

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

A Resolution authorizing execution of an updated Interlocal Agreement with the City of Redmond authorizing the City of Bellevue Fire Department to conduct joint training and fire recruit academies.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This Interlocal Agreement is entered into by and between the municipal corporations and public agencies to more effectively clarify the details of the East Metro Training Group ("EMTG"), and to improve emergency service delivery, coordinate and consolidate training opportunities, and to share resources amongst member agencies. This agreement will provide an opportunity to extend and improve upon an important service mitigating risks to employees, the public, and our firefighters.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10521.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

As directed in WAC 296-305-05502 each jurisdiction's firefighters are required to train for competence. Training, education, and ongoing development must be provided for all firefighters commensurate with those duties and functions that firefighters are expected to perform. The EMTG was formed in 2012 to assist and improve each member agency's ability to comply with this directive.

Prior to the coordination of Fire Training Divisions via EMTG, each jurisdiction had individual training and operational plans, often resulting in uncoordinated efforts to mitigate emergencies. Each member agency responds cross-jurisdictionally daily through automatic aid agreements and collectively work together to mitigate emergencies of all types; including but not limited to Medical Emergencies, Structure Fires, High Rise Fires, Vehicle Fires, Technical Rescues, Vehicle Collisions, Wildland Fires, Water Rescues, and Mass-Casualty Incidents, among many others. During emergency response coordination of processes and strategic plans is essential for operational effectiveness and the safety of those involved. The establishment of EMTG has allowed for and supported that coordination. There is a net zero financial impact resulting from this EMTG ILA update.

In addition, each party's firefighters are dispatched by a centralized communications center (NORCOM) that operates on the same radio communications network, and joint training has allowed for refinement of a safe and effective communications model. Joint training allows for the development of standardized "Best Practices" at common emergencies that increase the effectiveness of the mitigating actions on-scene, and the safety of all employees and the residents they serve. Each party maintains a wide array of training equipment and facilities that serve as a shared resource for all.

EMTG's specific goals and objectives are as follows:

- A. Consolidate and coordinate fire training opportunities among member agencies.
- B. Share personnel and resources to achieve economies of scale, and to reduce and eliminate redundancies and duplication of effort.
- C. Develop compliant and standardized training programs for member agencies.
- D. Combine recruit fire academies.
- E. Enhance job safety.
- F. Enhanced delivery of automatic and mutual aid.

This Interlocal Agreement is entered into by and between the municipal corporations and public agencies to more effectively clarify the details of the EMTG. It was crafted and vetted through collaboration between the member fire departments, legal departments, and finance departments, as well as participating union executive boards and their established collective bargaining agreements. The structure and content of the EMTG Interlocal Agreement was updated through analysis of, and coordination with, other regional training consortiums – accounting for modern day training and administrative/organizational principles, and the flexibility needed for dynamic regional changes and future collaboration with additional neighboring jurisdictions.

No separate legal entity is created by this Agreement. This Agreement is subject to any Mutual and/or Automatic Aid Agreements otherwise entered by any of the parties to this Agreement.

The 2025 EMTG Interlocal Agreement contains the following key elements/changes:

- A. Updated list of participating agencies
 - a. The previous ILA listed agencies that are no longer engaged with EMTG.
- B. Updated organizational principles
 - a. Creates a detailed organizational chart and improved delineation of roles and responsibilities of participating agencies.
- C. Improved clarity within EMTG fiscal arrangements
 - a. Clearly drawn fiscal responsibility for current and future participants
- D. Acknowledgement of "Best Practices" as foundational curriculum
 - a. Common training principles for member agencies' adoption – further enhancing operational alignment.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

No new policy impacts will occur to the City of Bellevue or the Bellevue Fire Department because of this Interlocal Agreement.

Fiscal Impact

No new fiscal impacts will occur to the City of Bellevue or the Bellevue Fire Department because of this Interlocal Agreement.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of an updated Interlocal Agreement with the City of Redmond authorizing the City of Bellevue Fire Department to conduct joint training and fire recruit academies.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

A. EMTG Interlocal Agreement (draft dated 01/15/2025)
Proposed Resolution No. 10521

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A