

PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCTION DATE: September 9, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PROJECT BASED BUDGET FOR THE JAIL
REENTRY IMPROVMENTS PROJECT FUND**

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Jail must improve infrastructure to accommodate modern reentry services and health care for its population; and,

WHEREAS, identified needs include enhanced video surveillance, improvement of WIFI infrastructure, inmate medical monitoring, enhanced inmate tracking and security checks, and update of key control systems; and,

WHEREAS, Whatcom County has been awarded \$2.5 million dollars from the Washington State Health Care Authority to provide essential, pre-release services for individuals leaving incarceration; and,

WHEREAS, the County has received \$1.1 million in grant dollars to date; and,

WHEREAS, \$710,000 of grant dollars are available to accomplish these improvements; 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 the Jail Reentry Improvements Project 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 Jail Reentry Improvements Project Fund is approved with an initial project budget of \$710,000 as described in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

Administrative Services

Facilities Management

Suppl ID # 5060

Fund

Cost Center

Originator: Rob Ney

Expenditure Type: One-Time

Year 1 2025

Add'l FTE ☐

Add'l Space ☐

Priority 1

Name of Request: Grant Acctpt-Improv to Jail Improv HC Auth Award

X

[Signature]

8/27/25

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	4334.0466	DSHS-HCA-reentry	(\$710,000)
	6190	Direct billing rate	\$50,000
	6320	Office and operating supplies	\$100,000
	6510	Tools and equipment	\$100,000
	6520	Software	\$20,000
	6610	Contractual services	\$300,000
	7400	Machinery and Equipment	\$140,000
	Request Total		\$0

1a. Description of request:

The County is contracted with the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to provide essential services for individuals while in or leaving a carceral facility. The Whatcom County Jail is being paid as a contractor to provide these services, and has received funding from the HCA for technological needs in order to provide the services. Whatcom County is specifically authorized to install or contract for the following improvements

- 1) Video Surveillance for Inmates on the first floor of the Jail where high risk inmates are closely monitored for safety.
- 2) Installation of an improved WIFI system in order to create and improve data-exchange and provide pre-release services including health related social needs. The improved WIFI system will provide the ability to support communication with community providers and Medicaid billing.
- 3) Inmate Medical Monitoring
- 4) Inmate Tracking and Security Checks
- 5) Key Control Systems

This funding has been approved by Council (AB2024-471) and a contract with HCA has been approved under Contract 202407027 in July of 2024. The total amount of the funding was \$2,500,000. Staff is requesting \$710,000 in budget authority for the tasks listed above.

The intention is to create a fund that Facilities can use to accomplish the prescribed tasks and the Sheriff's Office can use as well.

These improvements will require additional on-going expenses to the County:

- Additional annual integration costs for video surveillance
- Additional data storage costs for video surveillance
- Subscription fees for both the inmate tracking system and the inmate health monitoring system
- Additional end of life replacement costs when these systems need to be replaced

1b. Primary customers:

Jail Staff and Inmates that will benefit from these improvements.

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2. Problem to be solved:

The HCA Reentry Waiver provides new funding intended to support correctional healthcare and reentry functions. The Sheriff's Office and Facilities Management must have budget authority in 2025 to utilize these funds and complete purchases tied to milestone requirements. Without this authority, the County will be unable to access the awarded funds or move forward with the needed improvements.

The jail is a concrete building which makes providing adequate WIFI difficult. This work will allow improvements to this infrastructure for the purpose of inmate medical care.

3a. Options / Advantages:

This is a necessary effort for medical care and re-entry services of the Jail Facility. These improvements will enhance our medical care and re-entry services and abilities in the Jail.

Establishing a dedicated project budget is the best option because it allows the County use award funding

3b. Cost savings:

This is a fully funded project under an agreement with the Washington State Health Care Authority.

4a. Outcomes:

The project will be completed by the end of 2025.

4b. Measures:

It is desired to have most of these improvements installed before the end of 2025

When the new improvements are installed within budget.

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

It will only impact those adjacent during construction.

Noise during construction.

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

Rob Ney, Caleb Erickson

6. Funding Source:

Washington State Health Care Authority Reentry Waiver Award