

**ORDINANCE NO.**

**ESTABLISHING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND AND  
ESTABLISHING A BUDGET FOR THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND  
(EMERGENCY ORDINANCE)**

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive has issued a Proclamation of Emergency to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and,

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County Code chapter 2.02.135 provides for an emergency ordinance to become immediately effective when approved by two thirds vote of the County Council and signature of the County Executive; and,

**WHEREAS**, the County Council adopted an initial emergency funding ordinance of \$250,000 in the General Fund on March 10, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, the County Council is considering an additional \$250,000 from the General Fund in Amendment No. 8 of the 2020 Budget on March 24, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, it has become apparent that adequate COVID-19 response will require significantly more resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the County needs a special revenue fund to account for restricted and committed revenues which will be used for the expanded coronavirus response; and,

**WHEREAS**, the additional \$250,000 being considered in Amendment No. 8 will be transferred to this new special revenue fund; and,

**WHEREAS**, the County is also anticipating a \$250,000 contribution from the City of Bellingham; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Executive is also proposing a \$4 million interfund cash flow loan from the Public Utilities Improvement Fund (EDI Fund); and,

**FINDINGS:** The spread of the COVID-19 virus presents a continuing threat to the health and safety of the citizens of Whatcom County. The County needs additional budget appropriation and a separate fund to adequately account for resources committed to effectively respond to this crisis,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that a new special revenue fund is hereby established titled the "COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund",

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that the fund is approved with an initial budget of \$4,500,000 as presented in attached Exhibit A.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Buchanan, Chair of Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

( ) Approved      ( ) Denied

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Supplemental Budget Request**

Status: Pending

**Non-Departmental**

Suppl ID # 3046	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Cost Center</b>	<b>Originator:</b> M Caldwell
	Year 2	2020	Add'l FTE <input type="checkbox"/>
			Priority 1

**Name of Request:** COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund budget

**X**  3/30/2020  
**Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)** **Date**

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	2241	Interfund Loans Payable	(\$4,000,000)
	4337.1001	City of Bham Support	(\$250,000)
	6610	Contractual Services	\$4,500,000
	8301.4530	Op Trf In - Non-Departmental	(\$250,000)
	<b>Request Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>

**1a. Description of request:**

Funding will be used to provide supplies and contracts needed to address life safety issues in response to the COVID-19 coronavirus emergency in Whatcom County.

**1b. Primary customers:**

Citizens of Whatcom County

**2. Problem to be solved:**

Whatcom County needs to be able to take adequate actions to stem the tide of COVID-19 in order to protect our citizens.

**3a. Options / Advantages:**

There are no other options.

**3b. Cost savings:**

Funding from the federal government in the form of FEMA assistance is eventually expected to offset 75% of the costs.

**4a. Outcomes:**

Whatcom County will be successful in limiting the spread of COVID-19 countywide as soon as possible.

**4b. Measures:**

Decrease in the number and eventual elimination of new cases

**5a. Other Departments/Agencies:**

Unified Command, City of Bellingham, State Military Department, Health Department, Emergency Management

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

**6. Funding Source:**

Temporary Interfund Loan from EDI Fund, General Fund and City of Bellingham contributions. The current EDI Cash balance is \$15,021,000.