



# Committee of the Whole

Nicole Gorle

Council Initiated:

☐ Yes

☒ No

**ECAF:** 2025-3505

**Motion:** 25-523

**Type:**

☒ Contract

☐ Board Appt.

☐ Code Amendment

☐ Budget Action

☐ Other

**Requested Handling:**

☒ Normal

☐ Expedite

☐ Urgent

**Fund Source:**

☒ General Fund

☐ Other

☐ N/A

**Executive Rec:**

☒ Approve

☐ Do Not Approve

☐ N/A

**Approved as to**

**Form:**

☐ Yes

☒ No – State

Contract

☐ N/A

**Subject:** Washington State – Indigent Defense Improvement Funds

**Scope:** Motion 25-523 would approve an agreement between the State Office of Public Defense and Snohomish County, under which the State will provide the County with \$882,499.02 of indigent defense improvement funds for the purpose of improving the quality of legal representation.

The Agreement stipulates that the County will use the funds to add additional attorneys to reduce public defense caseloads.

**Duration:** January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

**Fiscal Impact:** ☐ Current Year ☒ Multi-Year ☐ N/A

| Expenditures | Current Year | 2026         | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | Total        |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|------|------|--------------|
| Fund 002     |              | \$882,499.02 |      |      |      | \$882,499.02 |
|              |              |              |      |      |      |              |
| Total's      |              | \$882,499.02 |      |      |      | \$882,499.02 |

| Revenue  | Current Year | 2026         | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | Total        |
|----------|--------------|--------------|------|------|------|--------------|
| Fund 002 |              | \$882,499.02 |      |      |      | \$882,499.02 |
|          |              |              |      |      |      |              |
| Total's  |              | \$882,499.02 |      |      |      | \$882,499.02 |

**Authority Granted:** For the Executive to execute the agreement.

**Background:** Chapter 10.101 RCW established a grant program to improve public defense services within local jurisdictions of Washington State. The statute outlines a procedure for allocation and expenditure of these indigent defense improvement funds. If funds are set aside by the legislature for this purpose, jurisdictions can apply to the [Washington State Office of Public Defense](#) for a portion of these funds. The Snohomish County Office of Public Defense applied and has been awarded funding for 2026 (*note, the state OPD is working to move grants to the state fiscal year cycle which is why this grant period is for six months instead of Jan-Dec like in prior years*).

| ECAF                      | Year | Duration            | Award Amount |
|---------------------------|------|---------------------|--------------|
| <a href="#">2022-1249</a> | 2023 | 01/01/23 – 12/31/23 | \$429,925    |
| <a href="#">2023-1396</a> | 2024 | 01/01/24 – 12/31/24 | \$436,528    |
| <a href="#">2024-2909</a> | 2025 | 01/01/25 – 12/31/25 | \$451,616    |
| <a href="#">2025-3505</a> | 2026 | 01/01/26 – 06/30/26 | \$882,449.02 |

**Requested Action:** For Council to consider taking action.