



# Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy Lid Lift

City of Tacoma | Fire Department

City Council Study Session

August 2, 2022

ITEM #22-0862

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## Revenue Strategy

### Next Steps 6/14/2022

	Update	Timeline/Next Steps
<b>EMS Levy Lid Lift</b>	<i>Given cost and demand increases compared to limited revenue growth, TFD will bring forward an update on benefits of pursuing a levy lid lift</i>	<i>Provide update at Study Session in late summer/fall 2022</i>
Property Tax	Continue to prioritize removing the 1% growth limit in legislative lobbying	Legislative Sessions
Impact Fees	City Council supported the recommendations of the Impact Fee Framework Plan completed in July 2021	Continue work on Framework Development in 2022 and 2023
Facilities Levy Lid Lift	Funded consultant services during 2021-2022 modification process Facility Condition assessment, Fire Facilities study, and Library Services study will inform this work	Tours of Facilities Summer 2022 Community Engagement Fall 2022- Spring 2023
Administrative Fee Adjustments • Fees & Business Licenses	Regular process to reflect cost increase	Update Fees and Licenses in Fall 2022 with Budget Process
Excise Tax Options	Staff research in progress	Provide Update in Fall 2022 with Budget Process
Updates to Existing Voter Approved Measures	Staff will continue to work on benefits and needs related to renewing Tacoma Creates and Streets Initiative	Provide Updates in 2023

Bring revenue strategy update to City Council in the Fall of 2022 along with 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

2023-2024 CITY OF TACOMA  
**BIENNIAL**  
OPERATING & CAPITAL  
**BUDGET**

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## OVERVIEW



- Emergency Medical Care and Services (EMS) Levy  
(Authorized by RCW 84.52.069)
  - “...In an amount equal to \$0.50 or less per \$1,000 of the assessed value of property in the taxing district.”
- Annual growth limited to 1%, plus new construction value (RCW 84.55.010)
- Exceeding annual growth limit requires a voter-approved levy lid lift (RCW 84.55.050)

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## BACKGROUND



- Six-Year EMS Levy approved in November 1982
- Voted permanent in November 1999
- Last lifted in September 2006
  - Expected to return to voters in 2010 (per Resolution 36889)
- Ballot language determines approved levy usage

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## BALLOT LANGUAGE

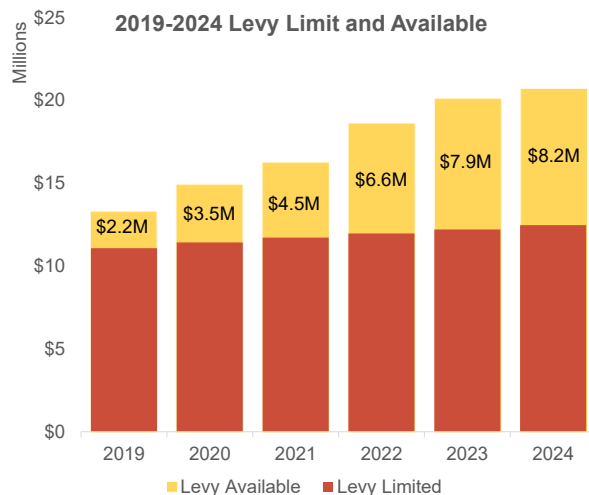


- Current (2006): "...funding for the Fire Department's paramedic-staffed Medic One program [i.e. Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport], and other emergency medical services and support, such as training, medical supplies and equipment, and citizen CPR classes."

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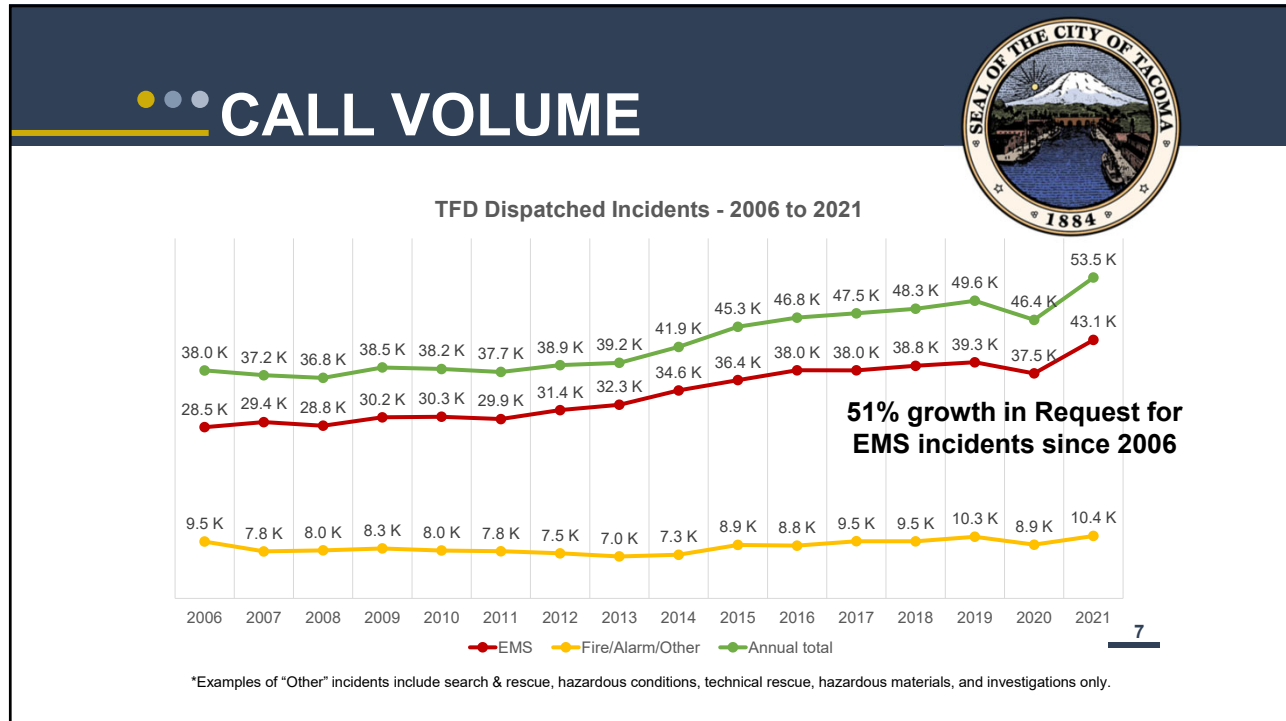
## EMS LEVY LID LIFT



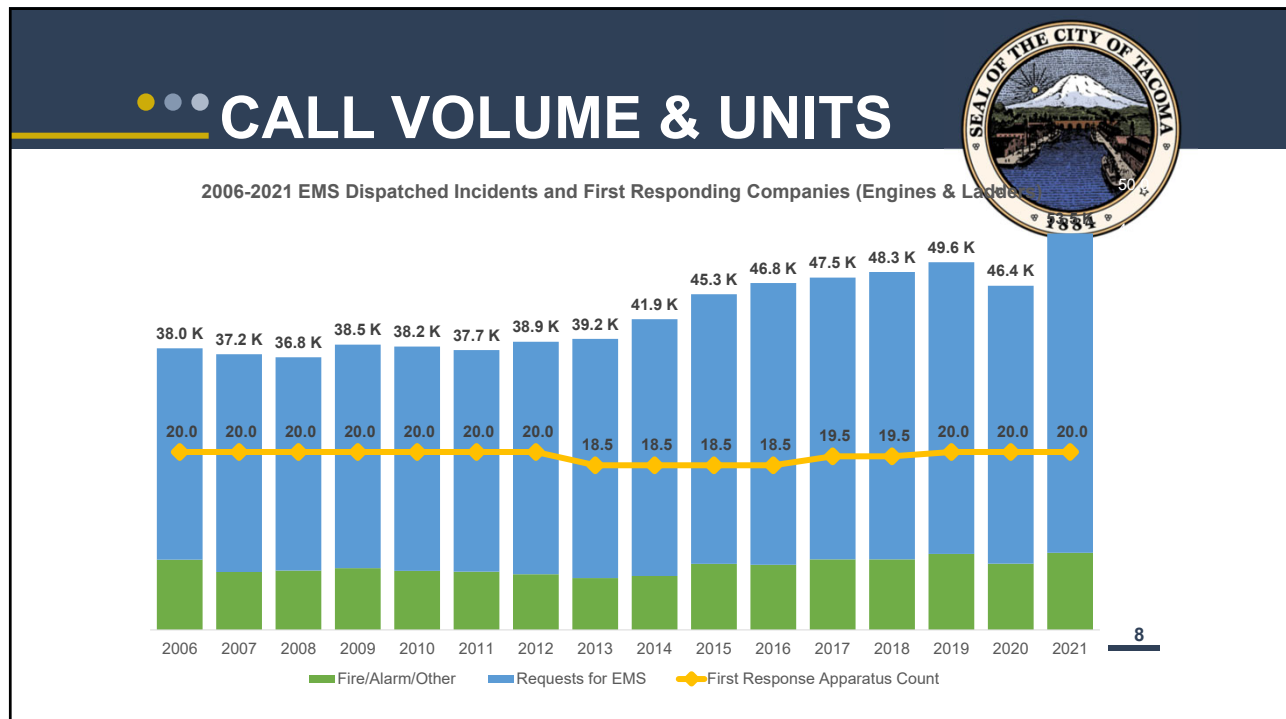
- Collection of increased revenue would start in 2024
- Passes with simple majority
- No validation requirements
- Voter education recommended
- Propose changes in ballot language & levy usage to be more general and align with RCW language

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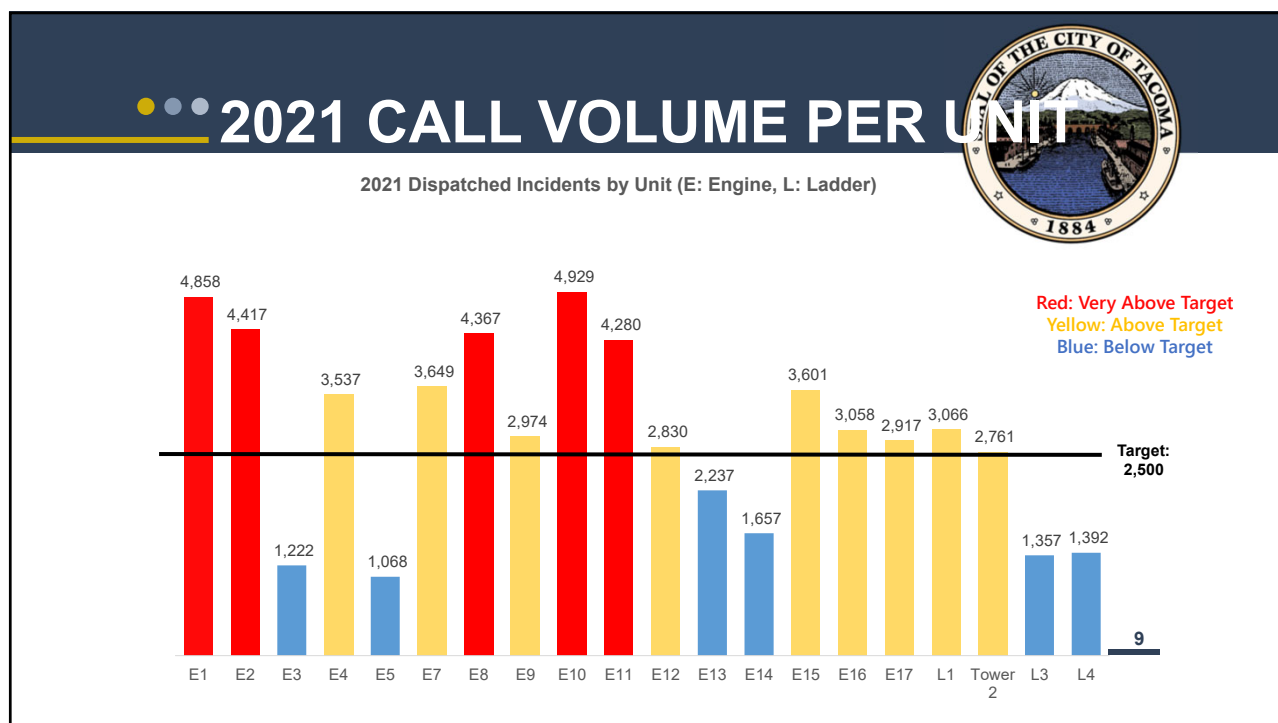
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## USE OF EMS LEVY

- Add first responder units to meet the demand of increasing call volume
- Reduce financial impacts of all emergency medical transportation for Tacoma residents
  - Eliminate out-of-pocket costs, that exceed insurance coverage
  - Eliminate collections impacts on credit reports

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## NEXT STEPS



- Contract with Election Consultant – August 2022
- Council Resolutions for Ballot Measure & Committee Appointments – Q3 2022
- Voter Education & Outreach – August 2022-Early 2023
- Potential Election – Early 2023
- Budget & Municipal Code Amendment – Mid-2023
- Levy Collection Begins – 2024

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