



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Teresa Green, Fire Department Manager, Tacoma Fire Department  
Toryono Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department  
**COPY:** City Council, Doris Sorum, City Clerk, and Danielle Larson, Senior Financial Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Request for Ordinance to amend, repeal, and add various chapters in Titles 1, 3 and 6 of the Municipal Code related to Fire and Emergency Medical Services – November 17, 2020  
**DATE:** October 23, 2020

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

The Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) is seeking approval of an ordinance amending Chapter 1.06 of the Municipal Code, relating to Administration; repealing Chapter 6B.50, relating to Ambulances, and reenacting as a new Chapter 3.11; renaming Title 3 from “Fire” to “Fire and Emergency Medical Services”, and adding, amending, and repealing various chapters in Title 3 to modify outdated fee requirements, clarify and add language regarding emergency medical transport, and other administrative updates.

[Teresa Green, Fire Department Manager; Toryono Green, Fire Chief]

**BACKGROUND:**

TFD’s recommendation is based on an administrative review of the Tacoma Municipal Code’s sections on fire and emergency medical services (EMS) to update and provide clearer information regarding services provided by the department, align language with current administrative processes, and move fees into the City’s General Miscellaneous Fee Schedule.

TFD is proposing to rename Title 3 from “Fire” to “Fire and Emergency Medical Services” to better represent the work of the department and promulgate all information regarding fire and EMS into one location. This includes repealing Chapter 6B.50, relating to ambulances, and moving it out of the Tax and License Code and into a new Chapter 3.11 in the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Code.

Edits also provide additional clarity regarding the City’s EMS levy and how that levy applies to emergency medical transport.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

Proposed changes are administrative updates to clarify and align language with current practice. Broad community engagement was not done on these updates, however customer feedback was considered and prompted the department to add clarifying language regarding fees and emergency medical transport. TFD believes these Code updates will make it easier to find information on Department fees and easier to understand Fire and Emergency Medical Response services.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility:**

By making these updates to the code, TFD is making it easier for community members to identify what services have related fees by adding them to the City’s General Miscellaneous Fee Schedule and providing clarity around services like the fact that Advanced Life Support is the only transport type that is covered by the EMS levy. These changes should make it easier to understand and increase access to the information on TFD services.



**ALTERNATIVES:**

Presumably, your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives or actions that City Council or staff could take. Please use table below.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Make no changes		The Tacoma Municipal Code will not reflect the changes in services TFD provides or provide needed clarity.

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

TFD will continue to monitor and consider customer feedback regarding our fees and services and bring additional changes forward for Council consideration if additional clarification or definition is needed.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approving the proposed changes to the Tacoma Municipal Code as submitted.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are no financial impacts related to updating these codes. Specific dollar amounts for fees have been moved to and will be addressed in the City’s Miscellaneous General Fee Schedule.