

Council Agenda Bill

AB Number

AB26-032

Agenda Bill Information

Title *

Contracts for responses to proposed BESS in Unincorpo

Action *

Motion

Council Agenda Section

Committee Report

Council Meeting Date *

07/13/2026 

Staff Member

Dena Burke

Department *

Legal

Committee

Finance and Administration

Committee Date






06/24/2026 

Exhibits

Packet Attachments - if any

Drag and drop up to 10 files here to upload or [Choose files](#)

Files (3 uploaded)

 x1.Jensen Hughes Proposal for Professional Consulting Services.pdf 	3.41MB
 x2 Foster Garvey Engagement Letter 2026.pdf 	326.58KB
 BESS Related Upcoming Projects and Budgeting 20260611.pptx	565.4KB

Click [here](#) to review attachments.

Summary

Introduction *

Brief summary.

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project application has been submitted to King County for the Cascadia Ridge Resiliency Energy Storage Project in the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area (UGA). The City has contracted with specialized outside legal counsel regarding this project, and Council previously authorized \$50,000 for this legal service. The City is now proposing to hire consultants to assist in understanding the potential impacts of this proposed BESS facility and crafting letters or other responses as necessary, assist the city with preparing for and conducting legally required public hearings within 60 days of its moratorium, and extending the work of specialized legal counsel.

Proposed Motion

Move to approve contracts for legal and subject matter expert consultant services related to BESS

Background/Overview*

What was done (legislative history, previous actions, ability to hyperlink)

The proposed Cascadia Ridge Resiliency Energy Storage Project is for the installation and operation of a BESS in unincorporated King County, adjacent to the City of Snoqualmie and in the City's UGA. Snoqualmie and its residents have concerns around the potential hazardous impacts of a BESS facility located near residential neighborhoods, schools, public facilities, local roads, environmentally sensitive areas, and the Snoqualmie River watershed.

The land use issues around the proposed Cascadia Ridge BESS project is an area of the law that is complex and nuanced, requiring the expertise of outside counsel.

Analysis*

This requests authorizing contracting for \$241,500 of additional expenditure, including an additional \$150,000 beyond the previous council-authorized \$50,000 for Foster Garvey. The City has already been invoiced for \$34,000 for these legal services. Outside counsel has identified ≈\$300,000 of work that subject matter expert consultants could provide that would strengthen the city's response letter to the county, and this request includes contracting with one of the consultants identified, Jensen Hughes, for a review of the potential impacts and threats a fire at the BESS facility would pose to Snoqualmie residents, the community, and the environment. This would include reviewing a Hazard Mitigation Study, Emergency Response Plan, and preparation of a dispersion model to assess the flammability, toxicity, and explosion risks associated with the Cascadia Ridge BESS project. The project components are a Third Party Plan Review (\$22,500), Dispersion Study (\$39,000), and a Wildland Urban Interface Assessment (\$30,000), totaling \$91,500.

Budgetary Status*

This is an extra-budget expenditure.

Budget Summary

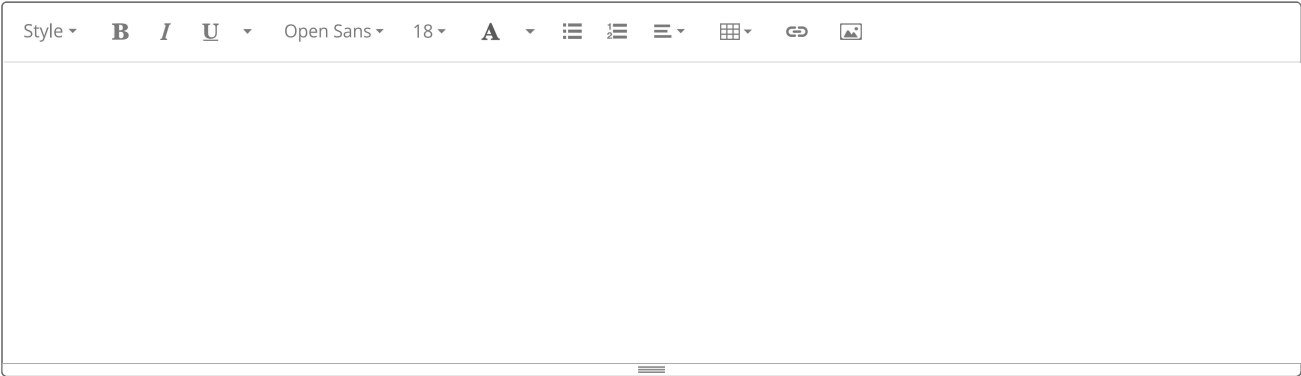
Approval of this agenda bill would give the Administration the authority to spend an additional \$150,000 on outside counsel and \$91,500 to review and analyze potential BESS-related impacts. Because these expenditures were not contemplated as part of the current 2025-2026 Biennial Budget, a budget amendment allocating \$241,500 of the City's General Fund (001) cash balance towards these one-time uses is required. Please see AB26-039 "2025-2026 Biennial Budget Amendment - BESS Review & Analysis" for more information regarding the funding details and the balance available.

Fiscal Impact

Amount of Expenditure	Amount Budgeted	Appropriation Requested
\$ 241,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 241,500.00

Fiscal Impact

Screenshot below is an image of the budget summary table.



Comments: