



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2025-494

File ID:	AB2025-494	Version:	1	Status:	Adopted
File Created:	06/24/2025	Entered by:	LCumming@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Public Works Department	File Type:	Ordinance		
Assigned to:	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	Final Action:	07/22/2025		
Agenda Date:	07/22/2025	Enactment #:	ORD 2025-038		
Related Files:					

Primary Contact Email: sdraper@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance amending the project budget for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Fund, request no. 1

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

See memo

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
07/08/2025	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler Nay: 0	
07/22/2025	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	
		Aye: 3 Byrd, Donovan, and Buchanan Nay: 0	
07/22/2025	Council	ADOPTED	
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler Nay: 0	

Attachments: Staff Memo, Substitute Staff Memo, Proposed Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-038

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROJECT BASED BUDGET FOR THE LUMMI
ISLAND FERRY REPLACEMENT AND SYSTEM MODERNIZATION FUND,
REQUEST NO. 1**

WHEREAS, ordinance 2023-048 established the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization fund with an initial budget of \$4,237,575 for preliminary engineering, environmental permitting and real estate work; and

WHEREAS, the Replacement of Whatcom Chief & Terminal Modification project is item number 55 on the 2025 Annual Construction Program; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature awarded this project County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (CFCIP) funding of \$10M distributed in \$500k increments over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County has received \$1M in CFCIP funds to date which are held in the Road Fund with another \$500K to be received later this year; and

WHEREAS, these CFCIP funds need to be transferred to the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project fund; and

WHEREAS, all future CFCIP revenues will be deposited directly into the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project fund,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and Modernization Fund is hereby amended by bringing in these CFCIP revenues, and

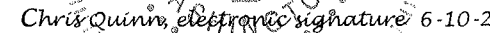
1 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the Lummi
2 Island Ferry Replacement and Modernization Fund is approved as described in
3 Exhibit A with an amended project budget of \$5,737,575.
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11 **ADOPTED** this 22nd day of July, 2025.
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14 ATTEST:

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16 
17 Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council
18


19 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

20 
21 Chris Quinn, electronic signature 6-10-25
22

23 Christopher Quinn
24 Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Kaylee Galloway, Chair of the Council

(X) Approved () Denied

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
Date Signed: July 28, 2025

Supplemental Budget Request

Public Works

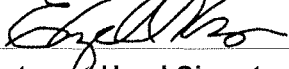
Administration

Suppl ID # 4981

Fund 3919 Cost Center 39191000 Originator: James Lee

Expenditure Type: One-Time Year 1 2025 Add'l FTE ☐ Add'l Space ☐ Priority 1

Name of Request: Lummi Ferry Replacement Amend #1

X 

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	4334.0391	OTA-CRAB County ferry imp prgm	(\$500,000)
	6110 .59510	Regular salaries and wages	\$143,678
	6290 .59510	Applied benefits	\$106,322
	6630 .59510	Professional services	\$1,250,000
	8397.19008011	Transfers in	(\$1,000,000)
	Request Total		\$0

1a. Description of request:

Whatcom County currently operate a vehicle ferry service between Lummi Island and the mainland using the 63-year old ferry, the Whatcom Chief. The Whatcom Chief is well past the age that most ferries continue to operate in a daily service and is at risk of mechanical or structural failure. Therefor it is necessary to replace the Whatcom Chief and complete associated terminal improvements in order to continue the ongoing operation of the Lummi Island ferry service.

The funding source is made up of two components of the County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (CFCIP) grant (County Contract # 202308021), which was issued by the County Road Administrative Board (CRAB). This grant provides the County annual lump-sum payments of \$500K for 20 years, for a grand total of \$20 million by the end of 2043.

During years 2023 and 2024, two annual installments of \$500K were received directly into the Road Fund, with the intention of moving the cash into Ferry Replacement Project's capital project fund when it was created and required this component of the funding, which was anticipated when the project entered the later stages of the preliminary engineering work. The project is now at the stage where it now requires those additional funds to move forward.

The Road Fund will transfer the \$1 million of cash received from CRAB into the Ferry Replacement capital project fund, and the additional \$500K of CFCIP grant funds to be received later in 2025 through the end of the grant award will be placed directly into this fund.

This supplemental budget is to request additional spending authority for expanded preliminary engineering work performed by Public Work in-house staff, and work performed by KPFF, Inc under County Contract #202311040, which includes design and environmental permitting support for the new ferry vessel, modifications the terminal structures to accommodate the larger ferry, upland terminal and operational improvements at the Lummi Island terminal, grant funding administration support, cost estimation, construction phasing, design of permanent passenger only structures at each terminal, and public engagement.

Companion supplemental 4998 creates the operating transfer out in the Road Fund.

1b. Primary customers:

Lummi Island residents

Monday, June 23, 2025

Rpt: Rpt Suppl Regular

Supplemental Budget Request

Public Works

Administration

Suppl ID # 4981

Fund 3919 Cost Center 39191000 Originator: James Lee

2. Problem to be solved:

The Lummi Island Ferry provides the only available transportation service between Lummi Island and the mainland. The Whatcom Chief is aging and at risk of mechanical or structural failure. As the only boat in the ferry fleet, a new boat is necessary to ensure continuity and reliable service.

3a. Options / Advantages:

N/A

3b. Cost savings:

N/A

4a. Outcomes:

A new ferry will be actively providing reliable service to Lummi Island

4b. Measures:

The new ferry will be in service.

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

N/A

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

N/A

6. Funding Source:

There are multiple funding sources for this project including federal DOT, state funds including Move Ahead Washington and County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (C#202308021) and local funds.

Exhibit A

Project Based Budget - Budget Request Tracking Sheet

Project Title: Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and Modernization Project

Project Codes: CRP No. 919008

Project Based Budget Request: No. 1

Duration Requested: 5 yrs (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027)

Budget Account	Project Activity	Current Approved Project Budget	Amended Project Budget Request	New Approved Project Budget
595110	Preliminary Engineering (In-House)	\$588,975	\$250,000	\$838,975
595110	Preliminary Engineering (Consultant)	\$3,398,600	\$1,250,000	\$4,648,600
595110	Contingency For Project	\$125,000		\$125,000
595200	Right of Way	\$125,000		\$125,000
595300	Construction			\$0
595120	Construction Engineering (In-House & Consultant)			\$0
TOTAL		\$4,237,575	\$1,500,000	\$5,737,575

Object Account	Project Funding	Current Approved Project Revenue	Amended Project Revenue Request	New Approved Project Revenue
8397.1903	Local Funds (transfer from the Ferry Fare Capital Surcharge Fund)	\$250,000		\$250,000
4334.0372	State MAW Funds (Reimbursement for preliminary engineering)	\$3,987,575		\$3,987,575
4334.0391	County Ferry Capital Improvement Program (CFCIP)		\$500,000	\$500,000
8397.1900	Operating Transfer In -(CFCIP Funding received in Road Fund)		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
TOTAL		\$4,237,575	\$1,500,000	\$5,737,575

*MAW = Move Ahead Washington