



## Staff Report

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, Regular Council Meeting

Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Discussion

Presenter: Cliff Free, Fire Chief

Time Estimate: 10 minutes

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

**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) via a Joint Resolution with the Washougal City 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 was held during the City of Camas Council Workshop on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024; and in a City of Camas Council Special Meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The purpose of these public meetings was to inform the Camas City Council through open discussion of the plan 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) will 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. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.