



**Signature Report**

**Motion 15361**

**Proposed No.** 2019-0101.1

**Sponsors** Balducci and Kohl-Welles

1           A MOTION relating to parks, trails and open space;  
2           acknowledging receipt of the search and rescue funding  
3           options report as required by the 2019-2020 Biennial  
4           Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18835, Section 94, Proviso  
5           P1.

6           WHEREAS, the 2019-2020 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18835,  
7           Section 94, Proviso P1, the King County council adopted and the executive approved, a  
8           proviso encumbering a total of one hundred thousand dollars from the department of  
9           natural resources and parks director's office fund and requiring a King County search and  
10          rescue funding options report, and

11          WHEREAS, the parks and recreation division of the department of natural  
12          resources and parks has submitted the King County search and rescue funding options  
13          report including options for supporting King County search and rescue with moneys from  
14          a property tax levy, if approved by King County voters, related to King County's parks,  
15          open space and trails system, which is due to the King County council on March 1, 2019;

16          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

17           The King County council hereby acknowledges receipt of the report on King  
18 County search and rescue funding options, Attachment A to this motion.  
19

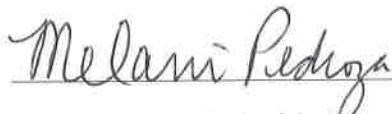
Motion 15361 was introduced on 3/6/2019 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 3/20/2019, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr.  
Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles and Ms. Balducci  
Excused: 1 - Mr. von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Dembowski, Chair  


ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** A. King County Search and Rescue Funding Options Report

## **King County Search and Rescue Funding Options Report**

Prepared in accordance with  
Ordinance 18835, Section 94, Proviso P1

**March 2019**



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Parks and Recreation Division

## **Introduction**

Ordinance 18835, Section 94, Proviso P1 requires the King County Executive to transmit a report to the Council describing options for supporting King County search and rescue with moneys from a property tax levy, if approved by King County voters, related to King County's parks, open space, and trails system.

Specifically, the Ordinance requires the following:

- Of this appropriation, \$100,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the executive transmits a King County search and rescue funding options report and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of the report and reference the subject matter, the proviso's ordinance, ordinance section and proviso number in both the title and body of the motion, and a motion acknowledging receipt of the report is passed by the council.
- The report shall include, but not be limited to, options for supporting King County search and rescue with moneys from a property tax levy, if approved by King County voters, related to King County's parks, open space and trails system.
- The executive must file the report and a motion required by this proviso by March 1, 2019, in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the committee of the whole and the budget and fiscal management committee, or their successors.

## **Executive Summary**

This report includes options for funding King County Search and Rescue in the 2020-2025 parks levy.

### **Report**

King County Search and Rescue (KCSAR) works in partnership with the King County Sheriff's Office to respond when people are in imminent danger or distress, such as avalanche rescue, finding missing persons, or evacuating injured hikers. KCSAR typically responds to wilderness and back-country emergencies; however its resources are also occasionally called into service for missing person searches and to conduct evidence searches on behalf of local law enforcement agencies. In 2017, KCSAR completed 180 active missions, both in and outside of King County.

KCSAR is the largest search and rescue organization in Washington state, with more than 650 volunteers enrolled. Eight-member units comprise KCSAR to provide comprehensive search and rescue services throughout the region, ranging from search dogs to 4x4 all-terrain vehicles to ski patrol rescue teams.

KCSAR is a registered not-for-profit organization that operates entirely by volunteers and funded through donations. Its fundraising efforts go towards ongoing training for volunteers, supplies and equipment, radio communication, storage facilities, and public awareness campaigns.

**Options for funding King County search and rescue in the 2020-2025 parks levy**

The Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks is supported by a property tax levy lid lift, approved by voters every six-years. The current six-year funding period expires at the end of 2019. In February, the King County Executive transmitted an ordinance to the King County Council, proposing continued funding for parks, trails, and open space for 2020 to 2025.

During development of the funding proposal, staff from the Parks Division reached out to KCSAR to gather information on its budget and funding needs. KCSAR indicated fleet management and radio communication were large, ongoing costs and requested \$100,000 annually for fuel, vehicle registration and maintenance, radio maintenance, and headquarter maintenance.

As a result, the proposed ordinance includes annual funding for KCSAR, starting at \$100,000 in 2020, to support search and rescue operations in King County. This investment complements the continued proposed funding for open space land conservation, backcountry trail renovation, and Trailhead Direct – a partnership with King County Metro to provide transit van service to popular hiking destinations.