



Committee of the Whole

Nicole Gorle

Council Initiated:

☐ Yes

☒ No

ECAF: 2024-0003

Motion: 24-013

Type:

☒ Contract

☐ Board Appt.

☐ Code Amendment

☐ Budget Action

☐ Other

Requested Handling:

☐ Normal

☐ Expedite

☒ Urgent 1/5/24

(received 1/4/24)

Fund Source:

☒ General Fund

☐ Other

☐ N/A

Executive Rec:

☒ Approve

☐ Do Not Approve

☐ N/A

Approved as to

Form:

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ N/A

Subject: 2024 Contract – Public Defenders Association

Scope: Under the contract the Snohomish County Public Defender Association (SCPDA), will provide counsel for indigent persons charged with criminal offenses in the Snohomish County Superior, District, and Juvenile Courts. Services provided by SCPDA under the contract are:

1. Legal assistance to all clients during criminal investigations who are unrepresented and request legal assistance.
2. Counsel and represent all clients in criminal and juvenile proceedings who are referred by the County
3. Counsel clients on their rights to appellate review and file related notices at the request of the client.
4. Counsel and represent people who have petitions filed against them in the Superior Court for involuntary civil commitment under RCW 71.05.

The 2024 contract is substantially similar to those in years past, with the following exceptions:

Based on the information provided in Schedule C of the contract, there is an increase of 3.25 FTE funded under the contract in 2024. 1 under Administrative Support, .25 ITA Supervising Lawyer, 1.0 Civil Commitment Lawyer, and 1.0 Civil Contempt Lawyer.

Duration: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Fiscal Impact: ☒ Current Year ☐ Future-Year ☐ N/A

DAC Title	2023	2024 Adopted Bdgt	2024 Contract	Adopted vs. Contract Diff
Felony Attorney Fees	\$9,319,459	\$9,806,051	\$9,824,413	\$18,362
Misdemeanor Attorney Fees	\$1,432,469	\$1,619,674	\$1,619,674	\$0
Misc Attorney Fees	\$109,620	\$365,278	\$340,120	(\$25,158)
Juvenile Attorney Fees	\$268,744	\$295,676	\$295,676	\$0
BECCA Atty Fees	\$129,936	\$112,706	\$112,706	\$0
Adult Felony Attorney Fees	\$2,387,572	\$2,959,970	\$2,854,161	(\$105,809)
Adult Misc Attorney Fees	\$134,985	\$230,592	\$230,592	\$0
Juvenile Drug Court Attorney Fees	\$72,485	\$76,723	\$76,723	\$0
ARPA	\$1,083,556	\$853,300	\$853,300	\$0
TOTAL	\$14,938,826	\$16,319,970	\$16,207,365	(\$112,605)

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Expenditures	Current Year	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
General Fund	\$12,192,589					\$12,192,589
Fund 124	\$3,161,476					\$3,161,476
ARPA	\$853,300					\$853,300
Total's	\$16,207,365					\$16,207,365

Revenue	Current Year	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Total's	\$0					\$0

Authority Granted: Authorize the Executive to execute the contract and future amendments not impacting the contract's financial maximum.

Background:

The [Sixth Amendment](#) of the United States Constitution states that the accused has the right to the assistance of counsel for their defense in criminal prosecutions. As not every defendant can afford an attorney, in 1989 Washington State implemented [Chapter 409 \(RCW 10.101\)](#) stating that "legal representation should be provided for indigent persons and persons who are indigent and able to contribute." This chapter also requires counties and cities to establish standards for the delivery of defense services to indigent defendants.

Today, the largest contract is with the Snohomish County Public Defender Association (SCPDA), who provides the majority of legal services to indigent defendants in the County.

Requested Action: For Council to consider taking action