

TO: City Council  
FROM: Brian Hurley, Fire Chief  
DATE: December 6, 2022  
SUBJECT: Joint Resolution No. R2022-014 Regional Fire Authority

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1) Recommended Action:

After holding a public hearing, adopt Joint Resolution No. R2022-014 in substantially similar form as approved by the City Attorney to form a regional fire protection authority and to approve a plan related thereto, and providing for the submission to qualified electors of the cities of Olympia and Tumwater at a special election to be held on April 25, 2023, of a ballot proposition to approve or reject creation of a regional fire protection service authority and a plan related thereto, within the boundaries of the cities of Olympia and Tumwater, effective September 25, 2023.

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2) Background:

The Regional Fire and Emergency Services study completed in 2019 recommended formation of a Regional Fire Authority. In May 2021, Tumwater and Olympia entered into an interlocal agreement to study the formation of a Regional Fire Authority. The RFA Planning Committee was comprised of three council members from each city as well as the fire chief and labor representative from each jurisdiction. The planning committee met twice a month to formulate the plan document to guide implementation of the proposed RFA. A joint city council meeting was held on October 25, 2022 to review the proposed plan. Several "Town Hall" meetings were held as well as a public hearing on the plan on November 14, 2022. At that meeting, the RFA Planning Committee recommended Olympia and Tumwater City Council action on December 6, 2022 to form the Olympia-Tumwater Regional Fire Authority at a special election on April 25, 2023. The attached Fire Authority Plan will provide the initial guidance for the formation of the RFA.

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3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priority: Provide and Sustain Quality Public Services  
Goal: Complete RFA Planning Work

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4) Alternatives:

☐ Do not approve the resolution

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5) Fiscal Notes:

RFA funding includes property tax not to exceed \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (offset by City property tax reduction) and a six-year fire benefit charge not to exceed 60% of the RFA operating budget. The impacts to the City have been assessed through this process. While the formation of the RFA provides long-term financial benefits to the City, there will be shorter term adjustments that will be needed along with having accelerated the City's need for an eventual levy-lid lift, which is also compounded by dramatic increases in

the assessed valuation of the City.

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6) Attachments:

- A. Joint Resolution R2022-014
- B. Olympia-Tumwater Regional Fire Authority Plan
- C. Olympia-Tumwater Regional Fire Authority Public Hearing Presentation