

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-07-028

AN ORDINANCE ADDING A NEW SECTION BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE 2.24.055 TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF WARRANT OFFICER AT THE BELLINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham Police Department has the authority and duties that are typical of municipal police departments, including maintenance of the peace, issuance of citations, arrest and detention, investigation of criminal activity, crime prevention, and such other duties as are set by ordinance or by the laws of the state; and

WHEREAS, as part of its duties, the Bellingham Police Department assists with the extradition of prisoners and serves warrants for the arrest of persons; and

WHEREAS, as part of its duties, the Bellingham Police Department serves civil and criminal court orders, subpoenas, and other such process from the courts of Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, as part of its duties, the Bellingham Police Department provides security for the Bellingham Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, the Bellingham Police Department has employed the position of a limited authority warrant officer for approximately thirty (30) years to serve arrest warrants, civil and criminal court orders, subpoenas, and other such process from the courts of Whatcom County; assist with extradition; and, more recently, provide security for the Bellingham Municipal Court; and

WHEREAS, the Bellingham Police Department currently employs two warrant officers; and

WHEREAS, the warrant officers, by performing their limited duties, free fully commissioned officers to more readily respond to emergencies and investigate crimes and other infractions and thereby create greater efficiency at the Bellingham Police Department; and

WHEREAS, recently enacted Substitute Senate Bill 5004, Laws of 2015, ch. 288 requires that municipalities pass an ordinance that fixes the number of and qualifications for warrant officers and vests the warrant officers with specific authority, such as the authority to make arrests authorized by warrants and other authority related to the service of civil and criminal process; and

WHEREAS, the Bellingham Police Department wishes to continue to employ and use its established limited authority warrant officer positions for the greater good of the department, the City, and the general public welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

Section 1. A new section 2.24.055 is added to the Bellingham Municipal Code Title 2, chapter 24, which shall read as follows:

2.24.055 Warrant Officers

- A. The position of warrant officer is hereby established in the Bellingham Police Department as authorized by Washington Laws of 2015, ch. 288, section 1. The warrant officers shall have special limited authority as provided for in this section.
- B. The Bellingham Police Department is authorized to employ up to two (2) warrant officers.
- C. Minimum qualifications for the position of warrant officer include: be at least 21 years of age; type 30 words per minute; satisfactorily complete a Bellingham Police Department background investigation, including a polygraph examination, a criminal convictions records check, and a psychological exam; possess a valid Washington State driver's license; submit a satisfactory three-year driving abstract; and satisfy any established training requirements by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.
- D. Warrant officers shall have the special limited authority to: make arrests authorized by warrant or other court orders; serve civil and criminal court orders, including protection orders, no contact orders, restraining orders, and anti-harassment orders; serve subpoenas; transport to and book arrested persons into jail; extradite and transport prisoners; provide security for the Bellingham Municipal Court; and all duties ancillary to the aforementioned authority. The warrant officers shall also have the authority to perform other duties for the Bellingham Police Department that do not require the authority of a fully commissioned police officer.
- E. Training requirements for warrant officers shall be established by the Chief of Police and approved by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.
- F. Warrant officers shall not be entitled to death, disability, or retirement benefits pursuant to chapter 41.26 RCW on the basis of service as a warrant officer as described in this section.

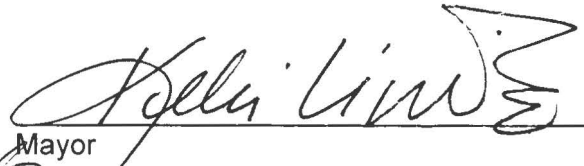
PASSED by the Council this 6th day of July, 2015.



Council President

APPROVED by me this 9th day of July, 2015.


City of Bellingham
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Mayor

ATTEST: 

Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney

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