CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE
RESOLUTION NO. 240425-1

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PERMANENT MULTI YEAR LEVY LID LIFT – PRIMARY ELECTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLARK-COWLITZ FIRE RESCUE, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD WITHIN THE DISTRICT ON AUGUST 6, 2024 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE SAME DATE, OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX NOT TO EXCEED $1.50 PER $1,000.00 OF TRUE AND ASSESSED VALUATION AND ESTABLISHING A SIX YEAR LIMIT FACTOR SUBJECT TO OTHERWISE APPLICABLE STATUTORY LIMITATIONS.

Background: WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue that it is essential and necessary for the protection of the health and life of the residents of the fire district that fire and emergency medical services be provided by the fire district. Such services will necessitate the expenditure of revenues for station construction, maintenance, operations, equipment and personnel in excess of those which can be provided by the fire district's regular tax revenue levied at the current rate per $1,000.00 of assessed valuation of taxable property within the fire district.

WHEREAS, The Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that the application of the one percent limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 will not allow the fire district to generate sufficient revenue to provide for the expected cost increases required to maintain and increase the level of services currently provided by the fire district.

WHEREAS, The District experiences annual cost increases affecting its operations that reflect standard inflationary indices and that consistently exceed the statutory 101% limitation on tax levy increases.

WHEREAS, The District believes that it is reasonable to adopt a growth factor for years 2-6 of the levy lid lift period at a rate of six percent per year to help the District keep up with inflation in Clark and Cowlitz Counties.

WHEREAS, the funds generated by this levy will allow the fire district to maintain or increase the level of services and will not supplant existing funds used for the purposes identified in Section 1.

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of the fire district that the maximum allowable levy in the sixth year of the levy authorized by this Resolution serve as the levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue, in Ridgefield, Washington as follows:

Section 1. In order to provide fire protection, prevention, and emergency medical services in the fire district, it is necessary for the fire district to operate and maintain emergency fire and medical service vehicles, to construct and remodel station facilities and other capital facilities, and to appropriately staff these facilities with properly trained personnel equipped with proper firefighting and emergency medical equipment.

Section 2. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of providing and maintaining adequate life protection services, facilities, and equipment as described in Section 1, to maintain reserve funds sufficient to assure the continuation of such services, and to assure the improvement of such services, the fire district shall, in accordance with RCW 84.55.050, remove the one percent limitation on regular property taxes imposed by RCW 84.55.010 and levy beginning in 2024 and collect beginning in 2025, pursuant to RCW 52.16.130, RCW 52.16.140 and RCW 52.16.160, a general tax on taxable property within the fire district at a rate of $1.50 per $1,000.00 of assessed valuation subject to otherwise applicable statutory limits.

Section 3. The fire district previously obtained voter approval to establish the levy rate at $1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation in 2017.

Section 4. In order to provide the revenue adequate to pay the costs of maintaining and providing the services described in Section 1 and to assure the continuation and improvement of such services beyond 2025, the fire district has determined that a limit factor of 106% shall be used to determine the actual levy rate, subject to the maximum statutory rate of $1.50 per $1,000.00 of assessed valuation, in 2025 – 2029. The dollar amount levied in 2029 shall serve as the fire district's tax levy base for purposes of applying the limit factor established by RCW 84.55.010 in subsequent years.

Section 5. There shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the fire district for their ratification or rejection, at a special election on August 6, 2024, in conjunction with the state primary election to be held on the same date, the question of whether or not the regular property tax levy of the fire district should be restored to $1.50 per $1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation in 2024 and be adjusted by 106% for the following five years, subject to otherwise applicable statutory limitations. The Auditors of Clark and Cowlitz Counties, as ex-officio Supervisors of Elections, are hereby requested to call such special elections, and to submit the following proposition at such election, in the form of a ballot title substantially as follows:

> Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue
> Proposition No. 1
> Levy Lid Lift Authorizing Restoration of Previous Property Tax Levy
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> The Board of Fire Commissioners of Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue adopted Resolution No. 240328-1 concerning a proposition to maintain and adequately fund fire district operations.
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> This proposition would authorize the fire district to restore its regular property tax levy to $1.50 per $1,000.00 of assessed valuation for collection in 2025 and authorize setting the limit factor at 106% for each of the following five years (not to exceed the $1.50 rate) to acquire emergency response equipment, address capital facility needs, and improve department operations. The maximum allowable levy in 2029 shall serve as the base for subsequent levy limitations.
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> Should this proposition be: Approved ☐ Rejected ☐

Section 6. In accordance with RCW 84.55.050(1), the ballot measure shall require approval of a simple majority of voters.

Section 7. The Board of Commissioners finds and declares that it is in the best interest of the District to have information regarding the ballot measure included in the local voters' pamphlet. Furthermore, that the appropriate costs thereof shall be paid for by the District. The Board of Commissioners further authorizes and directs the Fire Chief to provide such information to the County Elections department for inclusion and to take other actions as necessary to that end.

Section 8. The Board of Commissioners hereby assigns to the Fire Chief or designee the task of appointing members to a committee to advocate voters' approval of the proposition and to a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the proposition.

Section 9. For purposes of receiving notice of any matters related to the ballot title, as provided in RCW 29A.36.080, the Board of Commissioners hereby designates the Fire Chief , or designee as the individuals to whom the County Auditor shall provide such notice.

Section 10. The Chief is authorized to implement such administrative procedures as may be necessary to carry out the directives of this resolution, including modifying the text of the ballot title and any other text, language and/or descriptions relative thereto necessary to conform such ballot title, text, language and/or descriptions to the intent of the parties, consistent with the objectives of this resolution.

Section 11. The Chief, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed, no later than May 3, 2024, to provide to the County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the proper District officials are authorized to perform such other duties or take such other actions as are necessary or required by law to the end that the proposition described in this resolution appear on the ballot before the voters at the August 6, 2024 election.

Section 12. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 13. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this resolution is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 14. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED by the Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners in Ridgefield, Washington, at a regular meeting of said Board on the 25th day of April, 2024 the following Commissioners being present and voting.

Commissioner Stanley Chunn	**Commissioner David Town**
Commissioner Larry Bartel	**Commissioner Ken Ayers**
Commissioner Jade Bourke	**Attest: District Secretary**