



## Staff Report

June 21, 2021 Council Workshop

Staffing Amendment to the Washougal/Camas Fire Department Merger ILA

Presenter: Nick Swinhart, Fire Chief

Time Estimate: 15 minutes

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**BACKGROUND:** Since December 2013, the cities of Camas and Washougal have participated in a functional consolidation of their fire departments. In 2019, the City of Camas approved increasing staffing by 2 FTEs. Washougal determined that it could not permanently fund their portion of these two new positions, nor could they fund their portion of 4 FTEs approved in the 2021 – 2022 budget.

**SUMMARY:** Washougal has determined that thru the use of its share of the CWFD reserves that they will fund their portion of the 4 FTEs approved in the 2021-2022 budget and will continue funding the 2 FTEs approved in 2019. This staffing amendment will memorialize this agreement, and that Washougal at this time will not commit to continued support for these positions beyond 2022. This item will appear on the consent agenda of the June 21, 2021 regular council meeting.

### **EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:**

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

Discussion of the staffing amendment at workshop and approval on the consent agenda of the June 21, 2021 regular council meeting.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

The City of Camas budget has been required to subsidize the CWFD budget due to Washougal's inability to contribute to increased staffing. This staffing amendment will allow Washougal to contribute to these additional positions thru 2022.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

There has been no specific community outreach on this topic outside of discussion in open public meetings at previous Council workshops.

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?

The City of Camas budget will benefit from this agenda item as it will receive more contributed funds from the City of Washougal towards increased fire department staffing. The CWFD budget will ultimately be burdened as reserve funds will be used for the increased Washougal contribution.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

The Camas City Council has recently authorized a consultant review of the CWFD merger and its terms and conditions. This review is currently in progress. A primary goal of this project is to stabilize future funding of the fire department.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

The renewal of this ILA would have no known differential impact on underserved populations.

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?

Renewal of this ILA will not directly impact ADA accessibility.

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

Elected officials in both Camas and Washougal have expressed interest in continuation of the CWFD merger, as well as exploring ways to stabilize funding. This amendment helps to stabilize and more equitably sustain funding on a short-term basis. Thus political hurdles for this amendment should be minimal.

How will you ensure accountabilities, communicate, and evaluate results?

The Joint Power Advisory Committee (JPAC), as well as both councils, will be kept apprised of the impacts of this amendment.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

N/A

**BUDGET IMPACT:** This item will improve the City of Camas budget as it will no longer need to subsidize Washougal's contribution to increased staffing. There will be an overall negative impact to the CWFD budget as reserve funds will be decreased to fund these staffing increases.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Discussion at workshop and council approval on the consent agenda of the June 21, 2021 regular council meeting.