



# Whatcom County

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

## Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2021-310

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<b>File ID:</b>	AB2021-310	<b>Version:</b>	1	<b>Status:</b>	Adopted
<b>File Created:</b>	05/20/2021	<b>Entered by:</b>	MCaldwel@co.whatcom.wa.us		
<b>Department:</b>	Finance Division	<b>File Type:</b>	Ordinance		
<b>Assigned to:</b>	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee			<b>Final Action:</b>	06/15/2021
<b>Agenda Date:</b>	06/15/2021			<b>Enactment #:</b>	ORD 2021-036

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Primary Contact Email: [mcaldwel@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:mcaldwel@co.whatcom.wa.us)

**TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:**

Ordinance establishing the American Rescue Plan Act Fund and establishing a budget for the American Rescue Plan Act Fund

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:**

Establishes a fund to account for the County’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation and establishes an initial budget of \$1,732,850 to reinstate positions left unfunded due to COVID-19 economic impacts. In addition, the requested budget will fund seven months of operations at the County’s Isolation & Quarantine Facility.

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**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>Acting Body:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Sent To:</b>
06/01/2021	Council	SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee
		Aye: 6	Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, and Frazey
		Nay: 0	
		Absent: 1	Kershner
06/15/2021	Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION	
		Aye: 3	Browne, Byrd, and Frazey
		Nay: 0	
		Absent: 0	

06/15/2021 Council

ADOPTED

Aye: 5 Browne, Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Kershner  
Nay: 2 Byrd, and Elenbaas  
Absent: 0

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**Attachments:** Substitute Proposed Ordinance - Introduced 6.1.2021, Exhibit A - ARPA Fund

**ORDINANCE NO.** 2021-036

**ESTABLISHING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND AND ESTABLISHING  
A BUDGET FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021 President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) into law, and

**WHEREAS**, ARPA is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts, and

**WHEREAS**, ARPA contains \$362 billion for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County will directly receive \$44,528,542 in two 50% installments, available beginning May 2021 with the balance delivered approximately 12 months later, and

**WHEREAS**, this funding must be used by December 31, 2024 to support public health expenditures, address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, replace lost public sector revenue, and invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, and

**WHEREAS**, the County intends to utilize these funds in 2021 to support the continued efforts of urgent COVID-19 Public Health response efforts, replace lost public sector revenue, and to rebuild and strengthen the County's vital public services by retaining, rehiring, and hiring for County jobs to sustain and improve the post-pandemic level of service provided to the constituents of Whatcom County, and

**WHEREAS**, the County also intends to work with the community to provide a long-term framework on how best to utilize this substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, provide economic stabilization and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economy and public health system, and

**WHEREAS**, a new special revenue fund is necessary to properly account for this restricted revenue source,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established titled American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures related to funding received in accordance with ARPA, and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the fund is approved with an initial budget of \$1,732,850 as presented in attached Exhibit A.

**BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED** that no additional monies shall be appropriated from this fund without prior approval of the County Council.

**ADOPTED** this 15th day of June, 2021.

ATTEST:  
  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approved by email/C Quinn/M Caldwell  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Barry Buchanan, Chair of the Council

Approved      ( ) Denied

  
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Date: June 18, 2021

EXHIBIT "A"

**Supplemental Budget Request**

*Status:* Pending

**Non-Departmental**

Suppl ID # 3218      **Fund**      **Cost Center**      **Originator:** M Caldwell

Year 1 2021      Add'l FTE       Priority 1

**Name of Request:** Establish ARPA Fund and Initial Budget

**X**

**Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)**

**Date**

<i>Costs:</i>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Object Description</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
	4331.2101	American Recovery Plan Act	(\$22,264,271)
	6320	Office & Op Supplies	\$14,000
	6610	Contractual Services	\$487,000
	6870	Space Rental	\$390,000
	6990	Solid Waste	\$1,400
	8351	Operating Transfer Out	\$840,450
	<b>Request Total</b>		<b>(\$20,531,421)</b>

**1a. Description of request:**

Recognize receipt of first half of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Initial uses:

Fund reinstatement of "frozen" positions which were not budgeted in the 2021-2022 biennium due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Fund continued operation of the Byron Street Isolation and Quarantine (IQ) Facility.

**1b. Primary customers:**

Residents of Whatcom County

**2. Problem to be solved:**

As a result of the economic impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, 19.5 FTE positions were "frozen" during the 2021-2022 biennial budget and remained unfilled and unbudgeted. The ARPA specifically encourages public entities to utilize this funding to return to normal staffing levels. The budget authority requested in this supplemental will fund the reinstated positions added back in Supplemental #9, supplemental ID #s 3205-3213.

Whatcom County has been funding the IQ Facility since last April out of CARES Act funding. The County has a continued need for this facility; however CARES Act funding for this service has been exhausted. This is a qualified use of ARPA funding. This request will fund rent payments, laundry, cleaning, security, facilities management, SeaMar, Lighthouse Mission, and supplies needed for this facility for March through Septemeber 2021. The current lease runs through the end of September.

**3a. Options / Advantages:**

Leave positions "frozen" and unfunded or utilize ARPA to fully fund the positions.

IQ: Use FEMA to partially fund the facility; however, FEMA has more restrictions and is harder to utilize. ARPA is the more appropriate funding source for this service.

**3b. Cost savings:**

Costs are completely covered by ARPA funding

**4a. Outcomes:**

Staffing: Improved county services to taxpayers.

# Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

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## Non-Departmental

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Suppl ID #	Fund	Cost Center	Originator: M Caldwell
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IQ Facility will be fully funded with grant proceeds.

**4b. Measures:**

**5a. Other Departments/Agencies:**

All departments with "frozen" positions will return to pre-COVID staffing levels

**5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:**

**6. Funding Source:**

American Recovery Plan Act