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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Councilmember Megan Dunn, Council Chair, District 2  
Councilmember Sam Low, Council Vice-Chair, District 5  
Councilmember Nate Nehring, District 1  
Councilmember Strom Peterson, District 3  
Councilmember Jared Mead, District 4

**Dave Somers**  
*County Executive*

VIA: Darren Groth, Acting Director  
Planning and Development Services

FROM: Matthew Siddons, Senior Planner  
Planning and Development Services

SUBJECT: Proposed Interlocal Agreement Between Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4  
and Snohomish County Concerning Provision of Fire Investigation Services

DATE: May 22, 2026

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**INTRODUCTION**

This staff report provides County Council with a proposed motion for consideration. The motion would authorize the County Executive to sign the attached interlocal agreement (ILA) with Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4 regarding the provision of fire investigation services.

**BACKGROUND**

Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4 is requesting a new ILA with Snohomish County for fire investigation services. The International Fire Code and RCW 43.44.050 require jurisdictions to investigate the origin, cause, and circumstances of fire events and document those findings in a report authored by a qualified fire investigator. Fire District No. 4 also has a contractual obligation to provide these services within the City of Snohomish. The service area of Fire District No. 4 is shown on Attachment A.

Currently, the City of Snohomish, Fire Protection District No. 4 and the County have an ILA for fire investigation services that expires on December 31, 2026. The proposed new ILA between Fire Protection District No. 4 and the County will replace the existing ILA and will also apply to requests for fire investigation services originating in the City of Snohomish. A fire District can engage a County to perform required investigation services in following with the terms outlined in an ILA. The County Fire Code in SCC 30.53A.176 also authorizes the County Fire Marshal to perform fire investigation services within other jurisdictions pursuant to an interlocal agreement.

The proposed ILA titled, “Interlocal Agreement Between Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4 and Snohomish County Concerning Provision of Fire Investigation Services,” is included as Attachment B and would:

- Allow the Fire Marshal’s Office (FMO) to provide fire investigation services on a case-by-case basis when requested by Fire Protection District No. 4. The FMO would perform investigation services pursuant to the terms and conditions in the agreement; and
- Supersede and replace the current ILA between the City of Snohomish, Fire Protection District No. 4, and the County executed on September 21, 2022. The new ILA will include an updated fee schedule for the remainder of 2026.
- The proposed new ILA streamlines the administration of providing fire investigation services by establishing a direct agreement between the County and the Fire District while continuing to provide services within the City of Snohomish.

If the motion is approved, the Executive is authorized to complete the following:

- Execute the “Interlocal Agreement Between Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4 and Snohomish County Concerning the Provision of Fire Investigation Services”; and
- Terminate the “Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Snohomish, Fire Protection District No. 4, and Snohomish County Concerning Provision of Fire Investigation Services,” executed on September 21, 2022, consistent with the terms of that agreement.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

PDS recommends that County Council approve the attached motion and authorize the County Executive to sign the attached ILA between Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 4 and Snohomish County concerning the provision of fire investigation services and terminate the original agreement.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A - SnoCo Fire District No. 4 Context Map

Attachment B - ILA Fire Investigation District No. 4 and SnoCo

cc: Thomas Teigan, Executive Director  
Darren Groth, Acting Planning Director, PDS  
Samantha Wangsgard, Acting Long Range Planning Manager, PDS  
Dan Lorentzen, Deputy Fire Marshal, PDS  
Seth Henderson, Assistant Fire Marshall  
Deborah Bell, Legislative Analyst