

WHATCOM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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Erik Sigmar

ASST. CHIEF CRIMINAL DEPUTY

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Gordon Jenkins
Kacie Emerick
Jesse Corkern
Evan Sterk
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APPELLATE DEPUTIES

Kimberly Thulin
Hilary Thomas

ADMINISTRATOR

Louise Trapp

MEMO TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Louise Trapp, Administrative Manager
DATE: September 12, 2023
RE: State Dept of Commerce - Victim/Witness Assistance Grant

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and the State Department of Commerce for your review and signature:

- Background and Purpose:**
District Court Prosecutors handle a large share of serious domestic violence cases, and it is the only court at the county that facilitates supervision of domestic violence offenders on probation. The legislature requires prosecutors to keep victims informed and to provide emotional support for victims of violence and sex crimes, including having the advocate present at defense interviews and judicial proceedings (R.C.W. 7.69.030). Effective prosecution depends on cooperation from victims of crime. Staffing the position is absolutely necessary to ensure the health and well-being of the community and victims of domestic violence.
- Funding Amount and Source:**
Funding for this grant award amount will not exceed \$60,461 and is provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce. These funds will be included in the 2024 Budget and the County agrees to pay for the remaining \$ 18,450.00 to cover a portion of the position’s salary and benefits expenses. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

- **Differences Between Previous Contract:**

The Prosecutors Office has received this same grant in previous years with no changes to the SFY2024.

* This award amount is 100% State funded with no Federal funds included in total amount.

Please contact Louise Trapp, Administrative Manager at 360-778-5716 (ltrapp@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.