

Additional Background Information

The Redmond Fire Department started providing Basic Life Support (BLS) transport service with paid professional staff around 1969. In 1975 the program was expanded to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) through the Medic One program. This two-tiered program has served the Redmond community well over the years. To this day, the region maintains one of the highest cardiac survival rates in the nation. Both programs, ALS and BLS, have been traditionally funded by county-wide EMS levies, however, over the years the BLS program has required additional funds to supplement the cost of the program due to calls for service growing at a rate faster than revenue growth. To date, any additional funding needed to sustain the program must come from the general fund.

Most fire-based BLS transport providers throughout King County have adopted BLS transport fee programs to cover the funding gaps and shift the funding from local budgets to the federal government and medical insurance providers in line with the rest of the EMS transport industry.