



REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY VS CITY LEVY LID LIFT

July 24, 2023



WHITE SALMON FIRE STAFF



BILL HUNSAKER
WHITE SALMON FIRE CHIEF



KLICKITAT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3 STAFF



WESLEY LONG
FD3 FIRE CHIEF



ROZALIND PLUMB
FD3 SECRETARY



JENNIFER MCLEAN
FD3 ADMIN ASSISTANT

WEST KLICKITAT REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE



WHITE SALMON CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

JIM RANIER

JASON HARTMANN

BEN GIANT



FIRE DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONERS

THOMAS MONTAG

BOB CONNOR

CHARLES VIRTS

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RFA Funding Cost
with Proposed
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City Levy Cost with
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Potential Restriction
of White Salmon
Levy Capacity

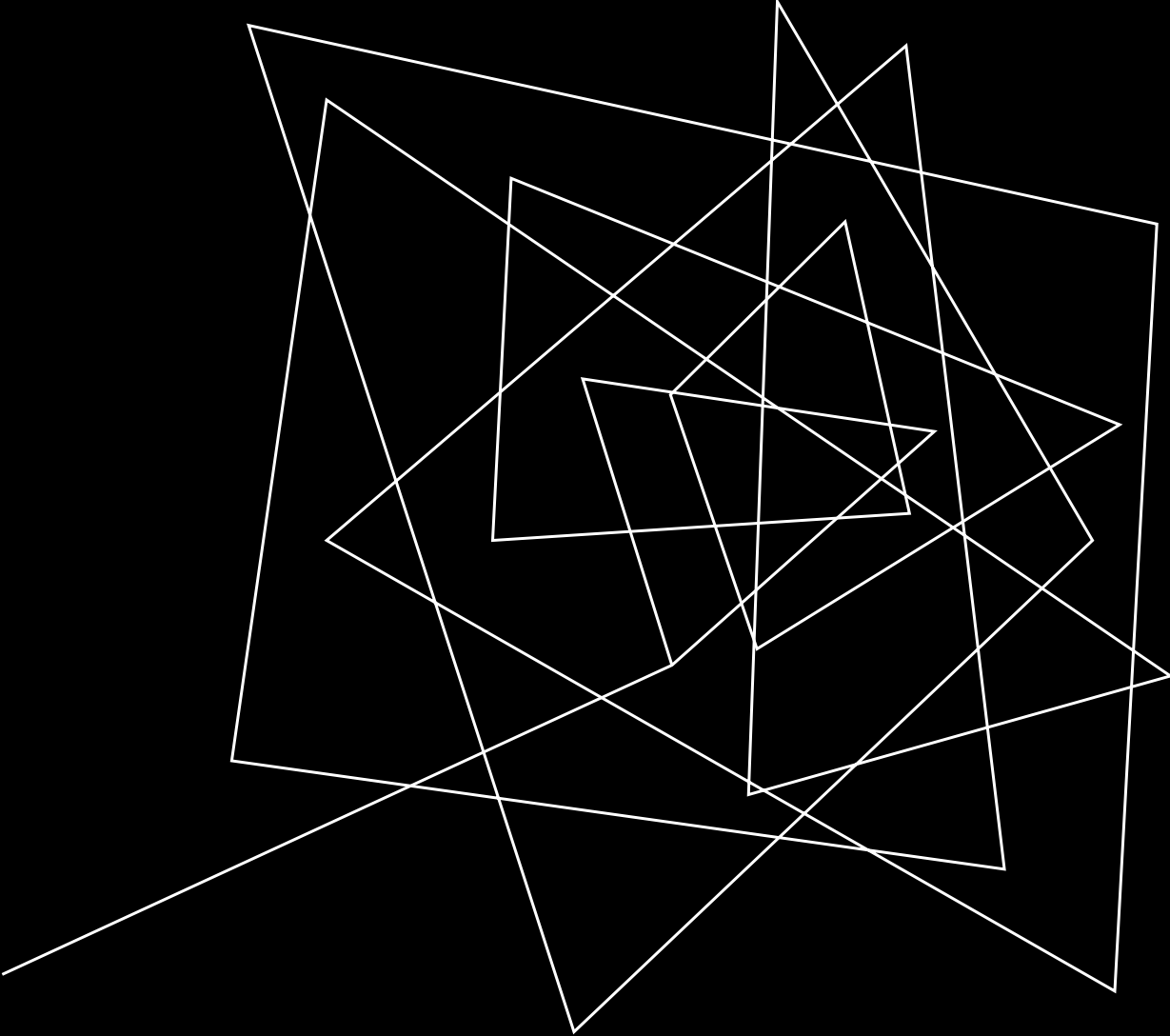
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Questions



CITIZEN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Fire Emergency Services Funding



CITIZEN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

What options were presented to Task Force:

- Annexation of the White Salmon into Fire District #3
- Creation of a West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority
- Contract for Fire Service
- White Salmon Fire Department

CITIZEN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Create a Regional Fire Authority under RCW 52.26

- Create a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) serving the current areas of WSFD and KCFD3. This should be a new district to take over the tasks of the two above mentioned jurisdictions. Formation of this RFA should simplify the inclusion of additional neighboring departments in the future, should this become desirable.

B. Create a Consistent Funding Source for the RFA -

Create a stable, consistent funding source for the Regional Fire Authority through a single property tax levy sufficient to meet the needs identified to provide improved fire and emergency services to the community in the future.

C. Create Annual and Long-Term Budgets to Meet Identified Needs

- Create an annual and long-term budget for the new Regional Fire Authority that includes elements to build a strong volunteer department. This should include:

1. Volunteer Recruitment Program
2. Volunteer Training Program
3. Leadership Development Program
4. Community Education and Engagement Program
5. Future Equipment and Facility Needs

CITIZEN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

D. Recruit, Train and Retain an Excellent Corps of Volunteers –

Volunteers are the life blood of rural emergency response. The reasons to volunteer are many and varied, and good recruitment and efforts to support and retain volunteers is essential. To that end we recommend studying implementation of the following efforts.

1. High School education/training “Cadet” program – participants in the full curriculum of the program would graduate with fire certifications in addition to participating with the Fire District. (See Lyle Fire Department program) 2. Training – Training program focused on volunteer needs and availability. Targeted to advancing each volunteers’ interests and additional certifications, and to ensure the skills and emergency response within the RFA meet the needs of the community and volunteer safety. 3. Leadership – Advanced training and leadership requirements and opportunities for those interested. Should include tuition and travel. 108 4.Compensation – Volunteer compensation needs to be consistent with the effort and expenses of volunteers. 5.Community Engagement – Starts and stops with the volunteers. Publicly visible, inviting, knowledgeable, and educated community engagement improves local emergency prevention and response.

E. Create Performance Goals, Publicly Track Data & Report

Annually – Create performance goals, and a system to meaningfully track, measure and document emergency response in the RFA. Annually report on performance transparently and publicly with a plan for continuous improvement. In addition, an effort should be made to align the reporting standards amongst other coordinated agencies such as Klickitat EMS, Bingen Fire & Lyle Fire for a more complete view of all emergency services rendered.

CITIZEN TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

F. Coordination & Coverage with Emergency Medical Services

(EMS) – Given the significant gaps in the county-wide EMS system coverage, the RFA should negotiate a reciprocal agreement with the county to coordinate EMS resources and dispatch for improved coverage. It should also consider how to best provide its own ambulance service, given that Fire District 3 has an underused ambulance in its fleet.

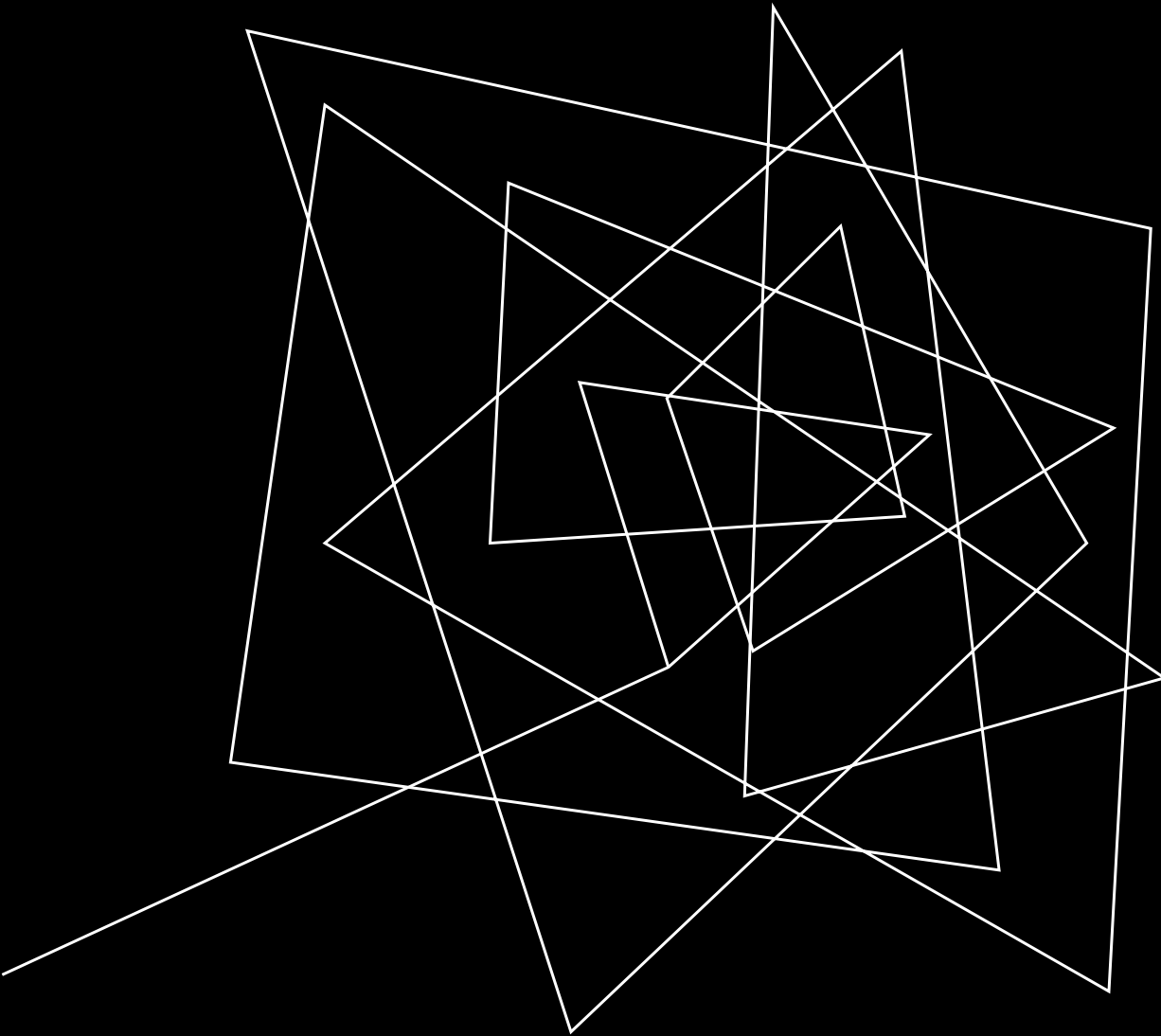
G. Offset White Salmon Resident Property Taxes - When a new Regional Fire Authority is created, the City funding that has been provided for the White Salmon Fire Department in the past will no longer be spent on the fire department. However, City residents will have a new line item in their property taxes to pay for the Regional Fire Authority. Therefore, we recommend that the City of White Salmon reduce resident property taxes for the City by at least half to partially offset the increase in resident property taxes to pay for the new Regional Fire Authority.

H. Provide Community Education and Engagement – The Regional Fire Authority should be responsible for taking the lead on education and engagement with the community on several fronts. 1.Wildfire risks and prevention 2.Emergency response expectations 3.CPR/First aid



RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

Fire Emergency Services Funding



RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING LEVY RATE: \$0.76 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Total Estimated Revenue:	\$1,088,683.77
Salaries:	\$ 533,811.11
Benefits:	\$ 161,659.15
Supplies:	\$ 89,800.00
Professional Services:	\$ 192,570.00
Intergovernmental Services:	\$ 10,500.00
Total O&M Budget:	\$ 988,410.26
Capital Expense Budget:	\$ 43,264.93
Total Budget:	\$1,031,675.19
Non-Committed	\$ 57,008.58

RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING LEVY RATE: \$0.76 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Salaries: \$ 533,811.11

Includes: **\$33,792.00**

Salary for Six Person Governing Board (anticipating 2 monthly meetings)

\$314,700.63

5% Overtime and COLA for hourly positions

Buffer to support unanticipated leave liability

1- Full Time Fire Chief

1- Full Time Training Officer/Recruitment, Retention, Volunteer Coordinator

\$105,388.48

1- Half Year Full Time Secretary

1- Part Time Admin Assistant

\$80,000

Volunteer Fire Fighter Stipend

- Volunteer support to build RFA roll-out plan AND extra “activities” for all of 2025.
- Includes funding to support training efforts for all of 2025. (Fire Academy/EMT Basic, Officer development courses, in-house classes, etc.)

RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING LEVY RATE: \$0.76 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Benefits: \$ 161,659.15

Includes: **\$137,792.15**

Paid staff benefits including Medical, Dental, Vision, L&I, PFMLA,
WA Cares, Social Security, Medicare, etc...

\$7,310.00

Board Volunteer Fire Fighters Premiums

\$9,807.00

Volunteer FF Insurance (AD&D Plus 24)

\$2,950.00

LifeFlight Membership for all Paid and Volunteer Staff

\$3,800.00

Services Awards

RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING LEVY RATE: \$0.76 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Supplies: \$ 89,800.00

Includes: **\$22,400**

Office Supplies, Fire Ops Supplies, EMS Supplies, Haz Mat Supplies,
Training Supplies, Facility/Building Supplies, Misc. Supplies

\$8,200

Prevention and Public Educations Supplies

\$40,000

10 sets of PPE (required by law)

\$14,200

Fuel

\$0.00

Communication Fleet is currently strong but will need funding in
future years.

RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING LEVY RATE: \$0.76 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Professional Services: \$ 192,570.00

Includes: **\$18,110.00**

IT and Web Services

\$2,500.00

Legal Services

\$5,500.00

Postage, Payroll (timesheet) services

\$19,160.00

Training Services (Testing and Certification, Training Instructors, Policy Services, MRSC Membership)

\$7,250.00

Medical Services (physicals, reporting, AED, etc...)

RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING LEVY RATE: \$0.76 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Professional Services: \$ 192,570.00

Includes: **\$5,000**

Travel and Training, Advertising Services

\$65,400

Insurance

\$26,700

Utilities for all Fire Stations

\$36,450

Equipment Repairs (Fleet, Communication, General)

\$2,000

Misc. Services

\$3,000

Use Taxes

RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING LEVY RATE: \$0.76 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Intergovernmental Services: \$ 10,500.00

Includes: **\$10,500**

Election Fees, Auditor Fees, Active 9-1-1 Fees

RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING LEVY RATE: \$0.76 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Capital Expense Budget: \$ 43,264.93

Non-Committed \$ 57,008.58

Includes: **\$43,264.93**

Equipment Replacement funding

RFA FUNDING COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

CURRENT 2023 PROPERTY TAXES: \$4,570

A single-family home valued at \$500,000 pays the following Property Taxes:

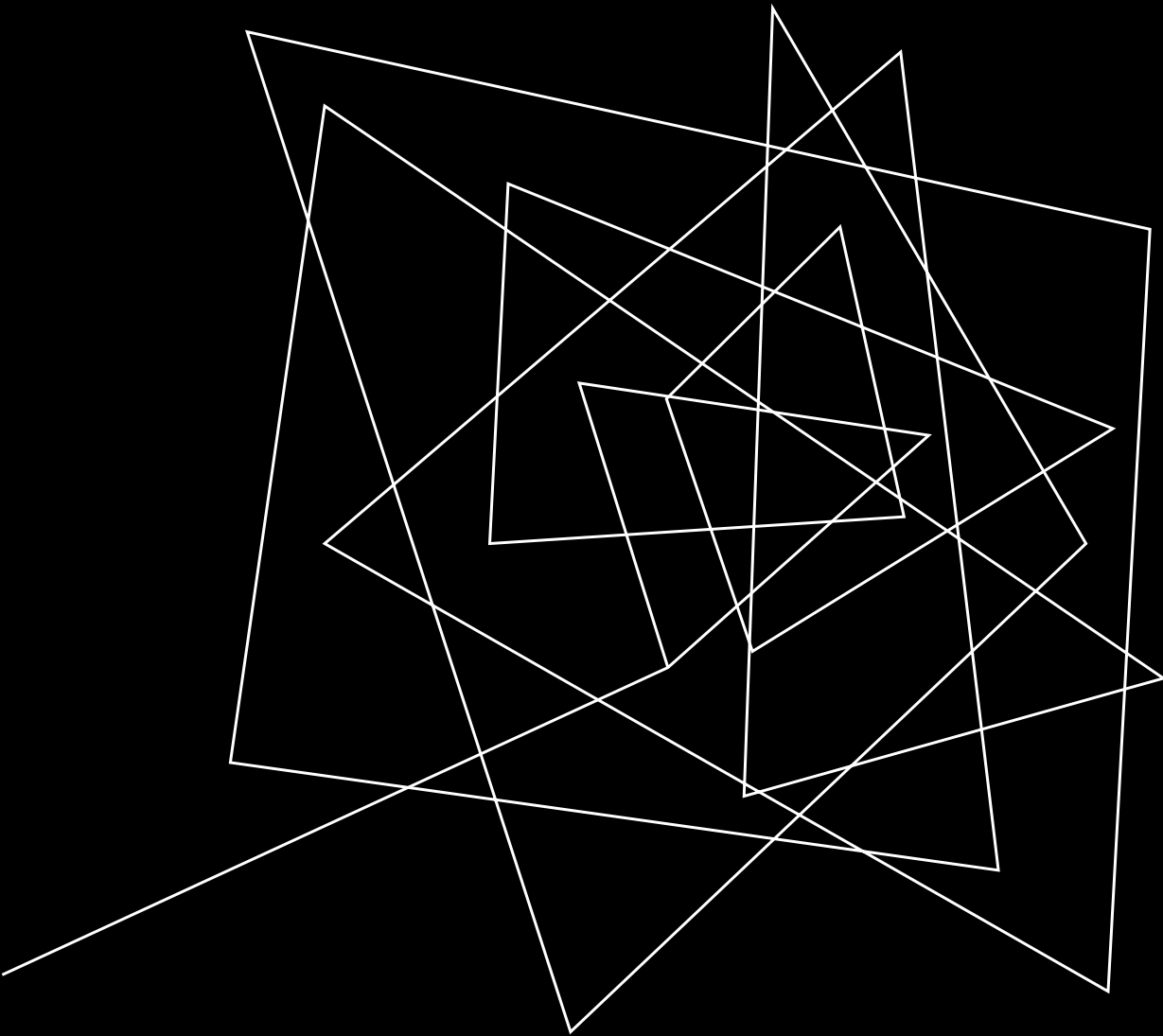
If the RFA Passes for \$0.76

Total Property Taxes Paid	\$ 4,950
City of White Salmon	\$ 441
Regional Fire Authority	\$ 380



CITY LEVY COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

Fire Emergency Services Funding



CITY LEVY COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

2023 ASSESSED VALUATION:	\$ 569,275,356.00
PER 1000	\$ 569,275.36
2023 CITY OF WHITE SALMON LEVY REVENUE:	\$ 435,208.66

CURRENT CITY OF WHITE SALMON TOTAL LEVY RATE:

REGULAR:	\$5.89572363
	(\$0.76 TO WHITE SALMON)
EXCESS:	\$2.33911065
TOTAL:	\$8.23483428

CITY LEVY COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

5-YEAR COMPARISON BUDGET WHITE SALMON FIRE DISTRICT:



CITY LEVY COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING SINGLE LEVY RATE: \$1.02 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Total Estimated Revenue:	\$ 580,661
Salaries:	\$ 250,800
Benefits:	\$ 105,526
Supplies:	\$ 66,500
Professional Services:	\$ 43,100
Intergovernmental Services:	\$ 0
Total O&M Budget:	\$ 490,426
O&M required min balance	\$ 49,043
Capital Expense Budget:	\$ 40,670
Total Budget:	\$ 580,139
Non-Committed	\$ 523

CITY LEVY COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING SINGLE LEVY RATE: \$1.02 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Salaries: \$ 253,800

Benefits: \$ 107,526

Includes: **\$120,000**

Salary Fire Chief (Average in WA State is \$110,000-\$163,000)

\$80,000

Salary Full Time Training Officer (Average in WA State is \$70,000-\$96,000)

\$10,800

3 Fire Captains (\$300 per month by 2 Captains)

\$40,000

Volunteer Firefighters Stipend (Training, Drill and On-Scene)

\$3,000

Fire Maintenance Salary (vehicle maintenance and repair in house)

\$86,026

Employee and Volunteer Benefits

\$21,500

Pension, Recognition Program, Liability Insurance, Fire Fighter Wellness

CITY LEVY COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING SINGLE LEVY RATE: \$1.02 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Supplies: \$ 71,000

Includes: **\$35,000**

Turnouts and Safety Gear

\$10,000

Office, Janitorial, Haz Mat, EMS Supplies

\$15,500

Fire Hoses, vehicle, building, and misc. tool supplies

\$6,000

Fuel

\$4,500

SCBA Refills

CITY LEVY COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING SINGLE LEVY RATE: \$1.02 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Professional Services: \$ 58,100

Intergovernmental Services: \$ 0

Includes: **\$4,500**

Legal and Advertising

\$6,600

Utilities for Fire Station

\$1,000

IT Services

\$13,500

Travel/Training, Dues and Subscriptions, Prevention and Misc. Services

\$32,500

Radio, Building, vehicle, and Fire Hose Repair Services

CITY LEVY COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

STARTING SINGLE LEVY RATE: \$1.02 PER 1000 ASSESSED VALUATION

Capital Expense Budget: \$ 40,670

Non-Committed \$ 523

CITY LEVY COST WITH PROPOSED BUDGET

CURRENT 2023 PROPERTY TAXES: \$4,570

A single-family home valued at \$500,000 pays the following Property Taxes:

With Fire Services Single Year Permanent Levy Lid Lift

Total Property Taxes Paid \$ 5,080

City of White Salmon \$ 441

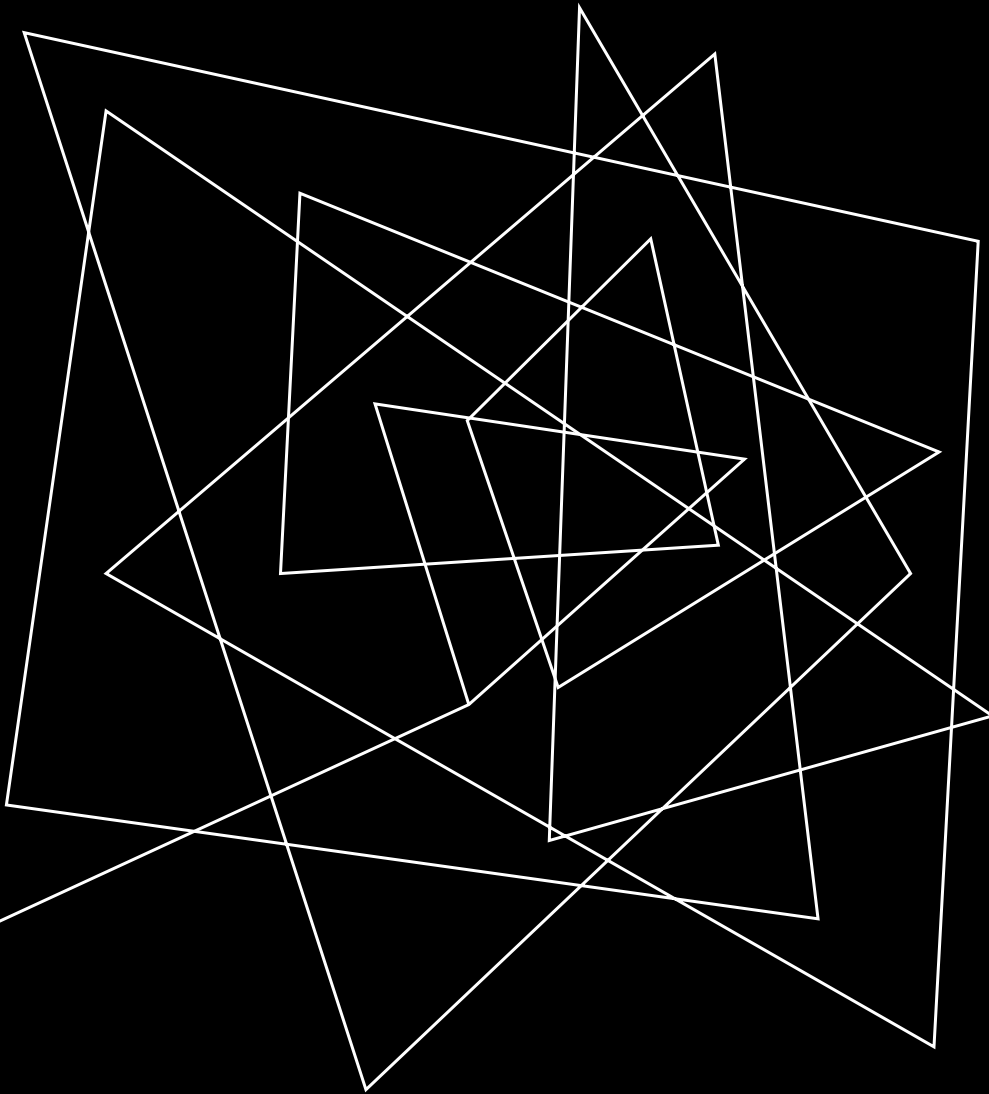
City Single Year Permanent Levy Lid Lift \$ 510

(\$1.02 minimum levy needed)



POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF WHITE SALMON LEVY CAPACITY

Fire Emergency Services Funding



POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF WHITE SALMON LEVY CAPACITY

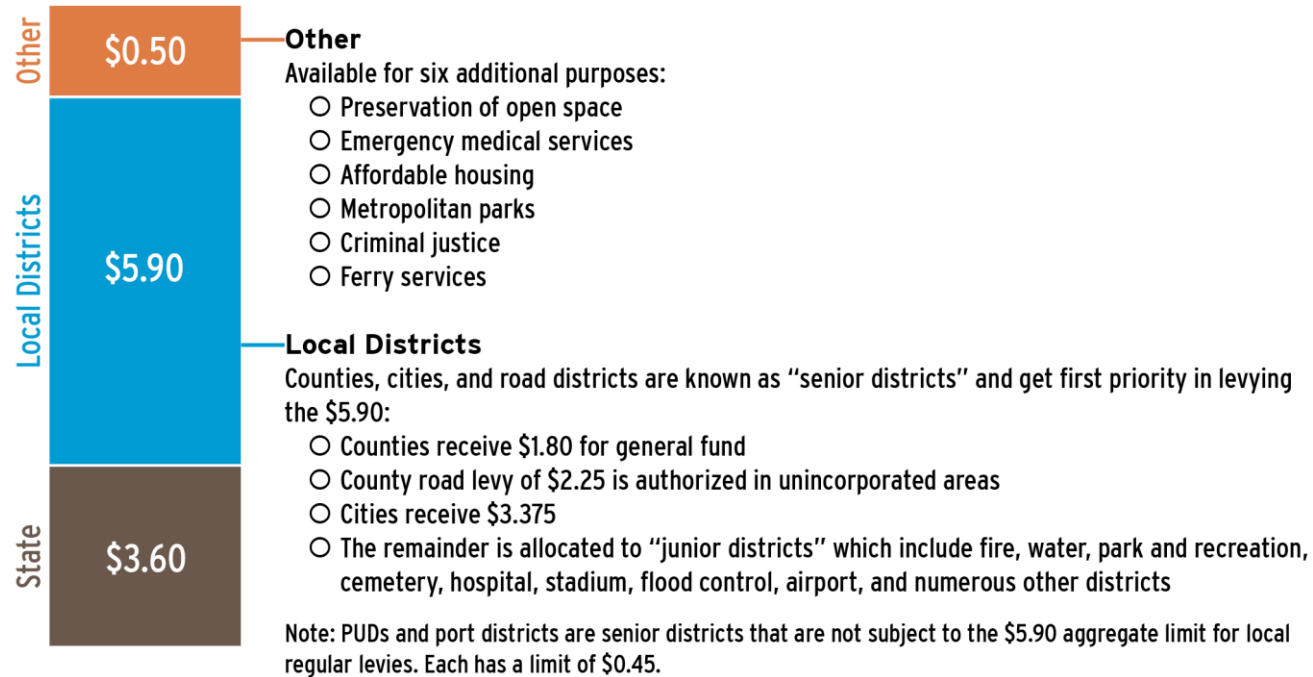
2023 ASSESSED VALUATION:	\$ 569,275,356.00
PER 1000	\$ 569,275.36
2023 CITY OF WHITE SALMON LEVY REVENUE (\$0.76):	\$ 435,208.66

CURRENT CITY OF WHITE SALMON TOTAL LEVY RATE:

REGULAR:	\$5.89572363 (\$ 0.76 TO WHITE SALMON)
EXCESS:	\$2.33911065 (VOTER APPROVED TO EXCEED THE \$10 MAXIMUM)

POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF WHITE SALMON LEVY CAPACITY

\$10 Property Tax Limit In Washington



POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF WHITE SALMON LEVY CAPACITY

CONSOLIDATED TAX CODE AREAS & RATES FOR TAX YEAR 2023

"TCA's" (Tax Code Areas) designate a unique set of taxing districts. They appear on tax statements. The first two columns list the Tax Code Area and regular, excess and total levy rates within that TCA. The columns to the right list levy types, taxing districts and levy rates. All rates are expressed in dollars per thousand dollars of assessed value.

TCA	Regular Rate/ Excess Rate	County/State of Washington	Levy	District	Rates	
					Regular	Excess
102	\$5.89572363	\$1.10224989	City:	CITY OF WHITE SALMON	\$0.76479318	
	\$2.33911065	\$2.47494986	EMS:	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT 1	\$0.40698940	
			Port:	PORT DISTRICT	\$0.12019183	
			Park:	WS VALLEY METRO PARK DIST	\$0.19211718	
			Library:	LIBRARY DISTRICT #1	\$0.27947305	
			Road:			
			School:	WHITE SALMON SCHOOL #405/17		\$1.96604176
			Fire:	FIRE DISTRICT #3		\$0.37306889
			Other:	CEMETERY DISTRICT #1	\$0.00571936	
				HOSPITAL DISTRICT #2	\$0.54923988	
	Total: \$8.23483428					

POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF WHITE SALMON LEVY CAPACITY

CURRENT CITY OF WHITE SALMON TOTAL LEVY RATE:

REGULAR: \$5.89572363

OTHER \$0.50 CAP:

EMS LEVY \$0.4069894

REMAINING CAPACITY \$0.0930106

LOCAL DISTRICTS \$5.90 CAP (CITY MAX \$3.60):

CITY OF WHITE SALMON \$0.76479318 (CAP OF \$3.60-LIBRARY-FIRE)

LIBRARY DISTRICT \$0.27947305 (\$0.50 GUARANTEED LEVY)

CEMETERY DISTRICT \$0.00571936

HOSPITAL DISTRICT \$0.54923988

REMAINING CAPACITY \$2.00077453

POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF WHITE SALMON LEVY CAPACITY

What if my city belongs to a fire and/or library district?

City Maximum Rate: \$3.60 per \$1,000 assessed value.

They can never collect that much because the levy of the special districts must be subtracted from that amount ([RCW 27.12.390](#) and [52.04.081](#)).

The **library district levy** has a maximum rate of **\$0.50** per \$1,000 assessed value ([RCW 27.12.050](#))

The **fire district levy** can be as high as **\$1.50** ([RCW 52.16.130](#), [52.16.140](#), and [52.16.160](#) each provide for a levy of \$0.50 per \$1,000 assessed value).

Highest Restriction of city levy capacity (both a fire district and a library district) city's levy rate can be no higher than \$1.60 ($\$3.60 - 1.50 - 0.50 = \1.60).

If the Library and/or Fire District are not currently levying the maximum amount, the city's current levy could be higher. But, if the fire district raises its levy rate in the future, then the city must reduce its levy rate by the same amount so that the total is never above \$3.60.

POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF WHITE SALMON LEVY CAPACITY

**\$5.90 AGGREGATE LIMIT
PRORATION ORDER**
(AFTER MAKING THE LEVY LIMIT CALCULATION)

RCW 84.52.010(3)(b)(i)	First: Cultural Access Program 84.52.821			84.52.010(3)(b)(v)	Fifth: Metropolitan Park (Created on/after 1/1/02) 35.61.210 (\$.50)		
RCW 84.52.010(3)(b)(ii)	Second: Park & Recreation District (Ex. districts in King Co. on an island) 36.69.145 Park & Recreation Service Area 36.68.525 Cultural Arts Stadium & Convention Dist. 67.38.130 City Transportation Authority 35.95A.100			84.52.010(3)(b)(vi)	Sixth: Fire District 52.16.140 (\$.50)** Fire District 52.16.160 (\$.50)** Fire Protection Service Authority 52.26.140(1)(b) (\$.50)** Fire Protection Service Authority (1 paid FTE) 52.26.140(1)(c) (\$.50)** **Fire Protection Districts and Fire Protection Service Authorities may protect up to \$0.25 from prorationing		
84.52.010(3)(b)(iii)	Third: Flood Control Zone*** 86.15.160 ***Some Flood Control Zone Districts may protect up to \$0.25 from prorationing (RCW 84.52.160)			84.52.010(3)(b)(vii)	Seventh: Fire District 52.16.130 (\$.50) Fire Protection Service Authority 52.26.140(1)(a) (\$.50) Library 27.12.050 & 27.12.150 (\$.50) Hospital 70.44.060(6) (\$.50) Metropolitan Park (Created before 1/1/02) 35.61.210 (\$.50)		
84.52.010(3)(b)(iv)	Fourth: Hospital 70.44.060(6) (\$.25) Metropolitan Park 35.61.210 (\$.25)* Cemetery 68.52.310 All other junior taxing districts not otherwise mentioned *Metropolitan Park District may protect by a vote			84.52.010(3)(a)	Eighth: County Current Expense 84.52.043(1)(b) County Road 84.52.043(1)(c) City 84.52.043(1)(d) County – Dissolved Special Purpose Levy 84.55.135		

POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF WHITE SALMON LEVY CAPACITY

LEVY CAPACITY IF RFA IS APPROVED AND THE MAXIMUM FOR BOTH LIBRARY AND RFA ARE LEVIED:

LOCAL DISTRICTS \$5.90 CAP:

CITY CAP \$3.60

CITY OF WHITE SALMON \$0.76479318

LIBRARY DISTRICT \$0.50000000

REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY \$1.50000000 *

*PLEASE NOTE: RFA PLAN CAPS THE RFA LEVY AT \$1.00 WITHOUT VOTER APPROVAL

REMAINING CITY LEVY CAPACITY \$0.83520682*

*THE CITY CAN LEVY MORE IF THE OTHER LEVIES ARE NOT MAXED OUT

POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF WHITE SALMON LEVY CAPACITY

CURRENT CITY OF WHITE SALMON TOTAL LEVY RATE:

USING PROPOSED WKRFA LEVY – NOT ANTICIPATING INCREASE FROM LIBRARY OR CITY

LOCAL DISTRICTS CITY MAX \$3.60:

CITY OF WHITE SALMON	\$0.76479318 (CAP OF \$3.60-LIBRARY-FIRE)
LIBRARY DISTRICT	\$0.27947305 (\$0.50 GUARANTEED LEVY)
PROPOSED WKRFA	\$0.76000000
REMAINING CAPACITY	\$1.79573377



QUESTIONS?

Fire Emergency Services Funding