



# **Snohomish County Council**

## **Committee of the Whole - Budget Deliberations**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Council Chair Jared Mead  
Council Vice-Chair Nate Nehring  
Councilmembers: Sam Low, Megan Dunn, Strom Peterson

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**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

**9:30 AM**

**Jackson Board Room - 8th Floor  
Robert J. Drewel Building  
& Remote Meeting**

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#### **PRESENT:**

Council Chair Mead  
Council Vice-Chair Nehring  
Councilmember Low  
Councilmember Dunn  
Councilmember Peterson  
Heidi Beazizo, Chief of Staff  
Jim Martin, Council Staff  
Deb Bell, Council Staff  
Nicole Gorle, Council Staff  
Ryan Countryman Council Staff  
Cynthia Foley, Council Staff  
Nathan Sugg, Local 1811 PA President & Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney  
Karla Beers, Sheriff's Office  
Bureau Chief Norm Link, Sheriff's Office  
Bureau Chief John Flood, Corrections  
Judge Jennifer Rancourt, Cascade District Court  
Judge Jeffrey Goodwin, South District Court  
Judge Anthony Howard, Everett District Court  
Kathryn Koehler, District Court  
Judge George Appel, Superior Court  
Judge Millie Judge, Superior Court  
Andrew Somers, Superior Court  
Heidi Percy, Clerk  
Teri Bordua, Clerk's Office  
Sheila Postle, Clerk's Office  
Jason Schwartz, Office of Public Defense Director  
Kathleen Kyle, Office of Public Defense  
Jason Cummings, Prosecutor

Bridget Casey, Prosecutor's Office  
Julie Mohr, Prosecutor's Office  
Elise Deschenes, Prosecutor's Office  
Michael Held, Prosecutor's Office  
Cheryl Johnson, Prosecutor's Office  
Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council

## ***2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS - DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS***

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Council Chair Mead called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and provided instructions for those wishing to provide public comment for both in-person and remote via Zoom.

### **ROLL CALL**

The clerk called the roll and stated that all five members were present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nathan Sugg, Local 1811 PA President & Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, provided public comment related to concerns and needs of the Prosecutor's Office.

### **Department Presentations - Q&A:**

#### **1. Sheriff (Law Enforcement & Corrections)**

**[2023-1235](#)**

Sheriff Adam Fortney introduced Karla Beers, Sheriff's Office Finance Manager, and they both presented the 2024 Sheriff's Budget.

Ms. Beers stated there is an error on the expenditure page of the presentation under Law Enforcement Services under General Fund where it says \$0.00 change, it should say \$12,052,399.00, which includes the proposed FTEs and funding for the approved COLA increases.

Ms. Beers, Sheriff Fortney, Bureau Chief Norm Link, and Bureau Chief John Flood responded to questions from councilmembers and discussion ensued related to revenue based on inmate population and expected jail costs, filling Sheriff deputy positions, hiring trends, compensation trends, increases, allocation of officers and improvements, medical staffing in Corrections, required officer training, LEAD the Way program, Corrections revenues, and treatment efforts within the Jail.

Responding to Vice-Chair Nehring, Ms. Beers explained that the FTE Facility position in the Jail is not in their package, they did not request this position.

Councilmember Dunn requested corrected slides to clarify what the department requested, and to see if a budget amendment will be necessary to correct the projected revenue.

At 10:32 a.m., Chair Mead recessed the Council until 10:45 a.m.

At 10:45 a.m., Chair Mead called the Council back to order.

**2. District Court**

**[2023-1236](#)**

Judge Jennifer Rancourt, Cascade District Court, provided the 2024 District Court Budget presentation.

Judge Rancourt, Kathryn Koehler, District Court Administrator, and Judge Jeffrey Goodwin, South District Court, responded to questions from councilmembers related to FTEs and funding, District Court rates and fees review, Therapeutic Court, Blake decisions, Human Resources position, Pro-Tems, and interpreter services.

**3. Superior Court**

**[2023-1237](#)**

Judge Millie Judge, Superior Court, provided an introduction. She distributed a handout and discussed Superior Court's 2024 Budget requests.

Judge Judge and Andrew Somers, Superior Court Administrator, responded to various questions including questions related to interpreters, protection orders, and Therapeutic Court funding.

Councilmember Low requested a response on the public comment given this morning by a deputy prosecuting attorney related to discretionary disclosures. Judge Appel said he is not familiar with discretionary disclosures. Judge Judge said she would review the comment and get back to Councilmember Low.

**4. Clerk**

**[2023-1238](#)**

Heidi Percy, Clerk, provided the 2024 Budget presentation for the Clerk's Office.

Ms. Percy and Sheila Postle, Deputy Clerk, responded Councilmember Low's questions related to ARPA funds and projects, jury summons process, and the self-service kiosk,

Vice-Chair Nehring asked about past struggles with hiring staff and recent improvements. Ms. Percy responded and spoke about recent changes in their hiring process.

At 12:04 p.m., Chair Mead recessed the Council until 1:15 p.m.

At 1:15 p.m., Chair Mead called the Council back to order.

**5. Office of Public Defense**

**[2023-1239](#)**

Jason Schwarz, Office of Public Defense (OPD) Director, and Kathleen Kyle, OPD, presented the 2024 OPD Budget.

Mr. Schwarz, responded to various questions including questions related to the conflict panel, reclassifications/paygrade increase, comp class study, involuntary treatment, contempt of court FTEs, funding, ARPA positions, turnover, and electronic home monitoring, and discussion ensued.

**6. Prosecuting Attorney**

**[2023-1240](#)**

Jason Cummings, Prosecutor, provided an introduction and an overview of the office. He provided the 2024 Budget presentation for the Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Cummings responded to Councilmember Low's questions related to FTEs, criminal deputy prosecuting attorney workload, comp class study, Crime Data Dashboard project, with input from Elise Deschenes, Chief Criminal Deputy, regarding workload.

Mr. Cummings responded to Councilmember Dunn about Fund 118, Victim Advocacy, and he responded to Vice-Chair Nehring regarding hate crimes FTEs and ARPA funds.

Michael Held, Chief of Staff, responded to Chair Mead and provided information related to the class and comp study.

There being no further business, Chair Mead adjourned the Council for the day at 2:56 p.m.