



## **Firearms Background Check Rate Study**

Firearms Background Division

*Effective July 1, 2026*

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**WASHINGTON STATE PATROL**

Firearms Background Division

Effective July 1, 2026

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### Overview

The Budget and Fiscal Services Division consults with other Washington State Patrol divisions and sections in the preparation of rate studies for various activities. The purpose of these studies is to develop options for setting rates to charge third-party users of Washington State Patrol services and facilities.

Rate studies are conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, federal cost allocation guidelines, and governmental accounting standards. It is the agency's intent to also comply with Revised Code of Washington 43.43.580, which states in part:

“... The fee must be set at an amount reasonably calculated to cover the direct and indirect costs to the Washington state patrol incurred in administering the firearm background check program. ...”

### Methodology

This study was based on Washington State Patrol estimated expenditures for fiscal year 2027 (July 2026 – June 2027). Using estimated expenditures ensures accurate cost estimates for services performed by the Washington State Patrol Firearms Background Division. If future services and/or expenditures are not equivalent to estimated levels, actual revenue collected may not meet the future needs of the services. Impacts of recovery levels not met include stakeholders experiencing longer response times.

- Data for analyzing the costs was derived from various sources.
  - Activity use was calculated based on projected estimates for fiscal year 2027 provided by the Firearms Background Division.
  - Due to unavailability of complete actual financial data, expenditures were estimated based on agency estimated expenditure for fiscal year 2027. Estimated expenditures are used by the agency for proposed legislative fiscal note requests and agency budget requests. Actual expenditure data will be used for future rate study development.
- Future rate study development will use actual expenditures.
- Developed rates are for the purpose of recovering expenditures occurred within the State Firearms Background Check System account fund established under RCW 43.43.590. Expenditure estimates exclude other funding sources. Excluding other funding sources ensures recovery is for services related to fund expenditures.
- The July 1, 2026, agency indirect cost rate of 32.00% was included in the calculated rate.
- State of Washington Business and Occupational Tax rate of 0.484% was included in the calculated rate.

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- Estimated salary and benefit rates are based on job classifications (step L) and benefits on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each fiscal year.

Attachments to this document are described on page 5 and display the calculations made in the study.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

1. Based on the computations (see Attachment A) and staff discussion, the following rate is proposed:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Firearms Background Check Rate	\$18.00	\$33.00

*Note: Implementation of Chapter 100, Laws of 2026 eliminated current rate under RCW 43.43.580. Proposed rate ensures statutory compliance.*

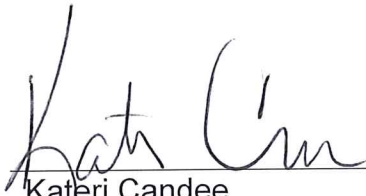
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**Signature Page**

- The fee will be implemented as outlined in Attachment A of the rate study.



Kateri Candee  
Firearms Background Division Commander

4/29/2026  
Date



Assistant Chief Jason Knott  
Investigative Services Bureau Commander

4/29/2026  
Date

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**Attachments**

Attachment A	Schedule of Costs and Rate Calculation
Attachment B	Footnotes

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**Attachment A – Schedule of Costs and Rate Calculation**

Firearms Background Division  
 Fiscal Year 2027 Estimated Expenditures <sup>1</sup>

	<b>Fiscal Year 2027 <sup>1</sup></b>
Full-time Equivalent (FTE)	51.0
A – Salaries <sup>2</sup>	3,985,613
B – Benefits <sup>3</sup>	1,380,464
E – Goods/Services <sup>4</sup>	967,644
J – Equipment <sup>4</sup>	93,075
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,426,796</b>
General Fund (001) Funding <sup>5</sup>	\$ 269,919
<b>State Firearms Backgrd Check System Acct (24T) Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 6,156,877</b>

Total Revenue Generating Checks		<b>250,000</b>
<i>Per Check</i>	<i>Direct Cost</i>	\$ 24.63
	<i>Indirect Cost <sup>6</sup></i>	\$ 7.88
	<i>B&amp;O Tax <sup>7</sup></i>	\$ 0.16
	<i>Complete Cost</i>	\$ 32.67
	<i>New Fee</i>	\$ 33.00

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## **Attachment B – Footnotes**

1. Fiscal year 2027 (July 2026 – June 2027) estimated expenditures based on agency's 2025-27 biennial budget estimates.
2. Job Classification Salary as of July 1, 2026, step L.
3. Benefits include employer share of federal and state taxes, retirement, and medical insurance as of July 1, 2026.
4. Support costs include:
  - a. Supplies and materials
  - b. Phone and postage
  - c. Professional development and training
  - d. Workstation equipment and software
5. Represents general fund appropriation for Firearms Background Division
6. The July 1, 2026, agency indirect cost rate of 32.00% was included in the calculated rate.
7. Business and Occupational tax rate of 0.484% applied to rate including indirect cost.