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Othello City Council votes to advance fire district annexation proposal
Adams County Fire Dist. #5 commissioners to consider resolution Nov. 10

OTHELLO, Wash.— The Othello City Council approved an ordinance on Oct. 12 to move forward with the proposed annexation of the City into Adams County Fire Protection District #5. The action marks another step toward potentially placing an annexation measure before voters in April 2027.

The City currently contracts with the Fire District for fire and rescue services. The current agreement expires in 2027, and the City and Fire District have been discussing annexation as a long-term approach to providing and funding those services.

Under annexation, Othello property owners would pay the same fire levy rate directly to the Fire District as property owners elsewhere in the district. The Fire District's current levy rate is \$0.90 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The City would no longer pay the Fire District through a contract for services.

"The City and Fire District have worked together to explore a long-term approach to providing fire and rescue services to Othello residents," said City Administrator Aaron Garza. "The Council's action allows that process to move forward, with additional decisions still to be made before a proposal can go to voters."

The next step is consideration by the Adams County Fire District #5 Board of Fire Commissioners, which is scheduled to vote on a resolution regarding annexation at its Tuesday, Nov. 10 meeting. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at 220 S. Broadway Ave. in Othello and is open to the public.

Annexation would require voter approval in both the City of Othello and Adams County Fire District #5 before taking effect. The City and Fire District are working toward placing the proposal on the April 2027 ballot.

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The City of Othello is home to approximately 9,560 residents and provides fire and rescue services through a contract with Adams County Fire District #5, which also serves approximately 7,600 residents across 215 square miles of unincorporated Adams County. For more information about fire services and the proposed annexation, visit www.othellowa.gov/departments/FireDepartment.