



City and Borough of Juneau
City & Borough Manager's Office
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TO: Chair Woll & Assembly Finance Committee
DATE: May 7, 2025
FROM: Robert Barr, Deputy City Manager
RE: Cold Weather Emergency Shelter (CWES) and Park Ranger increment

Both the CWES and Park Ranger (+0.5 FTE) increments in front of the Assembly are related to existing programs/services for people experiencing homelessness. We included them as proposed increments for additional transparency given the high degree of public interest and the complexity of the challenges we face with regard to homelessness related services.

CWES operations this past season (mid-October through mid-April) both went well, compared to previous years, and were challenging. We identify the following risks for next year:

- It is possible that we will see growth in demand that we are unable to meet in the existing space, with the existing operator
- It is possible that the existing operator may not have the capacity to provide service, or the same level of service, next year
- In the absence of the existing operator, we may not be able to find a replacement operator

Assuming we are successful in mitigating these risks, the CWES has the following needs for FY26:

- Addition of sprinkler system – estimated at \$60,000
- Hardening of toilets and sinks, which received significant damage/loss this year, and associated plumbing and new cots – estimated at \$15,000

We currently employ four park rangers at 2.89 FTE who are tasked with park and trail maintenance, parking garage and lot enforcement, responding to emergencies within P&R and during emergency events requiring activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and assisting with mitigating the impacts of behavior associated with public camping/homelessness. The department has been seeing increased need associated with the last duty and the increment request would bring one of these four (range 10) positions from 0.5 FTE to full-time in order to increase park patrols and maintain clean and safe park spaces.

Recommendation

Add \$75,000 for CWES improvements (one-time) and \$38,900 for the park ranger increment (recurring) to the FY26 budget.