

TO: City Council
FROM: Troy Niemeyer, Finance Director
DATE: June 21, 2022
SUBJECT: Contract Extension for the Thurston County Office of Public Defense

1) Recommended Action:

Staff requests that Council make a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract extension with the Thurston County Office of Public Defense.

2) Background:

In 2012 the City of Tumwater City Council decided to get out of the court business and contract with Thurston County for court services. In 2013 the City entered into an interlocal agreement with Thurston County's Office of Assigned Council, now referred to as Thurston County Public Defense (TCPD), to provide indigent defense legal services. A supplemental agreement for services was also approved in 2013 detailing the services to be provide and the cost of those services. That agreement was renewed in 2018, again in 2020, and is up for renewal again for services in 2023-2024.

3) Policy Support:

Refine and sustain a great organization: be fiscally responsible and develop sustainable financial strategies.

Provide and sustain quality public safety services.

4) Alternatives:

- ☐ Authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.
 - ☐ Don't authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.
-

5) Fiscal Notes:

The total cost for the two year agreement is \$479,356 and covers 2023 and 2024. It is \$66,944 lower than the previous agreement. For comparison, the 2021-2022 agreement was \$546,300, and the 2019-2020 agreement was \$608,700.

TCPD staff credits the decline in cost to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which has delayed jury trials and resulted in more settlement agreements. With a backlog of cases, and the courts still following pandemic protocols, they expect this to continue through 2024.

6) Attachments:

A. Attachment A – Contract extension