



Staff Report

November 19, 2018 Council Regular Meeting

Amendment to the Fire Interlocal Agreement to hire four firefighters without funding from the City of Washougal

Staff Contact	Phone	Email
Pete Capell, City Administrator	360.834.6864	pcapell@cityofcamas.us

INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE/SUMMARY: Council has directed staff to include two Firefighter/Paramedics, two Firefighter/EMTs and a Fire Inspector to the 2019-2020 budget. The City of Washougal has indicated that they are unable to fund their share of the positions at this time. They want more time to understand the staffing needs of the Fire Department, including various alternatives to reduce the financial impacts.

The Interlocal Agreement outlines how costs for the fire department are shared between Camas and Washougal. This amendment was prepared to enable Camas to pay for the additional positions without violating the agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Don Chaney and staff met with staff from the State Auditor's Office to determine if the amendment would suffice to prevent any State Auditor findings, management letters or exit comments. The auditors indicated the amendment would be satisfactory and issues would not be raised regarding this in our annual audit and agreed that both parties would benefit from the agreement; Washougal would see reduced overtime expenses from the additional personnel and Camas would have reduced overtime expenses and provide additional staffing at Station 42 some of the time.

In addition to the amendment, Mayor Pro Tem Chaney and staff discussed deferring Washougal's Fire Reserve payments to fund the firefighter positions. We also considered adding two firefighters in 2019 and two more in 2020 to reduce the impact. Washougal could pay for their portion of the two firefighters out of their reserve payment or increase their total payment to Camas for the Fire Department.

David Scott, Washougal City Administrator, agreed that Washougal should pay retroactively for the equipment necessary to support the positions.

Options for Council to consider:

1. Approve the amendment and hire four firefighters and one fire inspector – Washougal would approve the agreement, review staffing needs in 2019 and begin payment in 2020 or 2021.
2. Approve the amendment and hire two firefighters and one fire inspector in 2019 and two firefighters in 2020 – Washougal would approve the agreement, review staffing needs in 2019 and begin payment in 2020 or 2021.

3. Hire four firefighters and one fire inspector – Washougal would pay their share by deferring their payment to the reserve.
4. Hire two firefighters and one fire inspector in 2019 and two firefighters in 2020 – Washougal would pay their share by deferring their payment to the reserve.
5. Delay hiring additional firefighters until Washougal has agreed to the staffing levels.

RECOMMENDATION REQUESTED: Council's direction on how to proceed. Staff can bring back the Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement and/or amend the budget to revise Fire staffing additions for consideration at Regular Meeting on December 3, 2018.