

January 16, 2025

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to as a resident of the City of Stevenson to express my deep concern regarding the recent decision to discontinue the practice of rolling over unspent Fire Operations budget into the Fire Reserves fund. This decision has significant implications for the fire department's ability to plan for essential equipment replacements and future projects.

As you are aware, the fire department has been responsibly planning for large replacement purchases, including critical equipment such as:

1. Breathing apparatus: \$10,000+ per unit (Department has 20 units)
2. Fire turnout gear: \$4,450 per set
3. Fire engine replacement: estimated cost \$1.2 million (current fire engine is due for replacement in 2026)

The Fire Reserves fund has been instrumental in allowing the department to set aside funds for these purposes. The decision to discontinue the rollover of unspent funds into the Fire Reserves fund will severely impact the department's ability to replace essential equipment and plan for future projects.

This may force the department to rely on debt loading, which could have long-term financial implications for the city. I urge you to reconsider this decision and allow the fire department to continue setting aside funds for essential equipment replacements and future projects.

**I urge you to immediately amend the 2025 budget to include rolling over \$10,000 dollars for breathing apparatus replacement planning and \$10,000 for fire turnouts replacement planning from the 2024 Fire Operations budget to the 2025 Fire Reserves Fund. This will ensure that replacement plans are not interrupted.**

Furthermore, I request that you consider the following:

1. The fire department's history of responsible financial planning and management.
2. The importance of replacing critical equipment to ensure the safety of our firefighters and community.
3. The potential long-term financial implications of debt loading for essential equipment replacements and future projects.

Sincerely,

Rob Farris, Resident  
Stevenson, WA