



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management & Budget
Andrew Cherullo, Finance Director, Finance
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance – State the Dollar and Percent Increase of the EMS Tax Levy –
November 17, 2020
DATE: October 12, 2020

SUMMARY:

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 a \$70,062.80 increase from the previous year to the City’s EMS Levy amount for 2021, which is a percentage increase of 0.61343%.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

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.

ISSUE:

The City of Tacoma must take two actions to set the EMS property tax levy for 2021:

- 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 2021.
- 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, \$11,491,547.30. The highest allowable levy is a 1% increase over the highest levy since 1985, \$11,377,770 in 2020. The highest allowable levy is a 0.61343% and \$70,062.80 increase over the previous year’s actual levy of \$11,421,484.54.

The assessed values in the EMS property tax boundary have increased since 2012 and the current valuation is \$32,427,559,048. The current EMS levy rate is \$0.3597 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 2020.

ALTERNATIVES:

Pursuant to RCW 84.52.020 and RCW 84.52.070 the City of Tacoma is required to pass an ordinance to authorize the percent and dollar increase; therefore, staff has not identified an alternative.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize a \$70,062.80 increase to the City’s actual EMS Levy amount from 2020, which is a percentage increase of 0.61343%.



FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact. The fiscal impact note is included on the ordinance to approve the EMS levy.