

Date: May 18, 2022  
 To: Chief Mark John, City of Olympia Fire Department  
 From: Martin Chaw, Project Manager  
 CC: Todd Chase, Principal  
 Subject: **City of Olympia Feasibility Analysis – Basic Life Support Services**

In 2021, the City of Olympia Fire Department contracted with FCS GROUP to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a city-owned and operated Basic Life Support transport program.

RCW 35.21.766 authorizes a city to establish a publicly financed ambulance service if the city determines that it is not being adequately served by existing private ambulance services. The ambulance service may be financed through either establishment of a public ambulance utility, or financed through the City’s general fund.

FCS GROUP prepared an analysis to independently determine:

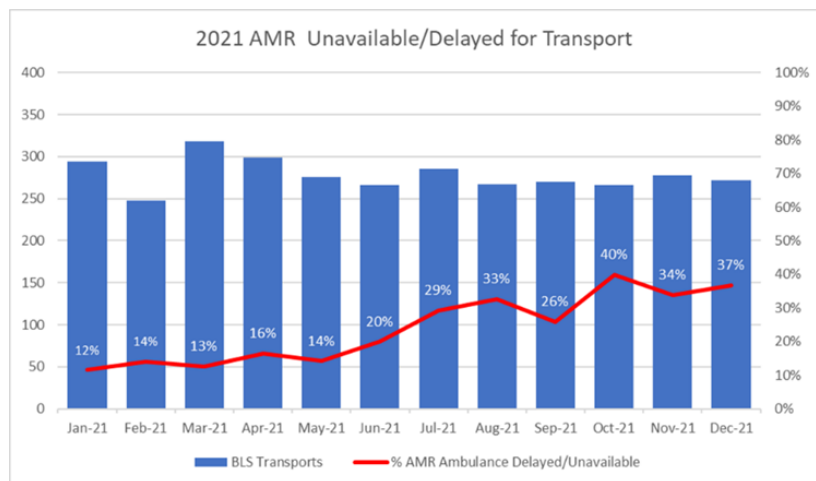
- 1) Does there exist a deficiency in the current delivery of BLS services?
- 2) Is creating a city-owned and operated BLS program feasible?

1) Does there exist a deficiency in the current delivery of BLS services?

***Based on our analysis of data provided by the City’s Fire Department, current BLS service levels as measured by the delay or unavailability of BLS units, is deficient.***

In 2021, there were approximately 3,400 ambulance transports. During this same year, the City experienced decreasing availability by private ambulance providers. As shown below, the percentage of time that AMR has been unavailable or delayed in transporting patients to local hospitals or emergency rooms increased from 12% at the beginning of 2021 to 37% by the end of 2021.

This has resulted in either increased on-scene times by City emergency response staff while awaiting arrival of Basic Life Support (BLS) units or the necessity of using the City’s emergency response vehicles to transport patients to the hospital. In either case, it means that the City’s emergency response units are unavailable to respond to other emergencies while they either await an AMR unit to arrive, or the emergency response unit is transiting a patient to the local hospital or emergency room.



2) Is creating a city-owned and operated BLS program feasible?

***Based on the financial analysis, creating a city owned and operated BLS program to address the current BLS service level deficiencies is feasible in the long-term.***

FCS GROUP prepared a 10-year operational forecast and an analysis of a city-owned and operated BLS program. Based on the current assumptions and forecasted demand, we have determined that it is financially feasible for the City to create, own and operate a BLS program.

While the City can operate a one-unit or two-unit BLS program, a two-unit program is optimal as it would enable the City to:

- a) Fully respond to forecasted BLS calls for service;
- b) Improve services to the community; and
- c) Deploy its emergency response resources more efficiently and effectively.

