



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Katie Johnston, Budget Officer
Andrew Cherullo, Finance Director
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance –Increase of the EMS Tax Levy – November 6, 2018
DATE: October 15, 2018

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 0.4822067% and \$51,672.27 increase to the City’s EMS actual levy amount from 2018.

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 2019:

- 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 2019.
- 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, \$10,767,464.62. The highest allowable levy is a 1% increase over the highest levy since 1985, \$10,660,856.06 in 2018. The highest allowable levy is a 0.4822067% and \$51,672.27 increase over the previous year’s actual levy of \$10,715,792.35.

The assessed values in the EMS property tax boundary have increased since 2012 and the current valuation is \$26,529,656,708. The revenue amount proposed is consistent with revenues budgeted in 2019.

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 0.4822067% and \$51,672.27 increase to the City’s EMS actual levy amount from 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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