



# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

## OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



### WHY A REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY (RFA)?

Fire and emergency medical services are some of the most important services we provide our residents. The City of Marysville and Fire District 12 are exploring an RFA because:

- **Population growth is driving increased demand:** calls for service have grown nearly 60% since 2011
- **Service needs are changing:** rapid growth, an aging population, and socioeconomic factors are straining current resources
- **Current financial model isn't sustainable:** expenses are greater than revenues with reserves funding gaps
- **Governance structure isn't representative:** 80% of residents live within the city limits but city representation is 50%



### THE GOALS OF AN RFA INCLUDE:

- Maintaining quality fire and emergency medical services
- Providing stable and sustainable funding
- Improving efficiency and effectiveness of operations
- Promoting future growth within the organization
- Providing a representative governing board



### WHAT IS AN RFA?

A Regional Fire Authority (RFA) is a special purpose district and independent taxing authority that provides funding for fire and emergency medical services. An RFA can be made up of cities, fire districts, or a combination of the two. There are currently 12 RFAs in Washington state, almost all in western Washington.

Creation of an RFA is authorized by state law. Marysville and Fire District 12 residents would have to vote on the creation and funding of an RFA.



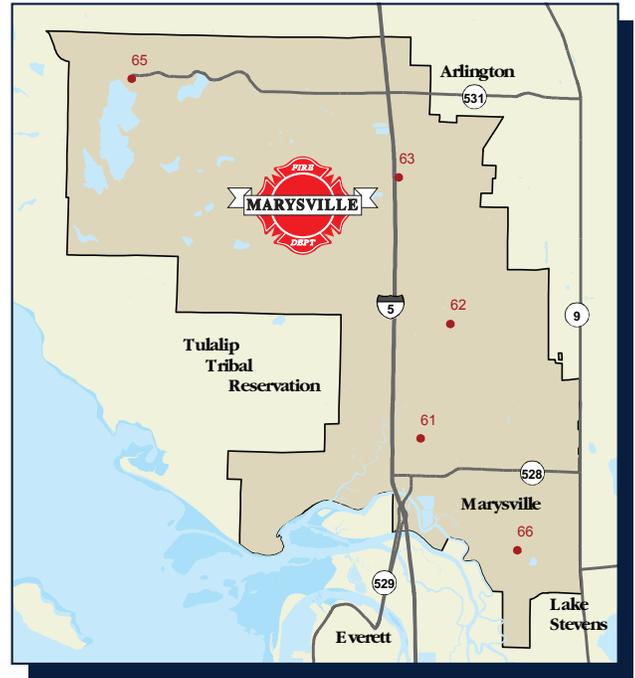
More information: [bit.ly/marysvillerfa](http://bit.ly/marysvillerfa)

# HOW WOULD AN RFA BE FUNDED?

Fire and emergency medical services through the Marysville Fire District are currently funded by levies in both the City of Marysville and Fire District 12. An RFA would create a single funding source, with money collected going directly to the RFA versus passing through other jurisdictions.

## TODAY: THE MARYSVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

- Serves over 80,000 residents
- Covers about 56 square miles
- Operates under a contractual agreement and is governed by a six-member board (3 Marysville City Councilmembers, 3 Fire District 12 Commissioners)
- Employs 104 full-time personnel that staff five fire stations and an administration office



## HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHAT'S NEXT?

Marysville and FD 12 have been considering an RFA model for several years, exploring different options to best meet changing needs and a growing population. The first step was to form an RFA Planning Committee which is responsible for drafting a Regional Fire Authority plan.

### KEY MILESTONES:

- January 2018: RFA Planning Committee formed
- February 2018: Committee approved proposed RFA governance model of 6 members: Marysville – 4 representatives; FD 12 - 1 representative, 1 advisory member
- May 2018: Committee recommends timing of potential RFA ballot measure for April 2019
- July 2018: Committee recommends a potential RFA be named the Marysville Fire District

### NEXT STEPS:

- Committee decides whether to recommend a Regional Fire Authority plan
- Marysville City Council and FD 12 Board of Commissioners would then vote to send proposed RFA plan to the ballot
- Voters would ultimately approve or reject formation of an RFA and its funding



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