

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
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** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Fire Department’s services and fees; adding and revising various Seattle Fire Department permit, inspection, and plan review fees and related provisions; and amending Sections 22.602.045, 22.602.050, and 22.602.070 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary: This legislation revises many of SFD’s fees and charges by 8% plus rounding adjustments beginning on January 1, 2023. The proposed 2023 fee increases include cost of service adjustments to several fees. The fees partially support the SFD fire prevention program. The program’s purpose is to help ensure the safety of Seattle residents, workers and visitors and protect them and their property from the hazards of fires, explosions, and dangerous conditions including releases of hazardous materials. The proposed legislation would result in an overall revenue increase for 2023 of \$479,000.

Background:

The Fire Prevention Division has historically operated by collecting fees that offset some of the costs of providing fire prevention services to direct service users. Both direct and indirect costs of providing services are included when making cost recovery calculations. The following program specific fee increases are included.

Fee increases of 8% are proposed for **hazardous materials permits** related to changes to costs of service. Fee changes proposed in this legislation are anticipated to increase special hazards revenue by \$182,000.

Fees for **construction inspections** and **plan review** include increases of 8% **reflecting changes to costs of service**. These lines of business that are directly supporting the City’s building permitting process. The legislation is anticipated to increase construction inspection revenues by \$171,000 and plan review revenues by \$107,000 in 2023.

The **high-rise inspection program** improves high-rise building fire code safety and compliance in the City’s 400+ high-rise buildings. Fee changes of 8% are proposed in this legislation and are anticipated to increase program revenue by approximately \$16,000 in 2023.

The **Knox Box program** provides oversight and inspections related to installation of Knox Boxes for first responder access in large residential buildings and other buildings in Seattle. Fee changes of 8% are proposed in this legislation and the fee structure is updated to include a time charge to better align fees with the variation in the length of service times. These changes are anticipated to increase program revenue by approximately \$3,000 in 2023.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? Yes No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? Yes No

Appropriation change (\$):	General Fund \$		Other \$	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Estimated revenue change (\$):	Revenue to General Fund		Revenue to Other Funds	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
	\$479,000	\$479,000	\$0	\$0
Positions affected:	No. of Positions		Total FTE Change	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
	0	0	0	0

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?
 No.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?
 There is no direct cost to the City of Seattle in not implementing the legislation. However, the legislation re-aligns fee levels based on program service costs. This realignment is an important component of managing a fee-based program.

3.a. Appropriations

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from This Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2023 Estimated Revenue	2024 Estimated Revenue
General Fund (00100)	SFD	Hazardous Materials	\$182,000	\$182,000
General Fund (00100)	SFD	Construction Inspections	\$158,000	\$158,000
General Fund (00100)	SFD	Overtime Construction Inspections	\$13,000	\$13,000
General Fund (00100)	SFD	Knox Box	\$3,000	\$3,000
General Fund (00100)	SFD	Plan Reviews	\$107,000	\$107,000
General Fund (00100)	SFD	High-Rise Inspections	\$16,000	\$16,000
TOTAL			\$479,000	\$479,000

Is this change one-time or ongoing?

This change is ongoing.

3.c. Positions

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
 Yes. The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection’s (SDCI’s) Accela system bills customers for the major SFD construction/inspection fees, so changes to fee amounts will require system updates in Accela. SFD and SDCI have discussed the anticipated changes and no challenges have been identified should the fee modifications be approved. Some City departments require permits for hazardous materials, so they will experience fee increases along with all customers.
- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
 No.
- c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**
 No.

d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.

e. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?

Programs to ensure fire code compliance help promote fire and life safety for all who live, visit, and work in Seattle. Although data are not complete, it is likely that there are as many or more safety violations in buildings where vulnerable populations live and work, so better enforcement may yield bigger fire and life safety gains in these communities. The Seattle Fire Department is creating a community risk assessment using fire incident, demographic, and social data to add in RSJ analyses and the development of risk-based compliance programs and education programs to help address disproportionalities.

Fee change information will be translated into top tier languages and shared on our website.

f. Climate Change Implications

1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?

N/A

2. Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.

N/A

g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s)?

N/A

Summary Attachments:

N/A