

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

2018-269

NO. _____

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	BB	9/14/18	<div style="text-align: center;"> RECEIVED SEP 17 2018 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL </div>	9/25/18	Introduction
Division Head:				10/09/18	Finance, Council
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:	LS	9-17-18			
Purchasing/Budget:	BB	9/14/18			
Executive:	TLS	9/17/18			

TITLE OF DOCUMENT:

Ordinance Establishing The Financial System Software Fund And Establishing a Project Based Budget to Replace The Financial System Software

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ordinance
2. Supplemental Budget Request

SEPA review required? () Yes (x) NO
 SEPA review completed? () Yes (x) NO

Should Clerk schedule a hearing? () Yes (x) NO
 Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Requesting Council approval for establishing the Financial Systems Software Fund and appropriating budget authority of \$1,750,000 . The Financial System Software Fund will be used to account for the revenues and expenditures related to replacing Whatcom County's existing J.D. Edwards World financial system software.

COMMITTEE ACTION:**COUNCIL ACTION:**

9/25/2018: Introduced 6-0, Byrd out of the room

Related County Contract #:**Related File Numbers:****Ordinance or Resolution Number:**

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.

PROPOSED BY: Executive
INTRODUCTION DATE: 09/25/18

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM SOFTWARE FUND AND
ESTABLISHING A PROJECT BASED BUDGET TO REPLACE THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM
SOFTWARE**

WHEREAS, the existing J.D. Edwards World financial system software was purchased in 1993, and

WHEREAS, the J.D. Edwards World financial system software is becoming increasingly difficult to support and is approaching the end of its useful life, and

WHEREAS, modern financial system software would enable Whatcom County to operate more efficiently, and

WHEREAS, Section 6.80 of the Whatcom County Home Rule Charter allows for project-based capital budget appropriation ordinances that lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three (3) years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established effective October 9th, 2018 titled Financial System Software Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures related to replacing Whatcom County's existing J.D. Edwards World financial system software, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that the Financial System Software Fund is approved as described in Exhibit A with an initial project budget of \$1,750,000.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2018.

ATTEST:


WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Rud Browne, Chair of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

() Approved () Denied



Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Jack Louws, County Executive
Date: _____

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Administrative Services

Finance

Suppl ID # 2646

Fund

Cost Center

Originator: Brad Bennett

Expenditure Type: One-Time

Year 2 2018

Add'l FTE ☐

Add'l Space ☐

Priority 1

Name of Request: New Financial System

X

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	6630	Professional Services	\$125,000
	7420	Computer-Capital Outlays	\$1,625,000
	8301.001	Operating Transfer In	(\$1,750,000)
	Request Total		\$0

1a. Description of request:

Replace existing J.D. Edwards financial system.

- 1) Perform a needs assessment of Whatcom County's financial system needs.
- 2) Development of bid specifications.
- 3) Acquire new financial system software and implementation services
- 4) Acquire necessary network file servers.

1b. Primary customers:

The financial system serves all branches of county government and all county departments.

2. Problem to be solved:

Our existing J.D. Edwards World financial system (JDE) was purchased in 1993. The system is based on an old text based system. It is written in IBM's RPG program language. RPG programmers are rapidly transitioning out of the work force, therefore system interfaces to other systems are getting more challenging to maintain. The system is not Windows based therefore it is not user friendly to new employees. By today's standards it has limited online inquiries and its report writhers are difficult to use. We are currently pushing the limits of the JDE payroll system. It is challenging to accommodate changes in union contracts, state laws and employee benefits. The JDE human resources system is difficult to use and does not meet the county's current needs. While J.D. Edwards still supports it's World system, it has replace the World system with a newer system called Enterprise One. J.D. Edwards' resources supporting it's World software are on the decline. The company has been very late in updating the tax reporting components of it's World software which puts unappreciated pressure on county staff to meet IRS deadlines.

3a. Options / Advantages:

It is an option to continue to use the current system however the challenges the current system presents will likely get progressively worse in the future. Replacing the system is the best option because the more modern design will make the financial information more accessible to all levels of the government and should make county operations more efficient.

3b. Cost savings:

In the short term it is not likely that there will be any cost savings. Software maintenance on a new system will likely be more than we are paying now and we will need to train all employees on use of the new system. Over the long term we could see savings from more efficient processes.

4a. Outcomes:

A new financial system will be selected and purchased in calendar year 2020.

A modern financial system will be implemented in calendar year 2021.

Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

Administrative Services

Finance

Supp'l ID # 2646

Fund

Cost Center

Originator: Brad Bennett

4b. Measures:

A new financial system will be in production.

5a. Other Departments/Agencies:

All county departments will be impacted.

5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:

A project team will be assembled from a representatives from key departments.

6. Funding Source:

This project is funded by a transfer from the General Fund.