

TO: City Council
FROM: John Doan, City Administrator
DATE: November 15, 2022
SUBJECT: Interlocal Agreement Establishing District Court Filing and Jury Trial Fees for Tumwater

1) Recommended Action:

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the Interlocal Agreement Establishing District Court Filing and Jury Trial Fees

2) Background:

The Public Health and Safety Committee approved moving this item forward to Council at its November 8th Committee meeting. In 2013, the City discontinued having its own municipal court and contracted with Thurston County District Court to provide court services, case proceedings, and court operations. Separate contracts provide for prosecution and public defense services. The current contract is expiring and a new contract is needed. This proposed version has updated fees to reflect an updated County cost of services study. The attached table shows the increased fees. The increases are the result of overall inflation, an increase in probation staffing by the County, technology improvements, and improvements to space. The improvements to probation reduce recidivism and are expected to have a long-term corresponding decrease in court and jail costs. It is through this contract that the therapeutic court services are provided.

This contract extends to the end of 2026, which allows the City to provide sufficient notice should the City decide to terminate the partnership with the County and pursue another option. Terminations of the contract must happen one year prior to the judicial election cycle. Aside from the costs, the contract has changed very little over the term.

3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priorities: Provide and Sustain Quality Public Safety Services and Build a Community Recognized for Quality, Compassion and Humanity

4) Alternatives:

☐ Move toward providing court services ourselves (2028)

5) Fiscal Notes:

Court defendants pay fines into the Court system which partially off-sets the court charges to the City. The budget for court services has been increased over prior years to \$240,000/year. We anticipate the overall costs to increase as court activity returns to normal following the pandemic.

6) Attachments:

A. Interlocal Agreement Establishing District Court Filing and Jury Trial Fees for the City of Tumwater