

# Budget Update: Fire Inspection Fees and BLS Transport Fee

2021-2022

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November 16, 2020



# Direction Needed from Council

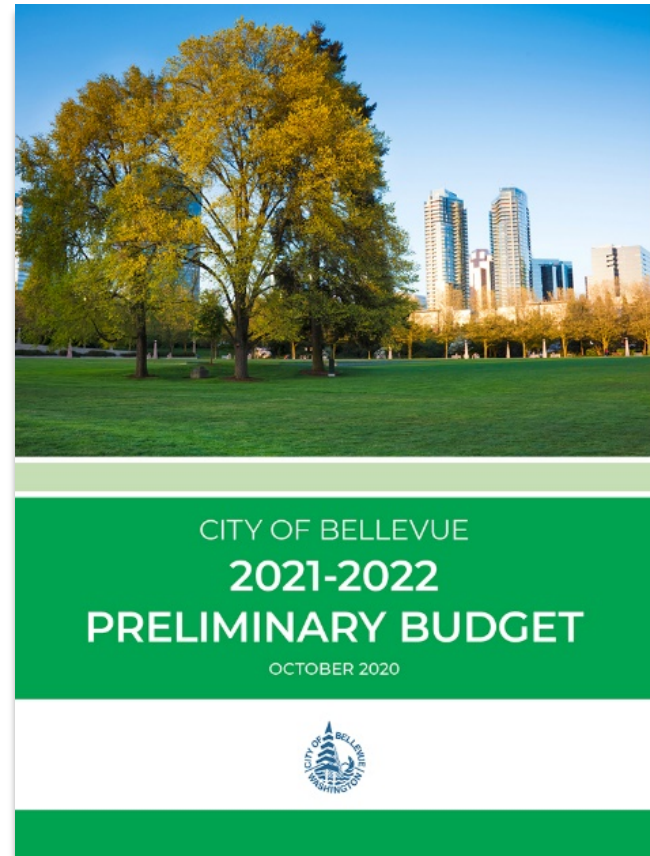
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Staff seek feedback regarding the update on Fire Inspection Fees, and direction to prepare Fee Ordinance for final adoption in December for Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport Fee.

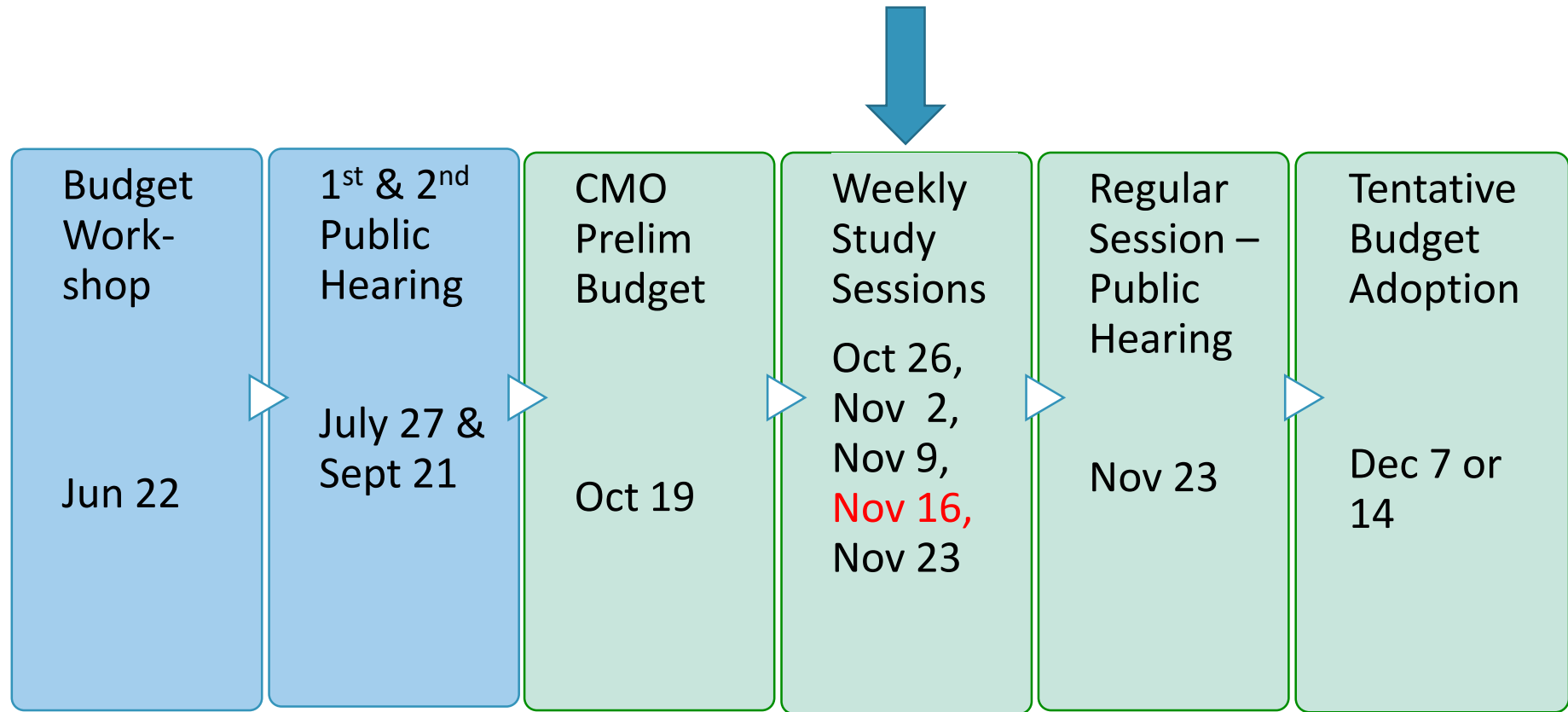


# Agenda

- Calendar and review final budget meetings
- Actions needed for Final Adoption
- Fire Inspection Fee Update
- Proposed BLS Transport Fee Increase



# Council Calendar



# Proposed Meeting Schedule

Oct 19:	City Manager's Preliminary Presentation
Oct 26:	Development Services, Council Interests
Nov 2:	Human Services, Response to Questions
Nov 9:	Utility Rates, Council Interests
<b>Nov 16:</b>	<b>Fire Inspection Fees &amp; BLS Transport Fee</b>
Nov 23:	Public Hearing, Council Feedback and Potential Direction for Adoption
Dec 7 or 14:	Budget Adoption

\*Will be adjusted as needed, based on Council interests



# November 23 Meeting Overview

- Hold Public Hearing
- Post, Public Hearing:
  - Councilmembers provide any proposed adjustments to the budget for Council consideration
  - Depending on items proposed – 2 possible outcomes:
    - (1) Direct staff to return on December 7 with the list and a budget balancing tool for final council direction for adoption on December 14

OR

(2) Direct on the November 23 final council direction for adoption on December 7

# Council Actions to Adopt

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- 2021 Development Services Fee Ordinance
- 2021-2022 Utilities Rates Ordinances
- Human Services and Block Grant Ordinances
- Basic Life Support Fee Ordinance
- 2021 Substantial Need Ordinance
- 2021 Property Tax Banked Capacity Resolution
- 2021 Property Tax Levy Ordinance
- 2021-2022 Biennial Budget Ordinance

\*Council will not need to adopt a Fire Inspection Fee Ordinance at this time as no change is being proposed to the fee schedule unless Council directs otherwise.



# Fire Inspection Fees Update

- Authorized in December 2018 and implemented January 1, 2020:
  - Effective January 1, 2020, Ordinance 6490 modified the fee schedule based on customer outreach and ongoing data analysis;
  - Effective October 29, 2020 Ordinance 6534 the fee schedule was updated.
- City Council requested updates through the budget process.
- No change to the current fee ordinance, allows for inflationary increases.
- Update every two years or as otherwise necessary.





# Current Fee

The sum of three factors:

- Base rate of \$180.00;
- The square footage to be inspected (classified as 0 to 9);
- Occupancy classification (identified as a 0.1 to 3.0).

**The inspection fee = base rate X square footage X occupancy factor.**

The inspection frequency :

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| ○ Hazardous occupancies   | Every six months |
| ○ Multi-family lacking fire sprinkler system                      | Annually         |
| ○ Buildings containing restaurants without fire sprinkler systems | Annually         |
| ○ All other buildings   | Every other year |

# Annual Summary Report

Fire accomplished the Council's stated objectives during 2019/20 biennium:

- Full cost recovery;
- Demonstrated nexus between the level of effort and the associated fee.

COVID-19 challenges include:

- Some buildings have yet to reopen
- Some high-risk tenants are cautious about exposure

Staff have found innovative solutions:

- Video inspections
- Virtual fire drills
- Flexibility with scheduling



# Additional work in 2021

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- Staff is embarking on a holistic review of affordable housing exemptions and fees in the first quarter of 2021.



# Increase in BLS Transport Fees

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- Increasing the BLS transport fee from \$638 to \$750 to align with regional partners in the county and address inflation.
- Bellevue Fire has charged for transport since 2012. The last fee increase was adopted in 2014. It has been 6 years since our transport fee was adjusted.
- No individual needing transportation to a local hospital is denied transport based on their age, sex, race, or financial situation.



# Policy Reflections

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- Any Bellevue resident who is transported by Bellevue Fire is billed through their insurance. Any residual debt is waived after their insurance pays.
- Any Bellevue resident without insurance can apply for financial assistance and have the entire amount waived.
- Any person transported by Bellevue Fire who is not a resident can also apply for financial assistance and have the entire amount waived if they qualify.



# Direction Needed from Council

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