

## **CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

### **CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON**

**AGENDA TITLE:** Public Hearing and Discussion on Resolution No. 437 - Approving Placement on the Ballot of a Countywide Levy Proposal for Funding the Medic One/Emergency Medical Services Levy for the Period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2025

**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager's Office

**PRESENTED BY:** Jim Hammond, Government Relations

**ACTION:**        ☐ Ordinance        ☐ Resolution        ☐ Motion  
                 ☒ Discussion        ☒ Public Hearing

**PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:**

The current six-year 33.5 cent Medic One/ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy will expire on December 31, 2019 and must be renewed to maintain the current system. As this is a countywide system, the levy proposal, prior to being placed on the ballot, must secure the approval of a supermajority of cities within King County whose population exceeds 50,000 residents. Shoreline is one of eleven such cities.

At tonight's meeting, the City Council will hold a public hearing on the King County EMS Levy and proposed Resolution No. 437, which would approve placement of the EMS Levy on 2019 General Election ballot. Additionally, Council will hear from Michele Plorde, Director, and Helen Chatalas, Assistant Director, of the Emergency Medical Services Division, Public Health – Seattle & King County. Proposed Resolution No. 437 is currently scheduled to be brought back to Council for adoption on June 10, 2019.

**RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

In 2020, Shoreline taxpayers will contribute 2.4 million towards the EMS levy. The median valued home in Shoreline for 2020 is \$480,000. A homeowner of a median valued home will pay \$129.60 in EMS property tax in 2020. Assuming a median home price of \$494,000 in 2021, a homeowner of a median valued home would pay \$128.78 in 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council hold the public hearing to receive citizen comments on the proposed King County EMS levy and City of Shoreline Resolution No. 437 authorizing placement of an EMS Levy of \$0.27 per \$1,000 assessed valuation on the 2019 General Election ballot and direct staff to bring Resolution No. 437 back to Council for adoption on June 10, 2019.

Approved By:        City Manager **DT**    City Attorney **MK**

## **BACKGROUND**

The current six-year 33.5 cent Medic One/ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy will expire on December 31, 2019 and must be renewed to maintain the current system. As this is a countywide system, the levy proposal, prior to being placed on the ballot, must secure the approval of a supermajority of cities within King County whose population exceeds 50,000 residents. Shoreline is one of eleven such cities.

The contours of the proposed Medic One/EMS Levy were shaped by the EMS Advisory Task Force. The Task Force convened on January 18, 2018, and the City of Shoreline was represented on the Task Force by Councilmember Scully. The Task Force was charged with reviewing and endorsing Medic One/EMS program recommendations and a supporting levy rate.

The remainder of this staff report is derived from the EMS Division's 2018 Annual Report, issued in September 2018 by Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC).

### **King County EMS System**

King County's Medic One/ EMS system provides residents of Seattle and King County with life-saving prehospital medical care through an internationally recognized tiered regional response system. This system relies upon coordinated partnerships with fire departments, paramedic agencies, dispatch centers and hospitals. Of note, the City of Seattle operates and funds a Medic One emergency services program that is separate from the county program but is part of the regional delivery system. Emergency medical services within the City of Seattle are coordinated through the Seattle Fire Department.

As indicated in the 2018 EMS annual report, the use of a tiered response system ensures the most appropriate care provider responds to each 9-1-1 call. The tiered regional Medic One/EMS system consists of five major components:

1. **EMS System Access**: A patient or bystander accesses the Medic One/ EMS system by calling 9-1-1 for medical assistance. Bystanders' reactions and rapid responses to the scene can greatly impact the chances of patient survival.
2. **Dispatcher Triage**: Calls to 9-1-1 are received and triaged by professional dispatchers who determine the most appropriate level of care needed. Dispatchers are trained to provide pre-arrival instructions for most medical emergencies and guide the caller through life-saving steps, including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) instructions, until the Medic One/EMS provider arrives.
3. **First Tier Response - Basic Life Support (BLS)**: BLS personnel, usually first to arrive on scene, provide immediate basic life support medical care that includes advanced first aid and CPR/AED to stabilize the patient. Staffed by firefighters trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), EMTs are employed by 30 fire-based agencies across King County. EMTs are certified by the state and are required to complete initial and ongoing training.
4. **Second Tier Response - Advanced Life Support (ALS)**: Paramedics respond to about 25 percent of all calls and usually arrive second on scene to provide emergency care for critical or life-threatening injuries and illness. Medic units are positioned throughout the region to best respond to service demands. There are

26 units that are managed by five agencies: Bellevue Medic One, Redmond Medic One, Shoreline Medic One, Seattle Medic One, and King County Medic One (KCM1, which operates in south King County). Paramedics receive more than 2,500 hours of intensive training through the University of Washington/Harborview Medical Center Paramedic Training Program.

5. Transport to Hospitals: Once a patient is stabilized, it is determined whether transport to a hospital or clinic for further medical attention is needed. Transport is most often provided by an ALS agency, BLS agency, private ambulance, or taxi for lower-acuity situations.

In addition to these components of the system, the King County EMS Division oversees strategic initiatives and regional services. These core programs and services further provide for regional coordination and consistent quality across all jurisdictions in King County. These services include program supervision, BLS EMT medical training, E-911 dispatch training, medical data collection and analysis, financial oversight, contract administration, and division management. EMS regularly integrates initiatives that are aimed at preventing/reducing emergency calls and improving the quality of the entire Medic One/EMS system.

### **Funding of EMS Services**

The Medic One/EMS system is primarily funded with a countywide, voter-approved EMS levy. State law authorizes EMS levies and stipulates that revenues collected may only be used for EMS operations and support purposes. This type of levy is considered an excess levy and is collected outside the \$5.90 limit for the maximum aggregate rate of \$5.90 per \$1,000 Assessed Valuation (AV) for counties, cities, fire districts, library districts and certain other junior taxing districts.

Current state law permits EMS levies to be approved for six years, ten years, or on a permanent basis. EMS levies in King County have typically been approved for six-year periods. Past levy periods and rates are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. EMS Levy History**

<b>Levy Period</b>	<b>Rate per \$1,000 AV</b>
2014 - 2019	\$0.335
2008 - 2013	\$0.30
2002 - 2007	\$0.25
1999 - 2001	\$0.29
1992 - 1997	\$0.25
1986 - 1991	\$0.25
1980 - 1985	\$0.21

### **2014-2019 EMS Levy**

The current EMS levy was approved by voters in November 2013 at a levy rate not to exceed \$0.335 (33.5 cents) per \$1,000 AV. Levy revenues for the 2014-2019 EMS levy are anticipated to total approximately \$732.7 million over the six-year collection period, providing annual revenues of approximately \$113.5 million (2014 collections) to \$131.5 million (2019 projected collections, based on March 2019 OEFA forecast). The 2014-2019 EMS levy expires on December 31, 2019.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **EMS Advisory Task Force**

As noted earlier, overseeing the development and vetting of the Medic One/EMS Levy is the EMS Advisory Task Force. This 20-body group consists of elected officials from the county, cities, and fire districts, representing those who administer, authorize and are served by the system. The task force was charged with reviewing and endorsing Medic One/EMS program recommendations and a supporting levy rate.

The Task Force formed four subcommittees to conduct the bulk of the program and cost analyses. The subcommittees concentrated on the different program areas of Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS), Regional Services, and Finance. Each subcommittee, chaired by an EMS Advisory Task Force member and comprised of subject matter experts from all aspects of the Medic One/EMS system, met regularly to determine how the programs would ensure the region can continue to provide world-class emergency medical services. Subcommittees reported back to the task force every two or three months.

At its September 18, 2018 meeting, the Task Force voted to adopt final programmatic and financial recommendations that would inform the EMS Strategic Plan and renewal levy proposal to be transmitted to King County Council by the Executive. For context, the EMS Strategic Plan, which is the primary policy and financial document that would direct the Medic One/EMS system for the renewal levy period, forms the basis for the renewal levy proposal that, if approved by County Council (subject to meeting state law requirements), would be placed on the ballot for voter approval. State law requires a simple majority voter approval for renewal of a six-year or ten-year EMS levy.

For more information about the EMS Advisory Task Force, please visit their website: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/emergency-medical-services/levy.aspx>.

### **EMS Advisory Task Force Recommendations**

The EMS Advisory Task Force-recommended financial plan would support a six-year EMS budget (2020-2025) with a beginning levy rate of 27 cents per \$1,000 AV. The 2020-2025 EMS Levy, if approved, is expected to generate approximately \$1.1 billion over the six-year collection period based on the August 2018 forecast, assuming a 27-cent levy, with an annual levy rate projected to vary from 27 cents to a low of approximately 24 cents. For the owner of a home with a \$500,000 AV, the annual levy cost would be \$135 (at \$0.27 per \$1,000 AV) in 2020.

An overview of programmatic and financial recommendations from the Task Force subcommittees is provided in Table 2 below. Table 3 (also below) summarizes the anticipated revenues and expenditures, per the Task Force-recommended financial plan, to support EMS programs and reserves for 2020-2025.

**Table 2: Task Force Subcommittee Recommendations**

<b>ALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue using the unit allocation to fully fund Advanced Life Support</li> <li>Include a placeholder for adding a potential future unit</li> <li>Explore options to address paramedic workforce needs and other efficiencies</li> </ul>
<b>BLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the BLS allocation; streamline the BLS funding sources and distribute it using agencies' current AV and service levels</li> <li>Commit \$4 million a year of levy funding to exploring a Mobile Integrated Healthcare model to address community needs; distribute to all agencies</li> <li>Establish guidelines to create consistency around data collection, measures and program reporting</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Services &amp; Strategic Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue delivering programs that provide essential support to the system</li> <li>Maintain regional focus on creating additional efficiencies and system effectiveness to improve patient care and outcomes</li> <li>Support strategic initiatives that leverage previous investments made by the region to improve patient care and outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support financial policies that provide stability to the system by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapting existing reserve policies to meet county financial policies</li> <li>Incorporating sufficient reserves to mitigate unforeseen financial risk</li> <li>Pursuing and EMS levy length that ensures sufficient funding</li> </ul> </li> <li>Forward Financial plan that supports 6-year budget of \$1.1 billion with a \$0.27 EMS levy to the Task Force for consideration and adoption</li> </ul>

**Table 3. 2020-2025 EMS Projected Revenues, Expenditures and Reserves per Task Force-Recommended Financial Plan (in millions; 27-cent levy rate)**

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Seattle</b>	<b>King County</b>	<b>Total</b>
2020-2025 Property tax forecast	\$451.3	\$643.4	\$1,094.7
Other revenue (KC EMS Fund)		\$8.6	\$8.6
Carryforward reserves from 2014-2019			\$20.0
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$451.3</b>	<b>\$652.0</b>	<b>\$1,123.3</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
ALS	\$149.1	\$370.1	\$519.2
BLS	\$302.2	\$140.6	\$442.8
Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)		\$26.3	\$26.3
Regional Services		\$78.9	\$78.9
Strategic Initiatives/CMT Program		\$6.7	\$6.7
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$451.3</b>	<b>\$622.6</b>	<b>\$1,073.9</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			
ALS reserves		\$13.8	\$13.8
Rainy day fund (90 day)		\$27.8	\$27.8
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>\$41.6</b>	<b>\$41.6</b>
<b>2020-2025 TOTAL (Expenditures w/ Reserves)</b>	<b>\$451.3</b>	<b>\$664.2</b>	<b>\$1,115.5</b>

### **Next Steps and Key Dates for King County**

The King County Regional Policy Committee (RPC) added the EMS Levy renewal to its 2019 committee work program as a subject matter for mandatory referral of legislation. The latest that the King County Council could place a levy renewal measure on the November ballot for approval by voters is August 6, 2019.

### **Tonight's Council Meeting**

At tonight's meeting, the City Council will hold a public hearing on the King County EMS Levy and proposed Resolution No. 437, which would approve placement of the EMS Levy on 2019 General Election ballot. Additionally, Council will hear from Michele Plorde, Director, and Helen Chatalas, Assistant Director, of the Emergency Medical Services Division, Public Health – Seattle & King County. Proposed Resolution No. 437 is currently scheduled to be brought back to Council for adoption on June 10, 2019.

### **RESOURCES/FINANCIAL IMPACT**

In 2020, Shoreline taxpayers will contribute 2.4 million towards the EMS levy. The median valued home in Shoreline for 2020 is \$480,000. A homeowner of a median valued home will pay \$129.60 in EMS property tax in 2020. Assuming a median home price of \$494,000 in 2021, a homeowner of a median valued home would pay \$128.78 in 2021.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council hold the public hearing to receive citizen comments on the proposed King County EMS levy and City of Shoreline Resolution No. 437 authorizing placement of an EMS Levy of \$0.27 per \$1,000 assessed valuation on the 2019 General Election ballot and direct staff to bring Resolution No. 437 back to Council for adoption on June 10, 2019.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Proposed Resolution No. 437

**RESOLUTION NO. 437**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON,  
APPROVING PLACEMENT ON THE BALLOT OF A  
COUNTYWIDE LEVY PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING THE MEDIC  
ONE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) LEVY FOR THE  
PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2020, THROUGH DECEMBER 31,  
2025.**

WHEREAS, the existing Medic One/EMS levy will expire on December 31, 2019;  
and

WHEREAS, King County is seeking voter authorization of a six-year Medic One/EMS levy of \$0.27 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for the period of 2020 through 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Medic One/EMS levy supports a regional system of emergency medical services serving King County that is known worldwide for its excellent medical results; and

WHEREAS, as mandated by RCW 84.52.069(6), in order to place a countywide levy proposal on the ballot, the King County Council must receive the approval of the legislative authority of a majority of at least seventy-five percent of all cities exceeding a population of 50,000 within King County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Washington State Office of Financial Management population projections, Shoreline currently has a population in excess of 50,000; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2019, a public hearing to receive public comment was held by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the City that such a countywide levy proposal again be placed on the ballot;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Approval for Countywide Levy Proposal.**

The City Council, as legislative authority for the City of Shoreline, hereby approves submission to the voters of a ballot proposition at the 2019 General election for a countywide additional regular property tax levy of not more than \$0.27 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation each year for a period of six consecutive years commencing in 2020 for funding the countywide Medic One/Emergency Medical Services pursuant to RCW 84.52.069.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON JUNE 10, 2019.**

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Will Hall, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Jessica Simulcik Smith  
City Clerk