



# City of Stevenson

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To: Stevenson City Council and Skamania County Fire District 2 Commissioners  
From: Leana Kinley, City Administrator  
RE: Stevenson Fire Department Governance – Committee Update  
Meeting Date: September 10, 2024

### **Executive Summary:**

At the May 11<sup>th</sup> joint Fire District 2 Commission and Stevenson City Council meeting, the boards directed a committee consisting of Commissioner Howard Hoy, Councilmember Michael Johnson, Fire Chief Rob Farris and City Administrator Leana Kinley to move forward with analyzing the various governance structures for the department. They met on September 5<sup>th</sup> and agreed to pursue the annexation of the City of Stevenson into Fire District 2. Below is an outline of the process, timelines and financial impact.

### **Overview of Items:**

#### *Process and Timeline*

The Fire District Annexation step-by-step process is attached. The election must be certified by March 1 for the annexation to be effective for the following calendar year. The election timelines for next year are below:

- December 13, 2024 – Last day to file for February Special Election
- February 11, 2025 – Special Election (Annexation would start in 2026)
- February 21, 2025 – Last day to file for April Special Election
- April 22, 2025 – Special Election (Annexation would start in 2027)
- May 2, 2025 – Last day to file for August Primary
- August 5, 2025 – Primary (Annexation would start in 2027)
- August 5, 2025 – Last day to file for November General Election
- November 4, 2025 – General Election (Annexation would start in 2027)

Fire District 2 wants to re-establish their levy rate of 1.0. This would need to go to the voters as a lid-lift. The question would be whether to do this before or after the annexation. There are also other taxes being discussed for voter approval by the City and it may be beneficial to have consultant support to maximize the potential for approval.

#### *Financial Impact*

Historic combined operating expenses for Fire District 2 and the Stevenson Fire Department:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Op. Expenses	128,017	82,752	79,939	79,571	174,589	131,349	197,472	122,731	214,574	118,170	181,756

Existing Levy Rates:

	<b>Assessed Valuation</b>	<b>2024 Rates</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Resident Impact</b>
City	384,371,428	1.46490227	\$563,067	
Fire District	150,838,481	0.59818402	90,229	
	<b>Combined AV</b>	<b>FD2 2024 Rate</b>	<b>Combined Rev.</b>	
City annex to FD2	535,209,909	0.59818402	\$320,154	\$335 (City)
	<b>Combined AV</b>	<b>FD2 Proposed Rate</b>	<b>Max Rev.</b>	
Updated Rate	535,209,909	1.0	\$535,210	\$560 (City) \$225 (FD2)

2023 Ending Balances (Department Savings)

Fire District 2	\$434,094
City Fire Reserves	\$1,902,519

**Action Needed:**

Direction on whether to move forward with the annexation process, timeline, and use of consultants.