

**Thurston County Medic One  
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting  
Virtual  
September 21, 2022**

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**PRESENT:** Cindy Hambly, Stan Moon, John Ricks, Brian VanCamp, Angela Jefferson, Dontae Payne, Wayne Fournier, Harry Miller, Frank Kirkbride, Margaret McPhee, Gary Edwards

**ABSENT:**

**EXCUSED:** Larry Fontanilla, Sheila Fay, Lenny Greenstein

**GUESTS:** Dan Bivens, Shawn Crimmins, Brian Hurley, Chris Clem, Tony Kuzma,

**STAFF:** Ben Miller-Todd, Daphne Reaves, Sandra Bush, Scott Brownell, Jerett Latimer

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Stan Moon called the meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Council (EMSC) to order at 3:30 PM.

**I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC** – Moved New Business, Item A. Surplus Medic Units, to the October meeting agenda. (Fournier/Ricks) move to approve the agenda as amended, and this carried.

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None.

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. EMS COUNCIL – July 20, 2022 – (Kirkbride/Ricks) approve of the minutes, and this carried.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – September 1, 2022 (informational only)

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** VanCamp reported: 1) Transport Utilization Committee (TRU) provided a report on monitoring the 90-day trial for modifications of dispatching private BLS ambulances. 2) Ops approved surplus vehicle applications. 3) Ops performed their semi-annual review of the ambulance ordinance and there were no recommended changes. 4) Ops will follow EMS council's decision on resuming hybrid meetings.
- B. **WEST REGION:** Kirkbride reported: There was a well-attended meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. 1) WREMS continues to do business outside of rules of parliamentary procedure, and there is never a 'yes' vote taken, only 'no' votes, so the actions that were taken were approved but there is no record of such a thing. 2) There were a series of committee reports that deal with planning and implementation of the goals of the west region by the Director, Greg Perry, and a report of funds on hand which are appropriate at this point in the budget. 3) There was a report on the hospital diversion program. There have been a variety of meetings held with no negative issues. The hospitals in Thurston County are trying, but they are still struggling. Next month there will be a report on the transport trial that is underway right now. 4) Lewis County Fire District #1, in Onalaska, is currently 1 of 4 fire districts on the east side of I-5, from Onalaska to Toledo, that has a Medic One levy providing ALS services to their citizens. Sounds like this has failed and at the end of this year they will be ceasing to provide ALS responses within those 4 districts. District #1 came to west region, after going thru Lewis County EMS council, and asked for an upgrade for BLS transport to ALS transport. This concept appeared to be supported by west region.
- C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is available on the website. [Thurston County | Medic One | Committee Meeting Information \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](https://thurstoncountywa.gov/committees/medic-one). Miller-Todd highlighted on the following: 1) Onboarding 7 medics between August and September. 2) EMT initial training started September 6<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 18 students. 3) There was a typo in the staff report online, in the I.T. section. The migrating of cellular access contracts and fees is 100% complete, not 90%.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. 2023 – 2025 ALS Contract – Miller-Todd provided an ALS contract negotiation overview. 1) The 2023-2025 contract will include an increase from 9 medics per unit to 9.5 medics per unit. This will reduce mandatory overtime, paramedic burnout, and staffing shortages. This will also address the needs of an aging workforce and a career that is physically demanding. 2) There is added clarification to self-insurance vs.

L&I disability which will provide an anticipated savings of \$100,000 per year. There is added clarification to utilization of sick leave and how it's being billed. This has an anticipated savings of \$50,000 per year. 3) Increase funding by an aggregate of \$90,000 for paramedic training. 4) Contract length will increase to 3 years with an option for two additional 1-year terms.

The total cost savings for the 2023-2025 contract is expected to be \$175,000 and the total cost increase is expected to be \$770,000, which is an overall net increase of \$595,000. (McPhee/Hambly) move to approve the contract and send it to the BoCC for their approval, and this carried with Edwards abstaining.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Surplus Resolution – This resolution allows the EMS council to surplus items Medic One is looking to surplus out to a variety of fire agencies and other government entities throughout Washington State, in alignment with both RCW and WAC, in a hierarchal order. This allows the EMS Council to surplus items first to Thurston County fire agencies, then second to any fire agencies within the west region, and third to any government entity within Washington State. (Kirkbride/Ricks) move to recommend to the BoCC the adoption of a resolution that deals with surplus materials under the authority of the Thurston County EMS council, and this carried, with Edwards abstaining.
- B. Surplus Medic One Administrative Vehicle (Scott's old vehicle) – Medic One has an 18-year-old SUV that has been available and offered to Thurston County fire agencies multiple times since late 2018, early 2019. No Thurston County agency has wanted this vehicle. Grays Harbor Fire District 5 has approached Medic One about this vehicle, and if we choose to surplus this item, their board of Fire Commissioners has decided that they would like to accept it from us. Grays Harbor Fire District 5 is in the west region which is in alignment with the surplus resolution we are recommending to the BoCC. Staff is asking the council for a contingent motion based on the approval of the surplus resolution. (Fournier/McPhee) move to approve surplus of this vehicle, contingent upon the surplus resolution passing with the BoCC, and this carried.
- C. 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Budget vs. Actual – Miller-Todd presented the 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget vs. actuals. Thru June 2022 the Administrative budget is 29% expended, ALS is 37% expended, BLS is 45% expended, I.T. is 40% expended and ER&R is 0% expended, for a total expended budget of 37%. Under BLS, there are a couple of items that required us to re-code. One of the items ended up in a code that does not have any budget in it, however it's only \$171.00. Communications is 160% expended due to miscoding, however we are moving budget into that line. ER&R is 0% expended pending the purchase of an admin SUV.
- D. MPD Contract Amendment – Medic One is asking to expand the MPD contract, allowing for an MPD delegate. The MPD is contracted for 42 hours per month and is a very short period of time to cover several initiatives. There has been a rapidly growing quality assurance obligation of the MPD as the system has grown. The EMS call volume has increased 25% since the original 2015 MPD contract was signed. Given the list of responsibilities the MPD is responsible for, we really do require an MPD delegate. An MPD delegate is allowed by RCW and WAC to assist an MPD with their tasks. We are asking for an additional (3) 8 hours per month that are scheduled and an additional 12-18 hours per month of variable coverage. The biggest strain right now is the growing need for investigations from a quality assurance standpoint. Quality assurance is when we are looking into any complaints that are brought to us from medical facilities or other facilities throughout the area, community members, or internal concerns between agencies.

Additionally, we have Medic One staffing issues. Medic One is currently staffed at 63.2%, with 4 open positions, in addition to the Medic One Director filling in at Public Health. All the pieces within the staffing issue creates a very minimal bandwidth for staff to help the MPD with his tasks.

The increased MPD contract value can be supported by the current biennial budget, authorized by the BoCC. The increase will be roughly \$100,000 per year. The 2024-2025 biennial budget will need to account for the increased MPD contract value during budget development next year. (Kirkbride/Ricks) move to suspend the rules to act on the MPD contract recommendation, and this carried. (Kirkbride/Hambly)

move to recommend to the BoCC an amendment to the MPD's current contract to add a delegate, and various hours and costs associated with it, and this carried with Edwards abstaining.

Chair Moon addressed the staffing issues for Medic One. Moon and Chief VanCamp met with Commissioner Edwards last Friday to discuss this concern with him. Moon heard back from the County Manager today with some times for Moon and VanCamp to meet with him.

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER** – Chair Moon said the council will go back to hybrid meetings beginning in October.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 4:27.