



WASHINGTON STATE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

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January 28, 2008

The Honorable Margarita Prentice
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Washington State Senate
P.O. Box 40411
Olympia, WA 98504-0411

The Honorable Helen Sommers
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Washington State House of Representatives
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Senator Prentice and Representative Sommers:

Pursuant to the Extraordinary Criminal Justice Costs Act, the Office of Public Defense (OPD) has evaluated the counties' 2007 petitions for state reimbursement of costs incurred in aggravated murder cases. First, as required by the statute, OPD audited the veracity of the petitions. OPD disallowed undocumented expenses that were claimed in the petitions. The undersigned directors of OPD, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA), and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) then met to prioritize the petitions. This year, the list includes claims by King, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties.

The statute names three factors for reimbursement consideration: disproportionate fiscal impact relative to the county criminal justice budget, efficient use of resources, and whether the costs were extraordinary and could not be reasonably accommodated and anticipated in the normal budget process.

The attached 2007 Extraordinary Criminal Justice Costs Act list shows the claimed aggravated murder cases' impact on the counties' budgets. The impact is derived by dividing the cost of the claimed cases by the county's criminal justice budget. Factors that make these costs extraordinary and prevent them from being "reasonably accommodated and anticipated in the normal budget process" are specific to the individual circumstances of each case and to the counties in which they arose. Each county articulated measures showing efficient use of resources and reasons that the case costs were difficult to accommodate and anticipate in the normal budget process.



A summary of the three counties' claims is as follows:

King County

Number of 2007 cases claimed: 7

Total amount claimed and supported by documentation: \$855,145

Klickitat County

Number of 2007 cases claimed: 2

Total 2007 amount claimed: \$159,900

Amount supported by documentation: \$154,856

Number of 2006 cases claimed: 2

Total 2006 amount claimed and supported by documentation: \$182,874

Number of 2005 cases claimed: 2

Total amount claimed and supported by documentation: \$177,566

3-year total for Klickitat: \$501,876

Yakima County

Number of 2007 cases claimed: 2

Total amount claimed: \$742,837

Amount supported by documentation: \$737,514

The 2007 Extraordinary Criminal Justice Costs List is enclosed. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Joanne Moore at 360-586-3164, ext. 112.

Sincerely,

JS/

Joanne I. Moore, OPD

JS/

Tom McBride, WAPA

JS/

Don Pierce, WASPC

Extraordinary Criminal Justice Costs Act
2007 Prioritized List

Year	County	Adjusted Claim	Criminal Justice Budget	Budget Impact
2007	Klickitat*	154,856	7,143,667	2.17%
2007	Yakima	737,514	39,798,925	1.9%
2007	King	855,145	483,067,595	.2%
Total 2007 Claims:		1,747,515		
Year	County	Adjusted Claim	Criminal Justice Budget	Budget Impact
2006	Klickitat	182,874	7,205,113	2.53%
2005	Klickitat	164,146	7,439,460	2.2%
Total Prior Year Claims:		347,020		

*Klickitat's total claim for 2005, 2006, and 2007 is \$501,876. Klickitat's Average Budget Impact for 2005, 2006, and 2007 is 2.23%