

**WHATCOM COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT PROBATION**
Whatcom County Courthouse
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 401
Bellingham, WA 98225-4081



MATTHEW S. ELICH
Judge

ANGELA ANDERSON
Judge

BRUCE VAN GLUBT
Administrator

ANTHONY PARISE
Commissioner

JAKE WIEBUSCH
Probation Manager

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Bruce Van Glubt, District Court and Probation Administrator

RE: 2023-2025 Contract to Provide Probation Services to the City of Blaine

DATE: December 19, 2022

Enclosed is one (1) originals of the contract for Whatcom County to provide probation services, for your review and signature. Blaine has indicated that only an electronic copy is needed for their records.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County District Court Probation has been providing probation services to the cities of Bellingham, Everson, Lynden and Sumas for approximately 50 years. Services have been provided to Blaine for approximately 15 years.

There are number of benefits to consolidating resources for probation service among the jurisdictions, including:

- A higher level of service to all of the judges and courts
- Consistent monitoring of client compliance with court ordered conditions.
- Stable, reliable and well-trained base of employees that provides for staffing specialized courts, including Mental Health Court, Family Justice Court, and specific domestic violence calendars.
- The ability to create specialized caseloads that include a Pretrial Unit, a Behavioral Health Unit, and a Domestic Violence Unit.
- The ability to hire staff with specialized education, skills and experience, such as certified mental health professionals, substance use disorder professionals, and other who are certified pretrial specialists, and certified in MRT and DVMRT.

In addition, the department is able to provide programing that would otherwise leave gaps in the Sequential Intercept Model that is supported by the Incarceration Prevention Reduction Task Force. Specific services the department provides include:

- The Electronic Equipment Program for both pre and postconviction cases
- Domestic Violence Perpetrator Opportunity for Treatment Services (DVPOTS) funding

- Domestic Violence High Risk Unit
- Specialized courts
- Text message reminder program for 7 courts

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This contract requires that each city pay the actual per case cost of providing probation services.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contract**

SHB 1294 requires that the Presiding Judge of each jurisdiction sign the contract.