

TO: Public Health and Safety Committee  
FROM: Troy Niemeyer, Finance Director  
DATE: September 2, 2026  
SUBJECT: Public Defense Update

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1) Recommended Action:

None. This presentation is informational only.

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2) Background:

The City outsourced its municipal court in 2013. It entered into a contract with the Thurston County Office of Assigned Council, now known as Thurston County Public Defense (TCPD), for legal representation services for indigent persons charged with criminal offenses by the City of Tumwater.

The service scope includes representation for each defendant from arraignment through trial, sentencing, post-trial review and any appeals. The TCPD assures that professional staff are available for interviewing and/or counseling individuals and defendants held in custody as needed on a 24-hour basis, and that defendants held in custody pending trial are interviewed in a timely manner in accordance with established professional standards.

TCPD staff will present an overview of their work.

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3) Policy Support:

2026-2032 Strategic Priorities & Goals: Tumwater Excellence: refine and sustain a great organization. Be good stewards of public funds by following sustainable financial strategies.

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4) Alternatives:

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5) Fiscal Notes:

None, this is only a presentation.

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6) Attachments:

A. Power Point Presentation