

Administration
Fire Suppression
Fire Investigation
Fire Training
Fire Prevention
Public Education



401 North Front Street, Yakima, WA 98901

(509) 575-6060
Fax (509) 576-6356
www.yakimafire.com

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor Coffey and members of the Yakima City Council
From: Aaron Markham, Fire Chief
Date: January 16, 2019
RE: Information on Regional Fire Authority

Council,

In recent informal discussions regarding the formation of a Regional Fire Authority (RFA) with local agencies, there was not much interest. I have reached out to the agencies below, which border the city limits of Yakima, and have illustrated their level of interest:

Union Gap (No), YCFD #4 (not at this time), YCFD #12 (willing to listen), YCFD #11 and YCFD #10 (likely to follow the lead of the City of Yakima, but they have no personnel or resources to combine) and YCFD #2/Selah (not at this time).

Below is a summary of the historical information from the prior planning process and feasibility study.

- January 10, 2011 – A meeting was held with elected officials of Union Gap and Yakima, along with Fire Chief Willson and Fire Chief Steele. Approval was made by both cities to move forward with the study.
- Step 2, date uncertain – A meeting was held with all fire agencies with a contiguous border to the cities of Union Gap and Yakima to determine which agencies were interested in participating in the study. Below is a list of all agencies that were invited:
 - City of Yakima
 - City of Union Gap
 - Yakima County Fire District #12 (West Valley)
 - Yakima County Fire District #4 (East Valley)
 - Yakima County Fire District #11 (Broadway) contracted with Union Gap
 - Yakima County Fire District #10 (Fruitvale) contracted with Yakima
 - Yakima County Fire District #1 (Highland)
 - Yakima County Fire District #2 (Selah)

***"The Yakima Fire Department is dedicated to providing
quality public safety services to our community."***

Administration
Fire Suppression
Fire Investigation
Fire Training
Fire Prevention
Public Education



401 North Front Street, Yakima, WA 98901

(509) 575-6060
Fax (509) 576-6356
www.yakimafire.com

At the end of this meeting ONLY four agencies showed an interest in the planning process and feasibility study. The four agencies listed below were confirmed at a meeting in April 2011:

- City of Yakima
 - City of Union Gap
 - YCFD #11 and YCFD #10
-
- The next step – A study group made up of elected officials, fire officials, residents, business owners and employees (20 people in total) was formed.
 - This group met on a regular basis for two years to come up with a well-informed document. They hired ESCI Consulting, at an estimated cost of \$22,500, to do a financial analysis that took nearly five more months to complete.
 - The financial analysis concluded that a Regional Fire Authority was feasible if an ad valorem tax of \$1/1000 plus a fire benefit charge were used for the revenue source.

Please note: The additional revenue needed to sustain a Regional Fire Authority would be completely borne by the residential and business property owners within the boundaries of the RFA. The benefit charge may be insignificant to some and substantial to others compared to the current tax collection practices. The fire benefit charge is a somewhat complex formula. It is based on the size of a building and how hazardous its contents are. The buildings with the higher hazard pay a proportionately greater fire benefit charged as compared to a less hazardous single family residence.

***"The Yakima Fire Department is dedicated to providing
quality public safety services to our community."***