WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 11
Lummi Island Fire Department
3809 Legoe Bay Road * P.O. Box 130 * Lummi Island, WA 98262
Phone: (360) 758-2411 Fax: (360) 758-2041

Resolution No. 2016-236

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNTYWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) LEVY, PURSUANT TO RCW 84.52.069

WHEREAS, EMS is a complex, coordinated response and emergency medical care system, that requires people and agencies, to perform an essential role as part of a coordinated, tiered, and seamless system of emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, the EMS system has evolved over 40 years, and has transitioned into a tiered level of service; and

WHEREAS, Fire districts and agencies provide first responder services and Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service and Bellingham Fire Department and Fire District 7 provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance service; and

WHEREAS, the Countywide Emergency Medical Service system serves all of Whatcom County including Bellingham, Ferndale, Lynden, Blaine, Everson, Nooksack, and Sumas; and

WHEREAS, the existing funding sources dedicated to EMS are not sufficient and revenue has decreased due to changes in the Federal Medical reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are essential to the people in our community and stable funding is a practical solution to continue providing EMS services at current levels of service, meet future demands and sustain the system into the future; and

WHEREAS, The EMS Funding Work Group confirmed by the Whatcom County Emergency Medical System Oversight Board (EOB) recommended a funding strategy and levy rate that will support and sustain a countywide EMS system; and

WHEREAS, the EMS Funding Work Group formally endorsed a proposed 6-year, 29.5 cent EMS Levy that will;

Maintain the current level of service and continues the programs currently in place through 2017-2022 levy span:

- Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support services for local fire and emergency response departments through dispatch costs
- Programs that support functions and services across the entire EMS system.
- Maintain sustainable reserves.

Allows the system to meet future demand and plans for growth in service needs:

- Provides the funding for a 5th Advanced Life Support (ALS) medic unit to continue to meet level of service demands due to increase of emergency calls and population

- Provide BLS support through training programs, equipment exchange program, and a common Electronic Patient Care Reporting Software

Modified programs so that the system can meet emerging community needs:

- Contains the long-term costs of system and creates an administrative support system to effectively and efficiently manage the system
- Establishes Data and Report Standards
- Includes an EMS Administrator to oversee and coordinate the integrated system
- Develops and funds an EMS Dispatch Strategic Plan
- Mitigates the impact to Districts with existing EMS Levies

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 11** is in agreement and supports the recommendations in the 2016 EMS Funding Work Group Report and will be cooperative in seeking long term, stable and dedicated funding for countywide Emergency Medical Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF WHATCOM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 11** supports placing a ballot proposition on the November 2016 general election ballot before the qualified voters of the County an EMS property tax levy, pursuant to RCW 84.52.069, of not more than 29.5 cents per thousand dollars assessed valuation each year for a period of six consecutive years to provide stable and long-term funding for countywide Emergency Medical Services.

ADOPTED this 10th day of May, 2016 at the regular monthly meeting of the Whatcom County Fire District #11 Board of Fire Commissioners.

By:_____
Bill Lee, Chairperson

By:_____
Ed Scott, Commissioner

By:_____
Wendell Terry, Commissioner

Attested:_____
Lisa Lish, Board Secretary

The above Resolution was adopted at the Regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 11 on May 10, 2016 at the Lummi Island Fire Station, 3809 Legoe Bay Road, Lummi Island, WA 98262