



MEMORANDUM

To: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
From: Rebecca Xczar, Whatcom County Assessor
RE: Schneider Geospatial Contract
Date: September 4, 2024

Attached, please find for your review and signature a contract between Schneider Geospatial and Whatcom County, for Spatialest Property Portal, Community Dashboard, Comper Pro, and Comper for Citizen.

Background and Purpose

This contract/ purchase includes 4 parts of a package, 3 of which are new and improved public access to property information; a new property portal, a sales mapping and comparison tool for the public which will greatly assist in appeals, and a community data section that will package more data for the public. The 4th part is an internal comp tool for the Assessor's office to use for answering appeals to the Board of Equalization quicker and more efficiently. This is a benefit to citizens, the Assessor's Office, and the Council Office.

One of the main complaints we hear from the public is the lack of good public data in easy to use formats. These tools are essential for the public and for staff time as the more that is publicly available, the less time staff spend answering individual questions.

The appeal load this year has been a huge challenge as we are understaffed for the work load; we will not be able to provide responses to many appeals this year due to staffing and the need to complete statutorily required work first. If the public uses the comper for citizen tool, it will save us time, and with appraisers using the comper pro, it will save additional time. Assessed value appeals also impact the Council Office, as the BOE and funding falls on that department. These tools will increase efficiencies, save time and money, which will benefit both offices.

This online tool package is cheaper than adding additional staff and will make our staff time much more efficient. This is a huge need and a good price for the package of online products. Price includes annual support, maintenance, hosting, and data updates.

Several Washington Counties are currently using Spatialest products/tools, and have highly recommended them.

Funding Amount and Source

Initial funding for one-time setup and prorated 2024 hosting and maintenance (\$37,180) will be from the Assessor Treasurer Maintenance fund/ Treasurer O&M. Ongoing funding to sustain these citizen services has been requested in the biannual budget.

Please contact Rebecca Xczar at extension 5055, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.