

# Funding Additional Fire Resources: Property Tax Levy Design

VANCOUVER  
CITY HALL

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**Vancouver**  
WASHINGTON

November 22, 2021

Vancouver City Council Workshop

Natasha Ramras, CFO

# Target Workshop Objectives

Finalize council direction on:

- Ballot design:
  - Levy tool to fund fire service enhancements
  - Inclusion of permitted property tax exemptions
  - Desired timing of ballot

# Presentation Overview

Provide three options for property tax levies to fund fire operating and capital

# Prior Council Review

## 10/4/2021 Council Workshop:

- Reviewed current Fire/EMS performance shortfalls
- Reviewed proposed increases to Fire's current service level to meet Standard of Cover targets

## 11/8/2021 Council Workshop:

- Reviewed available property tax voted options
- Council requested staff to bring back additional information on the potential levy design

# Summary of Service and Resiliency Package

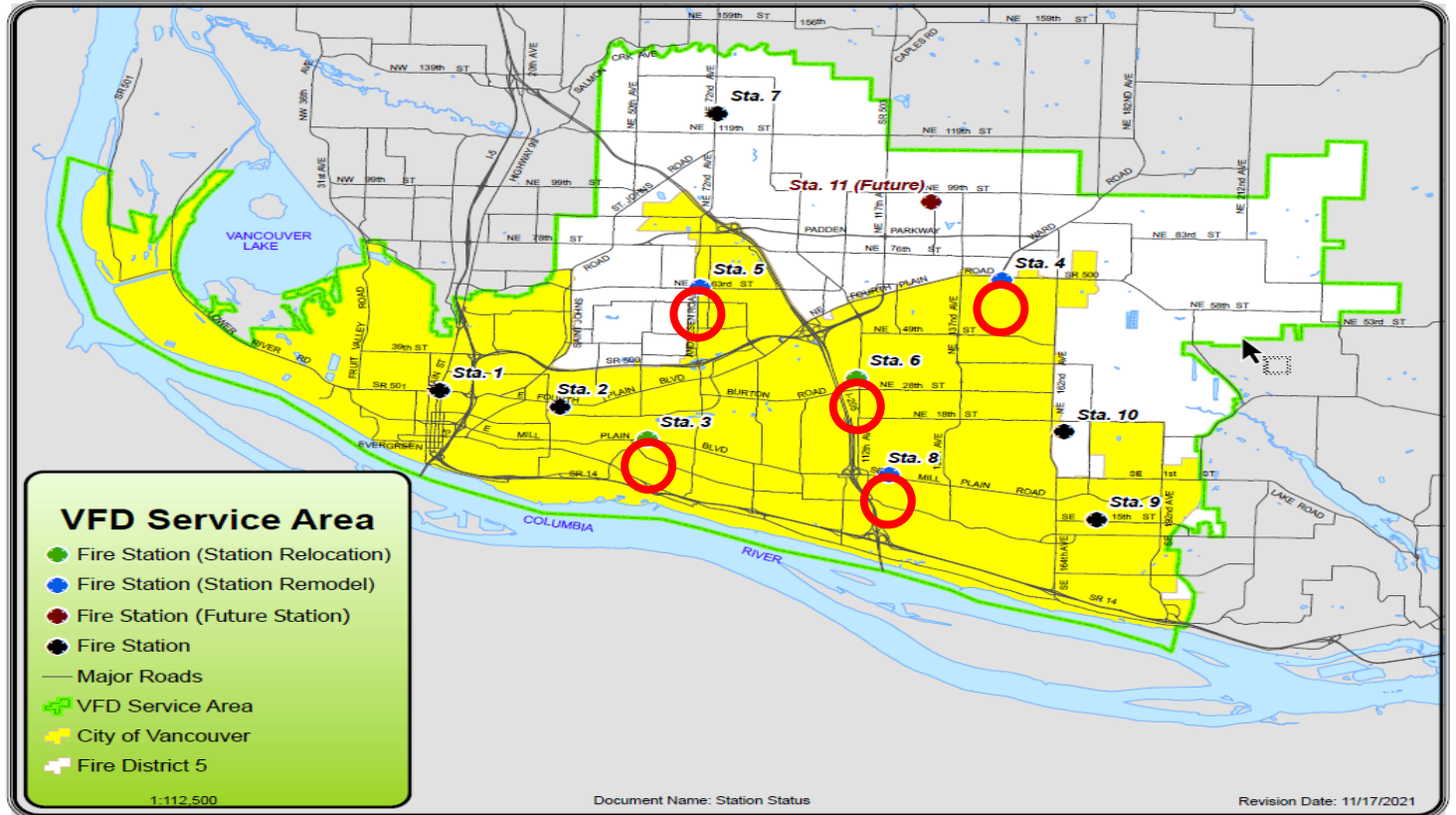
## Operating

- Augment current staff capacity with 40 uniformed staff and 3 administrative/support
- Acquire, staff and deploy 1 new squad apparatus (for total of 3) and 1 new ladder truck apparatus; increase staffing to allow for 24/7 deployment of 2 existing squad apparatus
- Permanent staffing for Fire Station 11

## Capital

- Retrofit Stations 4, 5 and 8 for resilience and energy efficiency
- Relocate and replace stations 3 and 6

# Map of Station Improvements



# Summary of Service and Resiliency Package

Entity	Operating and Related Capital (Annual Cost)	Capital Resiliency (total one-time cost)
City	\$10 mil/yr.	\$46 mil
FD 5	\$2.8 mil/yr.	\$14 mil
TOTAL COST	\$12.8 mil/yr.	\$60 mil total

# Property Tax Observations

- Projected General Fund (GF) levy rate in 2022 is \$1.8/1,000 assessed value (AV) due to growing assessed valuation of the City
- Projected Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) levy rate in 2022 – additional \$0.2/\$1,000 AV
- Total City AV is \$29.8 billion (2022).
- The City unlikely to trigger the cumulative \$5.90 local government levy limitation or the \$10/1,000 AV constitutional limit over the next 10 years



# Council Direction from 11-08-2021

- Single Permanent Levy Lid Lift
  - Operating and Capital in one voted request
  - Several Scenarios for Capital
    - Assume \$60 mil levy (COV portion \$46 mil)
    - Assume pay-as-you-go
    - Options for different speed of capital investments

# Property Tax Increase Tools

**Operating:**



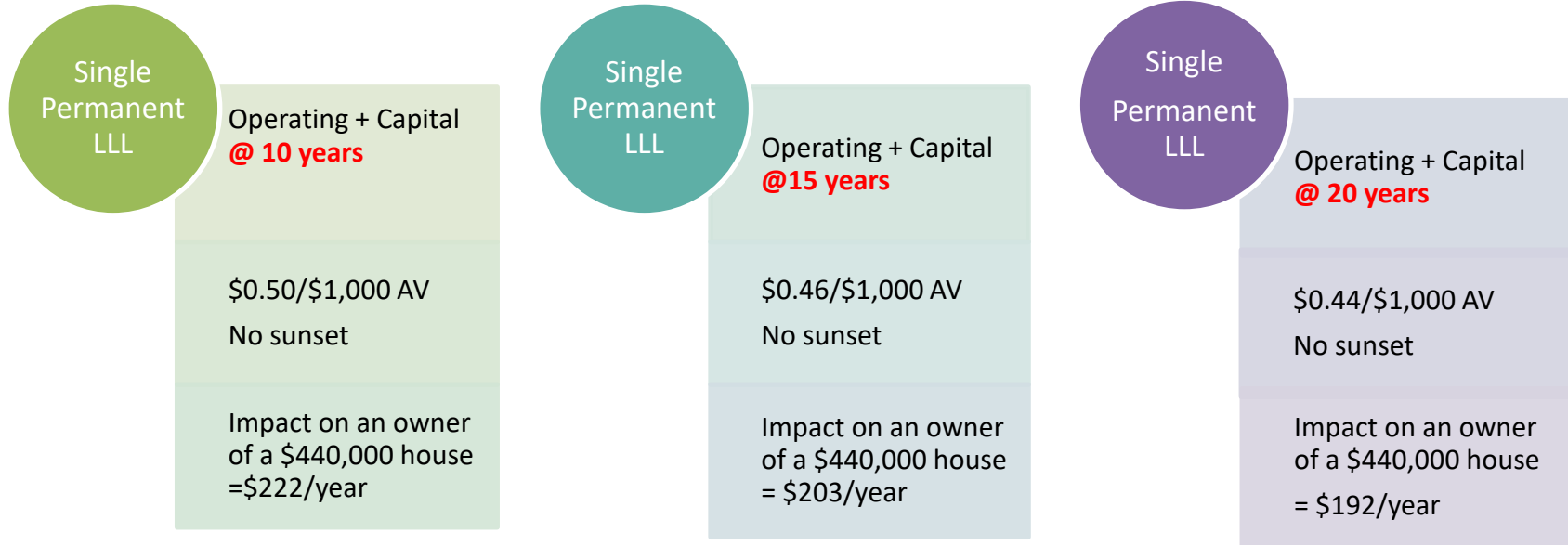
**Capital:**



Single Increase  
Permanent Levy  
Lid Lift

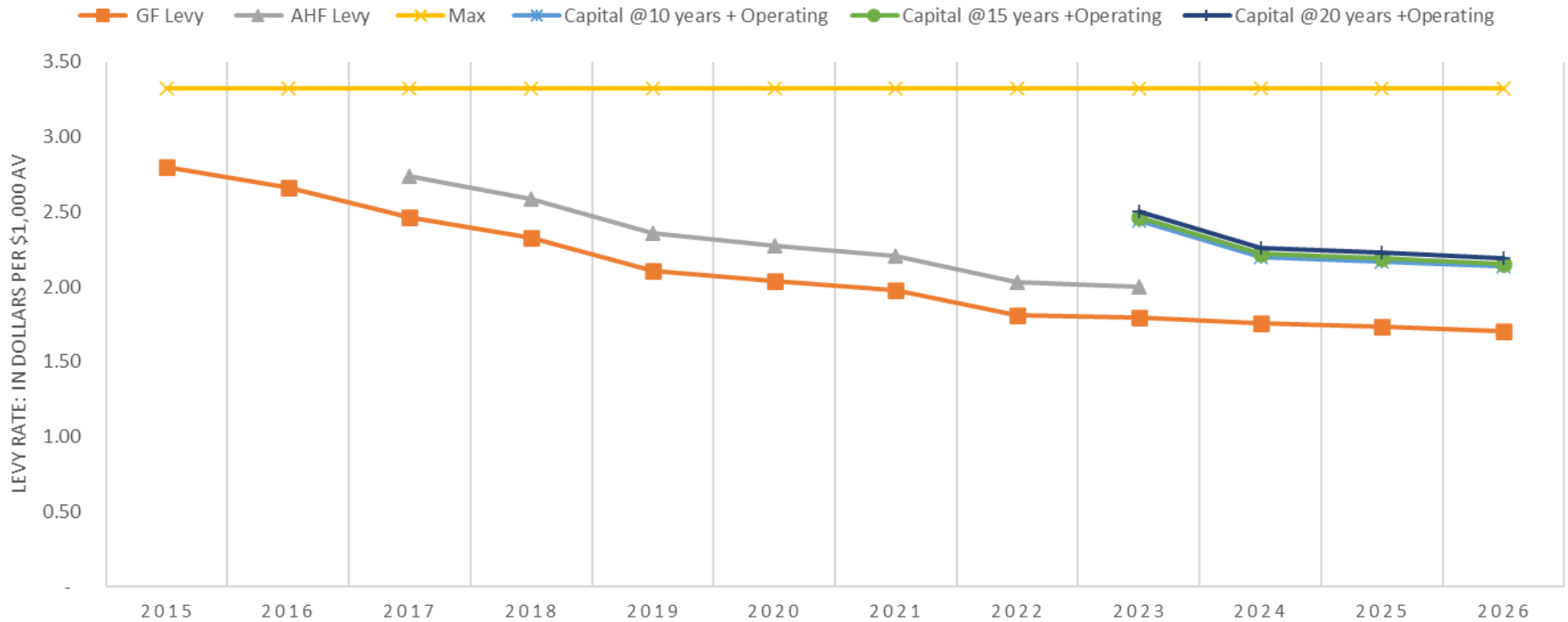
# Property Tax: Options for Consideration

## Three Scenarios for Consideration:



# Property Tax Levy Rates Projections

## CITY OF VANCOUVER LEVY RATE HISTORY AND PROJECTION



# Potential ballot language: Single-Year

**DRAFT Ballot Measure Text:** Proposition No. 1 Permanent Levy Lid Lift for Fire Services and Emergency Facilities. The City Council of the City of Vancouver adopted Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_. This proposition would fund hiring additional firefighters to improve response times and upgrade emergency response facilities, by increasing the City's regular property tax by \$\_\_\_\_\_/ \$1,000 assessed valuation for collection in 2023. Qualifying seniors, disabled veterans, and eligible others would be exempt, per RCW 84.36.

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# Other Considerations

Other anticipated February ballot measures:

- Evergreen School District – 3-year replacement levy

Other potential 2022 ballot measures:

- Fire District #5 (coordinated with City of Vancouver)

# Next Steps

- Develop recommended ballot language
- Council Resolution of intent
- Determine Election timing in 2022
  - If February 2002, Ballot Resolution required by December 6, 2021

# Discussion and Direction







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- Natasha Ramras, CFO
- (360) 487-8484
- [Natasha.Ramras@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Natasha.Ramras@cityofvancouver.us)