

Shoreline and Northshore Fire Department

Proposed Regional Fire Authority Ballot Measure

Public Information Meeting



Introducing our speaker



Matt Cowan

Fire Chief



A **Regional Fire Authority (RFA)**

- Is a special-purpose district created to **provide fire protection and emergency medical services.**
- It is formed by **consolidating fire districts or departments**, typically in neighboring regions, to improve service efficiency, reduce costs, and streamline administrative operations.
- RFAs are **funded through mechanisms such as property tax levies and fire benefit charges**, allowing them to manage resources and services more effectively across multiple jurisdictions.



Meeting Growing Service Demands with Efficiency and Cost Savings for **Fire District Improvement**

Regionalization has been a growing trend in the fire industry to meet increasing service demands.

Forming a RFA **addresses rising service needs while easing tax pressure** on residents.

A RFA ensures **better efficiency**, stretching tax dollars to provide top-tier service to the community.

Whatever form regionalization requires, the **highest priority** is either maintaining or improving levels of service.

Upcoming RFA Ballot Measure: What You Need to Know.

Shoreline Fire and Northshore Fire are proposing a **RFA ballot measure for February 2025.**

This is not a new tax! The RFA will result in taxpayer savings.

Voters from Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline **will decide** on the formation of the RFA and its revenue sources (property tax levy and fire benefit charge).

Establishing a RFA with a fire benefit charge requires a **super-majority (60% + 1 vote).**

Adding new jurisdictions or re- authorizing the fire benefit charge in the future will require a **majority (50% + 1 vote).**

Regional Fire Authorities: Proven Success Across Washington

Since 2007, 16 Regional Fire Authorities have been created in Washington, with 6 in King and Snohomish Counties.

King County

Puget Sound RFA

Renton RFA

Valley RFA

Snohomish County

Marysville RFA

North County RFA

South County Fire



North-end fire departments have discussed regionalization for decades, driven by **the goal of improving services and achieving cost-efficiencies.**

In 2022, Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments **took the first step** by signing an Interlocal Agreement (ILA).

Under this agreement, Shoreline Fire now **provides full fire and emergency medical services** to Shoreline, Kenmore, and Lake Forest Park.

Taking the First Step Toward Regionalization

Improving Services Through Partnership



Current services provided under the Interlocal Agreement

Under the ILA Shoreline Fire provides full fire and emergency medical services to the cities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park.

- Emergency Medical Services (BLS)
- Emergency Medical Services (ALS)
- Fire Suppression
- Training as part of the North King County Training Consortium
- Fire Marshal Services
- Technical Rescue (Low/High Angle, Confined Space, Trench, Surface Water)
- Hazardous Materials Operations
- Mobile Integrated Healthcare
- Public Information and Education through Community Outreach
- Administrative Services
- Maintenance (Fleet, Facilities)
- Partnering on Emergency Management with the three cities

Service Improvements and Efficiency Gains Under the Shoreline-Northshore ILA

The Shoreline and Northshore ILA has led to significant service improvements, including:



- ✓ Added a **peak-hour aid car** at Station 57 in Lake Forest Park.
- ✓ **Improved EMS response** with our Firefighters transporting patients, leading to higher continuity of care.
- ✓ **Improved rescue operations** at Station 51 in Kenmore for emergency responses like car accidents and technical rescues.
- ✓ **Expanded Fire Marshal services**, increasing fire investigations and inspections for safer buildings.
- ✓ **Comprehensive fleet and facility management**, keeping apparatus functional and stations in top shape.
- ✓ **Enhanced administrative capabilities** creating more depth in finance, HR, and record keeping resulting in improved financial reporting.

Taxpayer
Savings and
Operational
Efficiencies
Achieved
Through the
Shoreline-
Northshore ILA.

The Shoreline-Northshore ILA combined the fire departments, leading to significant taxpayer savings, including:

\$1.4 Million

in annual savings by eliminating duplicate positions (Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, other).

Increased Revenue

from GEMT and BLS transports.

Improved Long-Term Saving

for capital projects and station maintenance, reducing repair costs and ensuring better-functioning stations.

Building on ILA Successes: Additional Service Improvements and Efficiency Gains.

A Regional Fire Authority will build on the successes of the ILA and bring additional service improvements.

ENHANCED COLLABORATION

Firefighters will continue to train and work together, ensuring continued coordination, improved collaboration, and culture-building.

MORE FLEXIBLE USE OF EQUIPMENT

Fire trucks and aid cars can be assigned to locations on an as-needed basis.

IMPROVED PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Assignments will no longer be limited by district boundaries, boosting efficiency.

INCREASED TECHNICAL RESCUE CAPABILITIES

Particularly in Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, and the surrounding region.

BETTER RESOURCE POOLING

A RFA strengthens grant applications, such as for a future rescue/fire boat on Lake Washington.

Lowering Costs, Increasing Savings, and Ensuring Long- Term Sustainability

We estimate that the RFA will create savings for 100% of all homeowners and 98% of all property owners in our Fire District.

We estimate that there would be **\$196,000 in annual expense savings** from forming a Regional Fire Authority.

In 2026 there would also be **over \$3 million in savings** from removing redundant annual carryover funds.

There will be a **significant reduction** in overall equivalent levy rate due to efficiencies.

A RFA can **reduce liability and risk**, lowering the need for reserves and enabling reinvestment in services or reduced levy rates.

A RFA brings **sustainability**, protects property values from fluctuation, and diversifies revenue sources.

Shoreline's growth will benefit all communities in the RFA through **better resource sharing**.

Maintaining our **Class 2 WSRB rating** will continue to save on insurance costs for homeowners and businesses, placing us in the top 2% of all fire departments in the State.

Streamlining Administration: Eliminating Duplication and Improving Efficiency.

A Regional Fire Authority streamlines administrative efficiency and reduces duplication across divisions.

The **Fire Chief** and other administrative staff will no longer need to manage multiple boards, budgets, and policies.

Financial staff can handle revenues and programs like GEMT and BLS transports more efficiently.

The **Administrative Director** can manage staff without concerns over location of workload.

Support Services will improve by managing fewer separated budgets, allowing better use of equipment and resources without ownership constraints.

Enhancing Citizen Involvement: Balanced Representation in Governance.

A Regional Fire Authority will enhance citizen involvement and ensure balanced representation on the governance board.

Currently, the **Northshore Fire Board** oversees the ILA but lacks direct influence on Shoreline Fire's strategic direction.

A RFA would **combine the Shoreline Board of Commissioners**, with elected Commissioners from **Lake Forest Park** and **Kenmore** gaining direct oversight of the entire Regional Fire Department.

There would be **equal representation** from Northshore and Shoreline Fire, with five members from each serving on the Board.

Future changes to the Board would require a **majority vote**.

Locking-in Service Improvements and long-term Sustainability with a RFA.

An **Interlocal Agreement** is just a contract, but a **Regional Fire Authority** will formalize the relationship between Shoreline Fire and Northshore Fire.

A RFA will **secure** the service improvements, taxpayer savings, and efficiencies achieved under the ILA.

It will also allow for **further improvements**, building on past successes and continuing to enhance service and cost savings.

Other entities can **join** the RFA, improving service levels, generating financial savings, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

A RFA will help maintain our **Class 2 WSRB rating**, keeping us among the top 2% of fire departments in Washington.

Your Voice Matters!

- ✓ Thank you!
- ✓ Public Comments?
- ✓ Questions?
- ✓ Get involved!

Sign Up to stay connected with the proposed Regional Fire Authority (RFA) ballot measure for Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments.

Name *

First Last

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SUBMIT





GET INVOLVED!

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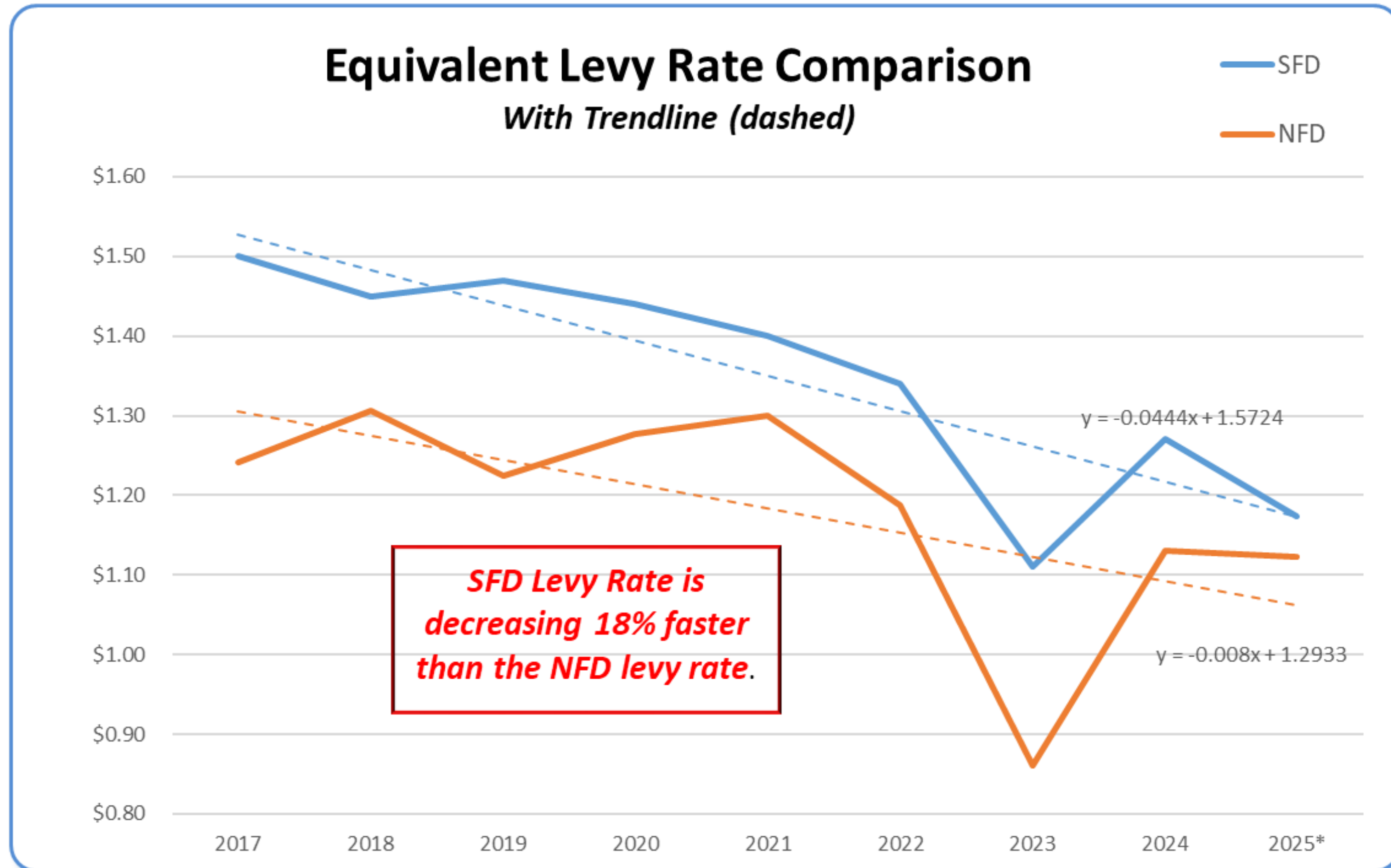
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Expense Cost Analysis

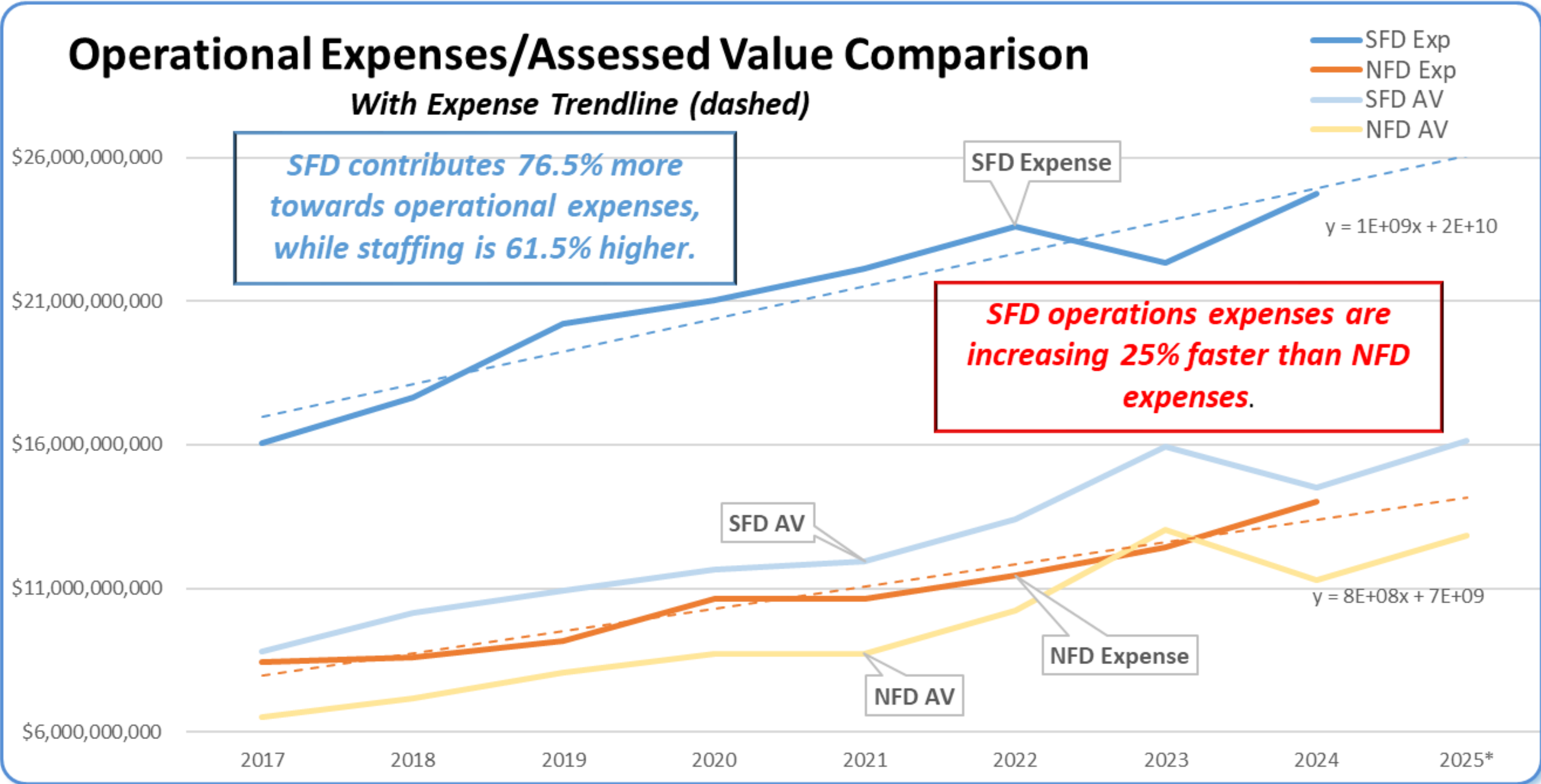


2025 Expense Cost Analysis of RFA (without bonds or reserve fund changes)			
Description	Separated 2025	2025 RFA	Notes
<u>Expenses</u>			
SFD Budget (minus net NFD transfer)	\$ 26,023,748	\$ 40,143,798	Savings of about \$196,000 from NFD BOC budget. Removes need for extra carryover funds, includes \$1.6 million capital expense. Additional MIH savings of \$118,531, and \$94,009 retirement payouts in 2026.
NFD Budget	\$ 16,119,520		
Total Expenses	\$ 42,143,268		
<u>Assessed Valuation</u>			
SFD	\$ 16,176,465,340	\$ 29,045,480,651	Combined AV.
NFD	\$ 12,869,015,311		
<u>Equivalent Levy Rate</u>			
SFD	\$ 1.166	\$ 1.077	Less than the current NFD rate due to decreased need for carryover funds and currently increased NFD need for capital funds.
NFD	\$ 1.125		
<u>Revenues</u>			
SFD Levy & FBC	\$ 18,861,759	\$ 31,279,078	Forecasted revenues using combined equivalent levy rate and AV.
NFD Levy & FBC	\$ 14,483,311	\$ -	No payment or BOC budget as both Departments are combined.
Other Revenue	\$ 140,000	\$ 200,166	
SFD Contracts/Transports/Allocation	\$ 7,168,673	\$ 7,168,673	Combined BLS transports, GEMT, KECMS allocations, service contracts, etc.
NFD Contracts/Transports/Allocation	\$ 1,496,921	\$ 1,496,921	
Total Expenses	\$ 42,143,268	\$ 40,143,798	
Total Revenues	\$ 42,150,664	\$ 40,144,838	
Difference	\$ 7,396	\$ 1,040	

Shoreline Fire has been Fiscally Responsible



Assessed Valuation and Expense Comparison



Population Comparison

