

1 together a proposal for what they want. It would be a good idea for the Sheriff's
2 Office to put together a cost proposal for the requests, and then put forward a levy.

3
4 Cooperative Extension

5
6 Craig MacConnell, Cooperative Extension, submitted information (*on file*).
7 The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program has been very successful
8 worldwide. They are engaging the farmers to change their pest management
9 practices. In 2004, they will try to target homeowners a little more through retail
10 stores, which will be difficult. The raspberry beetle program has received additional
11 funding from other sources. They're seeing significant changes in the raspberry
12 growers in Whatcom County.

13
14 They've been looking at using dairy manure residuals. There is a lot of
15 interest from berry growers about how compost would affect growth and pest
16 management. They are doing trials for various crops. There is new research that
17 shows significant reduction in root rot by the use of compost. They continue to
18 work on greenhouses and fiber from anaerobic digesters.

19
20 A very large private foundation came to Washington State University (WSU)
21 concerned about global climate change. WSU put together a proposal for \$5 million
22 to look at aspects of global climate change with three components, including
23 digesters on dairies. There is verbal commitment from this foundation for \$3.75
24 million. He's expecting to have a very major project in Whatcom County.

25
26 Crawford asked if the majority of the money would come to Whatcom
27 County. MacConnell stated it would not. There are three components of the
28 proposal. A significant amount of the work on dairy would be done in Whatcom
29 County. There will also be analytical lab work done at WSU in Pullman.

30
31 Roy asked about the gas. MacConnell stated that when someone stores
32 manure in a manure lagoon, it off-gasses methane, which is 20 times more potent
33 in greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. The digester puts it into a closed system
34 where it's burned cleanly.

35
36 Regarding the family living program, they continue to see growth in the
37 parenting program. A new program is called Food Sense. This program is directed
38 to low-income food stamp recipients.

39
40 Regarding the 4-H/Youth Development, Cooperative Extension is involved in
41 three major school district grant activities.

42
43 Regarding environmental stewardship, they are recruiting a new staff person
44 for a fresh/marine water resource educator in Whatcom County. He just found out
45 that they are losing the County-funded water resource educator. Water resource
46 educational needs are the highest he's ever seen. Losing that position takes away
47 potential to do great things with the new faculty position in addition to the

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1 previously funded County position. He asked if the policy direction is to reduce
2 water resource education.
3

4 In 1999, the Comprehensive Water Resource Strategy recommended the
5 creation of a water resource educator at Cooperative Extension. That person was
6 hired. That individual wound up doing a lot of WRIA watershed planning work that
7 was not related to education. In negotiation with the Public Works Department,
8 they agreed that the position would go to the Public Works Department to do
9 planning support. The agreement was that in the beginning of 2004, the position
10 would come back to Cooperative Extension to do water resource education. Now,
11 all of a sudden, the position is going away. The agreement with the Public Works
12 Department was that the position vacated by John Sproul would come back to
13 Cooperative Extension.
14

15 Brenner stated she understood this position was moved to work with Water
16 Resources Division of Public Works. MacConnell stated that's not correct. The
17 position went to Public Works because the employee was not working on education
18 at the time. He felt uneasy having someone in Cooperative Extension doing
19 watershed planning work, not education. The agreement was for the employee to
20 go to the Water Resources Division and do the planning work.
21

22 Brenner asked if there is a position now in Public Works for education.
23 MacConnell stated he didn't know.
24

25 Caskey-Schreiber stated the position has been vacant for a year and a half
26 while the person worked over at Public Works. MacConnell stated that's correct.
27

28 Desler stated they still have a water resources educator. There was an
29 informal agreement between Mr. MacConnell and Public Works Department
30 management. The Executive's Office was not a part of the agreement. When the
31 Executive developed the budget for 2004, he tried to maintain all of the existing
32 programs without adding positions except in the law and justice system. This is
33 viewed as an additional position.
34

35 Nelson asked if this was the nutrient management position. MacConnell
36 stated it was not. The position was created in 1999 by the County to do education.
37 The position went to Public Works because that person was asked to not do
38 education.
39

40 Jeff Monsen, Public Works Director, stated the original position, staffed by
41 Scarlet Tang, is to do information management, not education. Recognizing the
42 need to expand in that area, staff eliminated the position held by John Sproul with
43 the expectation that the full-time equivalent (FTE) employee would be available for
44 use by Cooperative Extension. He has eliminated the position completely so it is
45 available for someone else to use for education.
46

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1 Brenner stated Cooperative Extension has traditionally always played the role
2 of providing information and education. She asked why the position can't remain
3 with Cooperative Extension. MacConnell stated Mr. Monsen agreed to stand by the
4 original agreement and move the FTE back to Cooperative Extension.
5

6 Brenner asked if the Executive decided to just not do it at all. Desler stated
7 there was a decision to consolidate a lot of positions in the Water Resources
8 Division in 1999. The position was established in Cooperative Extension for a short
9 time. It got moved to the Public Works Department. It was funded through the
10 water resources fund. When the Public Works Department decided not to continue
11 John Sproul's position, it kept the funding for that position for contracts to carry on
12 the work for a short term. The work is still moving forward. Instead of having John
13 Sproul's position, they have contracts. The water resources educator is in the
14 Water Resources Division. Now, there is a desire to add another position to
15 Cooperative Extension to focus on watershed education. It wasn't enough of a
16 priority to add a position to Cooperative Extension.
17

18 Brenner stated that they lost track of where the education piece originated.
19 Cooperative Extension is the natural place for people to get information. She asked
20 if it would be better to consolidate that position back to Cooperative Extension,
21 rather than in Water Resources Division. Desler stated Executive recommended
22 continuing general fund money to continue the IPM and Nutrient Management
23 programs.
24

25 Monsen stated there are three roles in Cooperative Extension that water
26 resources funds were used for. Those roles are nutrient management, IPM, and
27 public education. Because of financing issues and budget adjustments, he
28 recommends that those three functions continue in Cooperative Extension, but he
29 could not continue to send water resource funds to finance them.
30

31 Caskey-Schreiber stated they are funding a lot for watershed education. She
32 asked what the money would go for. MacConnell stated some of the money was
33 carried over from previous years. They are for two contracts to do IPM and nutrient
34 management. Those needs are driven by water quality protection. IPM has to do
35 with pesticide contamination of crops.
36

37 Nelson asked the role with the Pest Board. MacConnell stated the Pest Board
38 is quiescent right now. It is a volunteer group appointed by the County Council. It
39 hasn't met in a year.
40

41 Nelson asked about reduced funding from \$5,000 to \$1,000 for
42 administration. Desler stated the amount needs to be corrected to be \$5,000. In
43 2002, there was only \$610 in expenditures.
44

45 Nelson stated they can drop the funding down, and refund it in the middle of
46 the year if needed. He would like to see what they intend to accomplish with the
47 education position, how it would be coordinated with the Water Resources Division,

1 and the benefit to the County. The position costs approximately \$50,000. He
2 would like additional information.

3
4 Roy agreed.

5
6 McShane asked what they will do with all the support money if the position is
7 not there, and if it is support for the other positions. MacConnell stated he would
8 use the support money for the new WSU faculty and County position, which will be
9 doing water resource work. They've expanded the needs to marine resources.

10
11 Desler stated the support money of \$150,000 relates to the components of
12 the contract the County has with WSU. The additional dollars for salaries and
13 wages are something the County can't provide now. It's not an existing service.
14 It's a new service.

15
16 MacConnell stated they put in an automated weather station about a year
17 ago. He proposes to take the backbone of this system and use it for environmental
18 monitoring and reporting. It can report on real time water resource conditions.
19 Funding may be coming for that.

20
21 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*

22
23 Planning and Development Services Department

24
25 Hal Hart, Planning and Development Services Director, stated one
26 accomplishment in 2003 includes the ability of the Building and Codes Division to
27 maintain the level of service. They have taken in \$180 million of value, inspectors
28 do 22 to 23 inspections per day, and they have been open on Saturdays to take in
29 the extra work. The Council supported the fire marshal's position in years past.
30 The burn permit has become quite a tool to work with the rural community on
31 burning issues.

32
33 They have more work to do on some timelines. He will concentrate his
34 personal time in the office on the natural resources group. The Land Use Division
35 continued its training program. They have to make sure everyone from the front
36 line to the managers have the most up-to-date training to maintain customer
37 service. The Executive's Office has worked with several departments to create a
38 one-stop shop for streamlining the permit process. Everything he asks for is to
39 maintain the permit system, natural resources, and the Comprehensive Plan.

40
41 Roy asked about the ASR for \$12,500 for support for community advisory
42 committees. Hart stated he is working with many committees. One is the East
43 County group that will finish the Foothills Comprehensive Plan. The other group is
44 the Point Roberts Economic Development group that will implement the Point
45 Roberts plan. The Birch Bay group is the third group. The Lummi Island plan is the
46 fourth group. Each one of those groups requires a low-level of coordination. The
47 Birch Bay community wants to implement a Birch Bay berm to restore the

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1 shoreline. It will be a long-term effort. He hopes to bring in a grant from the State
2 Department of Ecology (DOE) for shorelines. That will bring forward the discussion
3 of the Birch Bay berm. Each area has an important project planned.
4

5 Roy asked if the \$12,500 is so the groups can pay for the committees to pull
6 their citizens together. All the citizens are volunteers, but they don't have any
7 funds to do public mailings. She attended the Birch Bay Steering Committee when
8 this came up. The other communities have the same kind of issue. The amount
9 needed is small
10

11 Nelson stated he agreed with Councilmember Roy. He asked about last
12 year's effort to coordinate the three divisions in the Planning Department, and
13 whether they've achieved that goal. Hart stated they focused on the physical
14 improvements to the department this year. The Executive's Office worked out what
15 a one-stop shop would look like.
16

17 Nelson asked how the one-stop shop affects each of the divisions on budget
18 and workload. Hart stated the most expensive thing is to maintain the investment
19 in the Tidemark permitting system so everyone has access to it. There is an extra
20 help item in the budget to allow for a software specialist to learn the new system.
21 They are getting closer to e-government. The other big part of it is the new FTE in
22 the Health Department that will be dedicated to the one-stop shop. One measured
23 outcome is to maintain the level of service as growth and permitting increase. The
24 current level of service for permitting is three to four weeks right now. They're still
25 busy in October. During the height of the season, a person could wait three weeks
26 to get in to see someone at the department. The department was at six weeks, but
27 cut it down by working extra hours and having extra help in plans examining. They
28 are also doing outside plan review.
29

30 Brenner asked how long it takes the average person building a simple single-
31 family house to get a permit.
32

33 Sam Ryan, Building and Codes Division Manager, stated it takes about eight
34 weeks if the permit includes getting septic and water. It takes four weeks for the
35 building permit process. It takes an extra two or three weeks if located in a
36 watershed that requires mitigation. The goal of the one-stop shop is to get the
37 Health Department and River and Flood Division in the office twice a week to review
38 plans and to expand the counter.
39

40 Caskey-Schreiber asked for an explanation of the ASR for extra help for the
41 agricultural program. She asked if this is something they've funded in the past and
42 will cease doing. Hart stated there are numerous agricultural committees. There is
43 a purchase of development rights (PDR) committee that is very complex and
44 involved. The Agricultural Protection Committee looks at the big picture issues.
45 Currently, they're looking at many County-initiated proposals. They need a big
46 picture look at protecting agriculture. That assistance was funded from a different

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1 location, so this makes up for someone who has been in the Planning Department
2 for several years. That person also provided help on forest practice issues.

3
4 Caskey-Schreiber asked if the new PDR/transfer of development rights (TDR)
5 person has more work than he can handle. Hart stated that position is now focused
6 exclusively on TDR's, with a little work on trail and urban growth area (UGA) issues.
7 This position was focused on forest practices and basic agricultural support for 70
8 hours per month.

9
10 Roy asked if there are contractual services to provide the support. Hart
11 stated the support has been tied to an individual. They are running too lean to tie
12 it in to contractual support.

13
14 Roy asked about scenario planning. She asked if there is any connection
15 between the request for scenario planning and the discussion held at the low-
16 income housing community meeting held last night. Hart stated scenario planning
17 is starting with a small group of agency and non-agency staff to envision a future.
18 The concept is to expand the circle to the next group of people, such as the
19 business community, and ask harder questions. Then, expand the circle again. His
20 request is to use this planning method for the rural community. The process
21 involves a series of questions and one-on-one interviews on how to make the rural
22 community continue to have a sustainable future.

23
24 Brenner asked why they don't have a program for off-the-shelf architectural
25 standards. Hart stated it's something that he has discussed with the City of
26 Bellingham Planning Director. They are trying to achieve a denser, walkable
27 community at James Street and Bakerview Road. They are going to need a broader
28 understanding of technical design features, then change codes to allow those things
29 to happen. There's no separate budget item, but it can be incorporated in the next
30 iteration.

31
32 Brenner stated she would like a specific budget item and people devoted to
33 that issue. Make it a focal point of what they're doing. She would like to see a
34 recommendation in the budget to have a staff person to develop architectural
35 standards that would streamline the process and make people less angry about
36 what's going on in the neighborhoods.

37
38 McShane stated one recurring issue is that the Council creates a lot of
39 workload for the Planning Department. This is yet another work item. He asked if
40 the budget anticipates things that the Council throws at the department to work on.
41 The County Council needs to work on what it asks the Planning Department to do.
42 Hart stated the biggest thing they have to do in 2004 will be shorelines. It will take
43 two years, have one staff person dedicated to it, and is largely funded by a grant.
44 Also, Whatcom County is an early adopter of critical areas. They don't want to
45 make huge changes in that. If there is anything else to do, they will need to talk
46 about the impacts. The TDR person can begin to think about design and what they
47 need to achieve in the urban growth areas. He can do that with existing staff.

1
2 Caskey-Schreiber stated that if the Council approved extra help for the
3 agricultural program, it would free up help to work on Councilmember Brenner's
4 architecture issue.

5
6 Desler stated they appropriate almost \$1.5 million for existing capacity and
7 administration, planning and GIS. It's not for the non-regulatory functions of the
8 department. Anytime they develop new ideas, they need to compare them with the
9 existing things they are doing. While they should review new activities in terms of
10 priorities, also ask the fiscal impact of things that the Council asks for. Consider
11 the priority and the fiscal impact of new work items. Staff should always raise that
12 issue when it is asked to take on new work items.

13
14 McShane stated there are more fiscal impacts to not doing long-term
15 planning on activities that could reduce overall costs to the County. The Council
16 works with the Planning Department a lot. He's uncomfortable that the Council
17 may show favoritism to the department. However, not providing that support
18 would frustrate the Council's policy efforts.

19
20 Caskey-Schreiber stated it's essential to fund someone to bring in matching
21 funds. The efforts of that program would bring in money. The fiscal impact is
22 outweighed by the benefits. That's what she looks at.

23
24 Desler stated they've accomplished a lot of things in terms of planning. If
25 the Council wants to focus on larger issues beyond what it's doing today, then it
26 needs to tell the administration that. The administration will bring forward a
27 proposal to do that.

28 29 Parks Department

30
31 Mike McFarlane, Parks and Recreation Department Director, stated the
32 budget is status quo from the previous year. He anticipates serving 854,000
33 visitors in the five program areas. There is some new things to do. One thing is
34 the construction of the bullet containment wall at the Plantation Range. They will
35 operate the new restroom at Glacier. They are looking at providing an
36 environmental education specialist at Tenant Lake at no cost to the County. He is
37 also going to do assessment of the costs and scope of program of the Outdoor
38 Recreation Program and the Teen Adventure Program. Some of the revenues have
39 been moved to corresponding cost centers. They are in the process of appraising
40 rental properties. He will review the rates and fees of the Outdoor Recreation
41 Program. Other fees and charges have been adjusted based upon market use.

42
43 Caskey-Schreiber asked the maintenance needs in terms of the mutt mitt
44 stations. Frequently the stations are empty. McFarlane stated he would look into
45 it. It is a minor regular maintenance item.

1 Desler stated that reclassification will be included in the budget technical
2 corrections document.

3
4 Roy stated the mutt mitt stations may seem like a small item, but it's an
5 important one.

6
7 Nelson asked if the environmental education coordinator is funded from a
8 grant. McFarlane stated it is.

9
10 Nelson asked if the grant providers are doing their own evaluation of the
11 program. McFarlane stated they are.

12
13 Nelson asked if they are looking at schools for cost sharing. McFarlane
14 stated that position assists a State employee at Tenant Lake. That program
15 develops its own budget. They would like to set up a Friends of Tenant Lake
16 organization to oversee the program.

17
18 Brenner asked about the outdoor coordinator position.

19
20 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side B)*

21
22 McFarlane stated he is trying to make the cost of the program more
23 affordable to the County and participants. They have approximately 1,000 that use
24 the outdoor program. The outdoor program is weather-dependent. The amount
25 the County pays into the program is substantial. He wants to broaden the program
26 to more individuals in the county to get the cost down. Review the pricing
27 structure and increase the prices. Some of the opportunities may be priced too
28 high for the average person.

29
30 Brenner asked how long the program has been in place. McFarlane stated
31 the program has been in place since the late 1970's or early 1980's.

32
33 Brenner asked what people did before the position was created. McFarlane
34 stated the overall mission was to introduce people to recreational activities and
35 introduce them to the facilities in the county. The program gives people new skills.
36 Some of the programs have a side benefit to businesses because people develop an
37 interest in the sports.

38
39 Brenner asked if private organizations put on those programs also.
40 McFarlane stated there are some private programs for some of the activities, such
41 as kayaking. The program targets different populations and age groups and
42 provides opportunities during times when the private organizations aren't providing
43 those opportunities.

44
45 McShane asked if lifeguards at Lake Samish will be provided. McFarlane
46 stated it is funded in the budget.

47

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1 Caskey-Schreiber asked about the reduction in the amount approved for gas.
2 Desler stated the administration is trying to balance the overall budget. This is
3 something that didn't make the cut. They are contributing money already in other
4 parts of the budget for utilities and gas for these types of facilities.
5

6 Caskey-Schreiber asked if the amount approved last year was \$2,500, and
7 the amount needs to be increased. McFarlane stated the best they can do with
8 utilities is estimate the amount needed. He'll make the \$2,500 work.
9

10 Roy asked the impact of an increase in fees for recreational activities.
11 McFarlane stated the program fees are set individually. There was a general overall
12 three percent increase, but he is looking at increasing the fees substantially in the
13 next year.
14

15 Roy stated she recently took a kayak trip with the Parks Department. It was
16 the best value around. The County can afford to raise prices on some of these
17 opportunities.
18

19 Nelson asked the reason for the amount of rents and royalties to go down.
20 McFarlane stated the rental unit above Tenant Lake is being phased out because of
21 the need for more office space. Another unit will no longer be rented out. He is
22 doing an appraisal on all rental properties that should result in raised rents.
23

24 Public Works Department

25
26 Jeff Monsen, Public Works Director, submitted additional information (*on*
27 *file*). They are in the process of creating a natural resources division, which
28 recognizes the need to substantially coordinate issues. There's no proposal to
29 substantially reorganize. However, the idea is there. The focus is to make sure all
30 the pieces fit together. There are 42 service areas in the department.
31

32 With all the funds managed by the Public Works Department, the operating
33 deficit totals about \$8 million. In reality, the actual operating deficit will end up
34 being about \$3 million to \$4 million. It depends on the annual construction
35 program.
36

37 The geographic information system (GIS) infrastructure inventory is
38 something they've already put a lot of effort into. It becomes the basis of
39 determining what they have and deciding what they're going to do with what they
40 have. It will help them focus on water quantity and water quality issues.
41

42 He read through the handout on the 2003 accomplishments and 2004
43 objectives (*on file*).
44

45 Crawford stated the Executive's Office is proposing a substantial change in
46 how the flood fee is collected and a shift of revenue sources from a proposed
47 smaller future flood tax to an increased property tax. He asked how they

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1 coordinate that discussion with this presentation. Monsen stated part of the budget
2 preparation process is to focus on the kinds of activities that can be sustained
3 overtime, given the various revenue sources. The primary focus on roads and flood
4 is project and task activities. Planning is focused on the accomplishment of the
5 task, compared to being very general in nature. It depends on what areas they
6 would like to bolster by raising revenue through the flood district.
7

8 Crawford stated there was a discussion the Council had recently about a
9 negotiated agreement with Utah State University (USU) to complete various
10 components of the water resource work. He asked if that money is money they've
11 already budgeted in 2003, or if they're talking about spending money in 2004 from
12 the 2004 budget. Monsen stated everything regarding USU has already been
13 budgeted and resides in the Joint Board fund. Once the money was budgeted and
14 became available, the money was transferred to the Joint Board fund. That's where
15 the cash resides. He's not asking for more money.
16

17 Crawford asked if the 2004 budget does not include more money for that
18 work, unless they choose to go beyond the negotiated work. The only thing they've
19 budgeted for is to continue to provide staff support to facilitate the process to
20 review and adopt the Watershed Management Plan. Implementation of the plan is
21 not budgeted at this moment. It would be premature to budget money until they
22 see what is adopted in the plan. It is a potential supplemental budget request for
23 2004, or may be included in the budget process for 2005.
24

25 Brenner stated just because they've budgeted for something doesn't mean
26 they have to spend it.
27

28 Nelson asked why there is a budget item for two Sheriff's Office vehicles.
29 Monsen stated all departments operate vehicles. Whatever additions the Council
30 approves to the fleet must be added to every department's budget for equipment
31 and rental. It is a technical addition to the fleet of vehicles.
32

33 Nelson stated they did an excellent job laying out previous accomplishments
34 and goals to accomplish in 2004.
35

36 Caskey-Schreiber asked if they will need to create a new funding source for
37 the water resource inventory area (WRIA) implementation. Monsen stated it
38 depends on what they want to do for implementation.
39

40 Caskey-Schreiber stated the Nooksack River held up tremendously well in the
41 face of the recent flood.
42

43 Brenner asked about how the Water Resources Division can pay for all those
44 activities plus nine employees with \$100,000. Monsen stated the budget was
45 constructed within the context of the water resource activities they can carry on
46 with the road funds and the flood funds. The \$100,000 is for activities unique to

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1 Lake Whatcom that can't be accomplished with road or flood funds, so they have to
2 use the general fund.

3
4 Brenner asked the cost of all those tasks. Monsen stated one of the tasks
5 he's constructing now is an answer to that question. There are a lot of things going
6 on in the department. It's not easy to relate all the items. There is information on
7 how the nine employees are allocating their time and how that time is being
8 funded.

9
10 Brenner stated she's also interested in knowing the total amount. Monsen
11 stated the total amount for water resources activities is about \$1.2 million or \$1.3
12 million. The \$100,000 is a part of that amount and is for activities specific to the
13 Lake Whatcom watershed.

14
15 Crawford asked the difference between the funding spent on WRIA in 2003
16 and 2004. Monsen stated 2004 does not have money to complete the planning
17 process. There are some staff resources to facilitate the process. There is also no
18 money budgeted for implementation. The planning portion is coming to a close.
19 Completion will be done through existing contracts. He's not asking for more.

20
21 Roy stated there are still nine employees for the division, but they don't
22 know what they will do in terms of implementation. Monsen stated that through
23 the adoption process, the Council will influence what those employees do. In the
24 meantime, the employees can be fully employed on road and flood-related surface
25 water matters, in spite of anything that might come out of WRIA. The year 2004 is
26 a transition year to allow priorities to surface.

27
28 Caskey-Schreiber stated they are not looking at cuts, just redistributing
29 work. They'll find out more once they decide on implementation. Monsen stated
30 that's correct.

31
32 Nelson asked about the street-sweeping program and if they are going to
33 contract for or buy the equipment. Monsen stated they will do both. The plan is to
34 have an in-house crew as well as a contract for one or two more crews seasonally.

35
36 Nelson asked why they even need a contract. Monsen stated the units that
37 are privately owned are not necessarily available all year long. Also, they need to
38 be able to put the crew where it's needed, on a case-by-case basis. Last, for a
39 vendor to buy a unit, the County needs to provide a contract that assures enough
40 work for a vendor to purchase a unit.

41
42 Nelson asked if this would come before the Council. Monsen stated the
43 Council already discussed the level of service and equipment needed to do a street-
44 sweeping program. This line item is approval of the funding. The proposal is to
45 finance the purchase of regenerative sweeper through the elimination of a grade-all
46 excavator. Procedurally, it's financed through equity. It relates directly to the
47 purchase of a long-arm mower and a heated storage building. Those are combined.

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1 The majority of the street sweeping activity will be done by contract. The budget
2 includes money for that purpose.
3

4 Caskey-Schreiber asked if the Council already approved the street sweeper.
5 Monsen stated there was a discussion about it. This is the proposal as a result of
6 that discussion.
7

8 Roy asked for an explanation of the \$8 million versus the \$3 million to \$4
9 million deficit. Monsen stated the six-year road program assumes \$10-12 million in
10 construction expenditures. His ongoing goal is to complete about 75 percent of that
11 program. That's \$3 million in funds they won't spend. That's why they do financial
12 projections to look at cash flow, in addition to the budget process. Every year it's
13 adjusted. He is continuing to work with the administration to change the budgeting
14 process so they can bring that number down without trying to predict what will
15 happen.
16

17 Roy asked if they are getting projects done ahead of when the money comes
18 in, so they eventually even out. Monsen stated the budget resembles a year and a
19 half's worth of work.
20

21 Brenner asked the amount of County funds they've spent to-date on WRIA.
22 Monsen stated he'd have to look it up and provide that information later.
23

24 Sheriff's Office/Jail

25
26 Bill Elfo, Sheriff, thanked the Council and administration for their support this
27 year.
28

29 The Sheriff's law enforcement function is seriously understaffed, according to
30 several studies. He's striving to make the best use of existing resources. He also
31 requests ASR's incrementally to get up to speed. He listed a number of changes
32 he's made. The most serious problem in the community is the epidemic of
33 methamphetamine labs. The Drug Task Force only has the capacity to follow up on
34 eight percent of complaints. He requested a full-time clerical position for the Drug
35 Task Force. He also requested two deputies to work on this problem. One deputy
36 position was approved by the administration. It is a dangerous position that needs
37 two deputies to respond.
38

39 There are continuing crime problems in the eastern part of the county. He
40 requests an east county deputy to locate and live at Silver Lake Park. He also
41 requested a volunteer service coordinator to put together a cadre of reserve
42 deputies. This coordinator position used to exist, but the Guild has opposed it.
43 Now, the Guild is willing to work with the Sheriff's Office to create a reserve force.
44

45 A civil specialist will be funded through revenue generated from increased for
46 services. This is work to serve process papers, doing evictions, doing sheriff sales,

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1 and other types of activities. The revenue generated should pay for the cost of that
2 program.

3
4 He is concerned about the amount of overtime money that is available. He
5 kept two positions vacant to offset the overtime spent last year. With additional
6 deputies, overtime should be reduced. However, more deputies result in more
7 arrests, which result in more time in court.

8
9 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape two, side A.)*

10
11 Elfo continued to state that more deputies have to go to court to testify at
12 suppression hearings. He asked for an additional \$123,000 from last year. The
13 budget for 2002 was over \$220,000. They need help in that area, or he will have
14 to request a supplemental budget in the middle of the year.

15
16 He has some new unfunded mandates. The law enforcement officers and fire
17 fighters (LEOFF) retirement program has expanded the dental benefit for certain
18 retirees to full dental care. There are 28 retirees still under the LEOFF I program.
19 He may have to request a supplemental budget in the middle of the year to cover
20 it.

21
22 The federal government is requiring the County's radio repeater to go from
23 high band to low band. He requested \$9,000 for this \$90,000 project. He is going
24 to try and make this change over a few years. He can make it this year without
25 that \$9,000, but he will ask for the money next year.

26
27 Regarding the jail, the inmates are more dangerous and violent. He is
28 concerned for the safety of deputies and inmates. Chief Jones would discuss these
29 issues.

30
31 There are 4,000 outstanding arrest warrants in Whatcom County that can't
32 be served. There are 700 people sentenced to jail that can't serve the sentence.
33 These people can't get on with their lives. He will see if more qualify for jail
34 alternative programs. Last year, 1,757 arrest warrants expired. These statistics
35 are only for District Court, not municipal court. These problems are long-term, and
36 they need a well-coordinated response. They are in dire need to fix the jail
37 problem.

38
39 Wendy Jones, Chief of Corrections, stated she appreciates the
40 recommendations from the administration. One concern is for more positions for
41 clerical help and corrections officers. Having clerical personal at the Jail
42 Alternatives Division would free up the corrections officers to do the work they
43 should be doing.

44
45 She had asked for an increased rate of equipment revolve and rental (ER&R)
46 cost to start saving for the fleet. She asked that \$6,000 be reinstated to cover the
47 current vehicles they have.

1
2 The last thing is reinstating overtime money. If an officer is out of the office,
3 she needs to cover the shifts. The overtime used is to cover for vacation and sick
4 relief and because staffing is low. Also, two officers will be on military leave for
5 most of the year next year. That leaves two positions vacant that she cannot fill.
6 They need to cover those shifts primarily with overtime. Beginning next year, they
7 will be doing major changes to the control booth. The transition period during
8 construction will necessitate shutting down sections of the jail. She will need
9 additional staff to safely lock and unlock doors manually.

10
11 Elfo stated that if there is a major crime, it's common to see 200 to 300
12 hours of overtime for one incident. He tries to include additional deputy presence
13 during large community events. Thirty hours of training per year is mandated from
14 the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. He wants to minimize the
15 amount of time he pulls people off street duty to go to training.

16
17 McShane asked what happens if the Council doesn't approve additional
18 funding for overtime. Elfo stated he will have to cut positions and decrease
19 services. They are providing only the most essential services right now.

20
21 Neil Clement, Emergency Management Division Manager, stated homeland
22 security is the biggest task now. A lot of grants are coming in. One challenge is to
23 use the grant funds most responsibly. The State strategy is to improve intelligence
24 gathering and sharing within the realm of counter-terrorism, to improve the
25 capacities of health departments and hospitals, and to do the planning, training,
26 exercising, and equipping of emergency responders. Emergency management will
27 continue to be the focal point for the next several years. A key to building this
28 capacity is to better deal with bio-terrorism and contagious diseases.

29
30 Brenner asked if they can expect more federal funds. Clement stated they
31 can. He's got four or five different grants right now. There are nine regions in the
32 State. Whatcom County is in region one.

33
34 Brenner asked if they get preference for grants because of Whatcom
35 County's border location. Clement stated he's asked for that preference, but it's
36 not being made a factor.

37
38 Brenner asked if the Border Patrol is getting extra funding. Clement stated it
39 is. There is a complete culture shift as all the security departments meld into the
40 federal Homeland Security Department.

41
42 Elfo stated the Border Patrol is going from having 30 agents in Whatcom
43 County to having 200 agents.

44
45 Marvin Wolff, Washington State Jail Industries Board Chairman, submitted
46 information (*on file*). The jail offender work crews provide a value of over \$1
47 million in services to the County. Each crew that does work does work on behalf of

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1 the County while providing needed services to the City of Bellingham and works on
2 stream reclamation. The Sheriff and Chief of Corrections already covered most of
3 his points. There are presently deputies who go out on patrol without backup,
4 which potentially causes liability for the County if there is an injury to the deputy or
5 citizen. That liability can result in millions of dollars in lawsuits.

6
7 The response times in the county are extremely long in some areas. The
8 eastern area of the county has a serious problem. It needs deputies in that area.
9 Several years ago, the Blue Ribbon Panel on criminal justice determined needs that
10 have not changed since then. There is a decrease in efficiency due to increased
11 workload without an increase in staffing. Increase efficiency with increased
12 technology.

13
14 The overcrowding in the jail is very serious. There is potential for injury to
15 officers and inmates. One lawsuit can cause tremendous financial damage to the
16 County. Using alternative programs will help reduce the jail population. Each work
17 crew learns work ethic and work skills. The recidivism rate among those people is
18 less than the rate of those in the jail.

19
20 Citizens are concerned about safety in the county. They are concerned about
21 people being released from the jail. The jail used to be comprised of 60-70 percent
22 misdemeanants and the rest felons. Now it's reversed. Those released cause a
23 hazard to the community.

24
25 Sherry Scalf, Maple Falls Citizens Association Member, stated she supports
26 the Sheriff. The Sheriff needs help with finances. Residents are tired of waking up
27 to gunfire and smelling methamphetamine cooking. Something needs to be done.

28
29 Gayle Pattenau, Laurel, stated she been attending the Sheriff's Office
30 Citizen Academy. She has a lot of respect for the deputies. She's concerned that
31 these men put their lives on the line every day. They should be protected by
32 having more backup and proper equipment. The jail is terribly understaffed. The
33 men who work in the jail aren't safe. Government should support the law
34 enforcement officers. The money can be found somewhere.

35
36 Norma Kirchan, Maple Falls Citizen Association, stated many of the citizens in
37 her community are taxpayers. They are frightened about what's going on in the
38 neighborhood. They also worry about the safety of the deputies and corrections
39 officers. She asked the Council to do what it can to provide the Sheriff what he
40 needs. The citizens are also trying to do their part to help. Don't fund new
41 carpeting in the courthouse until the safety issue is taken care of.

42
43 Mary Stars, Maple Falls Citizens Association, asked the Council to support the
44 Sheriff.

45
46 Brenner stated she's heard different standards about the number of deputies
47 per capita that is safe. Elfo stated the 2002 Law and Justice Study used standards

1 for rural sheriff's offices. They are below that standard. He will provide information
2 on what that standard is. There are a lot of factors, such as distance between
3 patrol areas. They have a low population in the rural areas, but the distance to that
4 area is great. They are also a suburban police department when they cover Sudden
5 Valley, Birch Bay, and other similar areas. As building continues, so will the
6 demand for services. Since the 2000 study, the call load has gone up seven
7 percent per year. The study said they were 28 deputies short in 2002. The Council
8 added eight deputies, but only six positions were filled due to the need for
9 overtime.

10
11 Caskey-Schreiber asked about the number of deputies requested. Elfo stated
12 the administration approved a resident deputy for east county, and one other
13 deputy for methamphetamine lab enforcement. He requested two deputies for
14 methamphetamine enforcement. He can't send one deputy to respond to
15 methamphetamine calls.

16
17 Caskey-Schreiber asked if anyone has done the volunteer services
18 coordinator work or if it's something new. Elfo stated it is new. It is like a reserve
19 force of deputies and will also supplement office help and use volunteers in other
20 areas of the agency. When recruiting volunteers, they need a point of contact.

21
22 Roy asked if the Drug Task Force is made up of deputies working in the field
23 to respond to the increase of methamphetamine labs in isolated places. Elfo stated
24 two uniformed deputies will be in the car, coordinate information with the Drug
25 Task Force, investigate citizen tips and information from other deputies, and
26 discourage drug activity in Whatcom County. The existing Drug Task Force is about
27 90 percent focused on methamphetamine eradication. They've gone from having
28 two methamphetamine labs in 2001 to a projected 60 by the end of this year.
29 Those deputies will be on the street, in uniform, in the communities, addressing
30 neighborhood drug problems.

31
32 Roy asked for information on the cost versus savings of the volunteer
33 coordinator position. Elfo stated there is a relationship. A reserve force of 30
34 deputies, each working 300 hours per year, will equal about seven full-time
35 positions.

36
37 McShane asked what's going on in general statewide and nationally to reduce
38 the methamphetamine problem. Elfo stated there are now limits to how much
39 Sudafed, a component of the methamphetamine drug, can be purchased at one
40 time. It's a homegrown problem. They have made a video to educate store
41 owners. Tight squeezes in other counties to the south have pushed the labs north
42 to Whatcom County.

43
44 Crawford asked if a reserve program would cost money for things other than
45 the coordinator, such as equipment. Elfo stated he would ask the volunteers to
46 provide their own equipment. The office will provide a radio. The Deputy Guild has

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1 worked with him to get the program going. With reasonable assurance that this
2 won't replace deputy jobs, this will benefit the deputies.
3

4 Crawford asked if there will be a limit to the use of a reserve officer. Elfo
5 stated the plan is to double the number of cars, with one full time deputy and one
6 reserve officer. There are special events and inmate transport that reserve
7 deputies can work on.
8

9 Crawford asked the status and effect of Lummi jail. Elfo stated they are not
10 proceeding with the plan, but a private jail company proposed a 1,500-bed jail
11 facility to bring in outside inmates. There are concerns about that proposal.
12

13 Crawford stated he's excited about having the methamphetamine officer. He
14 asked how much of that time will be spent on coordination of activities with the
15 Methamphetamine Action Team and other organizations. Elfo stated he works with
16 this group. The action team will work on education and prevention.
17

18 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape two, side B.)*
19

20 Nelson stated there are increases in the Sheriff's Office budget from 2000 on.
21 He asked where the funding could come from to help support the Sheriff clean up
22 the county the way he needs to. Elfo stated the County can't limit itself to looking
23 at additional revenue sources. There are other taxing options available.
24

25 Nelson asked if an ongoing or onetime revenue source is needed. Elfo stated
26 he needs ongoing revenue source. They have to keep up with the demands.
27

28 Nelson asked if they should be looking at additional taxes for the general
29 public to vote on. Elfo stated that's the Council's decision. He would support a tax
30 if that were what it took. People's lives are in danger. People will end up paying
31 the cost one way or another.
32

33 Nelson stated they are going to need community support for the jail and for
34 the Sheriff's Office. Elfo stated he is educating the public on these issues.
35

36 Caskey-Schreiber stated the County Council also has the ability to increase
37 revenues with the real estate excise tax (REET) by one-quarter percent, which
38 would bring in an additional \$1.5 million. It can supplement the general fund, and
39 free up money for the Sheriff's Office.
40

41 Nelson stated increased levels of services would also have impacts on other
42 departments, such as the Prosecuting Attorney. He asked if Sheriff Elfo has
43 considered that. Elfo stated he has considered it. There may be an impact in
44 certain other areas. The two deputies on the methamphetamine strike force may
45 stumble onto something that provides sufficient grounds for an arrest, they will
46 make an arrest. The end result is to make this county an unpleasant place for that
47 activity to occur and discourage those people from coming here. There might be an

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1 initial increase in other areas, but it will level off. Certain people living in Paradise,
2 are committing crimes all across the county. They're sporadically being caught.
3 When it becomes an unwelcome place for those people because of more arrests,
4 there will be an initial upswing of arrests, but it will level off. People know they can
5 do what they want and not have any consequences because they know they won't
6 get into the jail. When those people start going to jail, crime will level off once
7 those people realize the consequences of their crimes.

8
9 Executive's Office

10
11 This presentation was postponed to Thursday, October 30, 2003.

12
13 County Council Office

14
15 This presentation was postponed to Thursday, October 30, 2003.

16
17
18 *(Clerk's Note: The Committee recessed for a 55-minute lunch break at 12:15*
19 *p.m.)*

20
21 Superior Court/Clerk

22
23 N.F. Jackson, Superior Court Clerk, stated his budget is status quo. They will
24 continue adult drug court, funded by outside sources, through 2004. Without
25 additional funding, the drug court will cease to exist beginning in 2005.

26
27 The budget objectives included applications for a juvenile drug court and
28 family treatment drug court. Those applications have failed. It's doubtful those
29 efforts can continue. Most of the juvenile offenders get treatment paid for
30 somewhere else. There are funds coming through the State for treatment. There
31 is nothing for program administration. The federal portion of family treatment has
32 operated from in-kind contributions. He doesn't know if it will continue.

33
34 Roy stated councilmembers lobbied senators and representatives. She would
35 like more information on these courts so she can continue lobbying. It's very
36 successful and important. Jackson stated the adult drug court has three funding
37 sources. They are in the last months of those grants, which won't be renewed.

38
39 There are no new program changes to the Superior Court. There is a modest
40 increase in case filings. The number of felonies is up. A courthouse facilitator is
41 entirely funded by filing fee surcharges. Two of those facilitators are seeing 6,000
42 people per year.

43
44 McShane stated drug court has been successful. He's concerned the money
45 will dry up. He asked for a projection of what sort of costs to criminal justice
46 systems might result without the drug court. Jackson stated drug court graduates
47 are not coming back into the system. As a guess, the Prosecutor's Office would

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1 have 20 or 30 additional cases. The effect on families and victims is immeasurable.
2 A better source of funding would be from the State. He's not sure of the exact
3 figure, but it costs either nine or 16 times more to leave them in the criminal justice
4 system. He'll research and provide information on the cost savings.
5

6 Crawford stated they've got to salvage this program somehow. Jackson
7 stated he's looking for more grants, but he's not hopeful. Strategies are being
8 developed to continue drug courts. Whatcom County has historically not raised
9 taxes, but taxes are a source that they could use.

10
11 They've digitized all court proceedings in District Court and in three Superior
12 Courts. It's the prelude to video arraignments, so the jail no longer needs to
13 transport inmates to the courthouse in groups. There is considerable security risk
14 and labor to doing that. Courts have been having those people appear
15 electronically for routine court appearances. The cost for equipment installation is
16 one-time, fairly modest, and would save labor in the jail. He will continue to push
17 for courthouse security.
18

19 Roy asked if there is an ASR for courthouse security. Jackson stated there
20 was not from Superior Court. The courthouse has the equipment. The cost comes
21 from ongoing operations, specially staffing a position.
22

23 Caskey-Schreiber asked about the full time temporary jail interviewer
24 position. She asked if this was ever funded before and if it's an identified need.
25 Jackson stated that position is being funded out of temporary help. It has been for
26 a long time. The employee's duty is to be in the jail daily, but the employer can't
27 go to the jail. The employee is now doing non-jail work in the office. He is hiring
28 temporary employees for 18 to 24 months to do the jail work. This ASR would
29 have made it a regular position instead of having to use temporary employees if it
30 was approved.
31

32 Caskey-Schreiber asked the cost difference. Desler stated they need to go
33 into executive session to discuss this issue further.
34

35 Jackson stated there's still hope that the issue may resolve itself. He concurs
36 with the administration's decision to let it work itself out to the extent it is able to.
37

38 Prosecuting Attorney's Office

39

40 Dave McEachran, Prosecuting Attorney, stated one ASR relates to an
41 attorney position. He would also discuss some of the challenges they are facing
42 and the concerns he has about the pattern of crimes he is seeing. This year they
43 started with 10 homicides. He described the specific cases. They've had a number
44 of continuances, which have to get done.
45

46 One goal is to get enough resources so the caseload average per attorney
47 would decrease. This has not happened. The caseload is going up. The number of

1 felonies has gone up 25 percent. There is an increase in District Court filings.
2 Those cases also went up 25 percent. They have stabilized the increase now to the
3 end of the year with an increase between 14 and 15 percent. When they see
4 increases, they look for causes. In District Court, they've added officers. Every
5 time an officer is added, it adds cases. The State Patrol has been very busy. He
6 submitted a handout (*on file*) of his Power Point presentation. The number of cases
7 in juvenile court has stabilized, and he transferred an attorney from juvenile court
8 into the felony division. He tries to transfer attorneys around to meet the demand.
9 The caseload in District Court is rising due to population increases and added
10 enforcement. They are within the standard of 400 cases per attorney per year for
11 juvenile court.
12

13 The prosecuting attorney's staffing levels are much less than the public
14 defender's. The Public Defender's Department handles only the cases that are
15 indigent while his office handles all cases. The Public Defender's Department has
16 the same number of attorneys as the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, with fewer
17 cases. It's taking longer to get through the cases. The attorneys on his staff are
18 outnumbered, three-to-one. Six more attorneys would give him parity with the
19 Public Defender's Department. He's not asking for that. He definitely needs one
20 attorney. If they don't balance the system, the cases will take longer to get
21 through the system. He wants the number of attorneys to be equal.
22

23 Roy asked if the prosecuting attorneys' and public defenders' cases are equal
24 in terms of preparation time. McEachran stated he has more time invested before
25 the case is filed, and the law enforcement will work with the prosecutors. The
26 public defenders interact with the defender. He works with the victims. As the
27 prosecutor, he has to have his witnesses ready. The time spent is about equal.
28

29 McShane asked if there are comparisons from other counties. McEachran
30 stated he can research that question.
31

32 Caskey-Schreiber stated the Council will lobby for funding for the federal
33 cases that the County prosecutes. She asked about information about border
34 arrests. McEachran stated there are about 150 felony border cases per year. He
35 estimated the cost at \$2.2 million per year. Representative Larson has the bill
36 before Congress to get that money.
37

38 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape three, side A.)*
39

40 McEachran continued to state that they are seeing more crimes involving
41 guns and very dangerous people. They can't afford to let these people into the
42 community. In addition to the violence, he is concerned about the
43 methamphetamine drug cases. The number of border drug cases remains the same.
44 There was a jump in the number of local drug cases. The quantities are much
45 larger and the violence is increasing.
46

1 Fleetwood asked the reason for the increase in the meth cases in 2002.
2 McEachran stated the labs have been working their way north from California.
3 There have been several cases where children are exposed to the labs. It's an easy
4 drug for the people to make.
5

6 Caskey-Schreiber asked the cost to the County of prosecuting the border
7 cases. McEachran stated he could provide that information.
8

9 Roy asked if there are cases they don't prosecute because of staffing issues,
10 or if Mr. McEachran prosecutes everything he can. McEachran stated he doesn't
11 prosecute some property cases. He tries to assess the risk to the community. He
12 also doesn't prosecute bad check cases, and uses an alternative program instead.
13

14 Roy asked if they would prosecute more or spend more time on current cases
15 if they had more attorneys. McEachran stated he won't lower the standards.
16

17 Roy asked which law enforcement agencies, except the Border Patrol, the
18 County gets cases from, such as the City of Bellingham. McEachran stated he
19 prosecutes cases from the Sheriff's Office, every municipality in the county, and the
20 State Patrol.
21

22 Roy stated she would like to look at information on the overall performance
23 of the number of deputies and the results.
24

25 Fleetwood asked how the overburdened caseload manifests itself on the
26 prosecutors. McEachran stated the prosecutors work late. They are on-call all the
27 time. They are very stressed. They work very hard. They are pressured to get an
28 average of one case done every day.
29

30 He asked the Council to reconsider the ASR for the additional attorney.
31

32 *(Clerk's Note: Discussion continued below.)*
33

34 Public Defender's Office 35

36 Jon Ostlund, Public Defender, submitted information *(on file)*. One of his
37 ASR's was reduced, and another was denied. He put in an ASR for one full-time
38 equivalent (FTE) attorney. This summer, he asked the Council to add a temporary
39 attorney for the remainder of the year. The Council approved the request. That
40 gives him 13 full time positions and one temporary attorney.
41

42 His office is divided into three divisions, by court. There are three attorneys
43 assigned to District Court to handle 1,500 cases this year. The standard of
44 Washington State and National Bar Associations is for 300 cases per attorney per
45 year. Juvenile court has less than 2.5 FTE attorneys. The juvenile criminal cases
46 have been decreasing the last few years. The total caseload works out to 350
47 cases per year, and 700 probation violations. There is one attorney for juvenile

1 civil cases. She handles about 200 cases per year, not including the contempt
2 cases. The dependency cases last several years. The parental termination cases
3 take a lot of time and resources. There are no standards for juvenile civil cases.
4

5 He has eight attorneys assigned to adult felonies, including the half time he
6 spends on these cases. His adult felony attorneys handle about 214 cases per year.
7 If they had to eliminate this temporary attorney, the caseload would increase to
8 250 cases per attorney per year. One attorney works in drug court and also works
9 felony cases. Drug court is a wonderful program, but they get no federal money for
10 it. It takes about 25 to 30 percent of an attorney's time.
11

12 There are seven homicide cases pending trial. The main problem is getting
13 the resources and time to prepare the homicide cases for trial. They all take a
14 tremendous amount of work. The cases get continued because the non-homicide
15 felony cases must be handled as they come in.
16

17 He asked for this FTE position, or an increase in the extra help fund to
18 maintain the position as a temporary position. The only place he can decrease staff
19 is in the adult felony court. The numbers of attorneys in the other courts are
20 already at their minimum.
21

22 An attorney can only spend 1,700 hours per case per year. With 214 cases
23 per year, only eight hours are spent on each felony case. The national average is
24 12 to 15 hours per felony cases. Conflict attorneys spend an average of 11 to 17
25 hours per case, not including homicide cases. Eight hours per case is not enough.
26

27 The other ASR is for professional services court evaluations. The
28 administration approved partial funding. He's had to ask his attorneys to defer
29 spending money in preparing homicide cases until next year. They are delaying
30 this year's expenses to next year. The seven homicide cases they have now will all
31 require professional services, such as DNA testing.
32

33 Caskey-Schreiber asked if it's the Council's intent to approve the budget on
34 November 5, when they won't know the results of the EMS levy. Desler stated the
35 budget is built on the assumption that the levy won't pass.
36

37 Roy stated they will need to have further budget discussions once they know
38 the results of the levy vote.
39

40 Nelson stated the expenditures requested by the Public Defender are not
41 one-time expenditures. They are ongoing expenditures. He asked the increase is
42 adequate to meet the increased emphasis the administration is placing on meth
43 labs in the county. Ostlund stated he doesn't know because he doesn't know how
44 many cases that focus would bring to his office. The percentage of cases he gets
45 from that type of activity is slightly less than other types of activity. There is a
46 greater number of those arrested that can higher private attorneys.
47

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1 Nelson asked if Ostlund is concerned if the Sheriff's Office gets additional
2 staff for meth lab enforcement. Ostlund stated there will be some increase in his
3 workload.

4
5 McEachran stated that whenever officers are added, there is an impact to the
6 courts. He feels those impacts immediately.

7
8 Ostlund stated that he tries to budget within historical work levels, not
9 projected workloads. That keeps his requests down, but he is always budgeting to
10 the edge of available funding.

11
12 Law Library

13
14 McEachran asked to increase the Law Library approved ASR from \$2,500 to
15 \$5,000.

16
17 Caskey-Schreiber stated the University of Washington law library just
18 received several million dollars from the Gates Foundation. She asked if the
19 Whatcom County library has access to that resource. McEachran stated they have
20 access to the books, not money. The attorney's are really using electronic
21 research. The public is also using the law library.

22
23 Roy asked if there will be a time when it won't be necessary to keep
24 purchasing books. McEachran stated that's true to a large degree. They still need
25 some volumes to take into court. They only get one or two sets of the Revised
26 Code of Washington (RCW). They are effectively using online research. The law
27 library is doing that also, but it's nice to have some of the volumes on hand.

28
29 Roy asked if the County buy the prosecutors and defense attorneys laptop
30 computers. McEachran stated he's replacing the desktop computers with laptop
31 computers.

32
33 Juvenile Court/Probation/Detention

34
35 Steve Paus, Juvenile Court Administrator, stated the juvenile population has
36 risen a small amount since 1996. The number of juvenile arrests have gone down.
37 There is more court activity, but fewer arrests. Cases are divided according to risk.

38
39 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape three, side B.)*

40
41 Paus continued to state that the caseload is handled by one person who
42 works closely with the families. It's less of a community supervision model and
43 more of a monitoring model. There are more high-risk kids coming through the
44 system than before. Community supervision sentences ordered this year total 826.
45 it's projected to be 991 by the end of the year.

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1 There has been a decrease in State and other grants by approximately
2 \$75,000, which is 12 percent. The staff level is also reduced by two. One position
3 was a grant-funded person. The other position eliminated was one detention
4 officer.

5
6 Expenditures increased modestly. Some cost centers have been folded into
7 other cost centers, not eliminated.

8
9 They worked hard this year with detention staff and the union. Staffing
10 schedules have been changed to become more flexible. Sick leave and overtime
11 use have been reduced.

12
13 Caskey-Schreiber asked about the education specialist position that was
14 reduced. Paus stated this was a person who worked with kids both in and out of
15 detention. The staff in detention is still the same.

16
17 The Juvenile Justice Center is a detention alternative. A problem with
18 detention is that it disconnects the kids from the schools. They have a difficult time
19 being accepted back into the public school. He wants to emphasize more time on
20 education and vocational work experience in the future.

21
22 The Region Three Detention and Juvenile Courts have a \$20,000 grant to
23 provide a presentation from people in Multnomah County on what they did
24 regarding their overcrowding situation in detention and disproportionate minority
25 confinement. The team will have representatives from the court commissioners,
26 the prosecutors, the public defender, juvenile court administration, schools, and
27 social services representatives. He asked a councilmember to join them. They will
28 look at the kids they are putting into detention, who needs to be there, and
29 alternatives to lock-up.

30
31 Brenner stated she's heard complaints that the education component has
32 really been glorified babysitting. She asked how they ensure the education
33 component is truly educational. Paus stated the Juvenile Justice Center is a
34 transitional point, not a substitute for school. He contracted with Home Port
35 Learning Center, which helps the kids earn credit. Lots of kids work on their
36 general educational development (GED) credentials, and transfer to the technical
37 college to finish their GED's.

38
39 Brenner asked for statistics. Paus stated he would provide that information.
40 They do risk assessment at six months and 12 months.

41
42 Nelson stated they talked last year about helping with skill development.
43 Paus stated they looked at the youth that leave community supervision but still
44 have financial obligations. A process is set up for collecting that information.
45 That's been working well. Part of detention alternative is to have agreement
46 amongst the players, especially the Public Defender and Prosecutor.

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1 Crawford asked about the facility at the Civic Center. Paus stated he gets
2 complaints about it being freezing cold. He doesn't know what can be done. There
3 is a problem with the heat and air conditioning.
4

5 Crawford asked about the structure itself. He's concerned that there is wear
6 and tear in a building that is worn and torn anyway. Paus stated part of the
7 facilities plan is to expand into where the Public Defender used to be for a
8 classroom and other uses. The space is empty now.
9

10 One of his ASR's is for a data system. If requested, he can provide a
11 demonstration on the data system.
12

13 What-Comm/Council of Governments/Medic One/All Other Non-Departmental
14

15 Nelson asked about item 43 regarding bonds. Desler stated that was part of
16 the refinance of the bonds the County did in April. A final, residual amount of
17 \$1,000 had to be paid.
18

19 Nelson asked about item 48 regarding salaries. Desler stated it is the
20 amount necessary to pay the annual increase in salaries and wages.
21

22 Caskey-Schreiber asked about Alcoa funding. Desler stated the County
23 anticipates a contribution to the County of over \$300,000. It was a negotiated item
24 with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). This is the last year the County
25 will receive this funding.
26

27 Crawford asked about page ten of the non-department ASR's regarding
28 strategic planning. Desler stated he would like to have a discussion with the
29 Council and department heads this spring to rebuild the County's strategic plan for
30 the next couple of years.
31

32 Nelson asked if every non-department request was considered, and if any
33 were denied. Desler stated the Jazz Festival asked for \$5,000 or \$10,000 that the
34 administration was not able to support because it's a new request. They usually
35 pay for the cost of the Law and Justice Council in the non-departmental category.
36 That \$10,000 will be added to the technical corrections information.
37

38 Crawford asked what they funded last year for the Law and Justice Council.
39 Desler stated the County provided \$10,000 for clerical support.
40

41 The Council concurred that it would like an update from the Law and Justice
42 Council.
43

44 Roy asked why the Convention and Visitor's Bureau receives much more
45 funding than the Chamber of Commerce or other similar organizations. Desler
46 stated the summary is on page 114. For many years, the County has supported
47 the Convention and Visitor's Bureau from a convention center fund, which is a two

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1 percent tax on hotel/motel sales in the unincorporated areas. The County supports
2 the efforts of the Bellingham/Whatcom County Convention and Visitors Bureau.
3 The purpose of the fund is to foster tourism.

4
5 Roy asked if there is money left over for other tourism efforts. Desler stated
6 there is some other funding available.

7
8 Caskey-Schreiber asked about the decrease in the morgue funding. Desler
9 stated the administration renegotiated a long-term lease agreement. The County is
10 getting more money from the State Office of Forensic Examinations in
11 reimbursements for certain autopsies.

12
13 Brenner stated funding goes down for Womenscare Shelter and up for the
14 Domestic Violence Commission. Desler stated that in 2002, Womenscare Shelter
15 wanted additional funds to pay for a few one-time upgrades in 2003. The Domestic
16 Violence Commission asked for an increase so the City contribution matches the
17 City of Bellingham's contribution.

18
19 Brian Shessler, for the Agricultural Preservation Committee, stated he would
20 speak regarding starling control. They've been getting matching contributions from
21 several organizations, including the Farm Bureau, the Dairy Federation, and
22 individual contributions. They are happy with the way things are going. The
23 number of birds trapped and killed each year changes due to migratory and
24 weather conditions. This year, 17,000 starlings were killed since May or June.
25 Considering that eliminates nesting pairs, there are about 100,000 birds total killed
26 this year so far. British Columbia won't institute a program, which would be
27 effective in controlling local populations.

28
29 Jessica Staton, Lydia Place Board of Directors, thanked the councilmembers
30 for the \$10,000 of support. It's a wise County investment. Former residents come
31 back and contribute to the program and the community. A former resident is now a
32 board member. They are requesting funding for the children's therapeutic
33 program.

34
35 Shannon Vaughn, Lydia Place Board of Directors President, stated the
36 preponderance of residents are victims of domestic violence. The program helps
37 kids who are delayed developmentally. It also helps to stop the cycle of violence.

38
39 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape four, side A.)*

40
41 Vaughn continued to state there's a component for the mothers that
42 addresses parenting. That's what the County would fund. If they can change the
43 cycle of violence, it has a long-term benefit.

44
45 Caskey-Schreiber asked if they participate in a toy drive at Christmas.
46 Vaughn stated the agency is involved with private companies.

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1 Roy asked if therapists volunteer. Vaughn stated they've not been involved
2 in providing therapists in the past. They refer to other services in the community.
3

4 Rod Posher, Economic Development Council (EDC), thanked the Council for
5 its support. Earlier this month, the EDC Board met to look at goals for the next five
6 years and will develop a work plan. There will be a marketing program and
7 outreach for the entire county. There will be more involvement by the EDC in the
8 smaller cities. The EDC will add a seat on the Board of Directors to include small
9 cities. The EDC is planning a new website to focus on commercial real estate
10 brokers to provide demographic data for people who potentially want to locate a
11 business in the area.
12

13 McShane asked about outreach for more Economic Development Investment
14 (EDI) Board applications. Posher stated they have delivered copies of the program
15 and application forms to various locations around the county. There are three
16 applications in process. Of the three, two involve direct business retention or
17 expansion efforts. Another project involves a Canadian company locating in
18 Whatcom County. As of now, the plan isn't yet firm. Also, the website will include
19 more detailed information on the EDI program and the overall business incentives
20 that are available in Whatcom County. They have to do more matchmaking
21 between projects and the public entities that would be involved to make the
22 projects happen. As they begin to attract more business, they will see more of that
23 matchmaking occur. That program is one of the best incentives Whatcom County
24 has to offer.
25

26 Caskey-Schreiber stated a project like the Farmer's Market expansion is a
27 way to stimulate investment in the area. There are many business owners who
28 bring their produce to the market. Posher stated agriculture is a business. There
29 may be an opportunity to work with the Farmer's Market. In the past, he's been
30 able to use public dollars for a grower's market that was looking for a public
31 location. That may be an opportunity locally.
32

33 Brian Hunter, Mt. Baker Theater, thanked the Council for the \$5,000 the
34 County contributes for the theater's educational program.
35

36 Roy asked if there is a fee for the groups who participate in the educational
37 program. Hunter stated the fee is \$4 per student. The majority of the fees come
38 from the Parent Teacher Associations.
39

40 Caskey-Schreiber asked if there is a way to waive the fee. Hunter stated
41 they have waived the fee on occasion. Usually the schools find a way to fund the
42 service.
43

44 Leslie Brewster, Whatcom Symphony Orchestra Executive Director, thanked
45 the Council for its support. Whatcom County is fortunate to have the quality of this
46 orchestra. Most of the orchestra musicians are professionals who volunteer their

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1 time. Ticket sales don't cover the cost of the productions. They give the schools
2 free concerts and educate the students about music.

3
4 Fleetwood asked if all the musicians are local residents. Brewster stated
5 some are from Canada or the San Juan Islands.

6
7 Fleetwood asked if they are of all ages. Brewster stated the musicians are
8 aged from 18 to 80. She is also marketing the orchestra to the residents of the
9 San Juan Islands.

10
11 Caskey-Schreiber thanked Ms. Brewster for doing the outreach program to
12 students.

13
14 Roy asked if Skagit County has a venue or orchestra. Brewster stated Skagit
15 County has a smaller orchestra with its own concert hall.

16
17 Gordon Rodgers, Council of Governments, thanked the Council for its
18 support. He hoped the Council would continue to support the Council of
19 Governments.

20
21 Crawford asked if the post transportation summit is funded by Alcoa.
22 Rodgers stated it's not. Two years ago, there was a summit sponsored by
23 Community Health Partnership. Everyone at the summit agreed that something
24 should be done to plan for transportation in the county that would provide greater
25 connectivity and better alternatives for transportation. A steering committee
26 worked on those issues for two years. The Council of Governments was requested
27 to take a leadership role and provide administrative support for that ongoing effort,
28 which included establishing a Community Transportation Advisory Group. The
29 advisory group has been developed. These funds are for continued support of that
30 work.

31
32 Desler stated they are using Alcoa dollars for that service. Alcoa has agreed
33 to fund this service.

34
35 Nelson asked if the legislative specialist is the grant writer. Rodgers stated it
36 is not. It is used for the lobbyist that supports Whatcom County in Olympia during
37 the legislative session. They've used this lobbyist for about six years. The position
38 is funded by all the jurisdictional entities in the county. The position of grant writer
39 never materialized.

40
41 Caskey-Schreiber asked if the County is going to have to make decisions
42 about these programs next year when the Alcoa funding is gone. Desler stated the
43 commitment for this program was to support it for 2003 and 2004. That work has
44 support from the City of Bellingham and the Whatcom Transportation Authority
45 (WTA). The Council will see reports about the results of this advisory committee.
46 By the end of next year, they'll have a chance to see the next phase. The COG

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1 may continue to do other things. The County will no longer have to fund this
2 particular item.

3
4 Regarding other Alcoa-funded items, the administration anticipates funding
5 some of those items, such as Lydia Place, that are focused on social services.

6
7 Caskey-Schreiber asked if the COG will bring forward a transportation plan
8 that incorporates the Highway 9 truck route. Rodgers stated the plan will not
9 directly incorporate that route.

10
11 The original intent of the summit work was that it not be a finite process, but
12 that it be an ongoing process for the citizens of the community to provide
13 meaningful input into how transportation decisions are made. The County has said
14 it will provide these funds for two years. That doesn't mean the COG won't ask for
15 more. After the two-year period, they hope to be self-sufficient through grants and
16 other funding.

17
18 Caskey-Schreiber asked if Joe Rutan participates.

19
20 Crawford stated Jeff Monsen attends every once in a while. The State has a
21 designation for regional transportation planning organization. Whatcom County has
22 delegated that role to the COG. The COG has that role and the role of metropolitan
23 transportation planning organization. The Council participates in the COG boards.
24 He asked about the lobbyist for Washington D.C. Rodgers stated that lobbyist was
25 in place for about a year and a half. It was paid for by a consortium of local
26 governments. Last year, that group decided to no longer fund that position.

27
28 Roy stated she's always been confused about the exact role of COG. She
29 asked if the COG's coordination efforts extend beyond transportation issues. Before
30 she was on the County Council, she was involved in a coastal zone management
31 grant group and remembers the COG being involved. Rodgers stated that
32 involvement was a rare instances. Sometimes the community asks the COG to
33 become involved in a project. In some instances, the COG simply acts as a pass-
34 through agency for the grant. That was the situation with the coastal zone
35 management grant. COG worked with the State Department of Ecology and the
36 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to acquire the grant.
37 Most of the funds went out to the program. They may look at an implantation
38 phase of that program. The final project looks like it will be well-respected and lead
39 to some implementation for Birch Bay.

40
41 Roy stated the COG representative was extremely helpful in that program.
42 She asked if the COG is open to talking about those kinds of community activities.
43 Rodgers stated they are. It's not rare to get those kinds of requests.

44
45 Crawford stated he'd like to see an expanded role for COG in doing regional
46 planning, countywide planning, and working with the small cities. Unfortunately,

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1 this County Council doesn't often work with the Lynden City Council, as an
2 example. The COG could play a role in facilitating that type of interaction.

3
4 Desler stated the COG can perform a number of duties in the area of solid
5 waste, law enforcement, and law and justice. However, both the strength and
6 weakness of the COG is that it's a voluntary organization. All the parties have to
7 agree. That's difficult to do.

8
9 Caskey-Schreiber stated she'd like to hear more throughout the year about
10 what the COG is doing. She'd like more regular reporting from the County
11 councilmembers who are involved with COG.

12
13 Desler stated the COG is an incubator in the community for systems and
14 programs. It should continue to do that.

15
16 Rodgers stated staff is always willing to provide reports and presentations to
17 the Council.

18
19 *(Discussion of What-Comm/Council of Governments/Medic One/All Other Non-*
20 *Departmental continued below.)*

21
22 District Court Probation

23
24 Bruce Van Glubt, District Court and Probation Administrator, stated District
25 Court Probation has had a very good year. One reason is because they've made
26 good hiring decisions. The department has been fully staffed the entire year, for
27 the first time in 13 years. Staff solved a significant computer problem. The
28 database now works very quickly. They continue to have specialized caseloads,
29 including domestic violence. They have developed policies and procedures,
30 standardized the frequency of contacts and field visits, and are in the middle of a
31 study to gauge the effectiveness of the unit. The University of Washington is
32 interested in a research project based on his program.

33
34 The department continues to do risk assessment of misdemeanor offenders.
35 The program is organized to identify the low-risk offenders and put them in one
36 caseload, separate from high-risk offenders. They have implemented the substance
37 abuse unit and conducted over 300 evaluations. Five to eight percent of those
38 clients have been indigent.

39
40 They coordinate regular quarterly meetings with the local probation
41 departments and the domestic violence batterer's programs. He is initiating similar
42 meetings with substance abuse providers. The system works better, helps with
43 victim safety, and holds the offender more accountable. He submitted information
44 on district court probations referrals received this year *(on file)*.

45
46 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape four, side B.)*

1 Crawford asked if crimes in Bellingham are listed separately. Van Glubt
2 stated Bellingham and all municipal courts contract with him for probation services.
3

4 Caskey-Schreiber stated the urinalysis (UI) tests increased by 1,000 for 2001
5 to 2002, then increased only minimally in 2003. Van Glubt stated his department
6 collects the sample and ships the sample to the State contracted lab. He doesn't
7 know the reason for the substantial increase between 2001 and 2002. One
8 explanation may be that it became an easier tool to use. The impact of jail
9 overcrowding on his office is that instead of going to jail, people are receiving a
10 probation sentence. That may be another explanation for the increase in UI tests.
11

12 District Court

13

14 Bruce Van Glubt, District Court and Probation Administrator, thanked the
15 Council for the digital recording equipment approved last year. District Court has
16 had a good year, but is struggling. The number of cases filed went up 29 percent
17 from 2001 to 2003, equaling 5,500 new infraction cases. They're very labor
18 intensive. There is a lot of paperwork involved. District Court will bring in over \$2
19 million in current expense revenue. He submitted information (*on file*) on court
20 filings by case type. They have yet to see the full impact of the local 40 percent
21 increase in the State Patrol that was implemented on July 1. He anticipates that as
22 they go into 2004, there will be a large increase in infractions. That same increase
23 will take place if the Sheriff's Office receives new deputies. All the increases in
24 infractions result in the need for more clerical work. The department is processing
25 more paperwork and documents. He's analyzed and optimized the workflow in the
26 department. Staff has aggressively used volunteers. They will exceed last year's
27 revenues by about six percent.
28

29 He asked the Council to approve the administration's recommendation for a
30 full-time position in his office. His staff is having a difficult time answering the
31 phone, is not processing all bankruptcy cases, and people are lined up out the door.
32 They are years behind in closing out cases. He can't absorb any more workload.
33

34 Caskey-Schreiber asked if adding Sheriff's deputies would eventually add to
35 the District Court workload. Van Glubt stated it might. New deputies write a lot of
36 traffic tickets. That's how they get their start. That impacts his office.
37

38 Nelson stated last year they talked about a backlog in fines that were not
39 collected. Van Glubt stated the amnesty program ran for two months last year.
40 They collected about \$130,000 to \$140,000 in revenue they would not have
41 otherwise seen. The court can withdraw any case from collections at any time. To
42 be effective, an amnesty program can only be run every five to seven years.
43

44 Nelson asked about paying tickets online. Van Glubt stated they talked
45 about using credit cards over the phone. They were not able to show that they
46 could bring in more revenue than they would have achieved otherwise. There is
47 still a credit card option.

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1
2 Desler stated they have to consider the effect of adding deputies to other
3 departments. For every additional deputy they add, they have to add \$60,000 to
4 the rest of the law and justice system.

5
6 Crawford asked if the administration included the extra \$120,000 to the
7 budget to accommodate the two new deputies it is recommending. Desler stated
8 the administration needs to add a clerk to District Court. There were 12 people in
9 District Court Probation. Today, if this is approved, there will be 35 people. That is
10 the nature of the system as population increases. The administration looked at
11 other elements of the system. The Council added another prosecutor mid-year last
12 year that continues this year. The Council also added a temporary part time
13 position to the Public Defender's Office.

14
15 Roy stated she would like to see a breakdown of how the \$60,000 is applied
16 to the system. If a higher police presence is in a neighborhood, it will reduce the
17 number of arrests because the increased police presence will reduce crime. She
18 would like to see the impacts to the system from having an increased number of
19 deputies.

20
21 Caskey-Schreiber stated they can't turn their backs on entire communities,
22 such as Kendall, that don't feel safe. If the emergency medical service (EMS) levy
23 passes, they have to look at the entire law and justice system and make an overall
24 system improvement. They have a responsibility to address public safety, which
25 isn't happening in Kendall. There is no respect for law there because there is no
26 law out there. As an elected person, she can't ignore that serious problem.

27
28 What-Comm/Council of Governments/Medic One/All Other Non-Departmental

29
30 *(Continued from above.)*

31
32 Joy Keenan, Whatcom Volunteer Center, stated the volunteer center has
33 almost 350 partner agencies that provide 400 opportunities. They've got 3,500
34 volunteer skills and interests in the database. She appreciated the support the
35 County provides.

36
37
38 **ADJOURN**

39
40 The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

41
42
43
44 _____
45 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

46
47 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

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2
3
4
5
6

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Sam Crawford, Committee Chair