Resolution No. 505

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUNDING of
A NEW COUNTYWIDE 911 EMERGENCY RADIO SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Snohomish County Fire Protection District #4, serving a population of approximately 32,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, public safety depends on having reliable and effective emergency 911 radio communications; and

WHEREAS, SERS, the Snohomish County Emergency Radio System, since 1999 has provided a dependable countywide emergency radio service that enables our first responders to effectively respond to 911 emergency calls in our area; and

WHEREAS, SERS has two decades of technical expertise in developing, acquiring, installing, operating, maintaining, and managing the countywide emergency radio system; and

WHEREAS, the SERS existing analogue, 800 MHz radio system is now outdated and about to reach its end-of-life. When that happens in the year 2020 and the existing system can no longer be sustained, it will become increasingly difficult and eventually impossible to maintain reliable radio communications between 911 dispatchers and our first responders; and

WHEREAS, independent expert analysis by a national consultant has determined that a new replacement P-25 radio system using modern digital technology will substantially reduce the risk of future radio system failure and provide better audio voice quality for simulcast, two-way, interoperable emergency communications; and

WHEREAS, other counties of similar size in our region have already taken action to fund and replace their outdated 800 MHz radio system with a new P-25 digital radio system; and

WHEREAS, SERS is engaged with Snohomish County in a competitive bidding procurement process to select a qualified vendor to provide new countywide 911 radio system equipment and services; and

WHEREAS, equitable countywide funding for a new radio system must be authorized and secured to finance a new radio system that has a potential cost preliminarily estimated at $60 to $75 million.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Fire Commissioners for Snohomish County Fire Protection District #4 support taking necessary actions as soon as possible to replace the outdated SERS emergency radio system. We respectfully urge that Snohomish County elected officials approve the resources necessary to purchase, design and install the much needed, new, digital, countywide, P25 911 emergency radio system. The elected officials of the District support the County taking an action necessary to authorize a dedicated, countywide, equitable funding source for the new emergency 911 radio system.
PASSED this 8th day of January, 2018.

Mark Hintz, Chairman

James H. Schmoker, Jr., Commissioner

Richard Flath, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ron W. Simmons, District Secretary