



## Staff Report

August 4, 2025 Council Workshop Meeting

Camas and RFA Property Tax Presentation

Presenter: Cathy Huber Nickerson, Finance Director

Time Estimate: 15 minutes

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**BACKGROUND:** City Council approved to place the Camas-Washougal Regional Fire Authority (RFA) on the November 4, 2025, ballot for consideration. This is the second time for the voters to consider the formation of the RFA for both Camas and Washougal. Washougal has passed a resolution of intent to reduce the City of Washougal Property Tax Levy if the RFA is approved. The purpose of the resolution is to provide information for the voters to consider the change in their City property tax as opposed to the RFA property tax obligation.

The presentation to provide property tax information to Camas City Council to consider whether to approve a similar resolution.

**SUMMARY:** The City of Camas currently assesses \$2.63/\$1,000 in property taxes in 2025. This rate includes:

City of Camas General Levy	\$1.94
City of Camas Emergency Medical Levy	\$0.46
City of Camas Fire Station Levy	\$0.23

The \$1.94 includes support for City service which include Police, Library, Parks and Recreation, Streets, Cemetery, Municipal Court, and Fire Protection Services.

If the voters approve an RFA, the property taxes would increase by \$1.05/\$1,000. The RFA would take over providing Fire Protection Services and Emergency Medical Services from the City of Camas.

The City Council can reduce the City's General Levy by the cost of no longer providing fire protection services. Currently, \$0.69/\$1,000 of the \$1.94 Camas General Levy is used for providing fire protection services.

If the RFA is approved, the impact to the taxpayers does not begin until 2027. It is not possible to know the exact amount the City will save by not providing fire protection services in two years. This is why the resolution is written as an Intent of City Council with estimates to help the community to understand their potential tax obligation.

**BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:** The benefit of the Resolution of Intent is to provide more transparency and to better provide an ability for community to assess a financial impact with their vote.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** This presentation is to meet the goal of “Creating a broad and inclusive opportunities for residents and community members to engage with the City.”

**POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** The potential challenge of the presentation is inability to project exact impacts to property owners. Property taxes are based on several variables any of which can change in two years either for the better or adversely.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** The 2025-2026 Budget will not directly be impacted but once the RFA is approved, the City will have time to adjust the budget going forward.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The resolution will be on City Council Regular Meeting on August 4, 2025, for consideration.