

**Thurston County Medic One
Emergency Medical Services Council – Regular Meeting
Hybrid – 2703 Pacific Ave SE, Olympia
November 15, 2023**

PRESENT

(In-Person): Stan Moon, Brian VanCamp, Frank Kirkbride, Lenny Greenstein, Tom Carroll, Margaret McPhee, Cindy Hambly, John Ricks

PRESENT

(Virtual): Harry Miller, Angela Jefferson

ABSENT: Wayne Fournier, Todd Carson

EXCUSED: Larry Fontanilla, Gary Edwards, Sheila Fay

GUESTS: Dan Bivens (I), Shawn Crimmins (V), Mindy Churchwell (V), Brian Hurley (V), Derek Smith (I)

STAFF: Ben Miller-Todd, Sandra Bush, Joy Keene, Chris Clem, Clint Wathen

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

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC – (Carroll/Greenstein) move to approve the agenda and this carried.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. EMS COUNCIL – September 20, 2023 (Kirkbride/McPhee) move to approve the minutes, and this carried.
- B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – October 5, 2023, November 2, 2023 (informational only)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** Miller-Todd reported: 2024 ambulance applications for AMR and Olympic, were reviewed and approved and are on today's EMSC agenda for recommendation to the BoCC.
- B. **WEST REGION EMS COUNCIL:** No report – next meeting is December 6th.
- C. **STAFF REPORT:** Staff report is available on the website. [Thurston County | Medic One | Committee Meeting Information \(thurstoncountywa.gov\)](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/committees/medic-one). Miller-Todd highlighted on the following: 1) An offer letter has been signed for the Paramedic Program Manager position. His name is Juan Mejias, he is from Texas, and is scheduled to start work on January 2, 2024. 2) Paramedic testing did not pass any candidates. Working on engaging more with JBLM for candidates. 3) A calendar invite will go out for the EMT graduation which is scheduled to take place December 18th.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2024-2025 Budget Update – Miller-Todd reported: Everything recommended by the EMS council has been preliminarily approved by the BoCC. The BoCC was forced to consider an 8% reduction in the general fund, which would have been a reduction of roughly \$174,000 from the Emergency Management budget, and this would have entirely come out of FTEs. After deliberations, the BoCC was able to identify a couple of different funding sources which helped reduce the budget cut for Emergency Management to \$6,000. A large portion of the reduction was from the rising of costs, and a reduction in sales tax revenue. Sales tax had radically flattened from a 7 or 8% growth to roughly 2-3% growth projection. The county is able to get through the 2024-2025 biennium, but the conversation isn't going to stop – looks like it will carry over to the 2026-2027 budget. As far as the Medic One budget, our levy rate is not as high as it could be, so if the underlying assessed value shrinks, we still have the ability to grow to 7% year after year and not hit the \$0.50 cap.

Back in September the BoCC approved \$1.6 million in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding for 4 of the 8 medic units we were procuring this year and next year.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2024 Ambulance License Applications – (Hambly/McPhee) move to approve recommendation of the 2024 ambulance applications for AMR and Olympic, to the BoCC, and this carried.
- B. MultiCare OCED Interfacility Transports – Northwest Ambulance is the contracted provider for the MultiCare off campus ED (OCED), and Olympic Ambulance is the backup provider. Northwest has submitted their application to DOH for a BLS verified licensure, and if DOH approves then it will go to WREMS, and WREMS will pass it on to the EMSC for operational review (there is an open position in our min/max). To our knowledge, WREMS has not seen the application.
- C. Healthcare System Update – MultiCare OCED is scheduled to open mid-December. Staff is working closely with them regarding protocols and operational components. Miller-Todd said MultiCare CMC (main campus) is doing similar processes as St. Peters to try and clear out beds, and they have done well at meeting their goals.
- D. Medic One 3rd Qtr. YTD Expenditures – Keene reported: Overall, Medic One has expended 55% of their budget through September 2023. Salary expense is low due to vacant positions. A large portion of savings has to do with the ER&R (medic units). Admin is 65% expended overall, ALS is 59%, BLS is 64%, IT is 54% and ER & R is 0%. We will see expenses in ER&R later this month for the new MA1 vehicle, AEDs, and radios. 4th quarter financials close out in March of 2024. Keene also mentioned that the State Auditor's are here in November, and they selected Medic One for medic unit procurement, credit card charges (we heavily use the credit card and receive substantial rebates for the usage), and revenue received, which we really don't receive much.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Kirkbride said the Comp Plan Committee has met with MultiCare, Providence St. Peter, Olympic Ambulance, and is meeting with South Sound Behavioral hospital today. Kirkbride said there will be an update after the first of the year.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 4:16.