the planning of an economic recovery strategy. Staff did this through a program and services review performed by the Office of Equity and Human Rights, and through adoption of the City’s first Departmental Racial Equity Action Plans.

ALTERNATIVES:

Pursuant to RCW 84.52.020 and RCW 84.52.070 the City of Tacoma is required to pass an ordinance to set the amount of revenue from the EMS property tax levy; therefore, staff has not identified an alternative. .

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The Office of Management and Budget will continue to produce reports for budget versus actuals in the 2023-2024 biennium and provide quarterly updates to City Council.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize an \$112,483.62 increase to the City’s actual EMS Levy amount from 2022, which is a percentage increase of 0.94045%

FISCAL IMPACT:

EMS property tax of \$12,073,041.41 is consistent with the property tax projected in the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget. With new construction and refunds, property tax is estimated at \$12,291,566.18 which is consistent with the property tax projected in the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget. In 2023, staff anticipated property tax revenues to be approximately \$12 million due to historical collection rates of 97.5%.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1155- TFD EMS Special Revenue Fund	609100 - TFD EMS Spec Rev	4311100 - Property Tax	\$11,984,277
TOTAL			\$11,984,277



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Revenues collected from Property tax and EMS

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

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

This Ordinance adopts expenditures and revenues for the next biennium.

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

YES

Failing to adopt the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget will result in the City being out of compliance with RCW 35.34.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

YES

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

NO