



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Toryono Green, Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department  
**COPY:** Government Performance and Finance Committee; Andy Cherullo, Finance Director  
**PRESENTER:** Teresa Green, Senior Business Services Manager, Tacoma Fire Finance Division  
**SUBJECT:** Request for Ordinance to amend Title 3 of the Municipal Code related to Emergency Medical Services  
**DATE:** November 21, 2023

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**

Request for Ordinance

**SUMMARY:**

The Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) is seeking approval of an ordinance amending Chapter 3.11 of the Municipal Code, relating to Emergency Medical Transportation, to restore the Emergency Medical Services levy and allow the levy to pay for medical transport charges incurred by qualified city residents, as passed by voters in Proposition 1 in the August 1, 2023 primary election.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Council unanimously approved placing Proposition 1 on the August 1, 2023 primary election ballot with Resolution 41180, asking voters to restore the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy to \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed property value (AV) and allow the levy to pay for charges incurred by qualified city residents for all TFD transports (not paid by third parties or insurers), including Basic Life Support. Prior to Proposition 1, the EMS Levy was at \$0.28/\$1,000 of AV and only Advanced Life Support charges could be covered. Tacoma voters approved the Proposition with a 67.44% approval.

That proposition included changing the use of the levy to cover all transport costs, both Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS). This action codifies the vote, to be effective in 2024 with the new levy collection.

**ISSUE:**

Chapter 3.11 of the Municipal Code must be updated to be effective in 2024 to align with the will of the voters in passing Proposition 1 on August 1, 2023.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

No alternatives as this action is required so that Tacoma Municipal Code will align with the approved voter proposition.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

ALS balances, after any third-party insurance or coverage payments, are already covered for Tacoma residents. This change would include BLS balances, after any third-party insurance or coverage. Currently, that is valued at approximately \$100,000 per year. This change would also keep over \$2.0M/year in BLS balances from being sent to a collections agency, as the levy can pay the balance and the patient will not owe after any third-party insurance or coverage.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

TFD's recommendation codifies the vote and intent of the voters.