



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 25, 2026

DATE: July 1, 2026

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager
Dsolaro@washoecounty.gov (775) 328-3624

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, County Manager

Richard J. Edwards, Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an interlocal agreement, as authorized by NRS 277.180, between Washoe County, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), a political subdivision of the State of Nevada and a fire district organized pursuant to Chapter 474 of the Nevada Revised Statutes for services provided between agencies outlining the responsibilities, actions, and payments necessary for the execution of the agreement which is in the mutual interest of both agencies for governmental services to be performed in the most cost-efficient and effective manner possible. [Fiscal Year 2027 contract amount \$1,300,000]. This interlocal agreement replaces the current agreement entered into in July 2012 and amended in July 2016. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Staff is requesting the Board of County Commissioners approve the interlocal agreement, as authorized by NRS 277.180, between Washoe County, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), a political subdivision of the State of Nevada and a fire district organized pursuant to Chapter 474 of the Nevada Revised Statutes for services provided between agencies outlining the responsibilities, actions, and payments necessary for the execution of the agreement which is in the mutual interest of both agencies for governmental services to be performed in the most cost-efficient and effective manner possible.

This interlocal agreement replaces the current agreement entered into in July 2012 and amended in July 2016. The proposed agreement is structured to ensure that both Washoe County and TMFPD can leverage the other's administrative, technical, and operational strengths to deliver essential governmental services, including fire protection, emergency

AGENDA ITEM # _____

response, and support functions, in a manner that maximizes efficiency and accountability. The agreement is authorized under NRS 277.180, which permits public agencies to contract for the performance of governmental services that each is authorized by law to perform, and is further supported by the statutory framework governing fire protection districts under NRS Chapter 474.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the necessary context and legal basis for approving the updated interlocal agreement, which is designed to reflect current operational needs, clarify roles and responsibilities, and establish clear mechanisms for cost allocation and reimbursement between the parties.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability.

PREVIOUS ACTION

In July 2012, the Board of County Commissioners approved an Interlocal Agreement for Administrative and Technical Services with TMFPD, establishing the framework for shared services and cost allocation between the two agencies. This agreement was amended in July 2016 to allow TMFPD greater discretion in utilizing County services for fleet maintenance and facility management.

BACKGROUND

The authority for public agencies in Nevada to enter into interlocal agreements is established by NRS 277.180, which permits any one or more public agencies to contract with each other for the performance of any governmental service, activity, or undertaking that each is authorized by law to perform. This statutory framework is designed to facilitate cooperation and resource sharing among governmental entities, enabling them to deliver services more efficiently and effectively by leveraging collective expertise and infrastructure. In the context of fire protection and emergency services, additional statutory authority is provided under NRS Chapter 474, which governs the organization and operation of fire protection districts, including the TMFPD. These legal provisions form the basis for the current and proposed interlocal agreements between Washoe County and TMFPD, ensuring that all collaborative activities are conducted within the scope of state law and with appropriate oversight by the respective governing bodies.

Within this legal framework, TMFPD will assume a role in coordinating volunteer fire services for Washoe County, in the unincorporated areas north of Township 22 North (T22). TMFPD's responsibilities in this region will include providing administrative oversight, facilitating training and qualification processes for volunteer personnel, and managing operational support systems such as the Incident Qualification System and resource mobilization protocols. TMFPD will also serve as the primary liaison for integrating volunteer resources into the broader countywide emergency response network, ensuring alignment with state and federal partners as necessary. These functions are critical for maintaining a robust and responsive fire protection system in geographically dispersed and rural communities, where the volunteer departments are often the first line of defense in emergency situations. The interlocal agreement

formalizes these arrangements, delineating the specific roles and expectations for TMFPD in supporting Washoe County's public safety objectives north of T22, and establishing mechanisms for accountability and service quality in accordance with applicable statutes.

FISCAL IMPACT

The financial structure of the updated interlocal agreement is designed to ensure transparent, equitable, and predictable cost-sharing between Washoe County and TMFPD for the delivery of governmental services. Under the agreement, each party is responsible for specific payments and reimbursements that correspond to the services provided by the other, with all financial transactions governed by established statutory and regulatory frameworks, including NRS Chapters 277 and 474.

Washoe County will allocate funds annually to compensate TMFPD for administrative and management oversight of volunteer fire departments and related programs in designated unincorporated areas. The initial payment for fiscal year 2026-2027 is \$1,300,000, with subsequent years' compensation adjusted in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), ensuring that payments remain responsive to inflationary pressures and changing economic conditions. This approach provides both entities with a stable basis for multi-year financial planning and aligns with best practices for public sector cost escalation. Payment is scheduled to occur no later than August 31 of each fiscal year, supporting timely budget reconciliation and fiscal accountability for both agencies. The adequacy of this compensation will be reviewed triennially as part of the budget and performance review process, allowing for adjustments based on actual service demands and operational outcomes.

Conversely, TMFPD is required to reimburse Washoe County for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the provision of administrative, technical, and operational support services. These reimbursements are calculated using the County's Cost Allocation Plan, which is based on federally recommended methodologies and ensures compliance with applicable federal and state requirements. The plan provides a transparent mechanism for identifying, allocating, and adjusting costs, and all reimbursements are to be processed through internal journal entries at least quarterly. This system supports ongoing fiscal oversight and facilitates regular audit compliance for both entities. Reimbursement obligations are incorporated into each party's annual budget cycle, with payment due on or before August 31 of each year.

The agreement also establishes not-to-exceed limits for certain categories of expenditures, such as routine maintenance and repairs of volunteer facilities, which are capped at \$250,000 in the first year and subject to annual CPI-U adjustments thereafter. TMFPD is responsible for all costs associated with volunteer apparatus and equipment following their transfer of ownership, including insurance, maintenance, and eventual replacement. These provisions are intended to clarify fiscal responsibilities and prevent unanticipated budgetary impacts.

All financial commitments under the agreement are subject to annual appropriation by the respective governing bodies, and the agreement includes standard provisions for amendment, renewal, and termination to address changes in fiscal capacity or service needs. The parties have also agreed to conduct annual performance and budget reviews to evaluate service levels, operational effectiveness, and the adequacy of compensation and reimbursement mechanisms, thereby supporting continuous improvement and fiscal stewardship.

Washoe County funds are included in the approved Fiscal Year 2027 budget, cost center 187510, G/L account 710400 Payments to Other Agencies. Funds received from TMFPD as contemplated in the agreement will be recognized in Cost Center 187510, G/L 485100 Reimbursements.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board authorize approval of the interlocal agreement, as authorized by NRS 277.180, between Washoe County, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada and a fire district organized pursuant to Chapter 474 of the Nevada Revised Statutes for services provided between agencies outlining the responsibilities, actions, and payments necessary for the execution of the agreement which is in the mutual interest of both agencies for governmental services to be performed in the most cost-efficient and effective manner possible

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve an interlocal agreement, as authorized by NRS 277.180, between Washoe County and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, for the provision of services between agencies as outlined in the agreement, which delineates the responsibilities, actions, and payments necessary for execution, and supersedes the prior agreement entered into in July 2012 and amended in July 2016."