

# Statement of Shared Values and Principles

*As recommended by RFA Planning Committee April 11, 2022*

**The following statement of shared values and principles to guide us in developing a plan for an RFA to be created by the Olympia and Tumwater RFA Planning Committee**

*Values and Principles are not presented in rank order of priority.*

## **Our Values Include:**

- 1. Ensuring operations meet or exceed current service levels in terms of their ability to support a safe and healthy community.**
- 2. Providing a safe, supportive and professional environment for our first responders.**
- 3. Participatory Governance.** Jurisdictions which are part of the RFA should have a meaningful voice in the operating decisions of the RFA. The RFA Board should seek to make decisions by consensus whenever possible.
- 4. Pro-Active Oversight, Planning and Continuous Improvement.** We are committed to planning for the future and proactively identifying and addressing the needs of our communities, identifying and implementing ways to better meet those needs.
- 5. Promoting interagency collaboration, communication and strong working relationships.** The RFA will act in the collective best interests of all its public safety partners, not just those served by the RFA.
- 6. Making data-driven decisions.** The RFA should take strategic action based on the facts after a thorough and objective analysis of the issues.
- 7. Being an effective and efficient steward of public funds.**
- 8. Affordable and sustainable financial model.** The RFA should implement an affordable and sustainable financial model that can facilitate consistent service levels over time as the community served continues to grow.
- 9. Strong engagement with our local communities.** The RFA should be a positive and engaged member of the communities it serves with pro-active outreach to the public.
- 10. Honoring the history and identify of the Olympia and Tumwater Fire Departments while we build the culture for the new fire agency.**

**Our Operating Principles Include:**

- A. The RFA Board will be committed to the success of the RFA and will be engaged in actively learning and understanding the work of the agency.
- B. We will strive to operate nimbly, with the ability to make decisions and respond quickly when necessary.
- C. We seek to understand and address the unique needs of the communities we serve. We strive to address these needs equitably in all operating and financial decisions.
- D. We work to attract, develop and retain high quality staff.
- E. We will ensure all City Fire Department staff in good standing at the time of annexation are offered at least equivalent positions within the RFA.
- F. We strive to employ rigorous quality assurance and reporting practices.
- G. We manage agency budgets to control or reduce costs.
- H. We seek to limit spikes in budgets from year to year, by use of planning capital investments over time, developing reserves and other means.
- I. We commit to being transparent, accessible and responsive to our customer agencies and the public.
- J. In contracting to provide services to other agencies, we are mindful of our own costs of service: communities within the RFA boundaries should not incur additional costs from these external service contracts.