



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010

Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2026-102

File ID:	AB2026-102	Version:	1	Status:	Adopted
File Created:	01/20/2026	Entered by:	MMiterko@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Finance Division	File Type:	Ordinance		
Assigned to:	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee			Final Action:	02/10/2026
Agenda Date:	02/10/2026			Enactment #:	ORD 2026-008

Related Files:

Primary Contact Email: atan@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 10

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Requests appropriation of \$2,360,000 to fund the validation phase of the project including confirmation of scope, operational needs, site feasibility and environmental review, establishment of budget and schedule, and wetland mitigation for a total project budget of \$21,158,524.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
01/27/2026	Council	INTRODUCED	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee
		Aye: 5 Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon	
		Nay: 2 Elenbaas, and Stremier	
02/10/2026	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	
		Aye: 6 Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremier	
		Nay: 1 Elenbaas	
02/10/2026	Council	ADOPTED	
		Aye: 6 Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremier	

Nay: 1 Elenbaas

Attachments: Proposed Ordinance, Supplemental Request, Notice of Action Proposed on 1.27.2026

PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCTION DATE: January 27, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-008

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROJECT BUDGET FOR THE
NEW PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND JUSTICE FACILITY, REQUEST NO. 10**

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2013-003 established the project budget for a new public health, safety and justice facility construction project, and

WHEREAS, voters approved the referendum necessary to fund a new facility proposed in Ordinance 2023-039; and

WHEREAS, funds expended to date have been spent on site acquisition, permitting, community collaboration, wetland mitigation, and related consulting contracts; and

WHEREAS, additional expenditure authority is needed to progress through the validation phase of the project which includes confirmation of scope, refinement of operational needs, advancement of site feasibility and environmental review, and establishment of budget and schedule frameworks before entering full design; and

WHEREAS, validation activities are projected to be completed by July of 2026; and

WHEREAS, additional expenditure authority is also needed for wetland and mitigation work as it relates to the validation phase of the project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that Ordinance 2013-003 is hereby amended by adding \$2,360,000 of expenditure authority to the current amended project expenditure budget of \$18,798,524, for a total amended project expenditure budget of \$21,158,524, as described in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this 10th day of February, 2026.

ATTEST:


Cathy Halka
Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approved by email/B Waldron/A Tan
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kaylee Galloway
Kaylee Galloway, Chair of the Council

Approved () Denied

Satpal Sidhu
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Date: 2.11.26

EXHIBIT A

NEW HEALTH, SAFETY AND JUSTICE FACILITY FUND 3502

Account	Description	Current Amended Project Budget	Amendment #10 to Ord. 2013-003	Total Amended Project Budget
Expenditures				
6190	Direct Billing Rate	\$900,000	\$0	\$900,000
6630	Professional Services	\$6,945,789	\$2,360,000	\$9,305,789
7210	Intergov Professional Services	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
7320	Land	\$7,493,491	\$0	\$7,493,491
7380	Other Improvements	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000
8597	Operating Transfer Out	\$1,949,244	\$0	\$1,949,244
		\$18,798,524	\$2,360,000	\$21,158,524
Revenues				
4313	Special purpose tax	\$7,596,000	\$0	\$7,596,000
4337	City of Bellingham tax revenue	\$2,574,000	\$0	\$2,574,000
4337	City of Blaine tax revenue	\$169,000	\$0	\$169,000
4337	City of Everson tax revenue	\$84,000	\$0	\$84,000
4337	City of Ferndale tax revenue	\$438,000	\$0	\$438,000
4337	City of Lynden tax revenue	\$443,000	\$0	\$443,000
4337	City of Nooksack tax revenue	\$42,000	\$0	\$42,000
4337	City of Sumas tax revenue	\$49,000	\$0	\$49,000
8397	Operating Transfer In - Gen Fund	\$2,093,491	\$0	\$2,093,491
8397	Op Trf In - Gen Fund (Not Budgeted)	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
8397	Operating Transfer In - Jail Fund	\$2,700,000	\$0	\$2,700,000
8397	Operating Transfer In - REET I	\$2,300,000	\$0	\$2,300,000
		\$21,488,491	\$0	\$21,488,491