

**AGENDA
MORTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM December 22, 2025**

Mayor Rick Mead

City Clerk LuAnn Ward

Council Jason Sawyer

Council Bob Boyer

Council Richard Vanderlip

Council Travis Cooper

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes of November 24, 2025 vouchers and EFT's

3. PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS ON AGENDA ONLY

4. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Agreement relating to appointment of public defender for City of Morton.
2. Approval of CBA for non commissioned employees
3. Approval of CBA for commissioned employees
4. Dan Mortensen citizen complaint regarding council abuse of position.
5. Jerry Wallin removal of light pole 141 Front Ave.
6. Ronda Cornwell – E. Lewis County Chamber of Commerce requesting \$15,000 from 2026 tourism funds.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: - LIMIT 3 MINUTES

ADJOURN:

November 24, 2025
Morton City Council Regular Meeting

Mayor Rick Mead
Councilman Jason Sawyer
Councilman Bob Boyer - Absent
Councilman Richard Vanderlip
Councilman Travis Cooper

7:03 pm – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor Mead

Consent Agenda minutes, vouchers and EFTs from October 27, 2025 (Motion by councilman Vanderlip, 2nd councilman Sawyer, all in favor)

Public comment:

A citizen asked for an explanation how tourism dollars are being spent and they feel more money should go towards parks.

New business:

- Rocky from LC Solid Waste Management gave update on hopeful future transfer station and recycle station. Council approved Resolution 556 adopting LC Solid Waste Management plan update (Motion councilman Sawyer, 2nd councilman Vanderlip, all in favor)
- Council approved Interlocal agreement between City of Morton and City of Napavine (Motion by councilman Sawyer, 2nd councilman Vanderlip, all in favor)
- Councilman approved Resolution 557 to increase property tax (Motion by councilman Vanderlip, 2nd councilman Cooper, all in favor)
- Dan Mortensen gave a presentation for Historical Society in a request for 2026 tourism dollars.
- Fred Schwindt gave a presentation for Fire Mt. Arts in a request for 2026 tourism dollars.
- After discussion Council approved Interlocal agreement between City of Morton and City of Mossyrock for police services. (Motion by councilman Vanderlip, 2nd councilman Cooper, all in favor)
- Council approved final read of 2026 budget Ordinance 2025-08 (Motion by councilman Vanderlip, 2nd councilman Sawyer, all in favor)

Old Business:

None

Public Participation:

Adjourn 8:15 pm

Respectfully, LuAnn Ward, City Clerk

Ricky Mead, Mayor

AGREEMENT AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER
FOR CITY OF MOSSYROCK MORTON NAPAIVINE TOLEDO WINLOCK

In mutual consideration of the following terms and conditions the Parties agree to the following:

1. PARTIES

Parties to this Agreement shall be the City of Mossyrook, Morton, Napavine, Toledo, Winlock Court, hereinafter referred to as "The City" and the undersigned attorney hereinafter referred to as the "Public Defender".

2. PRELIMINARY ARTICLE

- 2.1 The Public Defender shall be a qualified attorney admitted to the practice of law in the State of Washington and shall be bound to act in accordance with the Rules of Conduct established by the Washington State Bar Association as adopted by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington.
- 2.2 The Public Defender shall have demonstrated experience in representing parties in criminal matters at a level acceptable to the Court.
- 2.3 The City requires that the Public Defender act in an independent and professional manner consistent with the best legal interests of the client said attorney will serve. To that end, the City agrees not to make any judgment concerning the qualifications or performance by a Public Defendant which is based upon a difference of legal interpretation between a Public Defender and the City.
- 2.4 The Public Defender shall maintain malpractice insurance during the entire period of the contract and shall provide proof of such insurance to the City.

3. TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

- 3.1 The term of performance of this Agreement will be for a period From January 1, 2026 until the close of business on the 31st day of December 2027. The Public Defender shall continue to represent to final disposition all clients appointed within the period of this Agreement.
- 3.2 The Public Defender and the City shall have the right to termination without cause. Any termination shall be handled in a courteous and professional manner, and only after conversation between the City and the Public Defender. In case of such termination of appointment, the Public Defender and the City shall provide thirty (30) days written notice of termination prior to the effective date of any termination,

and the affected Public Defender shall exercise all reasonable efforts to complete all cases currently in process.

4. FEE FOR SERVICES

Legal Services to be performed will be compensated by unit. A unit shall be defined as any of the following;

- 4.1 Representing and advising a criminal defendant accused of either a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor offense through all stages including pre-trial release, pre-trial hearings, suppression hearings, trial confirmation hearings, change of plea and sentencing. Cases involving a single incident and offense date will be treated as one unit regardless of the number of charges or citations filed.
- 4.2 Representation of criminal defendants for a jury trial will be counted as an additional 5.0 units per day in trial. Jury trials begin upon empaneling a jury. If the case settles after trial confirmation but prior to empaneling a jury only an additional 2.0 units may be added for trial preparation.
- 4.3 A Bench trial shall be counted as an additional 2.0 units. Bench trial units shall be earned upon commencement of opening statements. If the case settles after trial confirmation but before the opening statement an additional 1.0 units may be added for trial preparation.
- 4.4 A filed motion shall be counted as an additional 1.0 unit and an additional 1.5 units for a hearing on such motion.
- 4.5 Representing a defendant on a probation violation hearing will be counted as .75 units for each cause number.
- 4.6 Post-trial motions and post-sentencing hearings will not be compensated additionally, nor is the Public Defender appointed for such hearings. Any post-trial motions the Public Defender is willing to be appointed on shall be negotiated upon appointment.
- 4.7 The Public Defender shall be reimbursed for expert witness fees and other out of pocket expenses when approved by the Court in advance.
- 4.8 The Public Defender may request additional units on a case when circumstances warrant additional payment as determined by the presiding Judge.
- 4.9 The Public Defender's representation terminates upon entry of a Judgment and Sentence, Deferred Prosecution, Sentencing in a show cause/probation violation, or Withdrawal Order.
- 4.10 If a Defendant has failed to appear in Court as ordered and more than four(4) months have elapsed there from without the Defendant having appeared in Court, the Public Defender representation shall continue, and the case shall be treated as new appointment.

- 4.11 One Public Defender shall appear at each arraignment calendar to assist unrepresented defendants. Public Defender shall review probable cause statements and/or officer affidavits prior to the arraignment calendar. Appearing at an arraignment calendar will be 1.5 units.
- 4.12 Any charge of DUI, Physical Control or Assault Fourth Degree, or any violation of a protection order, no contact order or antiharassment order will be an additional 1.0 unit. Any other charges that allege domestic violence, or sexual motivation will be an additional 1.0 unit.
Any case requiring the services of an interpreter shall be an additional 1.0 unit.

5.0 RATE OF COMPENSATION

- 5.1 The City shall pay the Public Defender the sum of \$_335__ for per unit for 2026 and \$370 for 2027.
- 5.2 The Public Defender shall provide to the City a Statement of Services Completed describing the number of units completed.
- 5.3 The City shall issue payment monthly for all services provided by the Public Defender, payment shall be made directly to the Public Defender.
- 5.4 The Public Defender shall bill the City for services at the conclusion of the case. If a defendant fails to appear at a court hearing and a warrant is issued, the Public Defender may bill for services. If the defendant appears in court within six months after the warrant is authorized to issue, the Public Defender shall not rebill for the same services if they have billed them.

6.0 SERVICES PROVIDED

- 6.1 Representation of qualified indigents at all stages of proceedings after appointment until withdrawal.
- 6.2 Work cooperatively with the City in scheduling of Court activities and appearances to enhance the efficiency of the Court and provide timely legal representation to the client.
- 6.3 Where a conflict of interest exists in a case assigned to the Public Defender, the City shall be responsible for arranging qualified substitute counsel and compensation to that attorney in accordance with RFO 1.6 (m).
- 6.4 The Public Defender shall be allowed to associate and/or substitute counsel at Public Defender's discretion so long as associated counsel meets criteria of section 2.1 through 2.4.

7.0 WITHDRAWAL BY PUBLIC DEFENDER

- 7.1 The Court shall immediately remove the Public Defender after a verdict of acquittal or a judgment and sentence is entered; or
- 7.2 Dismissal of the case; or
- 7.3 Entry of a final ruling on a probation case; or
- 7.4 Entry of a deferred prosecution; or
- 7.5 Any other reason approved by the Court.

8.0 APPEALS

- 8.1 If a Defendant is eligible the City shall appoint a Public Defender to handle appeals from the Judgment of the Court. Appellate representation may or shall be assigned to a different Public Defender than trial counsel. Trial counsel may request appointment of the appeal unless the Defendant believes a conflict exists.
- 8.2 Legal Services on an appeal to Superior Court shall be paid at \$150.0 per hour up to a maximum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) exclusive of costs, unless a greater amount is provided by the Court. Verified hourly billings under penalty of perjury must be presented upon completion prior to payment being made.

9.0 AMENDING THE AGREEMENT

- 9.1 This agreement may be amended by the parties without further additional consideration being exchanged during the term of performance if there is an agreement by both parties. The term of performance of this Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties.
- 9.2 Should this agreement be executed after the actual beginning of the term of performance by the Public Defender, the effective date of this Agreement shall be considered to be the date performance by the undersigned Public Defenders actually began and not the date of the execution of this Agreement.

The undersigned member of the Washington State Bar Association does hereby accept an appointment as a Public Defender of indigents accused in the City of Mossyrock, Morton, Napavine, Toledo, Winlock under the terms and conditions as set forth above.

This Appointment shall be effective starting January 1, 2026, and continue until cancelled by an affirmative act of either party as described in said agreement, or until December 31, 2027, whichever shall occur first.

CITY OF MOSSYROCK MORTON
NAPAVINE TOLEDO WINLOCK

Approved as to form:

By:

_____, MAYOR

JAMES M. B. BUZZARD, WSBA #33555

ATTEST:

PUBLIC DEFENDER:

CITY CLERK

JOSEPH O. ENBODY, WSBA # 21445

PUBLIC DEFENDER:

JACOB CLARK, WSBA #38768

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN



TEAMSTERS UNION LOCAL #252

AND

CITY OF MORTON

Non-Commissioned Employees

January 1, 202~~6~~3 - December 31, 202~~8~~5

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AGREEMENT
BETWEEN**



**TEAMSTERS UNION LOCAL #252
AND
CITY OF MORTON**

Commissioned Employees

The Union reserves the right to add to, modify, change, and/or delete proposals during negotiations.

January 1, 202~~6~~3 - December 31, 202~~8~~5

**CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: _____

DAN MORTENSEN

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: DEC 22, 2025

Time needed for the presentation: 5 MINUTES

Subject of presentation: ABUSE OF POSITION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST - COUNCIL

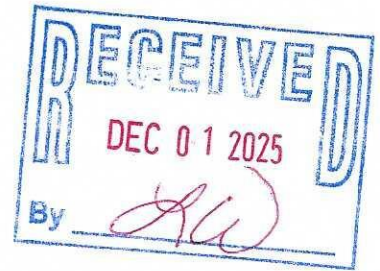
You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: _____

Council meetings are 4th Monday of each month at Bob Lyle Community Center 700 Main Ave.

Agenda request forms must be received at City Hall no later than 12pm Wednesday prior to meeting date.

CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM



Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: _____

Jerry Wallin

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: Dec. 22nd

Time needed for the presentation: Maybe 10 min.

Subject of presentation: poss. Removal of light Pole 141 Front Ave

You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: _____

Council meetings are 4th Monday of each month at Bob Lyle Community Center 700 Main Ave.

Agenda request forms must be received at City Hall no later than 12pm Wednesday prior to meeting date.

RECEIVED
DEC 17 2025

CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM

Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: Rhonda Cornwell
East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: Dec 22, 2025

Time needed for the presentation: 10 min

Subject of presentation: Lodging Tax grant

You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: Proposal package turned in

Council meetings are 4th Monday of each month at Bob Lyle Community Center 700 Main Ave.

Agenda request forms must be received at City Hall no later than 12pm Wednesday prior to meeting date.

RECEIVED
DEC 17 2025

Lodging Tax Request

Request Worksheet

Lodging Tax dollars are a consumer tax on lodging charges and it is the guiding principle that the funds from this tax is to be used on activities, operations and expenditures designed to promote tourism. Tourism means economic activity resulting from tourists, which may include sales of overnight lodging, meals, tours, gifts, or souvenirs (RCW 67.28.080). Lodging tax dollars can be used for:

- Tourism marketing;
- Marketing and operations of special events and festivals designed to attract tourists;
- Operations and capital expenditures of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by a municipality or a public facilities district;
- Operations of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by nonprofit organizations (RCW 67.28.1816)

Business or Entity Name: East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce

Contact Person: Rhonda Cornwell Phone Number: (509) 985-6844 cell

Address: 250 Westlake Ave Suite C City: Morton State: WA Zip: 98356

Email Address: rhondaelcc@gmail.com Amount Requested: \$ 15,000.00

Is the request for the operations or capital expenditures of a tourism-related facility owned by the City? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Is the request for the operational support of a tourism-related facility owned or operated by an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(6)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is the request to support or promote tourism within the city? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is the request for the marketing and operation of a tourist attracting event or festival within the city? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Please provide estimates on how the requested funds will increase the number of people traveling to Morton, staying overnight in paid accommodations, from a distance greater than 50 miles, from another country or state and a plan on how the funds will be used (Use additional sheets if necessary).

We are excited to announce two significant events; One is in honor of our nations 250th anniversary. This celebration is not only a tribute to our rich history but also an opportunity to unite our community and neighboring states. This year, we will strive to set a new world record for the largest potluck picnic, as well as for the highest attendance at such an event. The festivities will take place in the City of Morton, and the Guinness Book of World Records will oversee and verify our attempt. Our goal is to gather participants from our local community, as well as from across Washington and Oregon. We aim to foster stronger connections and celebrate togetherness. To ensure a wide reach and attract visitors from diverse areas, we will promote the event through KIRO 7, several other news stations, and various social media platforms. This coordinated effort is designed to draw tourists and highlight the significance of our milestone celebration. In addition to the potluck picnic, our second event—the Sasquatch-Beyond the Footprint Festival—will be held outside of Morton in Randle, WA. Despite its location, this festival is expected to bring significant tourist activity to Morton and the surrounding areas. Featuring a line-up of speakers from popular TV shows, the festival is poised to attract attendees from across the United States, further elevating the profile of our region. We are currently expecting 2000-3000 tourists.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information submitted with application is true and correct.

Signature: Rhonda Cornwell

Date: 12/16/2025

Date:

Important Information

RCW 67.28.080

Definitions.

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Acquisition" includes, but is not limited to, siting, acquisition, design, construction, refurbishing, expansion, repair, and improvement, including paying or securing the payment of all or any portion of general obligation bonds, leases, revenue bonds, or other obligations issued or incurred for such purpose or purposes under this chapter.
- (2) "Municipality" means any county, city or town of the state of Washington.
- (3) "Operation" includes, but is not limited to, operation, management, and marketing.
- (4) "Person" means the federal government or any agency thereof, the state or any agency, subdivision, taxing district or municipal corporation thereof other than county, city or town, any private corporation, partnership, association, or individual.
- (5) "Tourism" means economic activity resulting from tourists, which may include sales of overnight lodging, meals, tours, gifts, or souvenirs.
- (6) "Tourism promotion" means activities, operations, and expenditures designed to increase tourism, including but not limited to advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing information for the purpose of attracting and welcoming tourists; developing strategies to expand tourism; operating tourism promotion agencies; and funding the marketing of or the operation of special events and festivals designed to attract tourists.
- (7) "Tourism-related facility" means real or tangible personal property with a usable life of three or more years, or constructed with volunteer labor that is: (a)(i) Owned by a public entity; (ii) owned by a nonprofit organization described under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as amended; or (iii) owned by a nonprofit organization described under section 501(c)(6) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, a business organization, destination marketing organization, main street organization, lodging association, or chamber of commerce and (b) used to support tourism, performing arts, or to accommodate tourist activities.

RCW 67.28.1816

Lodging Tax – Tourism Promotion

(1) Lodging tax revenues under this chapter may be used, directly by any municipality or indirectly through a convention and visitors bureau or destination marketing organization for:

- (a) Tourism marketing;
- (b) The marketing and operations of special events and festivals designed to attract tourists;
- (c) Supporting the operations and capital expenditures of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by a municipality or a public facilities district created under chapters 35.57 and 36.100 RCW; or
- (d) Supporting the operations of tourism-related facilities owned or operated by nonprofit organizations described under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) and 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(6) of the internal revenue code of 1986, as amended.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, applicants applying for use of revenues in this chapter must provide the municipality to which they are applying estimates of how any moneys received will result in increases in the number of people traveling for business or pleasure on a trip:

- (i) Away from their place of residence or business and staying overnight in paid accommodations;
 - (ii) To a place fifty miles or more one way from their place of residence or business for the day or staying overnight; or
 - (iii) From another country or state outside of their place of residence or their business.
- (b)(i) In a municipality with a population of five thousand or more, applicants applying for use of revenues in this chapter must submit their applications and estimates described under (a) of this subsection to the local lodging tax advisory committee.
- (ii) The local lodging tax advisory committee must select the candidates from amongst the applicants applying for use of revenues in this chapter and provide a list of such candidates and recommended amounts of funding to the municipality for final determination. The municipality may choose only recipients from the list of candidates and recommended amounts provided by the local lodging tax advisory committee.
- (c)(i) All recipients must submit a report to the municipality describing the actual number of people traveling for business or pleasure on a trip:
- (A) Away from their place of residence or business and staying overnight in paid accommodations;
 - (B) To a place fifty miles or more one way from their place of residence or business for the day or staying overnight; or
 - (C) From another country or state outside of their place of residence or their business. A municipality receiving a report must: Make such report available to the local legislative body and the public; and furnish copies of the report to the joint legislative audit and review committee and members of the local lodging tax advisory committee.
- (ii) The joint legislative audit and review committee must on a biennial basis report to the economic development committees of the legislature on the use of lodging tax revenues by municipalities. Reporting under this subsection must begin in calendar year 2015.
- (d) This section does not apply to the revenues of any lodging tax authorized under this chapter imposed by a county with a



On behalf of the East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, we express our sincere gratitude for the opportunity to apply for funding through the City of Morton. The support provided by this organization is essential in sustaining and enhancing the services and activities that our chamber will bring to the community. We deeply appreciate your consideration and the valuable resources that enable us to continue our mission. We are asking for \$ 15,000.00 to aid in our upcoming Morton Potluck Dinner and Sasqwatch - Beyond the Footprint Festival. These festivals are slated to bring in thousands of tourists from across the US and beyond.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Rhonda Cornwell, and I am honored to serve as one of the newest board members of the East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce. Alongside my husband, I own The Shaker Craftsman in Randle, WA, a business that has proudly served local communities for over 30 years. Originally from Virginia, we recently relocated to Randle and have quickly developed a strong appreciation for this area, its churches, the remarkable residents of Morton, and the beautiful surroundings.

Community Events and Initiatives

We are excited to announce a variety of upcoming events designed to unite our community and attract tourists. With the celebration of our nation's 250th birthday we will attempt to break a record for the largest potluck. We have contacted Guinness Book of World Records, and they are awaiting the date. We will also attempt to break the record for the most people attending a potluck. We will also introduce a new cookbook featuring contributions from community members and businesses, with advertising opportunities available to foster engagement and support local businesses. This cookbook will be featured around Bigfoot and can be sold across the US.

Chamber Role During Challenging Times

When faced with economic challenges, supply chain disruptions, or rising costs, the Chamber of Commerce is committed to helping local businesses not only survive but also pursue growth. The East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to supporting the prosperity of our businesses, providing resources and assistance to navigate periods of uncertainty. Together, we must rally to attract tourists to our area and strengthen our community. Like many businesses in East Lewis County, our business relies on tourists and with new initiatives coming this year we aim to bring more tourists to our area.

Chamber Marketing Initiatives and Member Support

To effectively engage the tourism market and elevate the profile of our local businesses, the chamber is launching a comprehensive suite of marketing opportunities tailored for an audience interested in visiting East Lewis County. Businesses will be prominently featured in our newsletters, receive dedicated social media recognition, and benefit from inclusion in sponsored events. These coordinated efforts are intended to boost member visibility and draw tourists from both neighboring communities and more distant regions.

Our forthcoming campaigns and business directories will place a spotlight on chamber members, simplifying the process for visitors to discover and interact with local establishments during their stays. This focused approach aims to increase direct engagement between tourists and our business community.

Responding to the needs expressed by our members, we are introducing "Tech Thursdays" beginning in January. This initiative will consist of a 12 week-long series of learning sessions designed to help businesses enhance their digital marketing skills. Topics will include platforms such as Canva, Facebook marketing, artificial intelligence, and other tools essential for modern business growth. By running this campaign over twelve consecutive weeks, we will evaluate its impact on our community and local enterprises.

In addition, the chamber is investing in its infrastructure by installing two new computers at its facility. These resources will be available for use by both businesses and community members. We will also provide light printing and copy services, further supporting the operational needs of our members and the broader community.

Event Highlights and Impact

Our recent Sasqwatch Beyond The Footprint event united renowned researchers and speakers from both the local area and beyond. Attendees benefited from presentations by leading experts, and the atmosphere proved highly conducive to learning and networking. Feedback indicated strong enthusiasm for the venue and organization, and there is a belief that Sasqwatch, Beyond the Footprint will grow into the largest event of its kind.

Upcoming Sasqwatch Festival

This year, we have an impressive lineup of speakers, including the host of the Finding Bigfoot series, Matt Moneymaker, along with James "Bobo" Fay, Cliff Barackman, Ranae Holland, and others. The first annual SasqWatch - Beyond the Footprint festival attracted 100 camping units and numerous hotel and Airbnb stays, with a significant portion of attendees coming from outside Lewis County and neighboring states. The upcoming three-day festival is expected to draw even more tourists from across the United States due to the strong following of our featured speakers. Last year's event was our first, but it has reached far beyond Washington State, and we

have already had a multitude of people seeking ticket and lodging information without announcing our new speaker line-up

Digital Engagement and New Website

Our expanding digital presence is also helping us reach new audiences. From August 29 to September 25, 2025, our Facebook campaigns garnered over 89,000 views and 4,600 interactions, with 85% of engagement coming from non-followers, indicating widespread interest beyond Washington State. The launch of our new website will serve as a central digital gateway to East Lewis County, enhancing our ability to convert interest into actual visits.

Visitor Projections and Partnerships

With continued support from lodging tax funding, projections for 2026 estimate 3,000 to 5,000 out-of-state visitors, with expectations for further growth as the SasqWatch festival and marketing campaigns expand. Collaborative partnerships with organizations such as the Morton Historical Society, Discover Lewis County and others will allow us to work together to bring more tourists to the area.

By addressing the needs of tourists, we will contribute to a positive impact on the community. Our efforts are aimed at enhancing local economic growth and fostering a welcoming environment for visitors.

Enclosed with this letter we have also included relevant appendices, such as resumes of key personnel, budget information, and sightings to demonstrate the capacity of our upcoming events.

We respectfully request a grant of \$15,000.00 to support our projects, which will help us bring thousands of tourists to our area. We are confident that with your support, we can successfully implement this project and bring about positive change in our community.

Thank you for considering our grant proposal. We are available for any further discussions or to provide any additional information you may require. We look forward to the possibility of collaborating with the City of Morton to make a meaningful impact together.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Cornwell

President, East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce



Budget Proposal

This section outlines the proposed budget for the project. All major categories of anticipated expenditures have been considered to ensure comprehensive financial planning.

For those seeking further information, a detailed breakdown of expenditures is available upon request. This includes specific line items and associated costs to provide additional clarity and transparency regarding the allocation of funds.



Event Overview

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| EVENT NAME | Morton Potluck to celebrate our 250 th Anniversary |
| DATE AND TIME | June 2026 |
| VENUE | Morton |
| NUMBER OF ATTENDEES | 1500 |
| AMOUNT REQUIRED | 18,000.00 |
| PREPARED BY | East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce |

Event Description

Brief Description

We will be organizing the world's largest potluck picnic to commemorate our nations 250th Anniversary. Additionally, we aim to set a record for the highest number of attendees

Objectives

To commemorate our nations anniversary and attract tourists to our community

Benefits

This event is aimed to attract tourists from across the state of Washington and beyond to increase tourism and revenue for the City of Morton

Proposed Program

| START TIME | END TIME | ACTIVITY |
|------------|----------|--|
| 10:00 | 11:00 | Guinness Book of World Records officials count dishes and people |
| 11:00 | 4:00 | Bands to play celebrating our event |
| | | |
| | | |

Notes: At this time we are still calculating expenditures.



Event Overview

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| EVENT NAME | Sasqwatch Beyond the Footprint |
| DATE AND TIME | September 26, 27 th and 28 th 2026 |
| VENUE | Randle, WA |
| NUMBER OF ATTENDEES | 3000 |
| AMOUNT REQUIRED | 50,000.00 |
| PREPARED BY | East Lewis County Chamber of Commerce |

Event Description

Brief Description

We will be inviting television show hosts from across the United States and Canada to participate in one of the largest annual festivals dedicated to Bigfoot enthusiasts.

Objectives

To bring tourists from across the US

Benefits

This event is aimed to bring tourists from across the US and Canada. This will boost the local economy, Hotels, Air B & B's. We are expecting thousands of tourists

Proposed Program

| START TIME | END TIME | ACTIVITY |
|------------|----------|--|
| 5:00 | 11:00 | bands, stories around the campfire, search for bigfoot with thermals |
| 10:00 | 9:00 | Bigfoot speakers, vendors, classrooms |
| 10:00 | 6:00 | 5k run, Bigfoot speakers, vendors classrooms |
| | | |

Notes: At this time we are still calculating expenditures.