

Budget Update

September 9, 2025

10:48 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, County Manager Ryan Barrett, Geoff Soderquist, Angie Hodge, Gabe Anzelini

Guest(s):

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Public comment: None.

Becky Butler presented the 2026 Budget Preliminary Budget to the commissioners, as required per RCW.

Commissioner Pollock asked staff to explore whether there are any alternatives to how the county currently uses bailiffs / security.

The commissioners said they would like to further discuss the use of Mental Health Tax funds in an upcoming meeting with the offices and departments funded by the tax.

The commissioners directed Becky to invite Michael Blessing to join the Citizens Budget Committee.

Becky provided the following updates:

- **2025 budget amendment:** No substantial changes to the budget amendment.
- **Broadband project:** ToledoTel will be requesting an extension through end of October following disagreements about who owns poles to which it may have to connect.
- **Risk rates:** Staff continues to review the best options for bridging the budget gap and will revisit the topic the week of Sept. 15.
- **Capital projects:** 911 meetings taking place weekly. Staff will schedule an on-site visit to review water main issues at the fairgrounds. Equestrian center update with Populous scheduled for the following week.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.