

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
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Bill Knutzen
Pete Kremen
Ken Mann
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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA REVISION NOTICE
FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2013
(DISTRIBUTED AT 11:20 A.M. ON NOVEMBER 26)

THE FOLLOWING ITEM HAS BEEN ADDED TO COUNCIL, INTRODUCTION:

4. Ordinance amending the 2014 Whatcom County Budget, third request, in the amount of \$326,000 (AB2013-402) **(proposed schedule – December 10 Finance and Administrative Services Committee and Council)**

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	WDC	11/26/13	RECEIVED NOV 26 2013 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	11/26/13	Intro
Division Head:				12/10/13	Finance Committee; Council
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:	DG	11/26/13			
Purchasing/Budget:	WDC	11/26/13			
Executive:					

TITLE OF DOCUMENT: 2014 Supplemental Budget Request #3

ATTACHMENTS: Ordinance, Memoranda & Budget Modification Requests

SEPA review required? () Yes (X) NO
 SEPA review completed? () Yes (X) NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes (X) NO
 Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Supplemental #3 requests funding from the Jail Fund:

- To appropriate \$326,000 to fund increase in new Jail nursing contract.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:

Related County Contract #:

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number:

SPONSORED BY: Finance
PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCTION DATE: 11/26/13

ORDINANCE NO.
AMENDMENT NO. 3 OF THE 2014 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the 2013-2014 budget was adopted November 20, 2012; and,
WHEREAS, changing circumstances require modifications to the approved 2013-2014 budget; and,

WHEREAS, the modifications to the budget have been assembled here for deliberation by the Whatcom County Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the 2013-2014 Whatcom County Budget Ordinance #2012-048 is hereby amended by adding the following additional amounts to the 2014 budget included therein:

Fund	Expenditures	Revenues	Net Effect
Jail Fund	326,000	-	326,000
Total Supplemental	326,000	-	326,000

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2013.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Kathy Kershner, Chair of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

() Approved () Denied

Daniel L. Gibson

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Jack Louws, County Executive

Date: _____

WHATCOM COUNTY**Summary of the 2014 Supplemental Budget Ordinance No. 3**

Department/Fund	Description	Increased (Decreased) Expenditure	(Increased) Decreased Revenue	Net Effect to Fund Balance (Increase) Decrease
Jail Fund	To fund increase for new Jail nursing contract.	326,000	-	326,000
Total Supplemental		326,000	-	326,000

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Jail

Suppl ID # 1740

Fund 118

Cost Center 118160

Originator: Wendy Jones

Expenditure Type: One-Time

Year 2 2014

Add'l FTE

Add'l Space

Priority 1

Name of Request: Jail Nursing Services Increase

X

Bill Ego

11-26-2013

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	4338.2300	Prisoner Room and Board	(\$65,200)
	6635.003	Visiting Nurse Personal	\$326,000
	Request Total		\$260,800

1a. Description of request:

This Supplemental will be used to cover increased expenditures for nursing/medical administration costs for the Jail and Work Center. This increase is the result of having to change providers for this service, as Visiting Nurse Home Health Care, our current provider, is closing down.

1b. Primary customers:

Offenders at the Whatcom County Main Jail and Work Center.

2. Problem to be solved:

The jail has contracted with Visiting Nurse Home Health Care for approximately 20 years. In late September, we were notified that Visiting Nurse would be closing down the agency no later than mid-December of this year, leaving us with no ability to provide basic nursing care. Due to the short time frame between the notification and the end of business for Visiting Nurse, there was insufficient time to go through a standard RFP process. I began contacting a number of local providers of basic health care, including Interfaith, Sea Mar, Peace Health, Option Care/Walgreens and Northwest Regional Council (NWRC). All but one of these agencies responded that they felt the services were within their missions, however, with the launch of the Affordable Care Act and the new Washington State Health Home program, they did not have the ability to pursue the contract with us at this time. The one agency that indicated they would be able to work with us was NWRC,

We entered into negotiations with NWRC and have worked out an agreement, which will be coming to Council for approval. The contract will provide for basic nursing and medical administration services, to include direct care, medication administration, coordination of care with other practitioners, and other nursing services. Through the negotiation process, we became aware that Visiting Nurse has been basically subsidizing the County for several years by providing nursing service hours in excess of the contracted amount, and then not billing the County for that time. The additional hours are the result of increasingly serious health needs of the offender population. The contract we have negotiated with NWRC reflects the increase in estimated hours. We will be working with NWRC after the first of the year to review staffing plans and see if there is any way to create a staffing plan that will provide adequate coverage at reduced hours.

The jail has a legal responsibility to provide health care for offenders housed in our facilities. Having solid nursing care is the foundation of that care and is an essential service in the running of a corrections facility.

3a. Options / Advantages:

Several other providers were contacted and responded they were unable to provide the service, for the reasons previously outlined. NWRC has a history of providing program administration for a variety of government programs ranging from the Boundary Review Board to Elder Care. Overseeing the jail's

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Jail

Suppl ID # 1740

Fund 118 Cost Center 118160

Originator: Wendy Jones

nursing program on an interim level will provide local oversight with an agency having an excellent reputation. The willingness of NWRC to take this contract on an interim basis provides us the time we will need to go through the full RFP process in May/June of 2014.

3b. Cost savings:

Cost savings are difficult to quantify as they are a potential reduction in liability risk to the County. Inmate-generated lawsuits occur on a regular basis. The most common grounds for these lawsuits are health care or lack thereof. A recent example of issues resulting in legal actions for allegedly poor correctional health care can be found in Snohomish County, which is defending itself against at least 2 lawsuits arising from inmate deaths in the Snohomish County jail, allegedly due to inadequate health care.

4a. Outcomes:

Nursing and medical administration services will be provided starting in December of 2013 and continue through December 31, 2014.

4b. Measures:

Nursing services are tracked and reviewed on a monthly basis. Detailed invoices are prepared for payment, and the quality of these services are reviewed monthly by the Nursing program director, our Administrative Physician as part of his monthly chart review and Jail Administrative Staff. Results of chart audits are reviewed by the health care team on a quarterly basis.

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

Increases in costs impact the per diem rates charged to municipalities and the portion of costs covered by the Jail sales tax and ultimately the fund balance. A \$326,000 increase will add \$2.28 to the in-custody per diem rates..

5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:

N/A

6. Funding Source:

Jail Fund Balance and in-custody per diem rates.