


**WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**BILL ELFO
SHERIFF**



*PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-4078
(360) 778-6600*

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Bill Elfo, Sheriff 
RE: Interlocal Agreement for Inmate Housing with Kittitas County
DATE: October 29, 2021

Enclosed are two (2) originals of an Agreement between Whatcom County and Kittitas County for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

In 2020-2021 we entered into an Agreement with Kittitas County to house some Whatcom County inmates in their facility during a major structural refit of the jail. We are requesting to continue this Agreement during 2022-23. While the construction project is over, we are seeing an increasing number of offenders being booked and remaining in custody far longer than has been the case in the past. This is the result of a combination of the shut-down of Superior Court trials, a significant reduction in plea agreements for offenders in custody and a high and growing population of seriously mentally ill offenders, who, due to symptoms associated with their illness, have to be housed alone. This, coupled with the need to quarantine new bookings due to possible COVID-19 exposure, is stretching housing options to the limit. The Agreement with Kittitas will allow us to move offenders to that facility if needed.

• **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding would come for the Corrections Bureau budget. A request for funds was originally included in the 2021/22 budget request, but was removed due to the effect of COVID restrictions on the jail population. Since that factor appears to have ebbed, we will be submitting a Supplemental Budget request so that funds will be available in case they are needed. This is a fee for service Agreement and the expenditures will vary from year to year, depending on population spikes.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contract**

The price for a bed day for 2021 was \$66.50 and for this Agreement a bed day is \$69.83 for 2022 and \$73.32 for 2023.

Please contact Wendy Jones at extension 6505, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Enl. (2)