

PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCTION DATE: September 10, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROJECT BASED BUDGET FOR THE
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN ROAD REPAIR PROJECT FUND**

WHEREAS, In November of 2021 an atmospheric river storm event caused a significant road damage to the Lookout Mountain road system (LM-2000); and

WHEREAS the road provides access for land managers and provides access to county owned tower sites which are leased to other entities; and,

WHEREAS, emergency repairs were made to stabilize the road and reestablish access to tower sites; and,

WHEREAS, the first phase of making long-term repairs to the road include final engineering services, specifications, engineer's cost estimate and permitting services; and,

WHEREAS, the first phase of repairs will be funded by a FEMA grant of \$68,739 and a REET II transfer of \$195,861; and,

WHEREAS, Section 6.80 of the Whatcom County Home Rule Charter allows for project-based capital budget appropriation ordinances that lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three (3) years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established effective immediately, titled Lookout Mountain Road Repair Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures of the improvements described above.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the titled Lookout Mountain Road Repair Fund is approved with an initial project budget of \$264,600 as described in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approved by email/B Waldron/A Tan

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

() Approved () Denied

Date Signed: _____

Exhibit A

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Parks & Recreation

Suppl ID # 4715 Fund Cost Center Originator: Dave Bramer

Expenditure Type: One-Time Year 2 2024 Add'l FTE Add'l Space Priority 1

Name of Request: Lookout Mountain LM 2000 Final Engineering Plans

X



Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

9/20/24
Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	6190	Direct Billing Rate	\$10,000
	6630	Professional Services	\$250,000
	7190	Other Miscellaneous	\$4,600
	8301.001	Op Tnsfr In - General Fund	(\$68,739)
	8301.324	Op Transfer In-REET II	(\$195,861)
	Request Total		\$0

1a. Description of request:

This request provides budget and spending authority for engineering and permitting services for the repair of the LM-2000 road system, including the LM-2000 and LM-2100 roads. Work includes: final engineering services, specifications, and engineer's cost estimate, permitting services, and construction administration support for the project. This project's funding was previously approved under Ordinance # 2023-014 - AB2023-185. This supplemental budget request also includes anticipated direct billing costs for park staff to administer and manage the project and must be charged directly to the project.

1b. Primary customers:

The citizens of Whatcom County, the over 40,000 annual recreationists that visit Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve, Department staff who use the roads for management activities, EMS, and leaseholders.

2. Problem to be solved:

As a result of the November 2021 atmospheric river storm event (WCSO #21-4321), a significant road washout occurred on the LM-2000 road within the Lookout Mountain Forest Preserve. A debris flow moved down the stream channel and blocked the opening of a 6' culvert under the roadway. The tributary overflowed the roadway and eroded the full road prism, exposing a buried high voltage electrical transmission line and prevented access to multiple telecom tower sites at the top of Lookout Mountain. The towers support a variety of EMS, Federal Government, and other telecom services. The road system also provides valuable access for land managers and recreationists. Additional roadway damage resulting from the storm event include several small slope failures and increased slope instability to an area damaged during a previous storm event (LM-2000/LM-2100 damage from event WCSO #18-4615). Whatcom County initiated emergency repairs, reestablished stream flow through the culvert, and restored access to the tower sites. These repairs, though stable, are not considered long-term repairs. Though the 6' culvert is considered appropriately sized for stormwater volumes, the large amounts of debris that flow down the stream channel have shown the ability of overwhelming the culvert. Work not critical to reestablishing access to the telecommunications towers was deferred and not included in the emergency repairs. Additional repairs are needed to support long-term functionality of the LM-2000 road. FEMA matching funds have been received to address engineering needs for the damage from the previous storm event and the County has applied for additional FEMA funding for the additional engineering needs resulting from the November 2021 storm event. This budget supplemental provides additional funding to complete engineering and permitting services, which includes bid ready construction plans and specifications, a revised engineer's construction cost estimate, project permit support, project bid support,

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contract administration, and construction observation.

3a. Options / Advantages:

Options considered include:

1. Do no additional work beyond the completed emergency repairs. The LM-2000 road is open and useable at this time but is at risk of additional damage should any of the minor slope failures move again. The LM-2000 road is also at further risk due to the undersized 6' culvert.
2. Contract for final design, engineering, permitting, and construction observation services to develop bid ready construction plans. This option provides critical information for decision making, budgeting, permitting, and allows the County to advertise for bidding construction services during the watershed work window of 2025

Option 2 is the preferred option as it completes the necessary permit drawings, provides cost estimates for budgeting, and initiates the permit process for construction activities.

3b. Cost savings:

This is a planning request and no ongoing cost savings are expected as a result. By using dedicated federal matching funds helps offset impacts to limited local funding sources. Parks anticipates that the project will also be eligible for additional FEMA funding for construction costs.

4a. Outcomes:

Permitting is complete, bid documents are provided and the project is ready to be published for bid.

4b. Measures:

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

Whatcom County Planning and Development Services is responsible for issuing permits for the project.

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

Unknown at this time.

6. Funding Source:

REET II, FEMA