

**Whatcom County
Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee**

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



Action Summary

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026
1 PM**

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2:00 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR
CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2026-291](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 5.04.080, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Oversight Board, and Section 5.04.085, EMS Technical Advisory Board, to change the membership of the EMS Oversight Board and the EMS Technical Advisory Board

SUBSTITUTE RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S)

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

MOTION 1

Motion approved to amend the Revised Substitute Ordinance as Amended in Council 4.14.26, section C (1)(b)(x) of Exhibit A to strike "fire and" so that it reads:

Establishing a process and timeline for an independent external review and evaluation of the EMS Levy, EMS Levy Plan, and the countywide EMS

MOTION 2

Motion approved to amend the Revised Substitute Ordinance as Amended in Council 4.14.26 to delete the previously amended section C (1)(b)(x) of Exhibit A and the preceding "and."

2. [AB2026-340](#) Resolution establishing a preliminary planning budget cap, affirming governing commitments, and providing recommendations to the administration from the Whatcom County Council on the capital construction of the Whatcom County Jail and Behavioral Care Center

SUBSTITUTE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S)

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

MOTION 1

Motion approved to amend the second to last resolved statement so that it reads:

Request the IPRTF/Law and Justice Council (LJC) to develop a minimum of two financially viable pathways to achieve the 50% floor under current and projected market conditions (considering city contribution terms, revenue growth assumptions, project phasing, bond timing, and the role of excess revenue above conservative baselines), and to report those pathways to the County Council no later than October 2026; and

MOTION 2

Motion approved to add a third bullet point to the second to last resolved statement which reads:

Request that the Sheriff present to the County Council, County Executive, and the cities definitions regarding booking restrictions.

Items Added by Revision

Other Business

Adjournment