

JOINT RESOLUTION

SHORELINE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 24-08

NORTHSHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 24-06

A JOINT RESOLUTION of the Board of Commissioners of Shoreline Fire Department, a fire protection district, and the Board of Commissioners of Northshore Fire Department, a fire protection district, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of both fire districts, at the February 11, 2025 election a proposition that, pursuant to Chapter 52.26 of the Revised Code of Washington, approves a plan to form a regional fire protection service authority within the boundaries of the fire districts, effective May 1, 2025, and providing for other matters properly related thereto.

**RECITALS**

A. Providing an effective fire protection and emergency medical service system requires a collaborative partnership and responsibility among local and regional governments and the private sector.

B. There are efficiencies that can be gained by regional fire protection and emergency medical service delivery, while maintaining local control.

C. Shoreline Fire Department, a fire protection district (“Shoreline Fire District”) and King County Fire Protection District No. 16 d/b/a Northshore Fire Department, a fire protection district (“Northshore Fire District”) have a long history of a cooperative approach to meeting the needs of their citizens.

D. On March 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the Boards of Commissioners of the Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District, respectively, formed a Planning Committee to explore the feasibility of forming a regional fire authority and to draft a regional fire authority plan in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 52.26 RCW.

E. The Planning Committee met and prepared a Plan to create a regional fire protection service authority named the “Shoreline Fire Department” and to govern and finance its operation. The Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority Plan is being formally approved and adopted by each entity pursuant to this Joint Resolution “the Plan.” A copy of the Plan is attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by this reference. Copies are also available from the administrative offices of Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District.

F. The authority to form a Regional Fire Protection Service Authority is established by Chapter 52.26 RCW and requires that the voters in the area affected by the Plan must approve the Plan and establish the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority.

G. Therefore, in accordance with the Plan and state law, it is appropriate to place before voters within Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District (the proposed service boundaries of the Shoreline Fire Department RFA) at an election to be held on February 11, 2025 a proposition calling for the approval of the Plan and the creation of the regional fire authority known as the Shoreline Fire Department, to be initially funded by a property tax not to exceed \$.70 per thousand of assessed valuation and a fire benefit charge.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SHORELINE FIRE DISTRICT AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NORTHSORE FIRE DISTRICT, DO HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

### **RESOLUTION**

**SECTION 1.** – *Adoption of the Plan for the regional fire authority known as the Shoreline Fire Department.* The Board of Commissioners of Shoreline Fire District and the Board of Commissioners of Northshore Fire District hereby formally adopt the Shoreline Fire Department Plan, a true and correct copy of which is attached as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by this reference.

**SECTION 2. – Findings of Board of Commissioners of Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District.** The Board of Commissioners of Shoreline Fire District and the Board of Commissioners of Northshore Fire District hereby find that it is in the best interests of Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District to submit to the qualified electors of Shoreline Fire District and Northshore a Fire District at the election to be held on February 11, 2025, a proposition to approve the Plan and to create the regional fire authority known as Shoreline Fire Department. The Plan authorizes the Shoreline Fire Department RFA to be initially funded by a property tax not to exceed \$.70 per thousand and a fire benefit service charge

If approved by a 60% majority of the voters within the boundaries of the proposed Shoreline Fire Department RFA voting on the ballot proposition in accordance with RCW 52.26.060, this proposition would create a regional fire protection service authority as provided in chapter 52.26 RCW called the “Shoreline Fire Department,” with boundaries coextensive with the boundaries of Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District, effective May 1, 2025, initially funded as set forth in this Section 2.

**SECTION 3. - Proposition for Voter Submittal.** There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District for their ratification or rejection, at the February 11, 2025 election the question of whether or not a regional fire authority known as the Shoreline Fire Department should be created in accordance with the Plan. The Board of Commissioners of Shoreline Fire District and the Board of Commissioners of Northshore Fire District hereby request the Auditor of King County, as *ex-officio* Supervisor of Elections, to call such election and to submit to the voters of Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title, pursuant to RCW 52.26.060, as follows:

**SHORELINE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
NORTHSHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
PROPOSITION 1**

The Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments have adopted a Joint Resolution approving the Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority Plan (“Plan”) creating a Regional Fire Authority (“RFA”).

This proposition would approve the Plan to create the Shoreline Fire Department RFA, effective May 1, 2025, to provide fire protection and emergency medical services. The RFA funding is based on a property tax of \$.70 per thousand of assessed value, and a fire benefit charge. The funding would replace the current property tax levies and fire benefit charges collected by the Shoreline and Northshore fire districts.

Should the Plan to create the Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority be approved?

YES        [   ]

NO         [   ]

**SECTION 4.** – *Authorize Continued Acts of Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee.* The Board of Commissioners of Shoreline Fire District and the Board of Commissioners of Northshore Fire District hereby authorize the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee to continue operating on an as needed basis until the effective date of the Shoreline Fire Department RFA. The Planning Committee shall function as the governing board for the purposes of carrying out the requirements of Chapter 52.26 RCW until such time as Shoreline Fire Department RFA governing board is established pursuant to the Plan on May 1, 2025.

**SECTION 5.** – *Voter Approval Requirement.* Pursuant to RCW 52.26.060, the measure requires a 60% (+1) favorable majority vote to be approved.

**SECTION 6.** – *Voters Pamphlet.* The Board of Commissioners of Shoreline Fire District and the Board of Commissioners of Northshore Fire District find and declare that

it is in the best interest of the Districts to have information regarding the ballot measure included in the local voters' pamphlet. Furthermore, that the appropriate costs thereof shall be paid for by the Districts. The Board of Commissioners further authorize and direct the Fire Chief to provide such information to the County Elections department for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end.

**SECTION 7.** - *Designation of Individuals to Receive Notices re: Ballot Title.* For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board of Commissioners of Shoreline Fire District and the Board of Commissioners of Northshore Fire District hereby designates the Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District Fire Chief as the individual to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

**SECTION 8.**- *Implementation.* The Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District Fire Chief is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this legislation, including modifying the text of the "Shoreline Fire Department Plan" and the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution. No substantive modifications, to the ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions of any document shall be made without the approval of the Boards of Commissioners of each District.

**SECTION 9.** *Copies Filed with the County Auditors.* The Shoreline Fire District and Northshore Fire District Fire Chief or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than December 13, 2024, to provide to the County Auditors certified copies of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters of the proposed Shoreline Fire Department RFA at the February 11, 2025 election.

**SECTION 10** – *Severability*. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution or the Plan is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution or the Plan.

**SECTION 11**. - *Ratification*. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

**SECTION 12**. - *Effective Date*. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Shoreline Fire Department, King County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2024, the below Commissioners being present and voting.

  
Kim Fischer, Commissioner

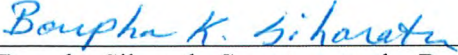
  
Rod Heivilin, Commissioner

  
Ken Callahan, Commissioner

  
Barb Sullivan, Commissioner


  
David Harris, Commissioner

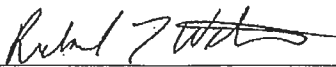
ATTEST:


  
Bouphe Siharath, Secretary to the Board

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Northshore Fire Department, King County, Washington, at an open public meeting of such Board on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024, the below Commissioners being present and voting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Wollum, Commissioner

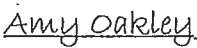
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tyler Byers, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Webster, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh Pratt, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Adman, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Oakley, Secretary to the Board

PROPOSITION NO. 1  
PROPOSED FORMATION OF SHORELINE FIRE DEPARTMENT REGIONAL FIRE  
AUTHORITY

BALLOT ISSUE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT  
(250 Word Limit)

After decades of working cooperatively to provide fire and emergency medical services in the Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, and Kenmore communities, the Boards of Commissioners of the Shoreline Fire Departments and King County Fire Protection District No. 16 d/b/a Northshore Fire Department jointly prepared and approved a plan to formally create and merge fire, rescue, and emergency medical operations of both Fire Districts into a Regional Fire Authority (“RFA”) under chapter 52.26. RCW.

If voters approve Proposition 1, the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments will create the Shoreline Fire Department Regional Fire Authority (“SHFD”) as a RFA effective May 1, 2025. The SHFD will operate under a governing board consisting of ten governing members, initially filled by seated fire Commissioners of both fire districts.

The SHFD will be funded by a fire benefit charge, and a property tax not to exceed \$.70 per thousand of assessed valuation to be levied in 2025 and collected in 2026. The SHFD property tax and fire benefit charge will replace the regular property tax levies and existing fire benefit charges of the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments.

The SHFD is designed to improve levels of service across all three communities, create financial and logistical efficiencies and savings, and ensure local geographical representation on the RFA governing board. The RFA has been discussed for many years, provides an opportunity for emergency service improvements, and will also support long-term sustainability and allow for future partnership opportunities. To view the complete RFA Plan, please visit: <https://shorelinefire.com/news/regional-fire-authority-ballot-measure>.

# A Regional Fire Authority

## Building a Safer, Stronger Future



## What is a Regional Fire Authority?



A Regional Fire Authority (RFA) is a special-purpose district designed to enhance fire protection and emergency medical services. By uniting the resources of neighboring fire departments, a RFA improves public safety, and lowers costs for taxpayers.

In February 2025, voters in Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline will have the opportunity to create a Regional Fire Authority by combining the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments. This proposal builds on years of successful collaboration, ensuring stronger, more sustainable fire and emergency services for our communities.

## The Benefits of a Regional Fire Authority

### Enhanced Emergency Services

- ✓ Improved responses through better coordination and resource sharing.
- ✓ Improved technical rescue capabilities in Shoreline, Kenmore and Lake Forest Park.
- ✓ Flexible deployment of fire trucks and aid cars based on need.
- ✓ Continued firefighter collaboration provides seamless operations and improved service delivery.

### Significant Taxpayer Savings

- ✓ \$196,000 in annual administrative savings and over \$3 million in reduced redundancies by 2026.
- ✓ Savings for 100% of homeowners and 98% of property owners in the Fire District.
- ✓ Preserves Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau Class 2 rating leading to insurance savings and lower levy rates.

### Sustainability and Streamlined Management

- ✓ Shared resources provide sustainable services, protect property values, and diversify revenue.
- ✓ Strengthened grant opportunities for enhancements like a fire/rescue boat for Lake Washington.
- ✓ Balanced governance with five board members from both Northshore and Shoreline ensures local control.
- ✓ Streamlined administration eliminates duplication, enabling more efficient resource management.

**Together, we can ensure  
a safer, stronger future  
for our communities.**

By forming a Regional Fire Authority, we are investing in a more unified and efficient fire and emergency medical service system— one that prioritizes safety, sustainability, and fiscal responsibility. This collaboration strengthens our ability to respond to emergencies, protects property values, and enhances the quality of life for every resident.

Visit [www.ShorelineFire.com/RFA](http://www.ShorelineFire.com/RFA)  
for additional details, and follow us  
on Facebook and Instagram for  
the latest updates and resources.





## Understanding How Much Homeowners Pay for Fire and Emergency Services

Understanding how much you pay for fire and emergency services can be confusing. I am writing to provide clarity so that you will know how much you currently pay for your local fire and emergency services, and how the amount you pay will change with a Regional Fire Authority (RFA).

Prior to 2015 the Shoreline Fire Department predominantly relied on the fire levy property tax to fund operations. In 2015, we were able to diversify our revenue sources and balance that between a fire levy property tax and the fire benefit charge (FBC).

The confusion about how much property owners pay for their fire and emergency services arises from the property tax receipts that you receive from King County. The property tax statements do not clearly separate out these different sources. King County combines the fire levy property tax into the general "tax" line (as shown on the tax bill) or "County" (if looking at the pie chart online) with other tax sources. The FBC is identified as the "Fire District" or "Fire", on the property tax bill, or online respectively. This makes it complicated to figure out how you are being taxed, and in the case of the current RFA ballot measure, what is the cost difference.

If voters approve the RFA on February 11, 2025, and we do an apples-to-apples comparison, the overall average equivalent levy rate (which is a combination of the fire property tax levy and the FBC) for fire and emergency services will decrease by 7.6% (based on current estimates).

However, we can also calculate the specific impact for single-family homeowners. In 2025, the fire levy rate for the Shoreline Fire Department is \$.6835 per \$1,000 of AV. So, to calculate the cost of local fire and emergency medical services, first, use your property value in 2025, divide by 1,000, and multiply by \$.6835 to calculate the fire levy property tax. You can find your property value on your tax statement or by going online to <https://gismaps.kingcounty.gov/parcelviewer2/>. Once there choose "address" or "parcel number" in the drop down menu, then put in your address or parcel number and hit enter, then click on "Property Report", scroll down to the "Tax Roll History" and use the top line value. You can also find your property from the map tool and zoom in until you find your home. Secondly, look on your property tax bill and you will see the amount titled "Fire District", which is the FBC. The FBC and the fire levy tax added together is the total you pay annually to the Shoreline Fire Department.

For example in 2025, a property in the Shoreline Fire Department with an AV of \$905,000 might pay \$618.57 on the fire levy tax at the rate of \$.6835 per \$1,000 of AV, and \$302.66 on the FBC, for a total of \$921.23 annually for fire and emergency services. This same house, in an apples-to-apples comparison in the RFA for 2025, would pay \$633.50 on the fire levy tax (because the levy rate for the RFA in 2026 will be \$.70), but \$256.24 on the FBC (based on current estimates) for a total of \$889.74 for the same services. In this example, it would be a reduction of \$31.49, or a 3.4% decrease.

This is an analysis based on 2025 budget numbers. The RFA, if approved, would not begin collecting taxes until 2026 and we will not know what assessed values or costs we will be using for that budget until October 2025. However, what we know right now is that current budget estimates show that homeowners would experience a reduction in what they pay in 2026 if the RFA is approved.

Thank you,  
Shoreline Fire Department Fire Chief Matt Cowan



## Understanding How Much Homeowners Pay for Fire and Emergency Services

Understanding how much you pay for fire and emergency services can be confusing. I am writing to provide clarity so that you will know how much you currently pay for your local fire and emergency services and how the amount you pay will change with a Regional Fire Authority (RFA).

The Northshore Fire Department has diversified revenue sources and predominantly relies on the fire levy property tax and the fire benefit charge (FBC) for annual revenues.

The confusion about how much property owners pay for their fire and emergency services arises from the property tax receipts that you receive from King County. The property tax statements do not clearly separate out these different sources. King County combines the fire levy property tax into the general "tax" line (as shown on the tax bill) or "County" (if looking at the pie chart online) with other tax sources. The FBC is identified as the "Fire District" or "Fire", on the property tax bill, or online respectively. This makes it complicated to figure out how you are being taxed, and in the case of the current RFA ballot measure, what is the cost difference.

If voters approve the RFA on February 11, 2025, and we do an apples-to-apples comparison, the overall average equivalent levy rate (which is a combination of the fire property tax levy and the FBC) for fire and emergency services will decrease by 4.3% (based on current estimates).

However, we can also calculate the specific impact for single-family homeowners. In 2025, the fire levy rate for the Northshore Fire Department is \$.70 per \$1,000 of AV. So, to calculate the cost of local fire and emergency medical services, first, use your property value in 2025, divide by 1,000, and multiply by \$.70 to calculate the fire levy property tax. You can find your property value on your tax statement or by going online to <https://gismaps.kingcounty.gov/parcelviewer2/>. Once there choose "address" or "parcel number" in the drop down menu, then put in your address or parcel number and hit enter, then click on "Property Report", scroll down to the "Tax Roll History" and use the top line value. You can also find your property from the map tool and zoom in until you find your home. Secondly, look on your property tax bill and you will see the amount titled "Fire District", which is the FBC. The FBC and the fire levy tax added together is the total you pay annually to the Northshore Department.

For example in 2025, a property in the Northshore Fire Department with an AV of \$812,000 might pay \$568.40 on the fire levy tax at the rate of \$.70 per \$1,000 of AV, and \$494.54 on the FBC, for a total of \$1,062.94 annually for fire and emergency services. This same house, in an apples-to-apples comparison in the RFA for 2025, would pay the same on the fire levy tax (because the levy rate for the RFA in 2026 will be \$.70), but \$277.31 on the FBC (based on current estimates) for a total of \$845.71 for the same services. In this example, it would be a reduction of \$217.23, or a 20.4% decrease.

This is an analysis based on 2025 budget numbers. The RFA, if approved, would not begin collecting taxes until 2026 and we will not know what assessed values or costs we will be using for that budget until October 2025. However, what we know right now is that current budget estimates show that home owners would experience a reduction in what they pay in 2026 if the RFA is approved.

Thank you,  
Shoreline Fire Department Fire Chief Matt Cowan

January 29, 2025



# SHORELINE AND NORTHSHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT REGIONAL FIRE PLAN

*November 12, 2024*

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	<b>SECTION 1</b>	<b>BACKGROUND &amp; NEEDS STATEMENTS</b>
	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>May 1, 2025</i>

For many decades the Shoreline Fire Department (SHFD) and King County Fire Protection District No. 16 d/b/a Northshore Fire Department (NSFD) have talked off and on about some type of regionalization. These discussions have included options such as a service contract, merger, and regional fire authority (RFA). These efforts have received more attention especially over the past eight years, which included the potential of multiple fire departments across north King County joining together in a RFA. Ultimately, it was decided to start smaller and build into something bigger. One of the more obvious consolidations was between SHFD and NSFD.

In 2022 the NSFD entered into a contract, or an interlocal agreement (ILA), with SHFD to provide full services to the Cities of Lake Forest Park and Kenmore. The SHFD is an all-hazards fire department providing the following services through different Divisions:

- Administrative Services,
- Emergency Medical Services (BLS),
- Emergency Medical Services (ALS),
- Fire Suppression,
- Training as part of the North King County Training Consortium,
- Fire Marshal Services,
- Public Information and Education through Community Outreach,
- Technical Rescue (Low/High Angle, Confined Space, Trench, Surface Water),
- Hazardous Materials Operations,
- Mobile Integrated Health Care,
- Maintenance (Fleet, Facilities), and
- Emergency Management as part of the City of Shoreline.

The ILA included the transfer of all NSFD employees to SHFD as the two Departments would be operating as one. The NSFD still exists with a Board of Fire Commissioners and District Secretary, who ensure that the ILA is being executed properly, and the Department still owns the existing fire stations and apparatus. They also have taxing authority, receiving revenues from the fire tax levy and fire benefit charge (FBC), which they use to pay the contract with SHFD and NSFD centric expenses. This ILA resulted in many benefits including improved levels of service as described below:

- Improved depth in dedicated administrative positions.
- Succession development.
- Increased Fire Marshal Office capabilities.
- Expanded PIO and PEO services.
- Improved Mobile Integrated Healthcare integration, including a peer support program.

- Increased BLS unit coverage.
- BLS transport patient continuity of care.
- Access for professional career growth in the ALS program.
- Improved ALS personnel integration into suppression activities.
- Improved Firefighter safety.
- Improved driver training and competency.
- Improved truck training, operations, and coverage.
- Information Technology.
- Improved fleet maintenance.
- Improved facilities maintenance.
- Better coordinated emergency management.
- Improved health and safety officer coverage and management.
- Diversified revenue sources.
- Increased experience in developing other revenue sources.
- Experience with other public funding opportunities.

While the ILA provides many benefits and efficiencies, it is not a full consolidation. It has been an expectation that after showing success of consolidating under an ILA, that there would be an opportunity for something more complete, such as a merger or RFA. Either a merger or RFA would allow for accessing the remaining efficiencies; financial, operational, and logistical. The two Departments are already accomplishing many of the things that a RFA will formalize; one administration, one labor group representation, one training division, and all employees working as one organization. After deliberation by both Department's Board of Commissioners it was decided to pursue a RFA.

There are many advantages of joining the two Departments together in a RFA, including overall financial savings as it removes the last pieces of redundancy. However, one of the more significant reasons pertains to governance. Establishing a RFA is similar to starting a new fire district in which you establish the governance model you prefer. This allows for NSFD Commissioners to sit on the new RFA governing board and have the opportunity for direct input. Currently, NSFD has authority over NSFD assets and the execution of the ILA, but not over the strategic operation of the SHFD. A RFA would also remove some barriers and allow other organizations to potentially join the new organization with governing board approval in the future.

Regionalization in whatever form has been an industry trend for decades. It has been wholeheartedly embraced in other States, and even in other counties around Washington. The King County area has been slower to move in this direction, but is gaining much momentum. The biggest reason is the service needs and expectations for fire departments continue to increase every year, while there is also increased pressure on taxes that residents pay. A RFA will allow for highest level of service and provide the best efficiencies, ensuring the people we serve will have the best service while stretching their tax dollars as far as possible.

The following is a summary of our needs and challenges:

1. The ability to respond to emergency situations by fire protection and emergency services jurisdictions has not kept up or progressed with the community's needs and special service demands. Anticipated increase in population will likely exacerbate this problem.

2. Providing fire protection and emergency medical service system requires a collaborative partnership and responsibility among local and regional governments, the private sector, and the communities we serve.
3. There are efficiencies to be gained by regional fire protection and emergency medical service delivery, while maintaining local control.
4. Timely development of critical, significant projects can best be achieved through enhanced funding options for regional fire protection, emergency services, specialized rescue, hazardous material mitigation, and other services.
5. Northshore and Shoreline have a long history of a cooperative approach to meeting the needs of their citizens. The Districts have operationally worked together on a daily basis for many decades, all IAFF Union employees are represented by one body, the Departments have engaged in a joint training consortium since 2020, they have been led by one Fire Chief and administration, functionally operating as a single provider since 2022.
6. On March 14, 2024, the Boards of Commissioners of each District authorized the formation of a Planning Committee to explore the feasibility of forming a regional fire authority and to draft a regional fire authority plan.
7. On approval of this Plan by both District's Boards of Commissioners, the Districts will then be asking its citizens to consider combining all functions and services currently provided by the two jurisdictions into a single entity, called a Regional Fire Authority.

**RFA Plan Revision Disposition:**

The NEEDS STATEMENT section of the RFA Plan is subject to amendment by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.

	<b>SECTION 2</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	
	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>May 1, 2025</i>	
	<i>Revision</i>	The <b>DEFINITIONS</b> section of The <b>RFA Plan</b> is subject to amendment by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.	
	<i>Revised</i>		

1. The definitions in this section apply throughout this RFA Plan, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
  - 1.1. "**Board**", "**Governance Board**" or "**Governing Board**" means the Governance body of a regional fire protection service authority.
  - 1.2. "**Northshore**" means the existing King County Fire Protection District No. 16 d/b/a Northshore Fire Department, a fire protection district.
  - 1.3. "**Shoreline**" means the existing Shoreline Fire Department, a fire protection district.
  - 1.4. "**Effective Date**" means May 1, 2025 pending approval of the RFA Plan by voters of the Participating Jurisdictions.
  - 1.5. "**Participating Jurisdictions**" means Northshore and Shoreline.
  - 1.6. "**RCW**" means Revised Code of Washington.
  - 1.7. "**Regional Fire Protection Service Authority**" or "**Regional Fire Authority**" or "**RFA**" means a regional fire protection service authority formed pursuant to chapter 52.26 RCW. An RFA is a municipal corporation, an independent taxing authority within the meaning of Article VII, Section 1 of the state Constitution, and a taxing district within the meaning of Article VII, Section 2 of the state Constitution.
  - 1.8. "**Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee**" or "**Planning Committee**" means the committee created under RCW 52.26.030 to create and propose to Northshore and Shoreline the Regional Fire Authority Plan.
  - 1.9. "**Regional Fire Authority Plan**," "**RFA Plan**" or "**Plan**" means this Regional Fire Protection Service Authority Plan, drafted and approved in accordance with chapter 52.26 RCW for the development, financing and operation of the Shoreline Fire Department as a Regional Fire Authority.

**1.10. “Shoreline Fire Department” or “SHFD”** means the Regional Fire Protection Service Authority defined in this plan whose boundaries are coextensive with Northshore and Shoreline.

**RFA Plan Revision Disposition:**

The DEFINITIONS section of the RFA Plan is subject to amendment or revision only by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.

	<b>SECTION 3</b>	<b>FORMATION AUTHORITY</b>	
	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>May 1, 2025</i>	
	<i>Revision</i>	The <b>FORMATION AUTHORITY</b> section of the <b>RFA Plan</b> is subject to amendment or revision only by submission of a revised RFA Plan to the electorate for approval.	
	<i>Revised</i>		

**A. REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AUTHORITY.**

1. Chapter 52.26 RCW provides statutory authority for the formation of a Regional Fire Authority by Northshore and Shoreline.

**B. PLANNING COMMITTEE AUTHORITY.**

1. RCW 52.26.030 and RCW 52.26.040 provides statutory authority to form and operate a Planning Committee.
2. The Participating Jurisdictions formed a Planning Committee consisting of three (3) members of the Northshore Board of Commissioners and three (3) Commissioners of Shoreline Board of Commissioners.
3. The Planning Committee developed and presented to the elected officials of each Participating Jurisdiction the RFA Plan.

**C. RFA PLAN APPROVAL AUTHORITY.**

1. The legislative body of each Participating Jurisdiction reviewed and approved the RFA plan by Joint Resolution and called for an election to approve the RFA Plan.
2. The RFA Plan is being submitted to the voters of each District as a single ballot measure that must be approved by a 60% majority vote.
3. The Planning Committee has authority to take all necessary actions on behalf of the Participating Jurisdictions, perform all necessary duties as required to place the RFA Plan before the voters and to comply with the public hearing requirements contained in RCW 52.26.230.

4. Should the RFA Plan be approved by a 60% majority of the voters of the Participating Jurisdictions, the Shoreline Fire Department, a Regional Fire Authority shall be formed on, May 1, 2025, in accordance with RCW 52.26.070.
5. Upon voter approval of the RFA Plan, the Districts shall continue to exist as Washington State Municipal Corporations. The exclusive purpose of the continued existence of the Districts shall be to levy and collect taxes and/or other fire protection district revenue to be transferred to the RFA until such time as the RFA collects its own revenues and to provide representation to the newly formed RFA Governance Board.
6. If the RFA Plan is not approved by a 60% majority of the voters, then operations relating to the services set forth herein shall remain unchanged.

**RFA Plan Revision Disposition:**

The FORMATION AUTHORITY section of the RFA Plan is subject to amendment or revision only by submission of a revised RFA Plan to RFA Governing Board for approval.

	<b>SECTION 4</b>	<b>JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES</b>	
	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>May 1, 2025</i>	
	<i>Revision</i>	The <b>JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES</b> section of the <b>RFA Plan</b> is subject to amendment or revision only by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.	
	<i>Revised</i>		

**A. JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES ON DATE OF FORMATION.**

1. On the Effective Date, the jurisdictional boundaries of the RFA shall be the legal boundaries of the Participating Jurisdictions.

**B. CHANGES IN JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES AFTER FORMATION OF RFA.**

1. Boundary Changes that do not require a RFA Plan amendment.
  - 1.1. **Annexation of a portion of a District by a City outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the RFA.** On the effective date of such annexation, the territory annexed shall automatically be removed from the boundaries of the RFA. In this situation the RFA shall not be obligated to transfer employees or assets of the RFA and the annexing city shall be restricted solely to assets and employees of the District, if any.
  - 1.2. **RFA Annexations.** Pursuant to RCW 52.26.090(g), the RFA shall have the authority to conduct annexations of unincorporated territory adjacent to the RFA pursuant to the statutory authority and procedures set forth in Chapter 52.04.001 through RCW 52.04.051.
  - 1.3. **RFA Partial Mergers.** Pursuant to RCW 52.26.090(g), the RFA shall have the authority to participate in the partial merger process under the authority and pursuant to the procedures set forth in RCW 52.06.090 and .100.
2. Boundary Changes that require a RFA Plan Amendment.
  - 2.1. **Annexations of Adjacent Fire Protection Jurisdictions.** The boundaries of the RFA may be expanded to include adjacent fire protection jurisdictions through the Plan Amendment and annexation procedures set forth at RCW 52.26.300.

**RFA Plan Revision Disposition:**

The JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES section of the RFA Plan is subject to amendment or revision only by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.

	<b>SECTION 5</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE and ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b>	
	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>May 1, 2025</i>	
	<i>Revision</i>	The <b>GOVERNANCE and ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b> section of the <b>RFA Plan</b> is subject to amendment or revision only by submission of a revised RFA Plan to the electorate for approval.	
	<i>Revised</i>		

**A. GOVERNING BOARD STRUCTURE AND OPERATION.**

1. **Governing Board.** As provided by RCW 52.26.080, the RFA Governing Board shall be established consistent with the terms of this Section and shall have authority as of the Effective Date.
2. **Composition of Governing Board.** As provided by RCW 52.26.080, the governing board shall include 10 voting members consisting of the 5 current, seated members from Northshore and 5 current, seated members from Shoreline.
3. **Governing Rules.** The RFA Governing Board shall develop and adopt governance policies and rules for the RFA Governing Board to conduct business in accordance with RCW 52.26.080.
4. **Authority.** The RFA Governing Board shall have all the power and authority granted governing boards under Washington State law and shall include the power and authority to make any decisions appropriate for the RFA and for matters related to Title 52 RCW.
5. **Compensation of Governing Board.** Commissioners of the Governing Board will receive compensation in the same manner and under the same conditions as provided by law for commissioners of a fire protection district organized under Title 52 RCW.

**RFA Plan Revision Disposition:**

The GOVERNANCE and ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE section of the Plan may be amended by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.

	<b>SECTION 6</b>	<b>FUNDING and FINANCE</b>	
	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>May 1, 2025</i>	
	<i>Revision</i>	The <b>FUNDING and FINANCE</b> section of the <b>RFA Plan</b> is subject to amendment or revision by the Governing Board except when voter approval is required by statute.	
	<i>Revised</i>		

**A. INTERIM RFA FINANCES**

1. The operation and administration of the RFA for the remainder of 2025 shall be funded by the funds budgeted for fire department services in the budgets of each Participating Jurisdiction of the RFA for the 2025 calendar year.

**B. RFA REVENUES:**

1. **Tax Levies.** The RFA is authorized to levy up to \$1.00 per thousand of assessed valuation and collect taxes in accordance with RCW 52.26.050 (1) (b). However, in the first year the RFA shall levy and collect taxes at the tax levy rate of \$.70 per thousand of assessed valuation.
2. **Benefit Charge.** The RFA shall be authorized to impose a benefit charge on all improved properties within the RFA service area, initially based upon the general formula and methodology provided in Appendix A in accordance RCW 52.26.050(1)(a).
3. **Service Contracts.** To the extent permitted by law, the RFA Governance Board shall have the authority to pursue and contract with agencies and entities exempt from property taxes in accordance with RCW 52.30.020 and related statutes.
4. **Impact and Mitigation Fees.** The RFA shall have the authority to impose impact and mitigation fees in the manner authorized by law.
5. **Additional Revenue Options.** The RFA Governing Board shall have the authority to pursue, subject to any applicable statutory voter approval requirements and RFA Plan Amendment, if required, all additional revenue sources authorized by law including but not limited to revenue sources specifically identified in Title 52 RCW and Title 84 RCW that are not otherwise addressed in chapter 52.26 RCW.

**C. TRANSFER OF ASSETS.**

- 1. Northshore and Shoreline Assets.** On the Effective Date, Northshore and Shoreline shall immediately transfer any remaining and future assets to the RFA. Such assets shall include all real property and personal property, including but not limited to furniture, office equipment, motor vehicles, reports, documents, surveys, books, records, files, papers, or written material owned by or in the possession of the District.
- 2.** On the date of the formation of the RFA, Northshore and Shoreline shall transfer to the RFA all funds held with King County together with all future property tax and contractual payments received at the time of receipt.

**D. LIABILITIES.**

- 1. District Debt.** On the Effective Date, the RFA shall assume all outstanding liabilities of Northshore and Shoreline. Voter approved debt, such as Unlimited Tax Obligation (UTGO) bonds, shall remain with the originating jurisdiction's voters.
- 2. Future District Expenses.** All future expenses incurred by the Northshore and Shoreline fire districts beginning in 2025 shall be the responsibility of the RFA.

**RFA Plan Revision Disposition:**

The FUNDING AND FINANCE section of the RFA Plan is subject to amendment or revision by the Governing Board except when voter approval is required by statute.

	<b>SECTION 7</b>	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE - PERSONNEL - ADMINISTRATION</b>	
	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>May 1, 2025</i>	
	<i>Revision</i>	The <b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE - PERSONNEL - ADMINISTRATION</b> section of the <b>RFA Plan</b> is subject to amendment by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.	
	<i>Revised</i>		

**A. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.**

- 1. Organizational Chart.** The RFA shall be organized as provided in Appendix B of the RFA Plan.

**B. PERSONNEL.**

- 1. Fire Chief.** On the Effective Date, the Fire Chief of Shoreline shall serve as the Fire Chief of the RFA. The Fire Chief shall at all times be appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Governance Board.
- 2. Personnel.** The existing personnel of Northshore and Shoreline shall transfer to the RFA to fulfill assigned duties as outlined in the organizational structure in Appendix A. All Northshore and Shoreline personnel shall be transferred on the Effective Date at their current rank, grade and seniority.
- 3. Agreements.** All current employee agreements, personal service contracts, and any other contracts or agreements pertaining to work, duties, services or employment with Northshore and Shoreline shall be transferred over with all personnel on the Effective Date.

**C. ADMINISTRATION.**

- 1. Administration.** The administrative staff of the RFA shall be the current members of Shoreline administrative staff. All current administrative and business functions, agreements, documents, operations, and policies and procedures from Northshore and Shoreline shall transfer over to the RFA unless otherwise noted in this plan.
- 2. Seamless Transition.** Unless otherwise noted in the RFA Plan, the transfer of authority and the administration and management of the RFA shall be seamless and shall initially

model the current administrative and management components of the current Shoreline.

**RFA Plan Revision Disposition:**

The ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE – PERSONNEL - ADMINISTRATION section of The RFA Plan is subject to amendment by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.

	<b>SECTION 8</b>	<b>OPERATIONS AND SERVICES</b>	
	<i>Adopted</i>	<i>May 1, 2025</i>	
	<i>Revision</i>	The <b>OPERATIONS AND SERVICES</b> section of The <b>RFA Plan</b> is subject to amendment by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.	
	<i>Revised</i>		

**A. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

1. On the effective date, the RFA shall become the service provider for all fire protection, fire suppression, emergency medical services and for the protection of life and property within the areas currently served by Northshore and Shoreline.
2. The RFA Governing Board shall determine staffing models, standards of coverage, deployment standards, field operations, command staffing, and operational policies and procedures for the RFA and shall, within budgetary limitations work to maintain or improve service levels.
3. All current automatic aid and mutual aid agreements, and any other contractual services agreements, documents, or memorandums currently in place with Northshore and Shoreline shall be transferred over on to RFA on the Effective Date to provide continuous, seamless readiness and emergency services coverage.

**RFA Plan Revision Disposition:**

The OPERATIONS AND SERVICES section of The RFA Plan is subject to amendment by a majority vote of the RFA Governance Board.

**APPENDIX A**  
**Fire Benefit Charge Data**  
**Subject to Modification by elected RFA Governance Board**

<b>Shoreline Northshore RFA Factors and Totals for 2025 - 30% Spr</b>										
<b>Fire District</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>Factor</b>	<b>Max Sq Ft</b>	<b>Factor</b>	<b>Max Sq Ft</b>	<b>Commercial Subtotals</b>				
Residential 1	0.42	5,000	Commercial - 1	3	4,000	196	Commercial 1	\$314,244.19	457,465	
Residential 2	0.52	6,500	Commercial - 2	4	10,000	163	Commercial 2	\$559,038.29	1,066,768	
Residential 3	0.62	8,000	Commercial - 3	5	20,000	71	Commercial 3	\$414,664.26	995,675	
Residential 4	0.72	10,000	Commercial - 4	6.2	50,000	40	Commercial 4	\$417,318.56	1,218,675	
Residential 5	0.82	15,000	Commercial - 5	7.4	100,000	27	Commercial 5	\$456,211.65	1,809,461	
Residential 6	0.92	20,000	Commercial - 6	8.6	200,000	10	Commercial 6	\$265,678.84	1,216,136	
Residential 7	1	No Max	Commercial - 7	9.8	No Max	4	Commercial 7	\$205,911.07	1,180,762	
Multi Unit	0.66		Cost Per Gallon	76.1		<b># Parcels FBC \$ Square Feet</b>				
Sprinkler	0.7		Balancing Factor	0.00841712445		<b>Residential Subtotals</b>				
<b># Parcels</b>		<b>FBC \$</b>	<b>Square Feet</b>			<b>29,872</b>	<b>Residential 1</b>	<b>\$6,477,949.30</b>	<b>68,960,407</b>	
30,533	Residential	\$6,827,402.80	73,450,416			477	Residential 2	\$201,321.02	2,630,155	
511	Commercial	\$2,633,066.87	7,944,942			84	Residential 3	\$47,659.48	592,330	
51	Mobile Home	\$0.00	0			46	Residential 4	\$34,552.81	413,202	
242	Multi Unit	\$1,485,732.33	8,378,923			35	Residential 5	\$34,916.51	411,520	
31,337	Total District	\$10,946,202.00	89,774,281			14	Residential 6	\$19,998.25	254,080	
						5	Residential 7	\$11,005.42	188,722	

# APPENDIX B Organizational Structure

## SHORELINE FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2025 7-18-24

