

# Regional Fire Authority

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# Regional Fire Authority Overview

## What is an RFA?

- Separate unit of local government, just like a school district or a fire district.
- There are 14 RFAs in the State, 3 in King County (Puget Sound, Renton, Valley Regional)
- RFAs require the fusion of two or more fire agencies. There is no limit on how many in total that can join once formed.
- 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).
- It provides a more cost-efficient service delivery since overhead and redundancies are reduced.
  - Less fire chiefs, operations chiefs, training chiefs, support services chiefs, administrative assistants, emergency managers, etc.
  - Governance board only deals with fire and EMS related items, so funding does not compete with the conflicting priorities of traditional cities or counties.

# 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. This is usually completed through normal attrition, so a formal reduction-in-force process is not necessary.



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## Impacts to City of Redmond Budget

- 100% of fire department expenses will be eliminated from City budget (currently \$43.2 million)
- Revenue to the City, allocated to the fire department, should be reduced between 88% and 100%. (about \$13 million of discretionary funding)
  - 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?

- Complete 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 (how many seats, for what term, etc.)
  - Establishes rules for acceptance of additional agencies (more agencies = 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 successful, each agency follows the transition plan outlined with the RFA Service Plan.



# RFA Formation Timeline

**Q1/Q2  
2024**

Researched RFA formation  
Interviewed fire chiefs, city managers, finance directors and attorneys involved in prior RFA formations  
Initiated a financial analysis of the impacts of an RFA

**Q4  
2024**

Complete the financial analysis and share with key leaders and elected officials  
Form RFA Planning Committee  
Develop RFA Service Plan

**Q3/Q4  
2025**

If ballot initiative is successful, begin transition plan.  
Depending on election cycle, ballot language will include proposed date of RFA formation

*We are here*

*Informing elected officials  
Seeking approval to move forward with planning phase*



**Q1/Q2  
2025**

Finalize RFA Service Plan  
Develop a community outreach process  
Select an election cycle (Apr, Aug, Nov).

*Completion*

RFA Formed and all services transition.





# Thank You



Any Questions?

