

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE LUMMI ISLAND FERRY REPLACEMENT AND
MODERNIZATION FUND AND ESTABLISHING A PROJECT BASED BUDGET
FOR THE LUMMI ISLAND FERRY REPLACEMENT AND MODERNIZATION
PROJECT; CRP #919008**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County currently operates a vehicle ferry service between Lummi Island and the mainland with the 60-year-old Whatcom Chief; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom Chief is well past the age that most ferries continue to operate in daily service and is at risk of mechanical or structural failure, therefore necessitating replacement to continue the ongoing operation of the Lummi Island Ferry service; and

WHEREAS, the replacement of the ferry will require reconfiguration of the terminals; and

WHEREAS, the Replacement of Whatcom Chief & Terminal Modification project is item F1 on the 2023-2028 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and item number 44 on the 2023 Annual Construction Program, with anticipated costs exceeding \$50.3M and construction of the boat beginning in 2026; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation awarded this project a RAISE grant of \$25M; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature awarded this project County Ferry Capital Improvement Program funding of \$10M distributed in \$500k increments over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature awarded this project WSDOT Move Ahead Washington funding of \$5.3M; and

WHEREAS, WSDOT Local Programs has authorized \$3,987,575 of the \$5.3M Move Ahead Washington funding for this project; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County will be responsible for the remaining expenses, anticipated at over \$10M; and

1 **WHEREAS**, due to the complexities of the project, it is prudent to add \$250,000
2 of local funds to cover unanticipated expenses that are not grant eligible, such as
3 right-of-way funds; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, funds collected for this purpose are available in the Ferry Fare
6 Capital Surcharge Fund for this purpose; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Section 6.80 of the Whatcom County Home Rule Charter allows for
9 project-based capital budget appropriation ordinances that lapse when the project
10 has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has
11 been made for three (3) years,
12

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that a
14 new fund is hereby established, titled Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and
15 Modernization Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and
16 expenditures of the improvement project described above, and
17

18 **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the Lummi
19 Island Ferry Replacement and Modernization Fund is approved as described in
20 Exhibit A with an initial project budget of \$4,237,575.
21

22 **ADOPTED** this ____ day of _____, 2023.
23

24
25 ATTEST:
26
27

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

28 _____
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Chair of the Council

29
30 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

() Approved () Denied

31
32 Approved by 7/12/23 email/C. Quinn/R. Rydel
33 Christopher Quinn
34 Civil Deputy Prosecutor
35

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
Date Signed: _____

Exhibit A

Project Based Budget - Budget Request Tracking Sheet

Project Title: **Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and Modernization Project**

Project Codes: **CRP No. 919008**

Project Based Budget Request: **Initial Request**

Duration Requested: **5 yrs (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027)**

Budget Account	Project Activity	Current Approved Project Budget	Amended Project Budget Request	New Approved Project Budget
595110	Preliminary Engineering (In-House)	\$588,975		\$588,975
595110	Preliminary Engineering (Consultant)	\$3,398,600		\$3,398,600
595110	Contingency For Project	\$125,000		\$125,000
595200	Right of Way	\$125,000		\$125,000
595300	Construction			\$0
595120	Construction Engineering (In-House & Consultant)			\$0
TOTAL		\$4,237,575	\$0	\$4,237,575

Object Account	Project Funding	Current Approved Project Revenue	Amended Project Revenue Request	New Approved Project Revenue
8301.139	Local Funds (transfer from Road Fund)	\$250,000		\$250,000
4334.0372	State MAW Funds (Reimbursement for preliminary engineering)	\$3,987,575		\$3,987,575
TOTAL		\$4,237,575	\$0	\$4,237,575

*MAW = Move Ahead Washington

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Public Works

Engineering Bridge & Hydraulic

Suppl ID # 4037

Fund

Cost Center

Originator: Randy Rydel



Expenditure Type: One-Time

Year 1 2023

Add'l FTE

Add'l Space

Priority 1

Name of Request: Ferry Replacement and Modernization PBB Creation

X

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	4334.0372	Arterial Preservation	(\$3,987,575)
	6110.595110	Regular Salaries & Wages	\$332,750
	6290.595110	Applied Benefits	\$256,225
	6630.595120	Professional Services	\$125,000
	6630.595110	Professional Services	\$3,398,600
	6630.595110	Professional Services	\$125,000
	8301.139	Operating Transfer In	(\$250,000)
	Request Total		\$0

1a. Description of request:

Whatcom County currently operates a vehicle ferry service between Lummi Island and the mainland using the 60-year-old ferry, the Whatcom Chief. The Whatcom Chief is well past the age that most ferries continue to operate in a daily service and is at risk of mechanical or structural failure. Therefore it is necessary to replace the Whatcom Chief and upgrade the terminals in order to continue the ongoing operation of the Lummi Island ferry service.

This project will replace the 60-year-old ferry with an electric-battery hybrid ferry that provides service to and from the rural community of Lummi Island. The project also includes adjusting the terminal structures to accommodate the new ferry, installing electrical charging infrastructure and making operational and upland modifications to preserve and enhance the functionality of the ferry system.

2022 estimates anticipate the project costing \$50.3M and construction of the boat beginning in 2026. To date, grant funding of \$40.3M has been awarded to this project. At this time we have obligated \$3,987,575 of our grant funding.

1b. Primary customers:

Lummi Island residents

2. Problem to be solved:

The Lummi Island Ferry provides the only available transportation service between Lummi Island and the mainland. The Whatcom Chief ferry is aging and at risk of mechanical or structural failure. As the only boat in the ferry fleet, a new boat is necessary to ensure continuity and reliability of service.

3a. Options / Advantages:

In 2018, the Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee (LIFAC) completed their alternatives analysis for meeting current and future ridership recommending that the Whatcom Chief be replaced with a 34-vehicle 150-passenger ferry.

3b. Cost savings:

N/A

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Public Works

Engineering Bridge & Hydraulic

Suppl ID # 4037

Fund

Cost Center

Originator: Randy Rydel

4a. Outcomes:

A new ferry will be actively providing reliable service to Lummi Island.

4b. Measures:

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

There will be many collaborations with local, state, and federal governments to accomplish this project.

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

6. Funding Source:

Move Ahead Washington State Grant Funds and \$250,000 collected from the \$1 ferry capital surcharge.