



NORTH COUNTY FIRE / EMS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Fire Commissioners Passes EMS Levy Lid Lift Resolution

Proposal will appear on the August 1, 2023, primary election ballot

STANWOOD, WASH. – The Board of Fire Commissioners for North County Fire & EMS passed a resolution to place an EMS levy lid lift on the August 1, 2023, primary election ballot. The lid lift would fund additional emergency personnel to respond to higher call volumes and provide full-time staffing at Station 96 in Freeborn.

“Call volumes are steadily increasing and there are times when our emergency personnel are out of service for up to four hours while transporting a patient to the hospital,” Fire Chief John Cermak said. “We require more staffing to respond to the growing demand for emergency services.”

The EMS lid lift would pay for six firefighter/EMTs or firefighter/paramedics per shift to provide an additional transport unit and full-time staffing at Station 96 in Freeborn. It would also replace three ambulances and fund local training programs to ensure residents continue to receive the highest level of EMS care possible.

EMS calls account for 86 percent of all emergency calls. North County Fire & EMS provides both Basic and Advanced Life Support 24 hours a day. Basic Life Support is for non-life-threatening injuries.

Advanced Life Support is the highest level of emergency care available outside a hospital. Paramedics can start intravenous lines, administer lifesaving medication, provide advanced airway management to help patients breathe, and perform other lifesaving care for trauma, heart attack, stroke, and critical infections.

The fire authority is asking voters to return the EMS levy from \$0.28 to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The lid lift would cost an additional \$99 per year or \$8.25 per month for the owner of a \$450,000 home.

More information about the EMS levy lid lift can be found at www.northcountyfireems.com. Fire Chief John Cermak also welcomes your questions at jcermak@northcountyfireems.com.

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North County Regional Fire Authority, known as North County Fire & EMS, provides fire suppression and emergency medical service (EMS) to 46,000 people over 120 square miles, including the cities of Stanwood and Arlington. Emergency personnel respond to an average of 10,000 calls per year – of which 86 percent are for EMS. North County Fire & EMS operates under a balanced budget, is debt-free, and has passed all independent audits by the state.