

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Councilman Jeff Sax, 425-388-3494

Law & Justice Committee Accepts Efficiency Report \$1 million + Identified in Potential Savings

[Everett, Wash.] The Snohomish County Council's Law & Justice Committee, chaired by Councilman Jeff Sax, received an efficiencies report today from Performance Auditor Martin Standel. The performance audit report was requested last fall by Chairman Sax.

"We asked him to look efficiency efforts put into play since 2001," stated Councilman Jeff Sax. "The auditor's analysis shows that the work of the Law & Justice Cabinet in pursuing efficiencies is worthwhile to the tune of \$1 million. "

Performance Auditor Standel has worked across all departments for the past several months to quantify over \$1 million in potential savings which could be achieved if the county implements current efficiencies projects now under study by the county's Law & Justice Cabinet. The Cabinet will meet April 23rd to continue their work on efficiency implementation at a retreat.

Highlights of the report, which can be found at: <http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/auditor/PAud-Projects.asp>, include:

- The reduction in average length of stay in the jail has saved the county in excess of \$800,000 annually.
- Potential to save \$530,000 annually in overtime savings identified from the temporary closure of Camp Evergreen
- Up to \$120,000 savings annually related to reducing the number of individuals who fail to appear for their court dates, and subsequent warrants issued, and other downstream costs.
- Additional unidentified savings associated with the new legal financial obligations project in which the County Clerk takes over legal financial obligations oversight and collections.
- Agreed that there are opportunities to reduce the average daily population in the jail in the Driving While License Suspended area which accounts for a significant portion of the misdemeanor workload.
- Recommended that the County look for additional ways to streamline the process so that the L&J Cabinet can more quickly implement efficiencies.

"Economic times are tight and we must think outside of the box to find and implement new ways of doing business as ongoing process," concluded Sax. "Our focus must not be on congratulating ourselves for past successes, but focused on future opportunities."