

CITY OF BUCKLEY, WASHINGTON

ORDINACE NO. 07-24

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSITION TO THE QUALIFYING VOTERS OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY AT THE AUGUST 6, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION FOR AUTHORITY TO RESTORE THE CITY'S PERMANENT EMS LEVY TO THE RATE OF \$0.50 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE, WHICH IS IN EXCESS OF THE LIMIT FACTOR ESTABLISHED IN RCW 84.55.010; SETTING FORTH THE BALLOT PROPOSITION; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.**

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Buckley (the "City") is an optional municipal code City, located in Pierce County, Washington, duly organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to RCW 84.52.069, in 2016 the voters of the City authorized a permanent emergency medical service (or "EMS") levy of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value on the property within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, because RCW 84.55.010 limits increases in annual EMS property tax levy amounts to 1% per year (plus permitted adjustments including to reflect new construction), the City currently can now only levy \$0.29873 per \$1,000 of assessed value on the property within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, a continued 1% limitation would restrict the City from levying its full authorized levy rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, necessitating a reduction in the level of EMS services, including but not limited to the inability to increase the number of Paramedics to address a rapidly increasing call volume, resulting in longer response times including an increased reliance on mutual aid, and the ability to accommodate the rising costs of medical; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to RCW 84.55.010, the City may ask voters whether the City should increase the amount of the EMS property tax levy above the 1% limit that would otherwise apply, subject to the voter-approved maximum EMS permanent levy rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, commonly referred to as "lifting the lid."

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(2), an election is hereby requested to be called, conducted and held within the City of Buckley on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City, for their ratification or rejection, a proposition approving a six-year

levy lid lift to increase the City's EMS property tax levy exceeding the limit factor provided in RCW 84.55.010, as more specifically described in Section 2 below.

**Section 2.** The proposition would authorize the City to levy the EMS property tax at a rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value on property in the City for collection in the year 2025. For the five years following 2025 (i.e., the years 2026 - 2030), the proposition would also authorize an annual increase of up to 6% annually, subject to a maximum levy rate of \$0.50 previously approved by the voters. The proposition also would approve the use of the 2030 levy amount as the basis for calculating subsequent levies, as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW, as it may be amended from time to time. Revenues from the property tax increases that would be authorized by the ballot proposition shall be used for the purposes of providing emergency medical services. The taxes authorized by this proposition will be in addition to the maximum amount of regular property taxes the City would have been limited to by RCW 84.55.010, as may be amended from time to time, in the absence of voter approval under this Ordinance, including all other authorized lid lifts.

**Section 3.** The proposition to be submitted to the electorate of the City shall read substantially as follows:

**CITY OF BUCKLEY**  
**PROPOSITION NO. 1**  
**MULTI-YEAR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LEVY LID LIFT**

The City of Buckley City Council adopted Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_-24 concerning an increase in the City's permanent EMS property tax levy. If approved, this measure will continue to fund emergency medical services by restoring the City's EMS levy to \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in 2025; authorizing an annual increase of up to 6% annually, not to exceed \$0.50/\$1,000, for 2026-2030; and authorizing the 2030 levy amount as the basis to calculate subsequent levies, per RCW 84.55. Qualifying seniors, disabled veterans, and others would be exempt, per RCW 84.36.

Should this proposition be approved?:

YES: \_\_\_\_\_

NO: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4.** For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the City Council hereby designates: (a) the Mayor and (b) the City Attorney as the individuals to whom such notice should be provided. The City Mayor and City Attorney are each authorized individually to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary or recommended by the Pierce County Auditor, as long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the intent of this Ordinance as approved by the City Council.

**Section 5.** The election will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

**Section 6.** If the ballot proposition set forth herein is approved by the voters, as authorized by RCW 84.36.381, senior citizens, disabled veterans, and other people with disabilities (as defined in RCW 84.36.381) shall be exempt from the tax increase resulting from such levy lid lift.

**Section 7.** In the event the proposition specified in Section 3 above is approved, the City Council shall levy and there shall be collected a regular property tax emergency medical services levy in the City at the rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for collection in 2025.

**Section 8.** The Pierce County Auditor, as the City's ex officio Supervisor of Elections, is hereby requested to call and conduct said election on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, and submit to the qualified electors of the City the proposition set forth herein.

**Section 9.** The proper City officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to submit the question of whether the EMS property tax shall be increased, as provided in this Ordinance, to the electors at the August 6, 2024 election.

**Section 10.** The Pierce County Auditor, as the City's ex officio Supervisor of Elections shall conduct the election, canvas the vote, and certify the results in the manner provided by law.

**Section 11.** If any provisions in this Ordinance shall be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to law, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be deemed separable from the remaining provisions of this Ordinance and shall in no way affect the validity of the other

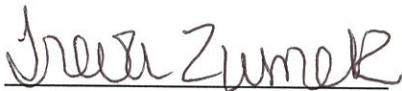
provisions of this Ordinance or of the levy or collection of the taxes authorized by this proposition. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this Ordinance is hereby ratified and confirmed.

Introduced, passed and approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.



Beau Burkett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Treva Zumek, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Phil Olbrechts, City Attorney

Published Date: April 17, 2024

Effective Date: April 22, 2024