

**EASTSIDE FIRE & RESCUE  
ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-04**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
EASTSIDE FIRE & RESCUE, EXEMPTING EASTSIDE  
FIRE & RESCUE FROM THE ALTERNATIVE FUELS  
REQUIREMENTS OF RCW 43.19.648(2)(A).**

WHEREAS, RCW 43.19.648(2)(a) requires all local governments (including cities and fire protection districts) to satisfy one hundred percent (100%) of fuel usage for their vehicles and construction equipment from electricity or biofuel, to the extent determined “practicable” by Washington State Department of Commerce (DOC) rules; and

WHEREAS, RCW 43.19.648(2)(c)(i) states that the DOC rules must allow local governments to elect to exempt fire and other emergency response vehicles, including utility vehicles frequently used for emergency response, from the one hundred percent (100%) fuel usage requirement; and

WHEREAS, WAC 194-29-020(7) (adopted by the DOC) defines “practicable” and “practicability” to mean “the extent to which alternative fuels and vehicle technologies can be used to displace gasoline and diesel fuel in vehicles, as determined by multiple dynamic factors including cost and availability of fuels and vehicles, changes in fueling infrastructure, operations, maintenance, technical feasibility, implementation costs, and other factors”; and

WHEREAS, Eastside Fire & Rescue (EF&R) maintains a fleet of fire and emergency response vehicles and utility vehicles frequently used for emergency response, including but not limited to fire engines, ladder trucks, aid units, brush vehicles, command vehicles, staff vehicles and marine or water-based motorized vehicles (fire vehicles); and

WHEREAS, fire engines, ladder trucks, aid units and marine or water-based motorized vehicles are not available with electric or hybrid (electric/gasoline) engines; and

WHEREAS, WAC 194-29-020(1) defines “biofuel” to mean “a liquid or gaseous fuel derived from organic matter intended for use as a transportation fuel, including, but not limited to biodiesel, renewable diesel, ethanol, renewable natural gas, and renewable propane; and

WHEREAS, although biodiesel can be used in some fire vehicles, the use of biodiesel in many of those vehicles will void the warranties; and

WHEREAS, biodiesel adversely impacts the maintenance and operation of fire vehicles; and

WHEREAS, some fire vehicles must have different engines in order to use biodiesel, prohibiting standardized operation and maintenance procedures and protocols for fire vehicles; and

WHEREAS, one EF&R fire station has a battery charging station, but battery charging stations are not available in other fire stations or at EF&R's headquarters office and station; and

WHEREAS, battery charging stations for vehicles in general are not reasonably available in EF&R's service area; and

WHEREAS, because EF&R acquires only a few fire vehicles each year, EF&R would need to have in place for many years one policy for operation and maintenance of electricity or biofuel fire vehicles and one for other vehicles, which is inefficient and an additional employee training cost; and

WHEREAS, it is not practicable for EF&R to satisfy one hundred percent (100%) of fuel usage for fire vehicles from electricity or biofuel, pursuant to RCW 43.19.648(2)(c)(i) and WAC 194-29-020(7); and

WHEREAS, the operation and maintenance of an effective and efficient fleet of fire vehicles precludes EF&R from satisfying one hundred percent (100%) of fuel usage for fire vehicles from electricity or biofuel, which justifies an exemption from the electricity and biofuel requirement of RCW 43.19.648(2)(a); and

WHEREAS, RCW 43.19.648(2)(c)(ii) provides that prior to executing its authority to exempt fire vehicles from the fuel usage requirement of RCW 43.19.648(2)(a), EF&R must provide notice to the DOC of the proposed exemption, which notice must include the rationale for the exemption and an explanation of how the exemption is consistent with DOC rules; and

WHEREAS, EF&R has provided such notice to the DOC; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EASTSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The EF&R Board of Directors adopts the recitals of this Resolution as findings in support of the Board's determination that it is not practicable for EF&R to satisfy one hundred percent (100%) of fuel usage for fire vehicles from electricity or biofuel pursuant to RCW 43.19.648(2)(a).

Section 2. Based on the determination of impracticability in Section 1 of this Resolution, the EF&R Board of Directors elects to exempt its entire fleet of fire vehicles from the electricity and biofuel requirement of RCW 43.19.648(2)(a).

Section 3. Although it is not practicable for EF&R to satisfy the electricity and biofuel requirement of RCW 43.19.648(2)(a), EF&R will consider WAC 194-29-070(1) when making procurement decisions regarding its fire vehicles.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Eastside Fire & Rescue at a regular open public meeting held on May 9, 2019.

  
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Attest: Board Secretary