



## Whatcom County Public Defender's Office

*We listen. We care. We fight.*

Starck Follis, Director

Maialisa Vanyo, Chief Deputy

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Date: November 21, 2025

To: Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive

Whatcom County Council Members

From: Julie Wiles, Office Administrator, Public Defender's Office

RE: Contract regarding Office of Public Defense (OPD) Grant (Chapter 10.101 RCW) for use in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2026

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### **Background and Purpose:**

I have enclosed two originals of the subject contract and the related information regarding this subject grant that we have been receiving now each year since 2006 for the purpose of improving public defense, for your review and approval. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Finance Department have both approved and signed the contract information sheet. We understand that this contract will have to go through the County Council for approval.

Historically the Office of Public Defense (OPD) has dispersed this 10.101 funding one time per year on a calendar year basis. Because OPD is a State agency they are now realigning these 10.101 disbursements to the Washington State fiscal year (July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>), starting in July of 2026. This proposed contract will span the first 6 months of 2026 to bridge into a State fiscal year cycle. Beginning in July of 2026, contracts will have an annual term beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on June 30<sup>th</sup> in alignment with the Washington State fiscal year schedule.

Once you have approved, presuming everything is in proper form, I'll mail it to the Office of Public Defense for their signature. Please let me know if you need any further information or if you have any questions. Thank you.