

## NWFR and WCFD4

### Statement of Shared Values and Principles

*Approved 10.22.20*

**The RFA Planning Committee endorses the following statement of shared values and principles to guide the development of a plan for Regional Fire Authority encompassing NWFR and WDFD4.**

*Values and Principals are not presented in rank order of priority.*

#### **Our Values Include:**

1. **Affordable and sustainable financial model.** The RFA should implement an affordable and sustainable financial model that can facilitate consistent service levels over time as the community served continues to grow.
2. **Ensuring operations meet or exceed current service levels in terms of their ability to support a safe and healthy community.**
3. **Making data-driven decisions.** The RFA should take strategic action based on the facts after a thorough and objective analysis of the issues.
4. **Being an effective and efficient steward of public funds.**
5. **Participatory Governance.** Jurisdictions which participate as forming members in the RFA should have a meaningful voice in the operating decisions of the RFA. The RFA Board should seek to make decisions by consensus whenever possible.
6. **Promoting interagency collaboration, communication and strong working relationships.** The RFA will act in the collective best interests of all its public safety partners, not just those served by the RFA.
7. **Pro-Active Oversight, Planning and Continuous Improvement.** We are committed to planning for the future and proactively identifying and addressing the needs of our communities, identifying and implementing ways to better meet those needs.
8. **Providing a safe, supportive and professional environment for our first responders.**
9. **Strong engagement with our local communities.** The RFA should be a positive and engaged member of the communities it serves with pro-active outreach to the public.

**Our Operating Principles Include:**

- A. We strive to operate nimbly, with the ability to make decisions and respond quickly when necessary.
- B. We seek to understand and address the unique needs of the communities we serve. We strive to address these needs equitably in all operating and financial decisions.
- C. We work to attract, develop and retain high quality staff.
- D. We strive to employ rigorous quality assurance and reporting practices.
- E. We manage agency budgets to control or reduce costs.
- F. We seek to limit spikes in budgets from year to year, by use of planning capital investments over time, developing reserves and other means.
- G. We commit to being transparent, accessible and responsive to the public.
- H. In contracting to provide services to other agencies, we are mindful of our own costs of service: communities within the RFA boundaries should not incur additional costs as a result of these external service contracts.