



Staff Report

November 18, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting

Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Discussion

Presenter: Cliff Free, Fire Chief; Shaun Ford, Division Chief

Time Estimate: 45 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee (RFAPC), comprised of three City Council members from Camas and three City Council members from Washougal, has developed and is recommending approval of the 2025 Regional Fire Authority Plan. The next step is the approval of the RFA Plan by both governing bodies of the participating jurisdictions (City of Camas Council and City of Washougal Council). The Camas City Council and Washougal City Council met in a public joint work session on November 6, 2024 to review the recommended Plan. Further review and discussion of the plan is intended to inform the Camas City Council in preparation for a vote on a Joint Resolution of the City of Camas Council and the City of Washougal Council on Dec. 2, 2024. If the Joint Resolution is approved, the formation of a regional fire authority (RFA) would be placed on the ballot for voter consideration in a special election to be held on April 22, 2025.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: The City of Camas and the City of Washougal have had a long-standing cooperative partnership, striving to provide the highest level of fire and emergency medical services to their citizens within the confines of available resources. The RFA provides a sustainable and equitable approach to delivering fire and EMS services to the combined communities of Camas and Washougal while giving citizens direct voting consideration for any proposed increase in tax rates to support fire and EMS services.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the City of Camas Council adopt the RFA Plan and place the formation of an RFA on the April, 22 special election ballot through the adoption of a Joint Resolution with the City of Washougal on Dec. 2nd, 2024.