

**WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

BILL ELFO
SHERIFF



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-6600

TO: Jack Louws, County Executive
FROM: Bill Elfo, Sheriff
RE: Interlocal Agreement for Inmate Housing with Kittitas County
DATE: November 11, 2019

Enclosed are two (2) originals of an Agreement between Whatcom County and Kittitas County for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This Agreement replaces the one (originally approved by council in 2017) with Yakima County. Yakima County has decided not to renew our Agreement and has given notice that they will discontinue housing Whatcom County inmates at the end of December 2019.

Kittitas County has agreed to contract with us for the same purpose of providing adequate and safe housing for offenders committed by the courts to jail.

Whatcom County is planning major capital projects intended to mitigate serious structural, security and life-safety systems deficiencies in the downtown jail. Engineering findings report that these repairs are necessary to keep the facility functional for the next five years. The County Facilities department will be overseeing the work. While a work schedule and plan have not yet been finalized, it is anticipated that it will be necessary to close portions of offender housing to facilitate the work. Consequently, it is anticipated that there will be a significant reduction in available jail bed capacity at the downtown jail. This Agreement will also facilitate housing inmates during unanticipated spikes in the jail population or the failure of existing infrastructure and life-safety systems.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This is a fee for service Agreement and the expenditures will vary from year to year, depending on the schedule and work plan for mitigating deficiencies, failures of existing life-safety systems and population spikes. A supplemental budget request was developed and approved and funding comes from a source approved by the Executive's Office.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contract**

Yakima charged \$63.65 per day and Kittitas will charge \$66.50 per day.

Please contact Laurie Reid at extension 6506, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.