



## Staff Report

November 18, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting

Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Discussion

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

Time Estimate: 20 minutes

Phone	Email
360.817.1554	<a href="mailto:cfree@cityofcamas.us">cfree@cityofcamas.us</a> ; <a href="mailto:sford@cityofcamas.us">sford@cityofcamas.us</a>

**BACKGROUND:** On January 29, 2024, Camas and Washougal executed a modification and conditional extension of the Interlocal Agreement between the Cities of Camas and Washougal for the formation and operation of the Camas-Washougal Fire Department.

Item #1 of the Modification and Conditional Extension provides that " ...the parties bind themselves to place the RFA Plan on the ballot for April 2025 and, if necessary, for November 2025."

Therefore, in accordance with the Modification and Conditional Extension, Plan and the Camas City Council and the Washougal City Council have determined that it is appropriate to place before voters within the proposed service boundaries of the RFA at the general election to be held on November 4, 2025, a proposition calling for the creation of a RFA which shall be known as the Camas-Washougal Fire Authority to be funded by a \$1.05 per \$1,000 assessed value property tax levy and the approval of the Plan, all in accordance with state law.

If the Joint Resolution is approved, the formation of a regional fire authority (RFA) would be placed on the ballot for voter consideration at the general election to be held on November 4th, 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 at the general election to be held on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ballot through the adoption of a Joint Resolution with the City of Washougal on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.