



***City of Bellingham - Whatcom County Fire District #8 RFA Planning Committee***

**Issue Paper**

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Date: 9-12-2017

Paper #: 10

**Title:**

Regional Fire Authority Governance model

**Summary/Description of issue:**

The Planning Committee needs to decide how the governance board for the RFA should be structured initially, and whether the RFA Plan should also include a transition plan for how that initial board structure should evolve.

Two RCW's directly pertain to the governance board - RCW 52.26.080 which refers to the organization and composition of the governing board, and RCW 52.26.090 which refers to the powers of the governing board.

These RCW's clarify that the plan must identify the structure of the governing board within certain limits.

**The issues included here are:**

- A. Number of members on the governing board?
- B. How are the seats filled? Are members voted directly to the board or do elected officials from each agency get appointed to the board?
- C. If members are voted directly to the board, should it be all at-large positions or from wards or districts?
- D. Should we create non-voting/advisory positions on the board for other governmental stakeholders (ie Port or Lummi Nation)?
- E. What are the terms of office? How should they be staggered?
- F. How should seats be initially allocated? Why?
- G. If the board structure should change over time, should we decide that now? Could decisions made now be changed later? What are the pros and cons of deciding now rather than later?



H. If a transition plan for governance is identified now, what should that plan be?  
I. Does the transition plan impact when other jurisdictions could ideally become part of the RFA?

**Options:**

**Staff Recommendations and Rationale:**

**Direction from the Planning Committee:**