



# Public Infrastructure and Conservation

Jim Martin

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

**ECAF:** 2026-1422  
**Ordinance:** 26-025

**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
- N/A

**Subject:** Granting a Nonexclusive Franchise authorizing limited use of public road rights-of-way in Snohomish County, Washington to SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta.

**Scope:** SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta has applied to Snohomish County for a franchise to construct, maintain, operate, replace and repair its personal wireless service facilities in County public rights-of-way. The Snohomish County franchise procedure for authorization to grant a nonexclusive franchise is contained in Snohomish County Code 13.80, County Charter Section 9.2, RCW 36.55.010, and 47 U.S.C. §521.

**Duration:** A term of ten (10) years, beginning on the effective date as defined, with one automatic 10-year renewal, subject to the County’s right to renegotiate and/or unilaterally terminate the franchise at any time after the initial term expiration date.

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

County expenses are for the preparation and processing of the Franchise. All costs are to be reimbursed by the applicant prior to acceptance of the Franchise.

Expense	Annual		Total
102.50650131011 Administrative Salary	\$270		\$2,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$270</b>		<b>\$2,700</b>
Revenue	Annual		Total
102.30644443895 Reimbursable revenue	\$270		\$2,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$270</b>		<b>\$2,700</b>

Based on the findings and pursuant to SCC 13.80.040, the County Engineer recommends the County Council grant a right-of-way franchise to SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta.

Under the terms and conditions of County Charter, County Code and the proposed franchise, SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta will:

- Obtain all permits, licenses, or other forms of approval necessary to construct, operate, maintain or repair the personal wireless prior to the commencement of any work, as more fully described in proposed franchise Section 4.
- Not assign any franchise rights or obligations without prior written consent of the County, as more fully described in proposed franchise Section 22.
- Indemnify, defend, and hold harmless any County Party from any and all claims, demands, liability, suits, and judgments, including costs of defense thereof, for bodily injury to persons, death, or property damage arising out of its use of Public rights-of-way pursuant to the franchise, as more fully described in proposed franchise Section 17.
- Compensate the county for its expenses incurred in processing the franchise, as more fully described in proposed franchise Section 15.
- Comply with Title VI Assurances and Non-Discrimination requirements, as more fully

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described in proposed franchise Section 29.

**Authority Granted:** The Snohomish County Council has considered the Engineer' Report of the Department of Public Works and has determined that it is in the public interest to grant a personal wireless franchise to SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta. This is a legislative authorization to use public rights-of-way, and actual construction and maintenance activities in the public rights-of-way will be subject to administratively approved right-of-way permits after review of specific plans.

The approved franchise is set forth as Attachment A to the ordinance and is incorporated by reference.

Within ninety (90) days of the passage and approval of the franchise ordinance, SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta may accept the franchise by filing with the Clerk of the County Council an unconditional written acceptance of this franchise, together with accompaniments as specified.

The franchise granted by this ordinance shall take effect, if at all, on the date on which each and every one of the following conditions have been met:

- A minimum of ten (10) days have passed since the County Executive executed this franchise ordinance or this franchise ordinance was otherwise validly enacted,
- SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta executes the acceptance page of the franchise ordinance and returns same to the Clerk of the County Council,
- SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta presents acceptable evidence of insurance as required in Section 18 of Attachment A and SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta pays all applicable fees as set forth in Section 15 of Attachment A, to the County.

**Background:** SQF, LLC D/B/A Verta owns and operates telecommunications infrastructure in Snohomish County and has applied to Snohomish County for a non-exclusive franchise to construct, maintain, operate, replace, and repair personal wireless service facilities in, on, across, over, along, under, and/or through public rights-of-way within unincorporated Snohomish County.

**Action Requested:** To move the ordinance to GLS on July 14 to set time and date for a Public Hearing.