



MEMO:

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive

THROUGH: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

DATE: June 20, 2023

RE: **Additional Clarification regarding non-jail expenditures**

Councilmembers and the community have asked for additional clarification on non-jail expenditures that would occur concurrent with the construction of a new jail.

The administration has prepared the following information for Council consideration.

Draft Policy Language Directing Expenditures

The Administration has prepared this draft language for Council consideration, which could be included in either the Ordinance or Implementation Plan. If placed in the Ordinance, the Administration recommends adding an additional Section which could be titled "Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Investments."

1. Whatcom County will make initial investments – using a combination of proceeds from this sales and use tax and other local, state, and federal funds – in Justice Project Implementation Plan projects that increase access to behavioral health services, re-entry services, supportive housing, diversion, and other incarceration reduction programs. Investments will begin in 2023 and occur over a four to six year period concurrent with the planning and construction of a new jail facility.
2. The Whatcom County Council requests the Whatcom County Executive to coordinate with the Whatcom County cities, the Washington State legislature, community-based providers, the Finance and Operations Advisory Board, and the IPRTF/LJC to maximize resources, build capacity, and align plans in order to accomplish such projects.
3. The Whatcom County Council shall provide sufficient budgetary authority to accomplish such projects and requests the Executive to include such expenses in relevant biennial and supplemental budgets and budget amendments as appropriate.

Draft List of Year 1 Investments

The following are details of the non-jail Year 1 investments identified in the draft Implementation Plan. This information is provided for additional clarity on the initial investments.

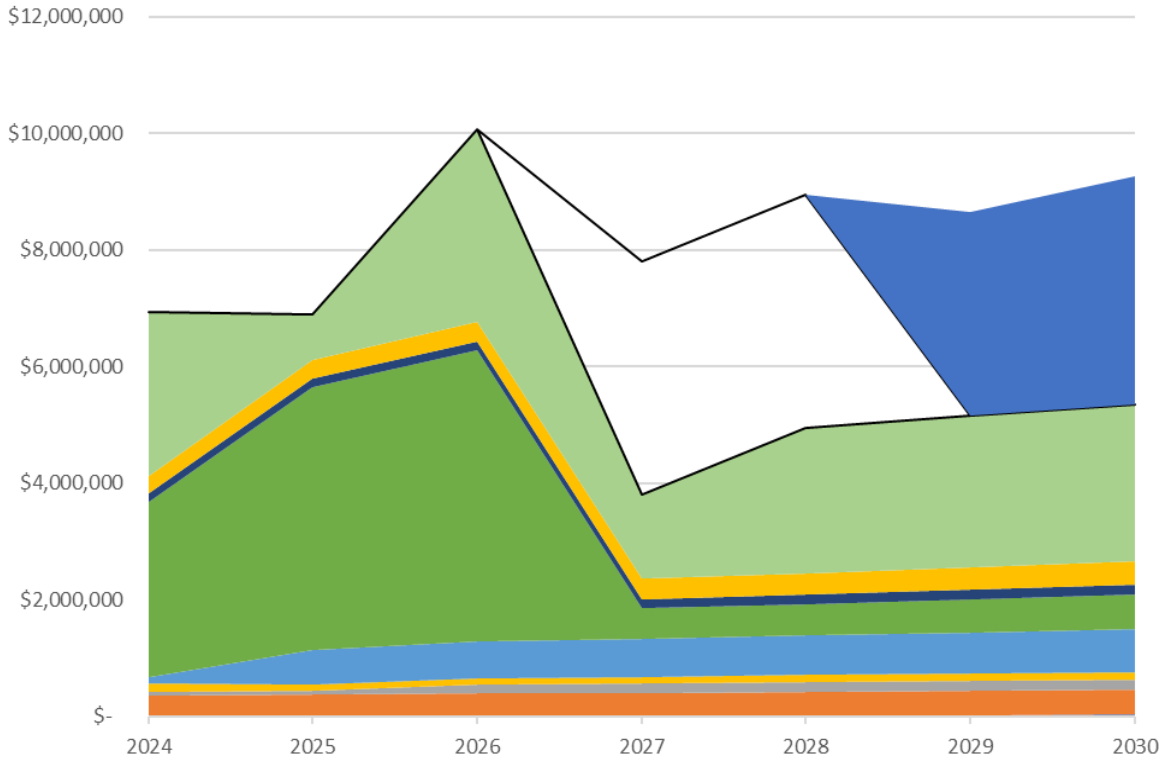
- a. Provide the staffing and community stipend resources necessary to establish a Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee. (Project 1)

- b. Provide the staffing resources necessary to establish a Finance and Operations Justice Project Advisory Board and negotiate an interlocal agreement with Whatcom County cities, as outlined in Section 5.1, to govern the distribution of this sales and use tax revenue. (Project 2)
- c. Hire a Criminal Justice Informatics Specialist and Application Administrator to collect data to measure progress toward desired outcomes and develop a criminal justice data dashboard. (Project 3)
- d. Address workforce challenges in behavioral health services through funding for partnership, training, and advocacy efforts. (Project 4)
- e. Provide funding and staff support to build systems to facilitate communication and coordination between organizations through partnerships, referral pathways, and software solutions. (Project 5)
- f. Provide staffing resources to establish proper screening and assessment for the Mental Health Sentencing Alternative and to expand mental health court. (Project 6)
- g. Increase the capacity of effective existing programs to divert people from incarceration through investments in expanded therapeutic court access and expansion of the GRACE program. (Project 6)
- h. Fund and provide staffing resources for the construction of a 23-hour Crisis Relief Center, including initiating pre-design work, budgeting all necessary capital funding to complete the project, and issuing a Request for Proposals for an operator or owner of such facility. (Project 7)
- i. Provide adequate staffing resources to participate in regional and state conversations and assessments related to additional inpatient treatment facilities, seek provider partnerships, and apply for state capital funding as appropriate. (Project 9)
- j. Provide funding for staffing and partnerships to increase transportation from detention and treatment to safe destinations. (Project 10)
- k. Hire three additional jail-based staff to increase re-entry services and ensure a smooth transition from jail to community upon release. (Project 11)
- l. Hire a consultant to assess supportive housing needs, gaps, and necessary funding supports, including outreach to the Nooksack Tribe and Lummi Nation and provide funding to fill gaps in staffing and equipment for existing supportive housing providers. (Project 12)
- m. Issue a Request for Proposals with no less than \$2,000,000 in capital funding to expand the number of small supportive housing options for people who are involved, or at high risk of involvement, with the criminal legal system. (Project 12)
- n. Provide the staffing resources necessary to identify and assess surplus public property that can be made available for supportive housing. (Project 12)
- o. Provide staffing resources and funding to promote the timely resolution of court cases and reduce the number of people held in detention pretrial and the length of time they are held, assess additional actions that can be taken to reduce and expedite cases, promote the adoption of the Pretrial Risk Assessment as appropriate, and provide for coordination amongst criminal justice departments. (Project 13)
- p. Hire a contractor to develop a prosecutorial diversion and/or competency restoration pilot program and provide the staffing resources necessary to advocate to the state legislature for the funding of such a program. (Project 14)
- q. Provide the staffing resources necessary to advocate for state funding and policy for diversion and pathways for competency restoration. (Project 14)
- r. Provide the staffing resources necessary to advocate for submission and funding of a state Medicaid waiver for jail-based health services. (Project 15)

Draft Graph of Non-Jail Investments

The below graph shows initial non-jail projected spending, including spending from the proposed tax and other local, state, and federal funds.

Non-Jail Implementation Plan Expenditures 2024-2030



- Additional sales tax revenue for Implementation Plan projects
- Project 14. Advocacy for state legislative priorities
- Project 12. Assess and fund supportive housing capital projects
- Project 11. Bolster re-entry services by hiring additional Re-entry Specialists
- Project 10. Increase transportation services for people leaving jail/treatment
- Project 7. Design and build Crisis Relief Center
- Project 6. Expanded mental health court and new capacity in existing diversion programs
- Project 5. Build systems to facilitate communication and coordination between organizations
- Project 4. Address workforce shortages in behavioral health services
- Project 3. Data collection, monitoring and presentation
- Project 1. Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee