

Regional Fire Authority

June 17, 2025

Adrian Sheppard – Fire Chief





Regional Fire Authority Overview

What is an RFA?

- Separate unit of local government, just like a school district or a fire district.
- There are 18 RFAs in the State, 4 in King County (Puget Sound, Renton, Shoreline, Valley Regional). At least two more are in progress (Clark County, Pierce County)
- RFAs are established through the consolidation of two or more fire agencies. Once formed, additional agencies may join under conditions outlined in the RFA Service Plan.
- RFAs have their own taxing authority and their own governing board



Regional Fire Authority Overview

Why form an RFA?

- Just like a school, hospital or fire district, it provides a more effective level of service.
 - Stations are placed and staffed in a more efficient manner.
 - Removes barriers that slow down effectiveness in the field (such as differing staffing configurations and different uses of incident command systems).
- Fewer administrative redundancies, such as multiple fire chiefs, operations and training chiefs, and support roles allow for streamlined governance and lower overhead.
 - Governance board only deals with fire and EMS related items, so funding does not compete with the conflicting priorities typical with city-based governance.



Regional Fire Authority Overview

Impact to Redmond Employees

- All current fire department employees would receive job offers with the RFA.
- Numbers and types of FTEs in other city departments (TIS, Finance, HR, etc.) would need to be re-evaluated to right-size due to the reduction in workload.
 - Workforce adjustments are typically managed through natural attrition, minimizing the need for formal reduction-in-force procedures, especially with sufficient transition planning time.



Regional Fire Authority Overview

Impacts to City of Redmond Budget

- Upon transition, all fire department expenditures, currently totaling approximately \$51 million, would be removed from the City's budget.
- Corresponding reductions in fire-related revenues—estimated between 88% and 100%—would occur, resulting in a potential increase of approximately \$20 million in discretionary General Fund capacity.
 - City will determine its new levy rate after the transition
- Some fees would still be charged by the City and passed through to the RFA based on services such as new development and operational permits



Regional Fire Authority Overview

What are the key steps in forming an RFA?

- Update the RFA financial analysis to confirm 7-year funding forecast
- Representatives from each agency (usually elected officials) meet to develop the RFA Service Plan
 - RFA Service Plan is the business plan/operating agreement
 - Establishes levy rate (up to \$1.00 on AV)
 - Establishes governance structure, including board composition, term lengths, and agency representation
 - Establishes rules for acceptance of additional agencies (more agencies usually = lower levy)

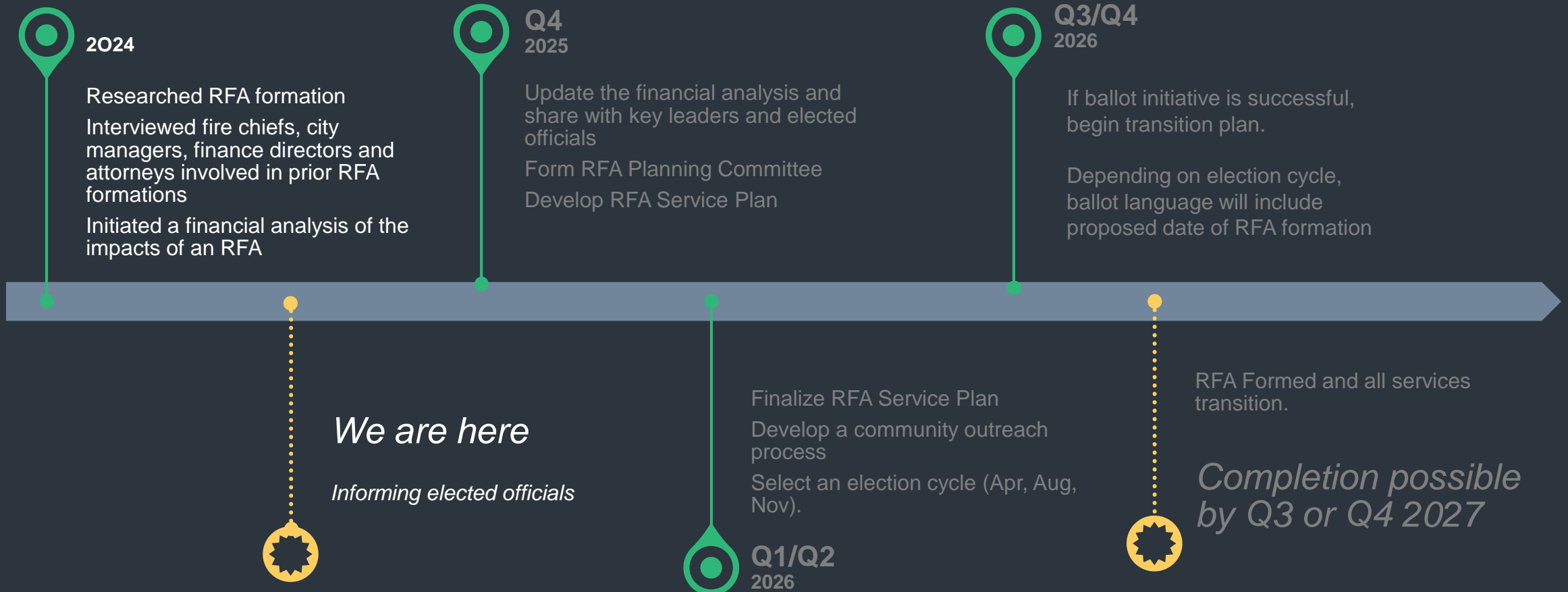


Regional Fire Authority Overview

What are the key steps in forming an RFA?

- Final proposed RFA Service Plan is presented to the governing bodies of each respective agency for approval.
- If approved, each agency places RFA proposal on a ballot. Passage requires simple majority of the votes within the boundaries of the proposed combined jurisdiction.
- If the ballot proposal is approved by a majority of voters, each agency follows the transition plan outlined with the RFA Service Plan.

RFA Formation Timeline





Thank You



Any Questions?

