



## Lewis County Superior Court

345 W Main St., 4th floor  
Chehalis, WA 98532

5/16/2024

Lewis County Board of County Commissioners  
Cc: Stacey Werner, Becky Butler, Ryan Barrett, Rieva Lester

Commissioners,

Prior to a formal budget request, Lewis County Superior Court is seeking pre-approval from the Board of County Commissioners regarding an increase to the 2024 Salary budget in General Fund (Superior Court, 0010-008) in the amount of \$20,000.

As of January 13, 2025, our Constitutional Court Commissioner, Paul Strophy, will be leaving his role as Commissioner to begin his role as elected Superior Court Judge, Department 2. As a result, it will be necessary to fill the vacancy of the Constitutional Court Commissioner.

In consideration of the best interest of our community and a seamless transition, it is best practice that the newly appointed Constitutional Court Commissioner can gain in the experience of working alongside and shadowing the current Commissioner for a period of one month (beginning in December).

As a result of overlap for the month of December, the financial impact would be directly in correlation with one month's salary (16,169) and benefits (3,831) for an appointed Constitutional Court Commissioner.

Lewis County pays Constitutional Court Commissioner Salaries at 85% of the judge's salary. According to the Washington Citizen's Commission on Salaries of Elected Officials this equates to 194,021.85/year or **\$16,168.49/month**.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susie Palmateer".

Susie Palmateer, Court Administrator  
Lewis County Superior Court

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**J. Andrew Toynbee**  
Judge, Dept. 1  
360.740.1170

**James W. Lawler**  
Judge, Dept. 2  
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**Joely A. Yeager**  
Judge, Dept. 3  
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**Paul A. Strophy**  
Court Commissioner  
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