



MINUTES

October 28, 2024

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SHORELINE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND NORTHSHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RFA PLANNING COMMITTEES- PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

**at Shoreline Fire Department's Headquarters Station 61
and Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

I. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Commissioner Fischer called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Persons in attendance were Shoreline Fire Commissioners Kim Fischer, Rod Heivilin, and Ken Callahan, Northshore Commissioners Rick Webster, Josh Pratt, and Tyler Byers. Also present was Chief Matt Cowan, Legal Counsel Brian Snure, Northshore Board Secretary Amy Oakley, and 48 members of the public.

IV. RFA PRESTATION BY CHIEF MATT COWAN

4.1 Chief Cowan presented slides to the public regarding the regional fire authority planning process, including an overview of the RFA, election timeline, current services of the ILA, taxpayer impacts, and governance.

V. OTHER PRESENTERS

5.1 Northshore Commissioner, Josh Pratt, and Local 1760 Union Vice President, Brian Ford addressed the public.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

6.1 The RFA Planning Committee opened the floor to public comments and questions.

ADJOURNMENT

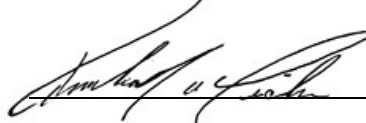
The meeting adjourned at 7:19PM.

Next meetings:

- RFA Planning Committee meeting Tuesday, November 12th at 5pm at Station 51 and Zoom.

Attachments: Agenda, public notice, meeting flyer, PowerPoint presentation slides.

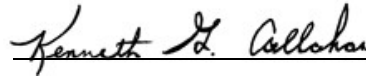
RFA PLANNING COMMITTEE



KIM FISCHER, Chair



ROD HEIVILIN, Member



KEN CALLAHAN, Member



RICK WEBSTER, Member

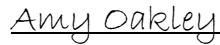


JOSH PRATT, Member



TYLER BYERS, Member

ATTEST



Amy Oakley, Secretary

King County Fire Protection District No. 16

Adopted at a Special Meeting of the Joint RFA Planning Committee on November 12, 2024.



SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Joint Special Meeting with The Shoreline Fire Department and Northshore Fire Department Board of Commissioners RFA Planning Committees

**October 28, 2024
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Meeting will be held via Zoom conferencing and
on-site at: Station #51, 7220 NE 181st Street, Kenmore, WA 98028.**

Join Zoom Meeting Online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85044713997?pwd=dW1uWDFpNldPZ1dSSU1ZYy9LSXVQQT09>

Call in to Zoom Meeting at: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 850 4471 3997

Passcode: 743608

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call**
- IV. **Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Presentation by Chief Matt Cowan**
- V. **Other Presenters**
 - Commissioner Josh Pratt
 - Local 1760 Union Vice President Brian Ford
- VI. **Public Comment**

Individuals wishing to comment must do so by signing the Public Comment Sign-In Sheet or if appearing virtually by “raising their hand” or the equivalent. Each individual must state their name, the organization they are affiliated with if applicable, and their city of residence. The Moderator shall recognize those persons and provide them the opportunity to comment. Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes.
- VII. **Adjourn**



KING COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO.16

7220 NE 181st Street
KENMORE, WA 98028

BUSINESS: 425-354-1780 FAX: 425-354-1781

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

DATED October 1, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of King County Fire Protection District No. 16, will be held via Zoom, and in-person at: Station #51, 7220 NE 181st Street, Kenmore, WA 98028, **Monday the 28th day of October 2024, at 6:00PM.**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the meeting is to host an informational session/open house for the public regarding the draft proposed Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Plan. The Fire Chief will provide an overview presentation of the Plan followed by Q&A and public input.

PUBLIC MEETING

Special Meeting of the
Shoreline and Northshore Fire
Departments Regional Fire
Authority Planning Committee



Key topics to be covered:

- Presentation from the **Fire Chief** on the draft Regional Fire Authority Plan.
- Overview of the **next steps** in the RFA process.
- Public comment session for community members to **ask questions and provide feedback**.

Questions for the Q&A session can be submitted during the event or emailed in advance to boardsecretary@northshorefire.com

OCTOBER 28, 2024
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

STATION 51

7220 NE 181ST STREET
KENMORE, WA 98028

This is your opportunity to learn more and have your voice heard.

**JOIN THE
CONVERSATION**



VIRTUALLY: VIA ZOOM



BY PHONE: (253) 215-8782



LEARN MORE: [//bit.ly/ShorelineRFA](https://bit.ly/ShorelineRFA)



Special Public Meeting of the Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee

Public Information Session

Monday, October 28, 2024
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM



Station 51
7220 NE 181st Street
Kenmore, WA 98028

Virtual Attendance
via Zoom and
phone

Introducing our speakers



Matt Cowan
Fire Chief

Additional Presenters

Josh Pratt, Commissioner

Northshore Fire Department Board of Commissioners

Brian Ford, Vice President

Shoreline Professional Firefighters Local 1760

Regional Fire Authority

How can they benefit our community?



A **Regional Fire Authority (RFA)** is a special-purpose district created to provide fire protection and emergency medical services. It is formed by consolidating fire districts or departments, typically in neighboring regions, to improve service efficiency, reduce costs, and streamline administrative operations.

RFAs are funded through mechanisms such as property tax levies and fire benefit charges, allowing them to manage resources and services more effectively across multiple jurisdictions.



Meeting Growing Service Demands with Efficiency and Cost Savings for Fire District Improvement

Regionalization has been a growing trend in the fire industry to meet increasing service demands.

Forming a RFA addresses rising service needs while easing **tax pressure** on residents.

A RFA ensures **better efficiency**, stretching tax dollars to provide top-tier service to the community.

Whatever form regionalization requires, the **highest priority** is either maintaining or improving levels of service

Upcoming RFA Ballot Measure: What You Need to Know

Shoreline Fire and Northshore Fire are proposing a RFA ballot measure for February 2025 .

Voters from Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline **will decide** on the formation of the RFA and its revenue sources (property tax levy and fire benefit charge).

Establishing a RFA with a fire benefit charge requires a **super - majority (60% + 1 vote)** .

Adding new jurisdictions or re- authorizing the fire benefit charge in the future will require a **majority (50% + 1 vote)**.

Regional Fire Authorities: Proven Success Across Washington

Since 2007, 16 Regional Fire Authorities have been created in Washington, **with 6 in King and Snohomish Counties.**

King County

Puget Sound RFA

Renton RFA

Valley RFA

Snohomish County

Marysville RFA

North County RFA

South County Fire



North- end fire departments have discussed regionalization for decades, driven by the goal of improving services and achieving cost - efficiencies .

In 2022, Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments took the first step by signing an Interlocal Agreement (ILA).

Under this agreement, Shoreline Fire now provides full fire and emergency medical services to Shoreline, Kenmore, and Lake Forest Park.

Taking the First Step Toward Regionalization

Improving Services Through
Partnership



Current services provided under the Interlocal Agreement

Under the ILA Shoreline Fire provides full fire and emergency medical services to the cities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park.

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

Service Improvements and Efficiency Gains Under the Shoreline- Northshore ILA

The Shoreline and Northshore ILA has led to significant service improvements, including:



- ✓ Added a peak - hour aid car at Station 57 in Lake Forest Park.
- ✓ **Improved EMS response** with our Firefighters transporting patients, leading to higher continuity of care.
- ✓ **Improved rescue operations** at Station 51 in Kenmore for emergency responses like car accidents and technical rescues.
- ✓ **Expanded Fire Marshal services**, increasing fire investigations and inspections for safer buildings.
- ✓ Comprehensive fleet and facility management, keeping apparatus **functional and stations in top shape**.
- ✓ **Enhanced administrative capabilities** creating more depth in finance, HR, and record keeping resulting in improved financial reporting.

Taxpayer Savings and Operational Efficiencies Achieved Through the Shoreline- Northshore ILA

The Shoreline- Northshore ILA combined the fire departments, leading to significant taxpayer savings, including:

\$1.4 Million

in annual savings by eliminating duplicate positions (Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, other).

Increased Revenue

from GEMT and BLS transports.

Improved Long-Term Saving

for capital projects and station maintenance, reducing repair costs and ensuring better-functioning stations.

Building on ILA Successes: Service Improvements and Efficiency Gains

A Regional Fire Authority will build on the successes of the ILA and bring additional service improvements

ENHANCED COLLABORATION

Firefighters will continue to train and work together, ensuring continued coordination and improved collaboration.

MORE FLEXIBLE USE OF EQUIPMENT

Fire trucks and aid cars can be assigned to locations on an as-needed basis.

IMPROVED PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Assignments will no longer be limited by district boundaries, boosting efficiency.

INCREASED TECHNICAL RESCUE CAPABILITIES

Particularly in Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, and the surrounding region.

BETTER RESOURCE POOLING

A RFA strengthens grant applications, such as for a future rescue/fire boat on Lake Washington.

Lowering Costs, Increasing Savings, and Ensuring Long- Term Sustainability

We estimate that the RFA will create savings for 100% of all homeowners and 98% of all property owners in our Fire District.

We estimate \$200,000 in savings from forming a Regional Fire Authority.

A RFA can reduce liability and risk, lowering the need for reserves and enabling reinvestment in services or reduced levy rates.

A RFA brings sustainability, protects property values from fluctuation, and diversifies revenue sources.

Shoreline's growth will benefit all communities in the RFA through better resource sharing.

Maintaining our Class 2 WSRB rating will continue to save on insurance costs for homeowners and businesses, placing us in the top 2% of fire departments in Washington State.

Streamlining Administration: Eliminating Duplication and Improving Efficiency

A Regional Fire Authority streamlines administrative efficiency and reduces duplication across divisions.

The **Fire Chief** and other administrative staff will no longer need to manage multiple boards, budgets, and policies.

Financial staff can handle revenues and programs like GEMT and BLS transports more efficiently.

The **Administrative Director** can manage staff without concerns over location of workload.

Support Services will improve by managing fewer separated budgets, allowing better use of equipment and resources without ownership constraints.

Enhancing Citizen Involvement: Balanced Representation in Governance

A Regional Fire Authority will enhance citizen involvement and ensure balanced representation on the governance board.

Currently, the **Northshore Fire Board** oversees the ILA but lacks direct influence on Shoreline Fire's strategic direction.

A RFA would combine the **Shoreline Board of Commissioners**, with elected Commissioners from **Lake Forest Park** and **Kenmore** gaining direct oversight of the entire Regional Fire Department.

There would be **equal representation** from Northshore and Shoreline Fire, with five members from each serving on the Board.

Future changes to the Board would require a **majority vote**.

Locking in Service Improvements and long-term sustainability with a RFA.

An **Interlocal Agreement** is just a contract, but a **Regional Fire Authority** will formalize the relationship between Shoreline Fire and Northshore Fire

A RFA will **secure** the service improvements, taxpayer savings, and efficiencies achieved under the ILA.

It will also allow for **further improvements**, building on past successes and continuing to enhance service and cost savings.

Other entities can **join** the RFA, improving service levels, generating financial savings, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

A RFA will help maintain our **Class 2 WSRB rating**, keeping us among the top 2% of fire departments in Washington.

Your Voice Matters!

- ✓ Thank you!
- ✓ Public Comments?
- ✓ Questions?
- ✓ Get involved!

Sign Up to stay connected with the proposed Regional Fire Authority (RFA) ballot measure for Shoreline and Northshore Fire Departments.

Name *

First Last

Email *

SUBMIT



GET INVOLVED!

www.ShorelineFire.com

PUBLIC MEETING
INFORMATION

NEWS

FAQ

DOCUMENTS



/ShorelineFire

/shorelinefiredepartment

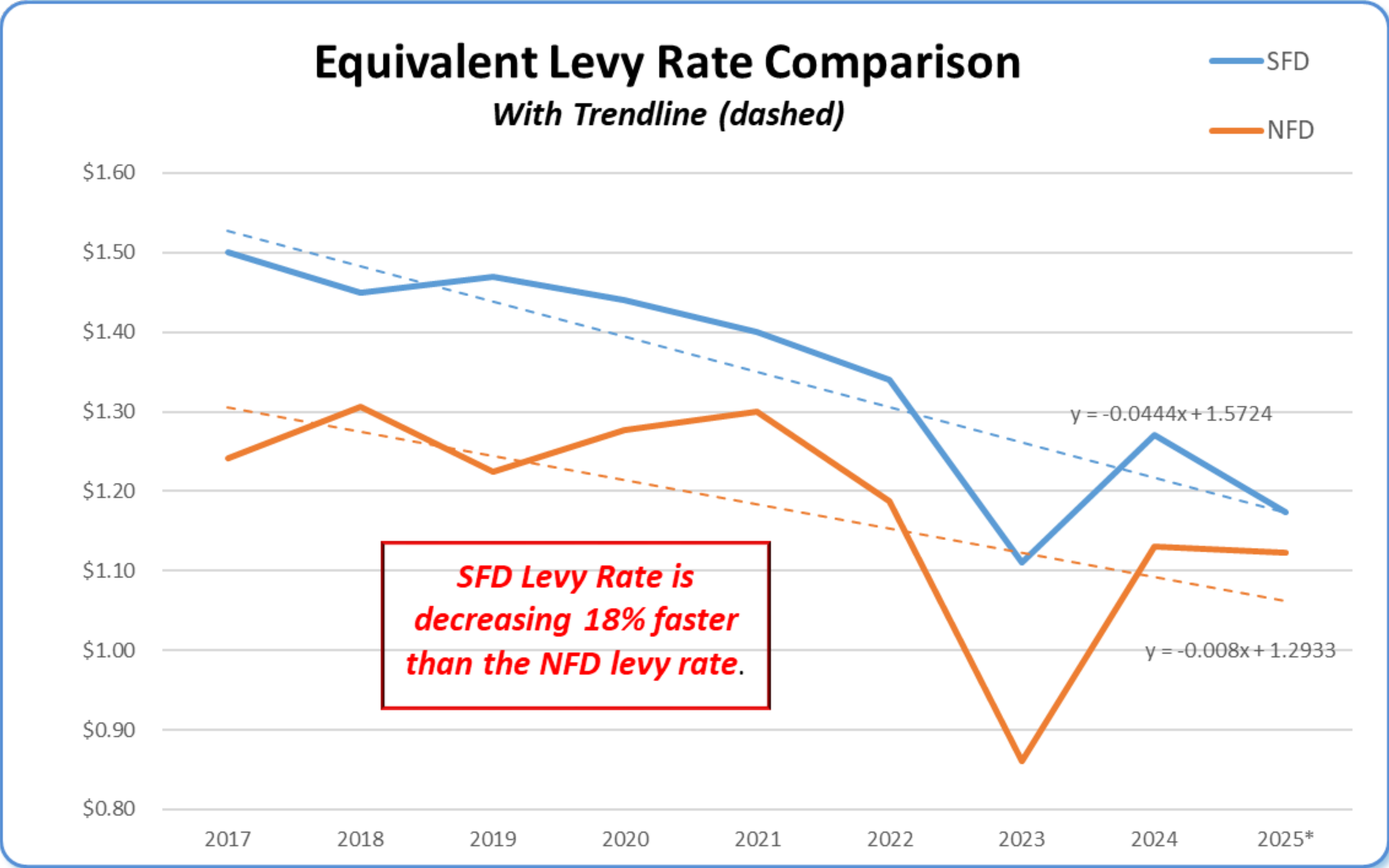
shorelinefire.com

Expense Cost Analysis

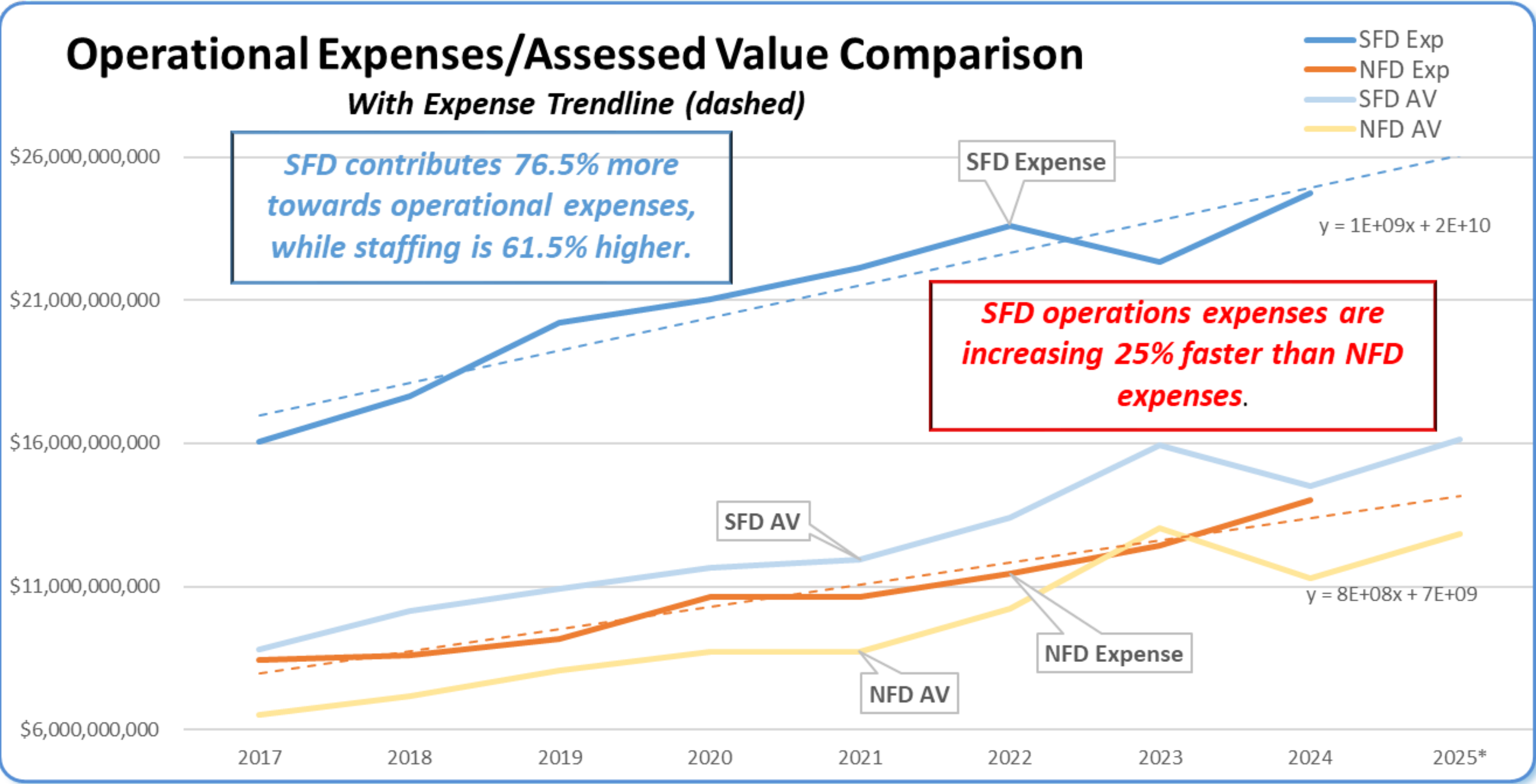


Expense Cost Analysis of RFA (keeping reserves at same level)			
Description	2025	RFA	Notes
Expenses (no transfers to reserves or bonds)			
SFD Budget	\$ 38,412,029	\$ 39,891,087	Savings of about \$196,000 from NFD Budget (Additional MIH savings of \$118,531 in 2026). With additional \$1.2 million in capital expense.
NFD Budget (separated)	\$ 475,058		
Assessed Valuation			
SFD	\$ 16,152,922,032	\$29,005,330,726	Combined AV
NFD	\$ 12,852,408,694		
Equivalent Levy Rate			
SFD	\$ 1.174	\$ 1.078	Combined levy rate (less than current NFD rate due to NFD needs for increased capital purchases). Includes \$1.2 million in capital
NFD	\$ 1.122		
Revenues			
SFD Levy/FBC	\$ 18,958,685	\$ 31,261,945	Combined revenues
NFD Payment+BOC Budget	\$ 14,267,522	\$ -	No payment or BOC budget as both Departments are one
Appeals/Fees		\$ (185,000)	King County costs and deductions for appeals
SFD Contracts/Transports/Allocation	\$ 7,168,673	\$ 8,814,761	Combined revenues from other sources (NFD contract is shown as a negative in "Current" as it is an offset from the annual payment). Includes \$140k of other revenues from NFD.
NFD Contracts/Transports/Allocation	\$ (1,506,088)		
Total Expenses	\$ 38,887,087	\$ 39,891,087	
Total Revenues	\$ 38,888,792	\$ 39,891,706	
Difference	\$ 1,705	\$ 619	

Shoreline Fire has been Fiscally Responsible



Assessed Valuation and Expense Comparison



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