

Requesting Department: Fire Marshal's Office

Package number: FMO-90

**Package Title:** Increase Permit Fees for New Construction Review and Inspection (\$39,000)

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**Justification:** In an effort to reduce the General Fund costs within the Fire Marshal's Office, the third preference of the Office is to increase fees related to new construction project reviews and inspections performed by the FMO.

Permits for this body of work are required as outlined in RCW 19.27 (Washington State Building Code) and Clark County Code 15.12. Additionally, state law allows for local jurisdictions to charge fees to cover their costs related to the review and inspection of these projects.

The fees being charged for new construction projects that are reviewed and inspected by the Fire Marshal's Office have not been modified since approximately 2005. In 2015, the total revenue collected for new construction projects (excluding fees charged for land use reviews) totaled just over \$260,000. These fees include work related to new buildings, tenant improvements, various fire-specific systems such as fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, and hazardous materials-related processes and equipment.

Using the 2015 new construction revenue total as a baseline, a fee increase of 7.5% would generate approximately \$39,000 additional revenue of the course of the biennium.

Because the fees have remained unchanged for a number of years, they are due for adjustment. Adjusting the fees would require some time from technical resources within the Department of Community Development, and should be preceded with advance notice. Also, an upward adjustment in fees may run against the County Council's historical intention to fund approximately 60% of inspection costs from the general fund, citing the public safety benefits gained as a result of the program.