



925 S. Main Street
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

TEL: 541.258.4214
www.lebanonoregon.gov

MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

March 25, 2026

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council
From: Brandon Neish, Finance Director
Subject: Public Defender Contract Renewal

Introduction

The City currently contracts for public defender services to fulfill its constitutional obligation to provide legal representation to indigent defendants in Municipal Court.

Current Report

Staff has negotiated a new three-year agreement for public defender services. The proposed contract maintains continuity of service while incorporating a modest cost adjustment to reflect increased operating costs and market conditions.

The new agreement includes:

- A **23-month contract** consistent with the prior contract expiration (Feb 2028)
- A **5% increase** in compensation over the term of the contract (\$27,300 annually)
- Continued provision of all required public defense services in Municipal Court

The proposed 5% increase represents a reasonable and measured adjustment, particularly given that no increases were included in the previous three-year agreement. This adjustment helps ensure the City remains competitive in securing qualified legal services while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Requested Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the proposed three-year contract for public defender services authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract.