



# **LEWIS COUNTY DRUG COURT & Family Recovery Court Programs**

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J. ANDREW TOYNBEE, Drug Court Judge  
JOELY YEAGER, Family Recovery Court Judge  
STEPHANIE MILLER, Drug Court Manager  
ANGELA COTHERN, FRC GAL/ Case Coordinator  
CAITLIN ROGERS, Community Outreach Worker

*Breaking the Chains of Addiction \* Rebuilding Healthy Family Bonds*

June 20, 2023

Lewis County Board of County Commissioners  
351 NW North Street  
Chehalis, WA 98532

Re: Justification for purchase of vehicle, Drug Court Office

Dear Commissioner Swope, Commissioner Pollock and Commissioner Brummer,

The Lewis County Drug Court and Family Recovery Court Programs operate out of the Superior Court. We serve up to 45 Drug Court participants and up to 16 Family Recovery Court families, at any given time. We have three full-time employees located within our office—Stephanie Miller (Manager), Angela Cothorn (FRC GAL & Case Coordinator), and Caitlin Rogers (Community Outreach Worker). Our office is open traditional business hours, but each of us have work duties that are frequently met out of the office setting.

While we have had a housing program since 2016, it was not until recently that the County purchased our Drug Court House. All three of us take great pride in the day to day operations of the Drug Court house. In order for the house to function smoothly, we often need to be present immediately when issues arise there—whether it be with participants or any other reason (Ring camera issues, dishwasher, etc...). We also meet up there weekly for a house meeting with all current residents.

The program has many givebacks and community events. The Community Outreach Worker is frequently running errands, making contact with potential community partners and employers and has the need to be present at locations outside of the office—for program and alumni purposes.

In addition to the above needed reasons for access to a vehicle is the needs of the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL). The GAL is expected to meet with the children in the program at minimum one time per month. This is most often done in the home, daycare, school, or other community setting. There are times when emergent issues arise and immediate community visits with children are needed. She currently tracks mileage for reimbursement.

In addition to the community visits, the GAL also attends regular meetings at the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Office. These meetings are normally prescheduled and each family has them frequently to determine case progress. These meetings are also set on short notice when there are emergencies.

When it comes to the funding for this purchase, our department (Drug Court and Family Recovery Court combined) has used roughly 20% of our current operations budget. We have sufficient funds in our operations budget to support this purchase. Primarily due to the inability to attend the National Drug Court Conference. The National Drug Court Conference was originally budgeted for and planned for. However, we were unable to make reasonable hotel accommodations and therefore are not attending. Typically, we send anywhere from three to five team members, any given year.

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As a manager, it is challenging to request employees to use their own vehicle for work purposes on such a frequent and regular basis. We have reached the point where the benefits outweigh any potential disadvantages. I would request that you approve the purchase of the vehicle from motor pool, for use by the Drug Court Office for official duties.

If you have any further questions, I am happy to answer them. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Miller  
Program Manager

Cc: Honorable J. Andrew Toynbee  
Honorable Joely Yeager  
Stacey Werner  
Becky Butler  
Josh Metcalf