

# 2026-2031 MEDIC ONE/EMS LEVY PLANNING PROCESS

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Budget and Fiscal Management Committee

April 23, 2025

Presented by: Michele Plorde, EMS Division Director

Public Health – Seattle & King County

# Overview



Current 6-year Medic One/EMS levy expires December 31, 2025



Hosted a regional 8-month process rooted in partnerships and consensus-building



Developed recommendations for Strategic Plan and finance plan (levy) for King County voters to renew in 2025



Next step: Legislative approval process

# What is Medic One/EMS?

**Any time you call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency, you are using the Medic One/EMS system. Known worldwide for excellence and innovation.**

- Serves over **2.3 million people** throughout King County and provides lifesaving services on average **every 2 minutes**.
- In 2024, the Medic One/EMS system responded to over **255,000 calls** in King County.
- In 2023, the survival rate for cardiac arrest was **51%** throughout the region.
- Because of our strong program, cardiac arrest patients are **2 to 3 times more likely to survive**, compared to other cities.

# Why does our system work so well?

**Achieve high survival rates because of the unique configuration of our system. It includes the following key components:**

- Regional system based on partnerships.
- Uses a tiered response model founded on medicine and science.
- Equity-driven and committed to providing high-quality care.
- Uses innovative strategies to obtain superior medical outcomes and continually improve.
- Funded by an EMS levy which has proven to be reliable and stable.

# Creating the next EMS Strategic Plan

- Identify our programmatic needs.
- Develop our financial plan.
- Provide sufficient reserves.
- Recommend levy length, rate and ballot timing.

# 2020-2025 Medic One/EMS levy facts

- 6-year levy
- Starting rate of 26.5 cents/\$1,000 AV
- Generate \$1.115 billion over 6 years (Seattle/King County split)
- KC programs funded by levy (\$664.2m):
  - Advanced Life Support (ALS) - paramedic services
  - Basic Life Support (BLS) - FF/EMT services
  - Regional Services - core programs that support direct services
  - Strategic Initiatives - pilot projects
  - Reserves - unanticipated expenses
- Cost to the homeowner (2020): **\$159\***

\* \$600,000 King County median home price in 2020 per UW Washington Center for Real Estate Research

# EMS Advisory Task Force

- Governing body: **20 elected officials** and decision-makers
- Representatives:
  - Cities with 50,000+ in population (11)
  - Sound Cities Association (3)
  - Fire Commissioners (3)
  - King County Council (2)
- Chaired by KC Executive Office (1)
- Four Subcommittees (chaired by a Task Force member): ALS, BLS, Regional Services, and Finance

# KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

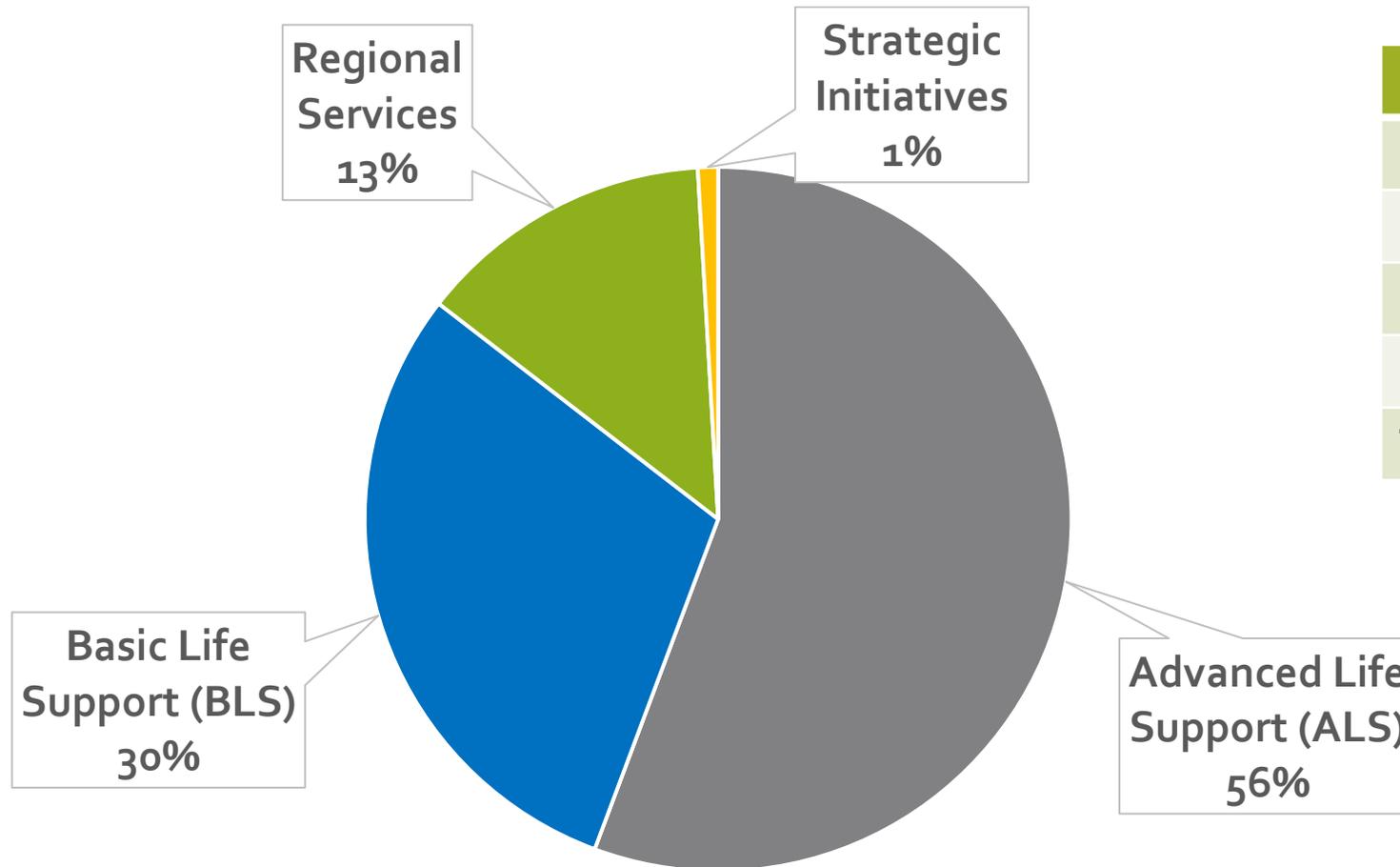
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# Key Task Force Recommendations:

ALS Subcommittee	BLS Subcommittee	Reg Services/SI Subcommittee
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>CONTINUE using the ALS allocation</b> to determine ALS costs (inflate annually using CPI-W +1% and appropriate vehicle inflator).</li> <li>2. <b>INCLUDE a “place holder”</b> in the Financial Plan to potentially fund a 12-hour unit in the 3rd (2028) and 5th (2030) years of the levy.</li> <li>3. <b>CONTINUE using reserves and contingencies to cover costs</b> that fall outside the allocation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>INCREASE total BLS funding</b> by \$5 million in the first year of the levy:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$3 million to BLS Basic Allocation</li> <li>b. \$2 million to MIH</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>INFLATE funding annually</b> at CPI-W + 1%.</li> <li>3. <b>DISTRIBUTE NEW BLS funding and annual increases</b> using a more equitable distribution methodology of 60% call volume/40% AV.</li> <li>4. <b>SUPPORT mental wellness and equity and inclusion efforts</b> proposed by the King County Fire Chiefs Association.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>CONTINUE delivering programs</b> that provide essential support to the system.</li> <li>2. <b>ENHANCE programs</b> to meet regional needs, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- expanding Initial EMT Training</li> <li>- renewing the Telephone Referral Program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP Strategic Initiatives</b> that leverage previous investments made by the region to improve patient care and outcomes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ECHO (Community-based partnerships)</li> <li>- PRIME (Data systems improvements)</li> <li>- New: Emergency Medical Dispatch (tech. impro.)</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

# KC EMS Programs

## DISTRIBUTION BY PROGRAM – KC EMS Fund



Program	\$s in millions
ALS	\$511.8
BLS	\$273.9
Reg'l Svcs	\$124.9
SI	\$8.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$919.1</b>

# Finance Subcommittee Recommendations

**1. CONDUCT a risk analysis** to determine appropriate reserve funding to help safeguard the Medic One/EMS system from unforeseen financial risk.

**2. INCORPORATE sufficient reserves and contingencies** to mitigate financial risk and provide flexibility.

# MAIN DRIVERS:

Revenue	Expenditure
Beginning Assessed Valuation (AV)	Number of ALS units and cost per unit
New Construction levels	Cost escalators (inflaters)
Split between Seattle and King County	Adds of new or enhanced services and funding
Carry forward reserves from 2020-2025 levy	Reserves and Contingencies

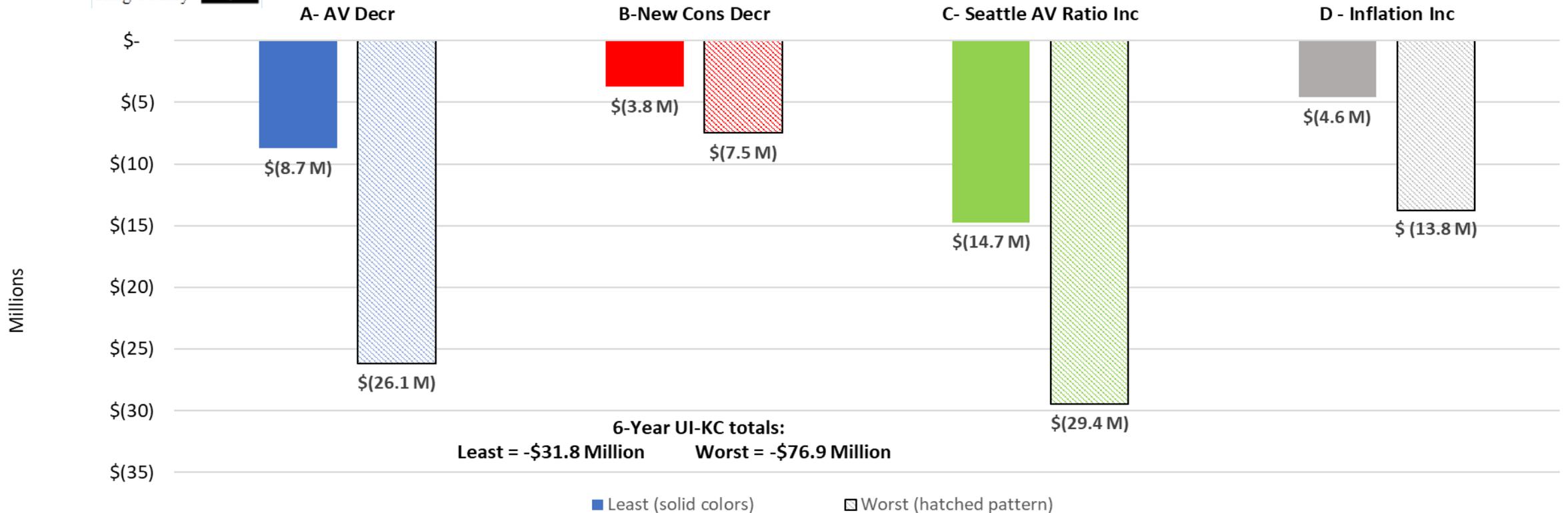
# Risk Analysis / What-If Scenarios

## King County Impact for 25.0 cent levy

**All 4 Scenarios:  
6-Year Total Impacts For Least and Worst Cases**



**Assumes new levy rate = 25 cents**



# Recommended 2026-2031 EMS Levy Financial Summary

Financial Summary	Total <i>(in millions)</i>
Total Expenditures	\$1,438.0
Reserves (Programmatic & Rainy Day)	\$67.7
<b>TOTAL Expenditures &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>\$1,505.7</b>
2026-2031 Property Tax Forecast ( <i>25 cent levy rate</i> )	\$1,470.8
Other Revenues (KC EMS Fund)	\$17.5
Carryforward from 2020-2025	\$64.4
<b>TOTAL Available Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,552.7</b>
Funds available for KC Supplemental/Economic Reserves	\$47.0

**Risk Analysis Range:** Least = -\$31.8 Million      Worst = -\$76.9 Million

# Recommended 2026-2031 EMS Levy

*(in millions)*

<b>FINANCIAL PLAN</b>	<b>Seattle</b>	<b>KC EMS</b>	<b>Total</b>
Property Taxes	\$518.9	\$951.9	\$1,470.8
Other Revenues (KC EMS Fund)		\$17.5	\$17.5
Carryforward from 2020-2025		\$64.4	\$64.4
<b>TOTAL Revenue</b>	<b>\$518.9</b>	<b>\$1,033.8</b>	<b>\$1,552.7</b>
Total Expenditures	\$518.9	\$919.1	\$1,438.0
Reserves		\$67.7	\$67.7
<b>TOTAL Expenditures with Reserves</b>	<b>\$518.9</b>	<b>\$986.8</b>	<b>\$1,505.7</b>
KC Supplemental/Economic Reserves		\$47.0	\$47.0

**Risk Analysis Range: Least = -\$31.8 Million Worst = -\$76.9 Million**

# Summary:

- ✓ **Supported subcommittee programmatic recommendations**
- ✓ **Levy Rate:** 25.0 cents
  - ✓ Annual cost to the homeowner: \$211 (average \$844,000 home)
- ✓ **Length:** 6 years (2026-2031)
- ✓ **Ballot Timing:** General Election in Nov 2025

# QUESTIONS?

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