

Agenda Summary Report (ASR)

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

DATE SUBMITTED: 5/5/2023		PREPARED BY Shawn P. Sant	
Meeting Date Requested: 5/16/2023		PRESENTED BY: Shawn P. Sant	
ITEM: (Select One)	Consent Agenda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brought Before the Board Time needed:
SUBJECT: Creation of a Chief Criminal DPA position.			
FISCAL IMPACT: New Chief position will have minimal to no impact to 2023 budget. For 2024 the new position would be a fiscal impact between \$105,081.60-\$141,003.20, plus benefits. The cost of this position could be mitigated utilizing ARPA funding to cover immediate needs for the next 3 years.			
BACKGROUND: Due to personnel changes in the office, we have lost 3 positions in the criminal prosecution side, including the loss of a senior DPA moving to fill the Chief Civil DPA position. We currently have junior DPAs in the office necessitating additional supervision and guidance than a single Chief can provide. The current chief has significant increased workloads, including homicide cases, as all DPAs are picking up additional cases and screenings. An additional Criminal Chief will distribute supervision duties between the two chiefs. We have received interest in vacant positions from recent and soon to be law school graduates which will require additional resources for training. Our office cannot fill current vacancies with only new attorneys and additional resources are necessary to recruit and retain experienced attorneys. While ARPA funding for positions may be a temporary solution, it will also prepare for succession planning in the office and building experienced supervising attorneys who will be taking on a more substantial role as experienced DPAs transition to other opportunities. The additional Chief position may be funded with ARPA funds to assist with the backlog of cases and training of existing and future incoming junior deputy prosecutors. Courtroom closures resulted in substantial case backlogs during COVID and we continue the challenges of moving cases through the courts. The backlogs also contribute to the challenges facing OPD on their challenge to retain and recruit public defenders as there is currently a delay in assigning new defense counsel. We have not had this issue in the past and it presents a challenge for prosecution and defense for the foreseeable future.			
RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached resolution creating a new Chief Criminal Deputy position.			
COORDINATION: Shawn Sant, Prosecuting Attorney			

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed Resolution.

HANDLING / ROUTING:

- Shawn Sant, Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney
- Kelly Schadler, Franklin County Prosecutor's Office
- Tim Anderson, Franklin County Auditor's Office

I certify the above information is accurate and complete.



Shawn Sant, Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney

FRANKLIN COUNTY RESOLUTION _____

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

APPROVAL OF AN ADDITIONAL POSITION – CHIEF CRIMINAL DEPUTY

WHEREAS, the County Prosecutor desires to create a new position, CHIEF CRIMINAL DEPUTY to accommodate the needs of his office

WHEREAS, the Board of Franklin County Commissioners constitutes the legislative authority for Franklin County and desires to approve this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Franklin County Commissioners constitutes the legislative authority for Franklin County and desires to approve this resolution.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Chair

Chair Pro Tem

Member

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board