



## Budget Change Request

### Change request information

Title Emergency Management Emergency Communications Projects  
Number B-29A-02 Department 29A - Emergency  
Requester Joy Keene  
Published by Jennifer Smith Publish Date 2023-08-24  
Change Type Policy Change

### Board outcome *(to be entered by budget after Board action)*

Board Decision  
Board Changes

### Funds affected

Fund 0010 - General Fund  
General Fund Affected? Yes More Than One Fund Affected? No

### Policy request priority and connection to the strategic plan

Priority # 1 Strategic Plan Responsive Law,

### Does this request include federal, state, or private grants?

Grant Funded? None  
Grantor and timeframe n/a

### Does this request affect current positions or propose new positions?

HR Payroll e-mailed? No Position Impact None  
Current position numbers affected n/a

### What do you need and why? Include any unexpected and external requirements.

Statement of Need

Emergency Management is requesting up to \$100,000 for project(s) to address emergency communications in the event infrastructure is damaged or limited during an emergency incident.

When extreme events and hazards occur, the capacity of communications systems may decrease while the demand for service may increase. There is a broad resilience on mobile devices and the internet. Resilience of those communications infrastructure systems are important but in the event of a hazard the infrastructure may be limited. In order for Thurston County to meet communication recovery needs. Emergency Management communication goals: Relaying emergency and safety information to the public, communication between emergency responders, communication between family members and loved ones and continued operation of informal and private networks that support community recovery.

When addressing resilience to help Emergency Management prepare for the next hazard event, longer-term communications infrastructure needs include:

The ability to communicate with a variety of stakeholders. (Employers, schools, TC residents, hospitals, first responders, health/medical, essential city/town/county services, public shelters and the Washington State Emergency Management Department)

Potential Focused projects addressing emergency communications gaps in Thurston County to support local infrastructure.

- Option 1 \$10,000 for the HAM/Amateur Radio initiative
- Option 2 \$30,000 for the two variable message signs
- Option 3 \$100,000 for the NOAA Weather Radios (2,000)

Funding for this request would be General Fund.

Thurston County Strategic Plan through Initiative 4: Strengthen Emergency Management Planning and Community Disaster Preparedness.

## How will this change the performance of your office or department?

### Statement of Need

Option 1 \$10,000 for the HAM/Amateur Radio initiative

A robust campaign would raise awareness of the benefits and importance of amateur radio. This would be a targeted effort and open to any resident of Thurston County. The proposal is to host the courses for amateur radio license, cover the cost of the book, and license. \$75 per person (\$25 book, \$15 exam fee, \$35 FCC license fee). The goal would be to eventually get 300 Thurston County residents licensed. Potentially, we could also pay for a small handheld amateur radio for each participant successfully passing the course.

Option 2 \$30,000 for the two variable message signs (VMS)

VMS are electronic signs that display messages to stakeholders/Thurston County residents in real time. The signs can display text and symbols, making them an effective way to provide information quickly and potentially provide information about emergency information, evacuation routes, and other emergency procedures. The proposal is to purchase two to six VMS for potentially deployment through the county.

Option 3 \$100,000 for the NOAA Weather Radios (2,000)

Purchase NOAA Weather radios to distribute to residents of Thurston County. Weather radios provide a valuable source of information during and after a disaster. Alerts and Warnings can be sent through these radios and shared with community partners & residents. The proposal is to purchase 500 – 2,000 radios and develop a distribution plan with partners.

These initiatives will provide Thurston County Emergency Management with resources to increase important emergency communications to stakeholders.

## Expenditure, FTE and revenue assumptions plus current budget level

### Assumptions

n/a

### Current Budget Level

0129H100 531000 \$11,000

**What happens if this isn't funded? Are there other options?**

Impacts and Alternatives

Emergency Management may not be able to effectively and efficiently communicate important information in a timely manner to Thurston County residents, stakeholders, first responders. and Washington State Military Department.

**How does this request affect other offices and departments?**

Impact to Other Departments                      None

Which Other Departments are Affected? n/a

Operating Transfer Needed?                      No

Operating Transfer Coding and Amount      n/a

**Personnel Information**

FTE	Number	Name	Start Date	End Date
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**Operating Revenue Line Items**

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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**Capital Revenue Line Items**

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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**Operating Expenditure Line Items**

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
0129H100	531000	SUPPLIES		100,000	-
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>

**Capital Expenditure Line Items**

Org Code	Object Code	Object Description	Project Code	2024	2025
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