



Let's Talk,
WHITE SALMON
REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY 101

- A regional fire authority is a **special purpose district created by a vote of the people** residing in the proposed district.
- It **operates as an independent taxing authority.**
- Regional fire authorities were **authorized by the state legislature in 2004.**
 - Recognized that **efficiencies can be gained** by regional fire protection service delivery while retaining local control.
- Any **two or more adjacent fire protection jurisdictions** may create a regional fire protection service authority.



CURRENT STATE OF CITY FIRE

- 2023 **budget allocated approx. \$124,000 to WSFD**
 - Fire chief salary: \$12,744*
 - Volunteer stipends/benefits
 - Gear/equipment (\$20,000)
 - Contribution to vehicle reserve fund
 - Last funded vehicle 19XX
 - General department overhead
- Current Volunteers: 20
- Annual calls: 149
- Succession Planning for Fire Chief



HOW DID THE CITY GET TO THIS POINT?

- City of White Salmon and FD3 held **a joint workshop in Spring 2022**
- Agreed to jointly form a **Citizen Task Force** and engage a consultant to help guide the task force through assessing levels of emergency services:
 - Are the current levels of service meeting community expectations?
 - Are there advantages to addressing current emergency service needs on a regional basis for our community?
- **Spring 2023** the city and FD3 received the final report from the Citizen Task Force, and accepted the recommendations.
- Both entities **authorized creation of an RFA Planning Committee**



PURPOSE OF RFA PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Made up of **3 elected officials of each fire jurisdiction** involved
- Charged with **developing RFA Service Plan** that must include:
 - Revenue sources and funding plan
 - Form of governance
 - Organizational Structure, employment, operations
 - Asset transfers, capital facilities planning
- **Adopted plan from Committee presented to governing boards** for adoption and call for election
 - City of White Salmon City Council
 - Fire District 3 Commissioners
- If ballot measure fails, **Committee can revise plan and repeat process up to two more times.**



WHERE IS THE PROCESS CURRENTLY?

- RFA Planning Committee aiming for proposed service plan to **go to voters on November 7 ballot**
 - August 1 deadline for plan to be approved by Committee as well as White Salmon City Council and Fire District 3
- Committee meetings reconvening in June
 - Further refining proposed budget and intended levy rate
 - Revisiting governing body structure
 - Accounting for public participation and involvement in the process
 - Possibility of a steering committee
 - Solicit input outside of public hearings

