

**WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

BILL ELFO
SHERIFF



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MEMO

To: Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

From: Sheriff Bill Elfo, Director
John Gargett, Deputy Director
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management

Subject: Whatcom County Integrated Public Safety Radio Network
Sumas Mountain Communications Site Lease

Date: March 4, 2021

Enclosed are two originals of the lease between Whatcom County and Washington State Patrol (WSP) for leasing tower access and equipment space at the WSP Sumas Mountain Communications Site.

- Background and Purpose

The Whatcom County Integrated Public Safety Radio Network, used by all first responder agencies county-wide, utilize multiple communications sites to provide coverage for Whatcom County. All tower leases have been previously managed by the Whatcom County Council of Governments through the NWLERN contract, which expired 12/31/2020. Management of all tower leases has reverted to Whatcom County.

The lease for the WSP Communications Site on Sumas Mountain has expired and needs to be renewed. This 10-year lease allows Whatcom County the continued ability to maintain communications for first responders. The costs for this lease are established by Washington State on a cost recovery only basis. Commercial rates could run 10-15x higher on an annual basis.

The performance period for this lease runs from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2030.

- Funding Amount and Source

\$15,304.28 over ten years (\$1,335 for 01/01/2021-12/31/2021, with an annual rate increase of 3%) will be funded by the Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Public Safety Radio System budget.

If you have questions, please contact John Gargett (360-778-7160).