

# Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee



## OLYMPIA TUMWATER REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Online via Zoom and In Person at  
Olympia City Hall, Council Chambers,  
601 4th Avenue East Olympia,  
Washington 98501

**Monday, January 09, 2023  
6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Remarks from Chair
- [4.](#) Staff Presentation, City Manager Jay Burney
5. Public Hearing on RFA Benefit Charge
6. Adjourn

### **Hybrid Meeting Information**

The public are welcome to attend in person, by telephone or online via Zoom.

This meeting will be broadcast and livestreamed on cable television and the internet. This meeting can be viewed on Comcast Channel 3 & 26 or on the TCMedia website.

### **Watch Online:**

<https://tcmmedia.org/stream.php>, select "Watch, Streaming Now, Channel 3 & 26."

OR

Go to <http://www.zoom.us/join> and enter the Webinar ID 819 8365 0712 and Passcode 227043.

### **Listen by Telephone:**

Call (253) 205 0468, listen for the prompts and enter the Webinar ID 819 8365 0712 and Passcode 227043.

### **Public and Written Comment**

Attend in person to give public comment or register by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to provide public comment using the web-based meeting platform:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DQcPtrwMTOuONs0MUJSghA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DQcPtrwMTOuONs0MUJSghA)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with a login to join the online meeting.

As an alternative you may also submit written comments by mail to: Tumwater City Hall, Attn: City Clerk, 555 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater, WA 98501 or via email to: [communications@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:communications@ci.tumwater.wa.us). Written comments should be sent prior to January 5, 2023, to be included in the agenda packet for the January 9, 2023, public hearing or via email to the above referenced email address by 4:00 p.m. on January 9, 2023. Comments received after January 5, 2023, will be distributed to the Planning Committee, but not included in the published packet.

**Post Meeting**

Video recording of this meeting will be available within 24 hours of the meeting.  
<https://tcmedia.org/channels.php>

**Accommodations**

The City of Tumwater and City of Olympia takes pride in ensuring that people with disabilities are able to take part in, and benefit from, the range of public programs, services, and activities offered by the City. If you require accommodation for your attendance at the Olympia City Council meeting, please contact the Council's Executive Assistant at 360.753.8244 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. For hearing impaired, please contact us by dialing the Washington State Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1.800.833.6384.

# **Public Hearing**

## **Olympia/Tumwater Regional Fire Authority Fire Benefit Charge**

January 9, 2023

Jay Burney, Olympia City Manager

# RFA Funding

## Four Funding Sources:

- Fire Levy: a property tax
- Fire Benefit Charge (FBC): Fee based on the fire risk associated with the size and type of structures.
- EMS Levy Revenues
- Fees for Service: including revenue from permits and service contracts with other governments



# What is a Fire Benefit Charge?

- Formula based on fire flow – Fee assessed based on risk of fighting fire and personnel needed
  - Based on Square Footage and Weighted Risk
- Formula and collection amount set annually by RFA Board of Commissioners
  - Cannot Exceed 60% of RFA Operating Budget
- Bill is sent with property tax bill by the County assessor/treasurer and paid like property tax
  - Annual appeals process
- FBC must be reauthorized by voters after 6 years
- FBC reauthorization can be for another 6 or 10 years (50%+1 approval required), or a permanent authorization can be requested from voters (60% approval)

*A benefit charge imposed must be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits to property resulting from the services afforded by the authority. RCW 52.26.180(5)*

# Proposed FBC Classifications and Weights

Structure Classification	# of Tiers in this Classification	Proposed Weights	Number of Parcels in this Classification
<b>Residential</b>	3		20,246
	Residential 1 ( $\leq 2,000$ sq. ft)	0.45	
	Residential 2 (2,001-3,000 sq. ft.)	0.55	
	Residential 3 ( $\geq 3,001$ sq. ft.)	0.64	
<b>Mobile Home</b>	1	0	454
<b>Apartments (5 unit or more)</b>	1	1.5	354
<b>Commercial</b>	6 (See next slide)		2,142

*The FBC increases as the weight and square footage increases.*

# Proposed FBC Classifications & Weights Continued

Tier	Max Sq. Ft in this Tier	Weight	# of parcels in this category
Commercial 1	5,000	0.8	1300
Commercial 2	20,000	1.5	611
Commercial 3	50,000	2.7	145
Commercial 4	100,000	4.1	53
Commercial 5	200,000	5.5	29
Commercial 6	No Max	6.5	4



# FBC CALCULATOR

[www.ci.Tumwater.wa.us/FBC](http://www.ci.Tumwater.wa.us/FBC)



## FBC CALCULATOR

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### FBC Calculator

#### Fire Benefit Charge

State law RCW 52.18 allows fire districts, with the approval of the voters in their district, to collect a benefit charge from residential and commercial property owners. Once voters approve the benefit charge collection, the normal property tax collection rate authorized by State Law drops from \$1.50 per thousand to \$1.00 per thousand of assessed value.

The Fire Benefit Charge is not a per-call charge, and it is not based on the assessed value of property. It is a fee that will apply only to the structures on properties, based on how the property is used and the size of the structures. There is no charge for undeveloped land. Under the FBC, those who benefit more from fire protection services, such as large structures and structures that pose higher fire risk – pay more for that service.

#### Online Calculator

Please enter your tax parcel number to get an estimated cost of your FBC.

Don't know your parcel number? You can [look it up](#) on the Thurston County website.