



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – Municipal Court Judge Employment Contract

Preferred Agenda: August 25, 2026

Submitted By: Cecily Hope Pretty, Deputy City Manager

Reviewed By: Jason Ogden, Interim City Manager / Police Chief

Type of Action: Resolution ☐ Motion ☒

Relevant Code/Policy: Sweet Home Charter, Chapter VI Section 21

Towards Council Goal: Be an Effective & Efficient Government

Attachments: Draft Municipal Court Judge Contract

Purpose of this RCA:

To review and approve a contract for Municipal Court Judge services.

Background/Context:

The current Municipal Court Judge, Larry Blake, Jr., has been employed by the City of Sweet Home since 2006. The terms of the proposed contract are the same as the previously approved contract. Judge Blake is in agreement with the proposed contract.

The Challenge/Problem:

The current contract is set to expire January 31, 2027. The City Council is required to appoint a Municipal Court Judge, and continuity in services is necessary for efficient delivery of services. The only change to this contract from the previous contract is to allow the contract to auto-renew year-to-year unless modified upon mutual agreement by both parties. This will eliminate unnecessary administrative processes moving forward.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The compensation terms have not changed from the previous contract. The amount is budgeted.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

Approval of a contract that provides required, timely services to the public.

Options:

1. Do nothing: The City Council could choose not to authorize the contract and services will no longer be rendered after January 31st.
2. Recommend amendments to the contract: The City Council could propose modifications to the terms, which would require a new review with Judge Blake prior to approval.
3. Approve the contract as proposed: The contract will be approved.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Option 3: Approve the contract as proposed.