



### **OPTION 3: Merge with Fire District 10**

All aspects of the fire service would be administered by FD 10. FD 27 ceases to exist.

- Requires voter approval greater than 50%
- Irreversible decision
- FD 27 Commissioners on FD 10 Board during transition, then elected at large
- Decisions made to benefit larger (entire FD 10) area

#### **Re. Financial Sustainability**

- Overall cost to FD 27 taxpayers would *decrease* an estimated \$250k/year (11% decrease) in 2019
- Taxing structure changes
  - \* Regular Property Tax *is reduced to*: \$1.00/\$1,000 Assessed Value
  - \* Excess Levy for Maintenance & Operations *replaced* by Fire Benefit Charge
  - \* Fire Benefit Charge requires at least 50% voter approval every 6 years
  - \* Fire Benefit Charge at current FD 10 rate *decreases* cost for most taxpayers (77%); *increases* for most businesses and some homeowners

#### **A Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) is governed by RCW 52.18.**

- \* The FBC is combined with a levy rate tax up to \$1.00/\$1,000 AV to create the primary funding sources for a fire district.
- \* The FBC applies only to structures based on size, use, and fire risk. It is applied to improvements to real property, but does not apply to land, giving tax relief to owners of vacant land.
- \* The FBC may cover up to 60% of the annual operating expenses of the district.
- \* Initial approval requires greater than 60% voter approval. Subsequent votes require greater than 50% approval.

General Obligation Bond for fire station *continues* through 2021: currently at \$.07087/\$1,000 AV

#### **Re. Service Delivery**

- 3-person career staffing at all times
- Expanded community outreach, special operation and fire prevention
- Robust organization with levels of management, full scope of support services, and greater administrative expertise, capacity and efficiencies
- Expanded fire fighter training
- Current FD 27 volunteer firefighter program continues; could change as FD 10's program evolves