

COVER MEMO

Briefing Date/Time: December 8, 2025

Staff Contact/Title: Damien Egan, Harbor Senior Manager, 360.528.8045, damiene@portolympia.com

Subject: Harbor Patrol Organizational Transition

Purpose: ☐ Information Only ☒ Decision Needed

Overview:

- Action item, approval requested.
- Organizational transition plan for the Port of Olympia Harbor Patrol.

Background:

The Port of Olympia has operated the Harbor Patrol since acquiring the program from the City of Olympia in 2015. Port staff and Thurston County Sheriff's Office will provide a presentation on the proposed transfer of the Harbor Patrol program to the Thurston County Sheriff's Office.

Documents Attached:

PowerPoint Presentation.

Summary and Financial Impact:

The Harbor Patrol program has a proposed 2026 operating budget of \$35,000. This budget expense is accounted for within the Port's Government Services budget section. Transfer of the program will reduce the Port's operating budget by the approved amount

Affected Parties:

Port of Olympia
Thurston County Sheriff's Office
City of Olympia
Harbor Patrol

Next Steps/Timeframe:

Staff will request authorization from the Commission to allow the Executive Director to approve the interlocal agreement (ILA), when completed, between the

Port and the Thurston County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) to effect a complete transfer of the organization, its two vessels, and other program-related Port-owned assets. The intent is for the program to be fully maintained but operating in the future under the auspices of the TCSO Marine Services Unit (MSU). When the ILA is executed, the Port will remit payment to FEMA for release of grant obligations. Upon confirmation of release from FEMA, vessels will be transferred to TCSO. The Port will continue to support the TCSO-MSU as required.

Considerations and Conclusion:

The Port's oversight of the Harbor Patrol program over the last 10 years has ensured the continuation of a former City of Olympia program that has been an essential community asset. Increased costs associated with maintaining its two vessels, increased liability to the Port by providing these services – coupled with the lack of Port law enforcement authority – has placed a significant burden on continuing operations. Transferring the program to TCSO will reduce Port budget and staff obligations, will allow the program to have oversight from an entity more in line with the Harbor Patrol Mission, will add a needed law enforcement capability to Thurston County waterways, and will achieve expanded community benefits.

Staff Recommendation:

Port staff recommends Commission authorization to allow the Executive Director to execute the ILA with TCSO, subject to agreement by both parties on all terms and conditions and further subject to approval by Port counsel.