

Agenda Summary Report (ASR)

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/27/2023	PREPARED BY: Marcus Conner
Meeting Date Requested: 12/06/2023	PRESENTED BY: Marcus Conner
ITEM: (Select One) Consent Agenda Brought Before the Board X Time needed: 20 Minutes	
SUBJECT: Assessment of Bi-County Superior Court Relationship	
FISCAL IMPACT: No fiscal impact for this resolution. All staff time used for this assessment will be absorbed within the affected departments and Offices.	
BACKGROUND: Through the years there has been discussion about splitting the current Bi-County Superior Court. Such discussions have been initiated by both counties to include requests for legislation. In order to make a factual determination on what's best for the citizens of Franklin County in terms of both cost and service, a proper assessment is necessary. This assessment will involve more departments and office than those currently identified and will require an objective and good faith effort by all parties therefore a resolution, albeit unique for this type of work, seems to be the best course of action. By enacting a resolution, The Board of Franklin County Commissioners can ensure that this assessment is thorough, transparent, and un-biased. It will also ensure cooperation if necessary. It is important to note, this resolution does not transfer any decision making authority away from the Board of Franklin County Commissioners, nor should it be misconstrued as an opinion for, or against splitting the current relationship that exists.	
COORDINATION: The following individuals actively participated in the discussion surrounding this topic and are also in support of this resolution: Sheriff Jim Raymond, Superior Court Clerk Michael Killian, and Chief Civil Prosecutor Daniel Stovern on behalf of Prosecutor Shawn Sant.	
RECOMMENDATION: The Sheriff, Superior Court Clerk, and Prosecutor of Franklin County are recommending the approval of the attached resolution.	
ATTACHMENTS: (Documents you are submitting to the Board) ASR and Resolution	
HANDLING / ROUTING: (Once document is fully executed it will be imported into Document Manager. Please list <u>name(s)</u> of party(s) that will need a pdf.) Original : Clerk of the Board Teresa Alvarez	

I certify the above information is accurate and complete.

Name: 

Title: Commander
Franklin County Sheriff's Office

FRANKLIN COUNTY RESOLUTION _____

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF CREATING A COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND WHETHER SPLITTING
THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BENTON FRANKLIN SUPERIOR COURT IS IN
THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITIZENS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

WHEREAS, Franklin County is currently part of the Benton and Franklin Counties Superior Court
judicial district of the State of Washington, and;

WHEREAS, Benton County currently, and has for decades, managed the day to day operations of the
Benton and Franklin Counties Superior Court, and;

WHEREAS, Franklin County currently pays Benton County for management of the Benton and Franklin
Counties Superior Court on a *pro rata* basis, and;

WHEREAS, The Board of Franklin County Commissioners constitutes the legislative authority of
Franklin County and routinely reviews existing agreements to ensure that said agreements are still in the
best interest of the citizens of Franklin County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Board of County Commissioners for Franklin County
does hereby support and commission a committee comprised of the Office of Franklin County Clerk, the
Office of Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney, the Office of Franklin County Sheriff, and the Franklin
County Office of Public Defense herein referred to as “the Committee.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Committee, with the assistance of all interested parties, shall
conduct an objective assessment of Franklin County’s ability to manage the day to day operations of
Superior Court for Franklin County and whether it is in the best interest of the citizens of Franklin County
to petition the Washington State Legislature to form a separate Franklin County Superior Court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Committee shall report back to the Board of County
Commissioners for Franklin County by October 2, 2024 with a recommendation and final report.

DATED this 6th day of December, 2023

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chair

Chair Pro Tem

Member

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board