



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Finance
ECAF: 22-1267
Proposal: Mot. 22-538

Analyst: Heidi Beazizo
Date: December 7, 2022

Consideration

The Executive's Office requests Council consider approving proposed Motion 22-538 which would approve and authorize the County Executive to execute a mutual termination of contract for legal services with Cozen O'Conner and execute a new contract for legal services with Stokes Lawrence, P.S.

Background

After the Snohomish County Airport Runway 16R/34L Fog Seal Project was completed, it was found that emergency repairs were necessary. Snohomish County entered into a legal professional services agreement with Cozen O'Conner for legal advice and representation for potential legal action necessitated by the Fog Seal Project at the Snohomish County Airport Runway; the agreement was approved by Motion 19-211 on July 9, 2019.

The primary attorney representing the County at Cozen O'Conner has changed law firms and requests that the existing contract be transferred to his new law firm, Stokes Lawrence, P.S. The previous agreement with Cozen O'Conner included the right to end the attorney-client relationship at any time, for any reason, on reasonable notice to the other. Both parties mutually agree to terminate the contract for legal services and enter into a new agreement with the new firm, Stokes Lawrence, P.S.

Current Proposal

Scope: Motion 22-538 authorizes the termination of the prior agreement and execution of the new agreement. Aside from the commencement date of the agreements, they are substantively similar and include a contingency fee of 25% of any gross recovery should the matter resolve prior to litigation or arbitration and 33-1/3% of any gross recovery after a lawsuit or arbitration has been filed.

Duration: Commencement date of 11/21/2022 until resolution

2022 Budget: N/A

Future Budget Impacts: N/A

Handling: Urgent

Approved-as-to-form: YES

Risk Management: YES

Executive Recommendation: APPROVE

Request: Move to GLS on December 14th for Council to consider taking action.

¹ [Operations Committee \(granicus.com\)](https://www.granicus.com)