

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Administrative Services

Facilities Management

Suppl ID # 4705

Fund 394

Cost Center 394400

Originator: Rob Ney

Expenditure Type: One-Time

Year 1

2023

Add'l FTE ☐

Add'l Space ☐

Priority

1

Name of Request: Morgue Relocation

X

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	6610	Contractual Services	\$100,000
	8301	Operating Transfer In	(\$100,000)
	Request Total		\$0

1a. Description of request:

Whatcom County embarked on the Way Station construction which caused the relocation of the Morgue and medical examination room. The County has entered into a short lease agreement with a new funeral home to conduct autopsies and to store decedents and will use this funding for this and other options until the ME Office can be relocated back to the State Street facility.

1b. Primary customers:

Whatcom County residents, decedents and their families and loved ones.

2. Problem to be solved:

The Whatcom County Morgue has been relocated until the Way Station project is completed. Whatcom County is pursuing options that will provide access to a medical examination room, refrigerated storage for up to 15 decedents, a secure office space for preparing autopsy reports and warehouse space for the equipment and supplies needed to perform autopsies.

Utilizing a single facility to centralize these services while the State Street morgue is under construction will help to mitigate any risk and ensure consistency in the quality of services provided.

3a. Options / Advantages:

The County has pursued an agreement with hospital which has not materialized. However, the hospital has agreed to allow autopsies to take place there on a scheduled basis. The hospital requires the Medical Examiner to bring all equipment and supplies to the medical examination room. This is an alternative use in which the Medical Examiner can take when needed.

3b. Cost savings:

n/a

4a. Outcomes:

The Whatcom County Medical Examiner will have access to a morgue and medical examination room as needed to perform autopsies and provide the services as required under RCW 68.50.010

4b. Measures:

Medical Examiner services can continue.

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

Executive's Office

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

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Deputy Executive

6. Funding Source:

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Public Utility improvement Fund (EDI)