



Letters of Support

- Commissioner Chris Jordan, *Spokane County Board of Commissioners*
- Commissioner Amber Waldref, *Spokane County Board of Commissioners*
- Commissioner Josh Kerns, *Spokane County Board of Commissioners*
- Commissioner Mary Kuney, *Spokane County Board of Commissioners*
- Commissioner Al French, *Spokane County Board of Commissioners*
- Senator Marcus Riccelli, *Washington State Senate 3rd District*
- Senator Jeff Holy, *Washington State Senate 6th Legislative District*
- Representative Suzanne Schmidt, *Washington State 4th Legislative District*
- Representative Mike Volz, *Washington State 6th Legislative District*
- Representative Jenny Graham, *Washington State 6th Legislative District*
- Governing Board, *Spokane Regional Emergency Communications*
- President Dennis Lawson, *Washington State Council of Firefighters*
- Executive Director Steve Brooks, *Washington Fire Chiefs*
- Board of Directors, *Washington Fire Commissioners Association*
- Dr. Joel Edminster, *City of Spokane & Fire District #9 Medical Director*
- Dr. Travis Dierks, *Emergency Room Trauma Physician*
- Deputy Director Chandra Fox, *Spokane County Emergency Management*
- IAFF Local 29, *City of Spokane Firefighters Union*
- IAFF Local 5363, *Spokane County Fire District #4 Firefighters Union*
- IAFF Local 876, *Spokane Valley Firefighters*
- IAFF Local 5440, *West Plains Firefighters*
- IAFF Local 3711, *Spokane County Fire District #8 Firefighters*
- Chief Frank Soto Jr, *Spokane Valley Fire Department*
- Chief Julie O'Berg, *Spokane Fire Department*
- Chief Mike Nokes, *Spokane County Fire District #4*
- Interim Chief Wyrobek and Commissioners, *Spokane County Fire District #8*
- Chief Tom Jenkins, *City of Cheney Fire Department*
- Chief Don Malone, *Spokane County Fire District 10*
- Chief Daron Bement, *Spokane County Fire District 13*



Spokane County

OFFICE OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Chris Jordan, District 1 | Amber Waldref, District 2

Dear Members of the Trauma Councils,

As a Spokane County Commissioner, I am writing in strong support of Spokane County Fire District 9's application for an ambulance transport license—an essential step toward improving public health outcomes, increasing system affordability, and ensuring redundancy in a region that urgently needs it.

Spokane County has grown to over 550,000 residents, yet our ambulance transport infrastructure has not kept pace. Despite the increasing call volume and demand for emergency services, our county still operates without a formal backup plan for ambulance coverage. This lack of redundancy is a serious public health risk. Any delay in care—especially in time-sensitive medical emergencies—can mean the difference between recovery and tragedy.

Granting Spokane County Fire District 9 the authority to transport patients directly would immediately strengthen system resilience. With trained Firefighter/EMTs and paramedics already providing high-quality care, the District is operationally prepared to launch transport services by July 1, 2026. They offer an existing, reliable, and cost-effective solution to a growing gap in our EMS system.

This is also an issue of healthcare affordability. When EMS systems become overburdened and uncoordinated, response times increase, and costs are passed on to patients. District 9's entry into the transport network introduces a community-based, public option—one that is responsive to local needs and not driven by profit. For patients, this means faster care, lower bills, and greater transparency in service delivery.

The residents of District 9 deserve timely emergency transport from providers who know their community. Local control matters—not only for accountability, but also for designing services that reflect the unique geography, population, and access challenges in their district.

From a public health standpoint, the logic is clear: Spokane County needs more ambulance transport capacity, more redundancy, and more affordable, community-driven care. Fire District 9 is ready and able to meet that need. I respectfully ask the Trauma Councils to approve the District's application and increase the minimum/maximum number of ALS Trauma Verified Transport licenses accordingly.

Thank you for your continued work to safeguard the health of our region.

Best,

Spokane County Commissioner Chris Jordan


Spokane County Commissioner Amber Waldref



COMMISSIONER
JOSH KERNS
DISTRICT 3

JKerns@spokanecounty.org

Re: Support for Spokane County Fire District 9's Application for Ambulance Transport License

Dear Members of the Spokane County & Eastern Region Trauma Councils,

As a Spokane County Commissioner and a Spokane County Regional Health District Board Member, I am writing in full support of Spokane County Fire District 9's application for licensure to provide ambulance transport services.

It has been more than 20 years since Spokane County last conducted a comprehensive review of its emergency medical services system, particularly regarding ambulance transport capacity and coverage. In that time, our county's population has grown, and with it, the demand for reliable, responsive, and high-quality emergency medical transport. The need for additional capacity, system redundancy, and improved response times is immediate and real.

District 9 is very well positioned with staffing, equipment, and administrative oversight to deliver on their goal of standing up service on Jul 1, 2026. I have personally witnessed the professionalism, advanced clinical capabilities, and dedication to public service demonstrated by their Firefighter/EMTs, Firefighter/paramedics, and leadership team. These highly trained professionals already serve their community members and provide high-level pre-hospital emergency care with distinction, and enabling them to transport patients will only enhance the level of healthcare available to residents in their fire district.

This is also a matter of local control and accountability. The residents and taxpayers of Fire District 9 deserve a voice in determining who delivers emergency services in their area. Licensing District 9 for ambulance transport would ensure decisions about critical care access are made locally, by those who know the unique needs of the community best.

Furthermore, granting this license will expand access to affordable pre-hospital healthcare. Patients will benefit from timely, cost-effective medical transport by

providers they know—without the limitations and delays that sometimes occur in an overstretched system that lacks redundancy.

Spokane County Fire District 9 is prepared, qualified, and well-positioned to play a larger role in our regional EMS system. I respectfully urge the Trauma Councils to increase the minimum/maximum number of ALS Trauma Verified Transport licenses and approve the District 9 application in the interest of public health, system resilience, and community-driven service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Kerns", written in a cursive style.

Commissioner Josh Kerns

Vice Chair, Board of Spokane County Commissioners
District 3



Spokane County

OFFICE OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner
Mary Kuney, District 4
MKuney@SpokaneCounty.org

August 22, 2025

Dear Members of the Spokane County & Eastern Region Trauma Councils,

As a Spokane County Commissioner and a Spokane County Regional Health District Board Member, I am writing in full support of Spokane County Fire District 9's application for licensure to provide ambulance transport services.

I learned it has been over 20 years since Spokane County last conducted a comprehensive review of its emergency medical services system, particularly regarding ambulance transport capacity and coverage. In that time, our county's population has grown, along with the demand for reliable, responsive, and high-quality emergency medical transport. The need for additional capacity, system redundancy, and improved response times is immediate and real.

Fire District 9 is very well positioned with staffing, equipment, and administrative oversight to deliver on their goal of starting service on July 1, 2026. I can personally verify their professionalism, advanced clinical capabilities, and dedication to public service demonstrated by their leadership team, Firefighter/EMTs, and Firefighter/paramedics. These trained professionals already serve their community members and provide high-level pre-hospital emergency care with distinction and enabling them to transport patients will only enhance the level of healthcare available to residents in their fire district.

The residents and taxpayers of Fire District 9 deserve a voice in determining who delivers emergency services in their area. Licensing District 9 for ambulance transport would ensure decisions about critical care access are made locally, by those who know the unique needs of the community best. This more affordable model will also create more than 15 new jobs, further contributing to the local economy.

Granting this license will expand access to affordable pre-hospital healthcare. Patients will benefit from timely, cost-effective medical transport by providers they know, without the limitations and delays that sometimes occur in an overstretched system that lacks redundancy.

Spokane County Fire District 9 is prepared, qualified, and well-positioned to play a larger role in our regional EMS system. I respectfully urge the Trauma Councils to increase the number of ALS Trauma Verified Transport licenses and approve the District 9 application in the interest of public health, system resilience, and community-driven service.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Kuney
Commissioner, District 4

Board of County Commissioners

— office of —

AL FRENCH, COMMISSIONER – DISTRICT 5



August 6, 2025

East Region Trauma Council
Executive Director Rinita Cook
P.O. Box 4626 Wenatchee, WA 98807

Spokane County Trauma Council
44 West Riverside Ave
Spokane, WA 99201

Washington State Department of Health
EMS and Trauma Care Steering Committee
P.O. Box 47877
Olympia, WA 98504-7877

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Ambulance Transport License

As a Spokane County Commissioner, I write to express my support for Spokane County Fire District 9’s application for an ambulance transport license—an urgent and necessary step in keeping pace with our region’s growth and ensuring that residents have access to timely, affordable emergency medical care.

Spokane County’s population has surged to over 550,000 residents and continues to grow rapidly. Yet, our emergency medical infrastructure has not kept up. This widening gap between demand and capacity needs to be addressed and granting Spokane County Fire District 9 a transport license is the right first step. We cannot afford to ignore the reality: more people and more traffic means more emergencies, and our current ambulance transport system lacks both the capacity and redundancy needed to serve a growing county.

At present, Spokane County operates without a formal contingency plan for ambulance transport. When seconds count, any delay can be life-threatening. A resilient EMS system must include built-in backups, and we simply don’t have that today.

Spokane County Fire District 9 is ready to meet this challenge. With trained Firefighter/EMTs and paramedics already delivering high-quality care, the District can begin transport services by July 1, 2026. Their entry would bring an immediate and much-needed boost in system capacity, and critically, it would do so through a locally controlled, community-based service model.

This is not just about system performance, it's also about affordability. As EMS networks strain under increased pressure, response times lengthen, and costs are often pushed onto patients. Fire District 9 provides a transparent, public option that is not profit-driven, ensuring that residents can receive fast, cost-effective care from professionals who live and work in their community. Local control isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. Our county's geography, population distribution, and service access challenges are unique. Decisions about EMS delivery should be made here, by people who understand our region.

I respectfully urge the Trauma Councils to approve Spokane County Fire District 9's application and increase the minimum/maximum number of ALS Trauma Verified Transport licenses accordingly. Doing so will help ensure that as Spokane County grows, our emergency medical system grows safely, sustainably, and equitably.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the health of our community.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Al French
Spokane County Board of Commissioners



August 15, 2025

Dear East Region EMS & Trauma Care Council, Spokane Trauma Council, and the Washington Department of Health,

I am writing to express my strong support for Spokane County Fire District 9's application for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Trauma Transport License.

As someone who has lived in Spokane my entire life and now has the honor of representing the 3rd Legislative District in the Washington State Senate, I have witnessed firsthand the dramatic changes our region has undergone. Spokane County has seen significant population growth, increased housing density, and mounting traffic congestion—all of which have placed added pressure on our healthcare system and emergency response infrastructure.

Despite this growth, our region's EMS transport capacity has not kept pace. This capacity shortfall undermines equitable access to the high-quality, affordable care every community member deserves. These challenges demand public-sector solutions that places the people of Spokane County first.

Spokane County Fire District 9 has long demonstrated a commitment to professionalism, public service, and health equity. Their expansion into ALS ambulance transport represents a timely and necessary step toward building a more resilient EMS system. Their plan will enhance regional capacity, expand access, and support the health infrastructure we rely on in times of crisis.

In contrast, the current for-profit transport provider's 60-day termination clause raises serious concerns about service continuity and public safety. We cannot allow a corporate decision to jeopardize trauma care access across the East Region. The public deserves a stable, mission-driven EMS transport option, and District 9 is ready to meet that need.

Furthermore, this expansion would support the creation and retention of high-quality, union jobs—IAFF positions that ensure well-trained, fairly compensated professionals are delivering this life-saving care. This is about building a sustainable system that values both the patients and the workforce that serves them.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the East Region and Spokane Trauma Councils, as well as the Washington Department of Health, to approve Spokane County Fire District 9's ALS Trauma Transport License. This is a sound investment in public health, in workforce development, and in the long-term safety and resilience of Spokane County and the East Region.

Sincerely,

Senator Marcus Riccelli
Washington's 3rd Legislative District
Spokane



Washington State Senate

Olympia Address:
PO Box 40406
Olympia, WA 98504-0406

Senator Jeff Holy
6th Legislative District

Telephone: (360)786-7610
Toll-Free: 1-800-562-6000
E-Mail: Jeff.Holy@leg.wa.gov

August 18, 2025

Spokane and East Region Trauma Councils
Washington State Department of Health
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System

Subject: Letter of Support for Spokane County Fire District 9 Ambulance Transport License Application

Dear Members of the Spokane and East Region Trauma Councils and Department of Health Officials,

I am writing in strong support of Spokane County Fire District 9's application for an ambulance transport license. As State Senator for Washington's 6th Legislative District, which encompasses much of Spokane County, I am acutely aware of the critical role that accessible and economical emergency medical services (EMS) play in providing our communities with safety and quality healthcare.

Spokane County and the broader Eastern Washington region have seen significant population growth over the last several years. Fire District 9 alone now serves over 55,000 residents, a number that continues to rise annually due to ongoing residential and commercial development. Yet despite this growth, our region has not undergone a comprehensive assessment of its emergency medical service needs in over 20 years. This lack of updated data and planning has led to unsustainable pressure on existing EMS infrastructure.

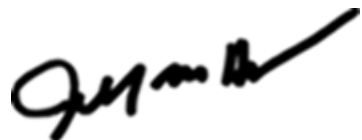
Currently, the region remains highly dependent on a single ambulance transport provider. Concerns have been raised that overreliance on a single provider creates a fragile system vulnerable to capacity limitations and rising costs. Introducing Spokane County Fire District 9 as a licensed ambulance transport provider will not only alleviate strain on the current system - it will also provide necessary caseload support, efficiency, and enhance public safety.

As a publicly funded fire agency, Fire District 9 is well-positioned to deliver transport services that are both cost-effective and community-centered. Importantly, their commitment to providing affordable, high-quality EMS transport aligns with the needs of our residents, especially those in underserved and rural areas who face financial or geographic barriers to pre-hospital emergency care.

Our constituents deserve a robust, modern EMS system that reflects current needs. I urge the Spokane and East Region Trauma Councils and the Department of Health to give serious and favorable consideration to Fire District 9's application.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to safeguarding public health in Washington State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Holy", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

JEFF HOLY
Washington State Senator
6th Legislative District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
4th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
SUZANNE SCHMIDT

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



LABOR & WORKPLACE STANDARDS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
& WORKFORCE
TRANSPORTATION

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for Spokane County Fire District 9's application for a license to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance transport services within their jurisdiction. This proposal represents a significant and much needed advancement in enhancing the emergency medical services (EMS) infrastructure for our region.

Spokane County Fire District 9 serves one of the fastest-growing areas in northeast Spokane County. For years, they have demonstrated exceptional performance and professionalism in delivering emergency response services. Their dedicated teams of firefighter-paramedics and firefighter-EMTs bring extensive training and experience to their roles, and they are fully equipped to provide ALS transport services to the highest standard of care.

The proposed public ambulance transport model will improve both the accessibility and affordability of emergency medical care for local residents. By offering more predictable costs and reducing financial barriers, District 9's service model will ensure that lifesaving care remains within reach for those who need it most.

Equally important, the locally managed EMS transport system envisioned by District 9 will allow for better coordination and faster response in critical situations, where every second can be the difference between life and death. Their deep-rooted knowledge of the communities they serve enables them to provide responsive, community-centered care that meets the public's expectations for transparency, accountability, and dependability.

I respectfully urge the Spokane County Trauma Council, the East Region Trauma Council, and the Washington State Department of Health to give full and favorable consideration to this application. With their outstanding record, skilled personnel, and unwavering commitment to public health and safety, Spokane County Fire District 9 is exceptionally well-qualified to meet the evolving EMS needs of our region.

Thank you for your attention and for your continued service to the health and well-being of Washingtonians.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Schmidt
State Representative, 4th Legislative District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
6th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
MIKE VOLZ

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



INNOVATION, COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
& VETERANS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
CONSUMER PROTECTION
& BUSINESS
TRANSPORTATION

July 25, 2025

Spokane County and Eastern Region Trauma Councils
Washington State Department of Health

Representative Mike Volz
6th LD District - Spokane

I am writing to endorse Spokane County Fire District 9's application for a license to provide Advanced Life Support ambulance transport services within their jurisdiction. This application represents a meaningful and much-needed step forward in strengthening our region's emergency medical services (EMS) infrastructure.

While Fire District 9 serves a rapidly growing population in northeast Spokane County, the proposed ambulance transport service will enhance both the affordability and accessibility of emergency medical care for the residents they serve. Additionally, the public model they propose will offer more predictable costs to patients and reduce barriers to lifesaving care.

I respectfully urge the Spokane County Trauma Council, the Eastern Region Trauma Council, and the Washington State Department of Health to give full and favorable consideration to Spokane County Fire District 9's application. Their proven track record, dedicated personnel, and commitment to improving outcomes for Washingtonians make them uniquely qualified to meet the region's growing EMS transport needs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Volz".

Representative Mike Volz
6th LD District - Spokane



Washington State Legislature

Spokane and East Region Trauma Councils
Washington State Department of Health
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System

August 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Spokane and East Region Trauma Councils and Department of Health Officials,

I write in support of Spokane County Fire District No. 9 in their application for an ambulance transport license. As the elected State Representative for Washington's 6th Legislative District, which includes much of Spokane County, I am acutely aware of the critical role timely, accessible, and cost-effective emergency medical services (EMS) play in ensuring the health and safety of our communities.

Spokane County and the broader Eastern Washington region have seen significant population growth. Fire District 9 alone now serves over 55,000 residents, a number that continues to rise annually due to ongoing residential and commercial development.

The region remains highly dependent on a single ambulance transport provider. Fire District 9's commitment to providing affordable, high-quality EMS transport aligns with the needs of our residents, especially those in underserved and rural areas who face financial or geographic barriers to pre-hospital emergency care.

I urge the Spokane and East Region Trauma Councils and the Department of Health to give serious and favorable consideration to Fire District 9's application. Our constituents deserve a robust, modern EMS system that reflects current needs.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to safeguarding public health in Washington State.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Graham".

Representative Jenny Graham

6th Legislative District

Office: 360-786-7962

435 John L. O'Brien Building

PO Box 40600



1620 N. Rebecca St.
Spokane, WA 99217
SREC911.org

September 2, 2025

CODY ROHRBACH – Chair
Spokane County Fire District 3

BRAD RICHMOND – Vice Chair
Airway Heights Police
Department

JOHN NOWELS
Spokane County Sheriff's Office

FRANK SOTO, JR.
Spokane Valley Fire
Department

SCOTT SIMMONS
Spokane County

HOWARD JOHNSON
Spokane County Fire District 4

DAVE ELLIS
Spokane Valley Police
Department

TOM WILLIAMS
Spokane Fire Department

MAGGIE YATES
City of Spokane

GAYNE SEARS
Citizen Representative

LORI MARKHAM
Executive Director

**Spokane County Trauma Council
East Region EMS and Trauma Council
Washington State Department of Health**

Subject: Spokane County Fire District 9 – Application for Licensure to Provide Ambulance Transport Services

On behalf of the Spokane Regional Emergency Communications (SREC) Board of Directors, we are writing to express our strong support for Spokane County Fire District 9's application to become a licensed, trauma-verified ambulance transport provider.

As the central coordinating hub for emergency communications across Spokane County, SREC has firsthand insight into the rising demand and growing complexity of emergency medical service (EMS) calls. Our region continues to experience increasing call volumes and critical incidents, yet transport capacity has not kept pace. This imbalance places strain on the system and risks delays in life-saving care.

District 9's application directly addresses this need. Their proposed transport service model, managed and deployed from established fire stations, represents a strategic investment in Spokane County's EMS resilience. Adding District 9 as a licensed provider will expand system capacity, improve redundancy, reduce response times, and ensure that our citizens receive timely, high-quality, and cost-effective emergency medical care.

District 9 has long demonstrated professionalism, operational readiness, and a commitment to collaboration. Their personnel are highly trained, community-focused, and prepared to enhance the countywide EMS network. The SREC Board recognizes this proposal as essential to ensuring both immediate response reliability and long-term sustainability for our region.

We respectfully urge the Spokane County Trauma Council, East Region Trauma Council, and the Washington State Department of Health to approve this application. Strengthening our emergency medical transport system is critical for the safety and well-being of Spokane County residents, and District 9's licensure is a key step toward that goal.

Respectfully,

Signed by:

Chief Cody Rohrbach, Chairman
Spokane Regional Emergency Communications

DocuSigned by:

Chief Brad Richmond, Vice Chairman
Spokane Regional Emergency Communications



Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

Affiliated with: AFL-CIO
International Association of Fire Fighters
Washington State Labor Council

July 28, 2025

Cathryn Holstein, Director
Washington State Department of Health Emergency Care Systems
P.O. Box 47877
Olympia, WA 98504-7877

Dear Director Holstein:

On behalf of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF), I am writing to express our strong support for the expansion of fire-based emergency medical transport for Spokane County Fire District 9 as they pursue an ambulance transport license through the Washington State Department of Health.

Spokane Fire District 9 has long demonstrated a commitment to excellence in public safety, with a dedicated workforce that includes professional firefighters and highly skilled emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Spokane Fire District 9 often arrives first on a scene, stabilizes the patient, and provides vital care. Currently, these critical interventions are followed by the transfer of care to private ambulance providers.

Expanding fire-based transport services would allow for the continued care of the patient by the same highly trained emergency medical technicians and paramedics who start treatment, ensuring a seamless transition and maintaining high standards of care for those in need.

We urge the Washington State Department of Health, the Spokane County Trauma Council, and the East Region Trauma Council to approve and support the expansion of transport services to include fire-based transport. The residents and visitors of Spokane County deserve access to accountable, affordable EMS transport services delivered by a public agency.

Providing transport services by fire-based units under the fire district's management and utilizing district-owned equipment and personnel improves responsiveness and care by providing high-quality, timely, and equitable emergency services. This expansion will further ensure citizens' well-being in moments of crisis.

The WSCFF fully supports this initiative and stands behind efforts to improve and expand the reach of fire-based emergency services. We are confident this will positively impact the community's health and safety.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you require any additional information or assistance, please contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis J. Lawson".

Dennis J. Lawson, President

cc: IAFF Local 2916
Spokane Count FD 9



Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

Affiliated with: AFL-CIO
International Association of Fire Fighters
Washington State Labor Council

July 28, 2025

Rinita Cook, Executive Director
East Region EMS & Trauma Care Council
P.O. Box 4626
Wenatchee, WA 98807

Dear Director Cook:

On behalf of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF), I am writing to express our strong support for the expansion of fire-based emergency medical transport for Spokane County Fire District 9 as they pursue an ambulance transport license through the Washington State Department of Health.

Spokane Fire District 9 has long demonstrated a commitment to excellence in public safety, with a dedicated workforce that includes professional firefighters and highly skilled emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Spokane Fire District 9 often arrives first on a scene, stabilizes the patient, and provides vital care. Currently, these critical interventions are followed by the transfer of care to private ambulance providers.

Expanding fire-based transport services would allow for the continued care of the patient by the same highly trained emergency medical technicians and paramedics who start treatment, ensuring a seamless transition and maintaining high standards of care for those in need.

We urge the Washington State Department of Health, the Spokane County Trauma Council, and the East Region Trauma Council to approve and support the expansion of transport services to include fire-based transport. The residents and visitors of Spokane County deserve access to accountable, affordable EMS transport services delivered by a public agency.

Providing transport services by fire-based units under the fire district's management and utilizing district-owned equipment and personnel improves responsiveness and care by providing high-quality, timely, and equitable emergency services. This expansion will further ensure citizens' well-being in moments of crisis.

The WSCFF fully supports this initiative and stands behind efforts to improve and expand the reach of fire-based emergency services. We are confident this will positively impact the community's health and safety.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you require any additional information or assistance, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Dennis J. Lawson, President

cc: IAFF Local 2916
Spokane Count FD 9



Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

Affiliated with: AFL-CIO
International Association of Fire Fighters
Washington State Labor Council

July 28, 2025

Berkley Vanhout
Spokane County EMS & Trauma Council
44 West Riverside Ave
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Ms. Vanhout:

On behalf of the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF), I am writing to express our strong support for the expansion of fire-based emergency medical transport for Spokane County Fire District 9 as they pursue an ambulance transport license through the Washington State Department of Health.

Spokane Fire District 9 has long demonstrated a commitment to excellence in public safety, with a dedicated workforce that includes professional firefighters and highly skilled emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Spokane Fire District 9 often arrives first on a scene, stabilizes the patient, and provides vital care. Currently, these critical interventions are followed by the transfer of care to private ambulance providers.

Expanding fire-based transport services would allow for the continued care of the patient by the same highly trained emergency medical technicians and paramedics who start treatment, ensuring a seamless transition and maintaining high standards of care for those in need.

We urge the Washington State Department of Health, the Spokane County Trauma Council, and the East Region Trauma Council to approve and support the expansion of transport services to include fire-based transport. The residents and visitors of Spokane County deserve access to accountable, affordable EMS transport services delivered by a public agency.

Providing transport services by fire-based units under the fire district's management and utilizing district-owned equipment and personnel improves responsiveness and care by providing high-quality, timely, and equitable emergency services. This expansion will further ensure citizens' well-being in moments of crisis.

The WSCFF fully supports this initiative and stands behind efforts to improve and expand the reach of fire-based emergency services. We are confident this will positively impact the community's health and safety.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you require any additional information or assistance, please contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis J. Lawson".

Dennis J. Lawson, President

cc: IAFF Local 2916
Spokane Count FD 9



Spokane County Trauma Council
East Region EMS and Trauma Council
Washington State Department of Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System
P.O. Box 47853
Olympia, WA 98504-7853

**Subject: Letter of Support for Spokane County Fire District 9 and Fire District 3 ALS
Licensure Applications**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Washington Fire Chiefs (WFC), we are writing to express our strong support for the Spokane County Fire District 9 application for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport Ambulance License and Spokane County Fire District 3's application for ALS Aid Service licensure.

We have been informed that the Spokane County Fire District 9 Board of Fire Commissioners has voted unanimously in favor of transitioning to ALS transport services. This action is both timely and necessary to address longstanding concerns regarding the lack of redundancy and resiliency in the current Spokane County EMS transport system. Spokane County is currently reliant on a single private, for-profit transport provider. The absence of overlapping transport licenses or built-in surge capacity poses a serious risk to public safety and patient outcomes. This is a fundamental deviation from EMS best practices observed in other counties where multiple licensed EMS providers contribute to a more reliable, flexible, and responsive system.

Spokane County Fire Districts 9 and 3 have demonstrated the training, infrastructure, and organizational commitment necessary to enhance regional EMS delivery. Their proposed ALS services would directly support the continuity of care, decrease response and transport times, and ensure greater system resilience, particularly during high-call-volume periods.

The WFC believes that public fire-based EMS transport services offer a high level of accountability, transparency, and community-focused care. We urge the Spokane County Trauma Council – East Region and the Washington State Department of Health to approve these licensure requests and support the local fire service's efforts to ensure safe, equitable, and reliable emergency medical services for Spokane County residents.

Thank you for your consideration and your ongoing commitment to strengthening Washington's EMS and trauma care systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Brooks, Executive Director



WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

August 12, 2025

Spokane County Trauma Council
44 West Riverside Ave
Spokane, WA 99201
bvanhout@spokanecity.org

Subject: *Letter of Support for Spokane County Fire District 9 – ALS Trauma Verified Transport License Application*

Dear Berkley VanHout,

We are writing to express the support of the Washington Fire Commissioners Association for Spokane County Fire District 9's application for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Trauma Verified Transport License.

Spokane County Fire District 9 has a proven track record of excellence, and we are confident they will excel in this expanded role. Adding ALS trauma transport will bring a vital and lasting benefit to their community and the WFCA has full confidence in their ability to provide this effectively and efficiently. Their Board of Commissioners has unanimously approved this expanded service, and we know they will be successful in their execution based on their history.

We respectfully urge your full consideration and approval of their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Boling'.

Lee Boling
WFCA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Ferris'.

Roger Ferris
WFCA Executive Director

LB & RF/jm

JOEL D. EDMINSTER MD, FACEP

Dr. Joel Edminster | (509) 688-4385

Re: Letter of Support – Spokane County Fire District 9 Ambulance Transport License Application

Dear Members of the Spokane County and Eastern Region Trauma Councils, and the Washington Department of Health,

As the Medical Director for Spokane County Fire District 9 and a practicing emergency physician, I am writing to express my full and unequivocal support for the District's application for licensure to provide ambulance transport services.

Spokane County has not undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of its EMS transport capacity, redundancy, and system efficiency in more than twenty years. During that time, our region has seen significant population growth and increased complexity in pre-hospital emergency medical needs. Unfortunately, the current EMS infrastructure in Spokane County has not kept pace with these evolving demands, resulting in gaps in resources, redundancy, and planning.

In my role, I have had the opportunity to work directly with Fire District 9's EMTs and paramedics. Their clinical skills, adherence to continuous quality improvement, and commitment to high-quality patient care are consistently outstanding. They routinely demonstrate the ability to deliver both Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) with professionalism, sound judgment, and technical proficiency in the field.

Authorizing District 9 to provide ambulance transport services would add essential capacity to our EMS system—particularly during peak demand, major incidents, and responses in rural areas. More importantly, it would ensure that patients receive timely, appropriate, and cost-effective care delivered directly by the firefighter/EMTs and paramedics, completing the emergency response with the delivery of the patient to the emergency room.

District 9 is already well-integrated into the county's EMS framework, and its proven track record makes it exceptionally well-suited to assume this expanded role. Granting this licensure will enhance system reliability, improve continuity of care, and align with modern EMS delivery models aimed at optimizing patient outcomes.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Councils to increase the minimum/maximum number of licenses, and the Department of Health to approve Spokane County Fire District 9's application. This step is not only justified by clinical need but essential to advancing the strength and sustainability of our regional EMS system.

Sincerely,



Joel Edminster, MD

Medical Director
Spokane County Fire District 9

8/15/2025

Travis Dierks, MD, FACEP
Spokane County BLS Representative

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed initiatives within Fire District 9 to expand and improve services. These enhancements hold great promise for increasing efficiency, access, and overall responsiveness to the community they serve. By strengthening District 9's capacity, they could ensure critical needs are met effectively and that service delivery remains consistent with their organization's mission.

At the same time, I recognize that changes benefiting one agency may have unintentional impacts on another, which plays an equally vital role in our shared mission of timely and quality patient care. To this end, I strongly encourage continued collaboration between departments and leadership to ensure that improvements in services do not come at the expense of patient care at the county level.

I believe multiple entities can thrive in tandem, provided that careful attention is given to maintaining the primary goal of fast high quality care delivery and transport. Supporting Fire District 9 in this endeavor does not diminish the indispensable contributions of any other transport entity; rather, it may offer an opportunity to align efforts and build stronger interdepartmental connections for the betterment of county wide care delivery.

I urge decision-makers to be proactive in safeguarding the stability and effectiveness of delivery quality patient care and rapid transport to ensure continual availability of the highest-level emergency service possible.

Sincerely,



Travis Dierks, MD, FACEP



Spokane County Emergency Management

1121 W Gardner Ave ♦ Spokane, WA 99201 ♦ 509-477-3046

August 6, 2025

Members of the Trauma Councils and Washington Department of Health,

As the Deputy Director of Spokane County Emergency Management, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Spokane County Fire District 9's application for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Trauma Verified Transport License and to urge your representatives to approve this important system enhancement.

Spokane County is experiencing continued population growth, increasing demands on our emergency medical services system. Ensuring that we have a robust, responsive, and resilient EMS infrastructure is critical to maintaining public safety and saving lives. The addition of an ALS-verified trauma transport capability within Fire District 9 represents a key step in building out the county-wide EMS system to meet current and future demands.

Spokane County Fire District 9 has consistently demonstrated a high standard of service in emergency response. Its strategic location within the county allows it to provide timely, high-quality ambulance transport services to their residents, visitors, and businesses. Expanding transport capacity through this ALS Trauma Verified Transport License will directly enhance our county's ability to respond to both day-to-day emergencies and large-scale incidents, ensuring that additional, well-placed resources are available when they're needed most.

A core responsibility of Emergency Management is to assess risks and plan for the evolving needs of the community. As our county grows, our risks increase exponentially, as well; and the commensurate expansion of EMS transport capability represents the next evolutionary step needed to meet the demands of our growing and dynamic population. Supporting Fire District 9 in achieving verified transport status aligns with our broader mission to build a resilient and responsive system. Increasing capacity in this way strengthens our county-wide emergency response and improves outcomes during critical events.

I urge the Spokane Regional Trauma Council, the East Region EMS & Trauma Care Council, and the Washington State Department of Health to fully support Spokane County Fire District 9's application. The approval of this license will be a vital enhancement to our regional emergency medical system capacity and our emergency preparedness efforts.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chandra E Fox".

Chandra E Fox, CEM
SCEM Deputy Director

RANDY MARLER
President
LEE MCNAMEE
Vice President
KIRK GRIFFITH
Treasurer
COREY NEWMAN
Secretary



IAFF- LOCAL 29
804 S. MONROE
Spokane, WA
99204

BUS 509-484-5598
FAX 509-484-3752
www.local29.org
iaffl29@gmail.com

International Association of Fire Fighters

Randy Marler

President, IAFF Local 29
presidentiaffl29@gmail.com
8/6/2025

Director Holstein

Washington State Department of Health

Dear Director Holstein,

As President of IAFF Local 29, representing the largest group of professional firefighters in Spokane County, I am writing in full support of Spokane County Fire District 9's application for an ambulance transport license through the Washington State Department of Health.

As a neighboring jurisdiction, we have a clear view of the professionalism and dedication Spokane County Fire District 9 brings to emergency response. Their crews are often the first on scene, delivering critical, time-sensitive interventions with skill and care. Allowing their highly trained personnel to remain with the patient throughout the entire call — from first contact to hospital transfer — is a natural and logical extension of the high standards they already uphold.

Fire-based EMS transport is more than a service model — it's a proven approach to improving patient outcomes. It ensures continuity of care, accountability, and direct public oversight. I know firsthand how much that matters to our communities.

We urge the Department of Health, the Spokane County Trauma Council, and the East Region Trauma Council to support this step forward. Spokane County residents deserve reliable, affordable emergency transport delivered by trusted public safety professionals, using public resources, under public accountability.

Our Local supports the expansion of fire-based EMS in our region and views District 9's effort not as competition, but as collaboration — a way to strengthen the overall system for the people we all serve. We stand with them in their pursuit of this license and are confident it will result in better service and stronger outcomes for our shared community.

Please feel free to reach out if I can offer any additional insight or support.

Respectfully,

Randy Marler

IAFF Local 29, President

RANDY MARLER
President
LEE MCNAMEE
Vice President
KIRK GRIFFITH
Treasurer
COREY NEWMAN
Secretary



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iaffl29@gmail.com

International Association of Fire Fighters

Randy Marler

President, IAFF Local 29
presidentiaffl29@gmail.com
8/6/2025

Dear Director Cook,

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As a neighboring jurisdiction, we have a clear view of the professionalism and dedication Spokane County Fire District 9 brings to emergency response. Their crews are often the first on scene, delivering critical, time-sensitive interventions with skill and care. Allowing their highly trained personnel to remain with the patient throughout the entire call — from first contact to hospital transfer — is a natural and logical extension of the high standards they already uphold.

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Please feel free to reach out if I can offer any additional insight or support.

Respectfully,

Randy Marler

IAFF Local 29, President

RANDY MARLER
President

LEE MCNAMEE
Vice President

KIRK GRIFFITH
Treasurer

COREY NEWMAN
Secretary



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iaffl29@gmail.com

International Association of Fire Fighters

Randy Marler

President, IAFF Local 29
presidentiaffl29@gmail.com
8/6/2025

Dear Administrator Vanhout,

As President of IAFF Local 29, representing the largest group of professional firefighters in Spokane County, I am writing in full support of Spokane County Fire District 9's application for an ambulance transport license through the Washington State Department of Health.

As a neighboring jurisdiction, we have a clear view of the professionalism and dedication Spokane County Fire District 9 brings to emergency response. Their crews are often the first on scene, delivering critical, time-sensitive interventions with skill and care. Allowing their highly trained personnel to remain with the patient throughout the entire call — from first contact to hospital transfer — is a natural and logical extension of the high standards they already uphold.

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We urge the Department of Health, the Spokane County Trauma Council, and the East Region Trauma Council to support this step forward. Spokane County residents deserve reliable, affordable emergency transport delivered by trusted public safety professionals, using public resources, under public accountability.

Our Local supports the expansion of fire-based EMS in our region and views District 9's effort not as competition, but as collaboration — a way to strengthen the overall system for the people we all serve. We stand with them in their pursuit of this license and are confident it will result in better service and stronger outcomes for our shared community.

Please feel free to reach out if I can offer any additional insight or support.

Oh and of course, Go Cougs!

Respectfully,

Randy Marler

IAFF Local 29, President

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the members of Local 5363, we are writing to express our strong support for Local 2916 in their pursuit of an ambulance transport license. We believe that granting this license to Local 2916 will significantly benefit the community in multiple ways.

First and foremost, Local 2916 has demonstrated a consistent commitment to high-quality emergency response. By expanding their responsibilities to include ambulance transport, they will enhance response times and improve patient outcomes through seamless continuity of care from the scene to the hospital.

Additionally, allowing Local 2916 to provide ambulance transport will result in a more cost-effective system for the community. As a union that understands both operational efficiency and the importance of public service, we recognize that this approach reduces duplication, consolidates resources, and eliminates unnecessary delays.

Finally, the establishment of a transport program through Local 2916 will generate meaningful local employment opportunities. It will create stable, union-protected jobs that support not only the transport system itself but also the broader public safety infrastructure.

We fully support Local 2916's initiative and urge all decision-makers to approve their application for an ambulance transport license. Their proven professionalism, training, and deep ties to the community make them the ideal provider to enhance and expand emergency medical services.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Cresci
President Local 5363
(509) 869-7924
frankcresci2525@gmail.com

Ben James
President
IAFF L876

Subject: Supporting SCFD9 and IAFF L2916 in their pursuit of an ambulance transport license. Fire service-based ambulance transport represents an opportunity for enhanced community safety and emergency response

To Whom It May Concern:

The following expresses strong support for L2916 and SCFD9 establishing fire service-based ambulance transport in the community. Integrating ambulance transport within the existing fire department structure is believed to be the most efficient way to ensure timely, high-quality emergency medical services for all residents.

Fire service-based transport provides several benefits that address critical aspects of emergency response:

- **Faster Response Times:** Fire stations are strategically located, allowing quicker responses to medical emergencies. This is crucial in life-threatening situations such as cardiac arrest or severe trauma. Reducing response times can and will improve on scene times in these critical circumstances.
- **Enhanced Patient Care:** Firefighter paramedics/ EMT's are trained in fire suppression, vehicle extrication, and emergency medical procedures, offering a comprehensive approach to emergency care. Continuity of care is improved when first responders and ambulance personnel are part of the same organization, sharing training, equipment, and agency expectations.
- **Optimal Resource Utilization:** Integrating ambulance services leverages existing infrastructure and cross-trained personnel, potentially reducing redundancy and minimizing overhead costs. Firefighters, stationed throughout the community and available 24/7, can be efficiently utilized to provide both fire and EMS services, including ambulance transport.

Supporting fire service-based ambulance transport can strengthen a community's emergency response capabilities and ensure residents receive the best possible care.

Please consider the advantages of this model and prioritize its implementation in Spokane County by affording SCFD9 and L2916 the opportunity through an ambulance transport license.

Sincerely,

Ben James

President IAFF Local 876



WEST PLAINS PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

IAFF Local 5440

Spokane, Washington

Email: mrevanzeutschel@aim.com | Phone: 509-598-0523

Brother Matt,

On behalf of the West Plains Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 5440, our Executive Board is proud to express our full support for the Spokane County Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 2916, and their pursuit of an ambulance transport license through the Washington State Department of Health.

We recognize that Local 2916's initiative is the result of a joint labor-management effort within Spokane County Fire District 9 to expand access to public-based EMS transport services. We also acknowledge the documented limitations of the current minimum/maximum (min/max) licensing thresholds in Spokane County, which have gone unreviewed for over 15 years prior to District 4's recent licensing.

As professional firefighters and paramedics, we firmly believe that EMS transport is a critical public service that is best delivered through accountable, publicly operated systems—staffed by union professionals who are committed to the community they serve. Transitioning EMS transport to public agency control will improve response times, enhance patient care, and ensure that resources are deployed in a way that prioritizes public health and safety over private profit.

The West Plains Professional Firefighters stand united with Local 2916 in urging the Washington State Department of Health, the Spokane County Trauma Council, and the East Region Trauma Council to support changes to the current licensing thresholds and approve Local 2916's application for ambulance transport authority.

This endorsement reflects the unanimous decision of our Executive Board and represents the collective voice of our membership. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of Local 2916 in their effort to bring high-quality, equitable EMS services to the residents and visitors of Fire District 9.

In solidarity,

Evan Zeutschel
President, IAFF L5440
West Plains Professional Firefighters

July 24, 2025

To:

Washington State Department of Health – EMS & Trauma Systems
Spokane County Trauma Council
East Region EMS & Trauma Care Council

Subject: Letter of Recommendation in Support of ALS Transport Licensing – Spokane County Fire District 9

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Spokane County Fire District 8 Firefighters, IAFF Local 3711, we respectfully submit this letter as a formal recommendation of support for Spokane County Fire District 9 and IAFF Local 2916 in their application for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance transport license through the Washington State Department of Health.

We strongly support Fire District 9's request because it reflects a well-reasoned, system-focused effort to expand access to high-quality, reliable emergency medical transport delivered by a public agency. The need for enhanced ALS transport capacity in Spokane County is well established, and Fire District 9 is uniquely positioned to meet that need with professionalism, efficiency, and accountability.

Fire departments bring unmatched advantages to EMS transport systems. Our model is built on public trust, strategic geographic deployment, and multi-role emergency response. ALS transport services managed by fire departments provide a faster, more coordinated response because our paramedics are already embedded in the community, stationed near the population centers they serve, and trained to handle a full range of emergencies—from cardiac arrest to trauma to fire suppression. By contrast, private EMS providers like AMR often stage from centralized locations, leading to delayed arrivals and inconsistent coverage—especially in rural or high-demand areas.

Firefighter-paramedics offer greater clinical experience and operational consistency. As full-time public safety professionals, fire-based EMS providers typically spend their entire careers in service to a single jurisdiction. This longevity results in deep institutional knowledge, familiarity with local hospitals and protocols, and stronger working relationships with law enforcement and healthcare partners. Private EMS agencies, on the other hand, experience high employee turnover and often rely on newly certified or part-time personnel. This instability undermines continuity of care, response quality, and the community's confidence in the EMS system.

Public EMS transport also ensures long-term reinvestment and equity. Revenue generated from fire-based transport is returned to the public system—improving staffing, equipment, training, and readiness. These resources directly benefit the communities we serve and strengthen the overall resilience of the regional EMS network. Moreover, fire departments are governed by

elected officials and are accountable to local residents—not shareholders. This ensures that decisions are made based on patient care and public need, not profit margins.

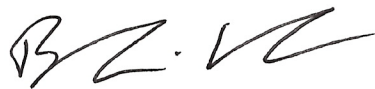
Expanding ALS transport within District 9 will close critical gaps in care, reduce wait times for transport, and provide consistent, high-quality service throughout the district's coverage area. Their inclusion as a licensed transport provider will also increase system redundancy and surge capacity, which is essential for large-scale incidents, weather events, or mutual aid support when private providers are unavailable or overwhelmed.

We also support efforts by Fire District 9 and IAFF Local 2916 to reassess Spokane County's current minimum/maximum (min/max) license thresholds. The outdated structure has long favored incumbent providers at the expense of system innovation and flexibility.

For all these reasons, IAFF Local 3711 strongly recommends approval of Spokane County Fire District 9's application for an ALS transport license. This expansion is not only justified—it is necessary to meet the growing and evolving EMS needs of Spokane County.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to advancing public EMS in Washington State.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blaine Holman', written in a cursive style.

Blaine Holman
President – IAFF Local 3711



2120 N. Wilbur Rd.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
(509) 928-1700 Main
(509) 892-4125 Fax
spokanevalleyfire.com

July 24, 2025

TO: Spokane County and Eastern Region Trauma Councils

FROM: Frank Soto Jr, Fire Chief, Spokane Valley Fire Department (SVFD)

SUBJECT: Spokane County Fire District 9 – Application for Licensure to Provide Ambulance Transport Services

On behalf of the Spokane Valley Fire Department, I am writing to express my full support for Spokane County Fire District 9's (District 9) application for licensure to provide ambulance transport services.

Spokane County has not formally re-evaluated its ambulance transport capacity and system resilience in over two decades. In that time, we have seen tremendous growth in population, increasingly complex medical emergencies, and rising demands on all public safety agencies. However, the emergency medical services (EMS) transport infrastructure has not kept pace with these growing and evolving needs.

Authorizing District 9 to provide ambulance transport services is a vital step toward reinforcing the strength and stability of our regional EMS system. At a time when call volumes are increasing and system strain is becoming more apparent, adding District 9 as a licensed transport provider introduces essential redundancy. This added capacity will enhance system resilience, reduce response delays, and provide critical backup during peak times or large-scale emergencies.

District 9 has a proven track record of professionalism, strong clinical capabilities, and a commitment to collaboration within the region. Their personnel are well-trained, mission-focused, and ready to contribute to a more resilient countywide emergency medical response network.

I respectfully urge the Trauma Councils to support this application. Spokane County's emergency medical system must evolve to meet current and future demands—and granting this licensure to District 9 is an essential part of that progress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Soto Jr".

Frank Soto Jr, Fire Chief
MPA, EFO, CFO, CEMSO, MIFireE, NRP
Spokane Valley Fire Department
sotof@spokanevalleyfire.com



JULIE O'BERG
FIRE CHIEF

July 31, 2025

RE: Fire District 9 ALS Trauma Verified Transport License

The Spokane Fire Department values its longstanding partnership with American Medical Response (AMR) and their continued provision of Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance transport services within the city limits.

At the same time, we recognize the importance of building a resilient regional EMS system and ensuring equitable access to high-quality prehospital care. Spokane County Fire District 9's initiative to pursue ALS trauma verification represents a thoughtful effort to expand EMS capacity and meet the evolving needs of their service area.

While the Spokane Fire Department maintains an active transport agreement with AMR for services within the City of Spokane, we respect Fire District 9's efforts to serve their community. We also recognize that EMS delivery models can vary across jurisdictions depending on local needs and governance structures.

Regards,

Julie O'Berg

Spokane County Fire District 4

Serving North Spokane County

August 4, 2025

To: To Whom it May Concern

Re: Expansion of Spokane County Min/Max Transport Licenses

Spokane County Fire District #4 has seen firsthand the flaws in the Min/Max transport review and allocation process. Unfortunately, this process has been ineffective for years and stakeholders at the local, region and State levels did not take the opportunity to proactively update this problem when our agencies' issues surrounding this process were raised more than three years ago.

I believe there is an opportunity before us to address the issues at hand. First, we fully support a comprehensive review and update to the metrics utilized to set not only our County but the entire State's min/max transport licensure allocation. Whatever metrics are chosen, the focus should solely be on a patient centric approach to prehospital patient care and transport, and we will support the outcome. It should not be about what's best for an agency or company, what matters is what is best for those that utilize the 911 system and need EMS care and transport.

No agency responding to EMS emergencies or individuals accessing the 911 system should have the misfortune of being placed into the position our agency and constituents were placed in a few years ago. That is why Spokane County Fire District #4 supports Spokane County Fire District #9 while they demonstrate their need for a change in the current County's min/max transport agency allocation numbers.

As stated above we support a progressive updated comprehensive review process to the min/max allocation and if through this process it demonstrates there is a need to adjust the min/max allocation, we fully support that change and support Spokane Fire District #9 in their bid to get their ALS transport license.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Mike Nokes

Mike Nokes
Fire Chief
Spokane County Fire District #4
Cell – 509-821-8164



SPOKANE COUNTY

Fire Protection District 8

12100 EAST PALOUSE HIGHWAY
POST OFFICE BOX 345
VALLEYFORD, WASHINGTON 99036
(509) 926-6699

COMMISSIONERS
Andrew V. Rorie
Lee C. Boiling
Jeffrey A. Larsen

INTERIM FIRE CHIEF
Christopher J. Wyrobek

August 12, 2025

To:

Spokane County Trauma Council
East Region Trauma and EMS Council
Washington Department of Health

Subject: Letter of Support for Spokane County Fire District 9 – ALS Trauma Verified Transport License Application

Dear Members of the Spokane County and East Region Trauma Councils, and the Washington Department of Health,

We are writing in strong support of Spokane County Fire District 9's application for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Trauma Verified Transport License.

As our region continues to grow, Spokane County has experienced a significant increase in emergency medical call volume. This surge, coupled with limited additional transport capacity, has routinely strained the existing EMS infrastructure. The need for additional ALS-capable transport resources is critical, not only to meet daily demand, but also to ensure adequate response during surges and major incidents.

Mutual aid remains a cornerstone of our operational readiness. Our fire districts frequently rely on each other for EMS resources, and it is increasingly evident that enhancing locally controlled, fire-based transport capacity is essential for system resilience. A fire-based EMS transport model rooted in public accountability and operational integration with existing structure provides the community with reliable, professional, and mission-driven service.

The fire service has a long and proven history of building redundancy into operations to ensure uninterrupted emergency response. Spokane County's fire districts have demonstrated time and again that cooperative, locally governed approaches are both efficient and effective in delivering emergency services. District 9's ability to provide ALS transport will not only benefit their immediate service area but will strengthen the entire regional EMS system.

We believe that authorizing Spokane County Fire District 9 as an ALS trauma verified transport provider is a necessary and strategic step toward ensuring the safety and well-being of Spokane County residents. District 8 fully supports this initiative and stands ready to collaborate in building a stronger, more responsive EMS network.



SPOKANE COUNTY
Fire Protection District 8

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and your continued support of regional EMS services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew V. Rorie", written over a horizontal line.

Andrew V. Rorie, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee C. Boling", written over a horizontal line.
Lee C. Boling
Fire District 8 Commissioner

Signed by:
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Larsen", written over a horizontal line.
E675DD01880D405...
Jeffrey A. Larsen
Fire District 8 Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher J. Wyrobek", written over a horizontal line.
Christopher J. Wyrobek
Fire District 8 Interim Fire Chief

Thomas Jenkins, Fire Chief, City of Cheney
611 4th Street, Cheney WA 99004
tjenkins@cityofcheney.org
509-498-9291

Date: August 4, 2025

Washington State Department of Health
Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Care Steering Committee
P.O. Box 47877
Olympia, WA 98504-7877

Subject: Letter of Support for Spokane County Fire District 9 – Trauma Verified Transport License Application

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for Spokane County Fire District 9 in its request to open and review the need for additional Trauma Verified Transport licensure through the Washington State Department of Health.

Fire District 9 is committed to providing comprehensive, high-quality emergency medical services to its residents, including the potential addition of transport capabilities as part of a full-service 9-1-1 EMS response system. The District has a longstanding reputation for delivering exceptional emergency care and consistently demonstrates operational excellence, clinical competence, and dedication to its community.

Staffed by highly trained EMS professionals, Fire District 9 operates a well-established system that aligns with regional trauma transport standards. The addition of transport services would not only enhance the continuum of care for patients but also contribute to a more efficient and responsive trauma system across Spokane County.

As our community continues to grow, so does the need for timely and qualified trauma transport. A justified adjustment to the current minimum/maximum (“min/max”) limits for Trauma Verified Transport licensure in Spokane County would improve system capacity, availability, and responsiveness. Should a comprehensive, data-driven assessment support the need for an additional license, I would fully endorse that recommendation.

Granting Fire District 9 a Trauma Verified Transport license would formally recognize both the increasing demand for trauma care and the District’s readiness to help meet that demand. It would also bolster the region’s ability to serve both rural and suburban populations with critical medical transport.

I respectfully urge the Department of Health to consider this request with objectivity and in the best interest of public health and emergency preparedness.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Jenkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "J".

Tom Jenkins
Fire Chief



Fire District 10

Serving the West Plains

09/02/2025

Washington State Department of Health
Office of Community Health Systems
Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response
P.O. Box 47853
Olympia, WA 98504-7853

Subject: Letter of Support for Spokane County Fire District 9's Transport License Application and Licensing Limit Increase

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Spokane County Fire District 10, I am writing to express our full and formal support for Spokane County Fire District 9's application to the Washington State Department of Health for a transport license, as well as the proposed increase in the minimum and maximum licensing limits for Spokane County.

Fire District 9 plays a vital role in the regional emergency medical services (EMS) system and has consistently demonstrated operational excellence, responsiveness, and collaboration across jurisdictional lines. As population growth and service demands continue to increase across Spokane County, it is essential that agencies like District 9 are empowered with the resources and authority to meet these needs effectively.

The addition of a transport license and an increase in licensing limits will directly support the region's ability to deliver timely, high-quality patient care, reduce transport delays, and alleviate pressure on surrounding EMS providers. Fire District 9 has the staffing, training, and infrastructure to carry out this expanded responsibility responsibly and effectively.

Spokane County Fire District 10 supports this request and believes it will enhance the resiliency, flexibility, and responsiveness of the EMS system across the region. We encourage the Department of Health to give full consideration to this application and stand ready to collaborate in support of its successful implementation.

If you require any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Don W. Malone

Don W. Malone

Fire Chief

Spokane County Fire District 10

Email: dmalone@scfd10.org

Phone: (509) 822-8125



SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 13

NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE

☎ 509-226-1482

✉ Daron@newmanlakefire.net

📍 PO Box 70
9324 N Starr Rd
Newman Lake, WA 99025

🌐 newmanlakefire.net

**To : Board of Fire
Commissoners SCFD9**

Sept. 11,2025

Dear Board Of Fire Commisonners

Letter of Support for SCFD #9 – ALS Verified Trauma Transport License

Newman Lake Fire and Rescue (SCFD #13) is pleased to offer our formal letter of support for Spokane County Fire District #9 (SCFD #9) in its pursuit of an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Verified Trauma Transport License.

Since its inception, the Spokane County Ambulance Service Board (ASB)—comprised of fire and EMS agencies outside the City of Spokane—has worked collaboratively to regulate ambulance transport rates within Spokane County. SCFD #9 has been a longstanding and vital participant in that process. Today, they are well-positioned to provide high-quality ambulance transport services to their own response area and the broader North Spokane County region.

The establishment of an ALS transport capability within SCFD #9 represents an important step toward improving local EMS coverage, enhancing system redundancy, and helping to address some of the highest EMS transport costs in the state. A publicly funded, agency-operated ambulance service will support better service delivery, increased accountability, and more sustainable healthcare outcomes for our residents.

Newman Lake Fire and Rescue fully supports SCFD #9's application for an ALS Trauma Transport License. We believe this initiative is in the best interest of Spokane County's EMS system and the citizens we collectively serve.

Sincerely,

Daron J. Bement

Fire Chief