



Staff Report

March 4, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting

Resolution 24-001 Creating a Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee

Presenter: Doug Quinn, City Administrator

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The resolution forming the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee is the next step in the continuation of the shared services model utilized by the Camas Washougal Fire Department (CWFD). The service provides fire protection, emergency medical transport and fire inspection services throughout the cities of Camas and Washougal.

The CWFD currently operates under an inter-local agreement for services between the two cities. Both cities have agreed to discuss the formation of a Regional Fire Protection Authority (RFA) that if voted into existence by a majority of residents within the area of both cities, would reform the current partnership to install the RFA. In order to have that discussion, in accordance with RCW 52.26.030, a Planning Committee must be formed that would evaluate the matters of operation, staffing, and service levels, among other elements. The formation of the committee does not obligate the city to approve the formation of an RFA but is a required step to advance the RFA for future consideration by the Council.

The guiding regulations, RCW 52.26, require that the RFA plan provide guidance for governance, financing, and development of fire protection and emergency services, along with opportunities for public input. It will describe jurisdictional boundaries, organizational structure, operations and services.

The attached Resolution provides for the formation of the RFA Planning Committee, assigning the three existing Joint Policy Advisory Committee (JPAC) members to represent the City's interests in the RFA planning work.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: The work of the committee is to develop a plan that creates a long-term structure of future Fire and EMS response teams serving the two cities.

BUDGET IMPACT: Financial impacts, if recommended by the RFA Planning Committee, could be the hiring of contracted services to assist the two cities in developing the RFA planning document. There are sufficient funds in the General Fund to support those services.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends Council move to approve Resolution 24-001.