



MEMORANDUM

CC-26-086

Resolution 26-025, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Urging the Alaska State Legislature to Fully Fund Community Assistance and Community Jails Programs in the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Aderhold.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and City Council
Date: April 4, 2026
From: Councilmember Aderhold

Background

Alaska House Finance wrapped up its budget amendment process and passed the operating budget out of committee. The current budget includes good news for Homer and municipalities in general: it includes full funding for Community Jails, ensures Community Assistance payments this year are at the \$30 million max, and recapitalizes the Community Assistance Fund enough to ensure \$20 million next year.

The operating budget has a long way to go before it passes the full legislature and heads to the governor's desk. Amendments will be made on the House floor before it is sent to the Senate. Once there, Senate Finance will make amendments and when it passes Senate Finance, the full Senate will make amendments on the floor. A conference committee of House and Senate Finance committee members will reconcile differences, and it will be voted on again by each body. The governor also has line-item veto power. So, while we sit in a good place now, this resolution is an opportunity to remind legislators and the governor of the value of Community Assistance (I like Revenue Sharing better, but that's for another day) and Community Jails.

The funding the City receives from Community Assistance is typically directed towards specific projects that we anticipate will be completed within the fiscal year. The funding frees up general fund dollars for other general fund needs.

Chief Scanlon shared some statistics on the use of Homer's jail for state prisoners. In 2025, State bookings in the Homer jail accounted for more than double the prisoner man-days of city bookings, a 111.65% difference. This demonstrates that community jails bear a disproportionate share of the State's detention burden and provide an indispensable service to the State's criminal justice system (Alaska State Troopers and Department of Corrections).

Chief Scanlon wrote, “I wonder if the legislature understands that by closing or not adequately funding the community jail program they inherit a heavier burden after initial arraignment. Once arraignment takes place, which it does every 24 hours the burden is then 100% on the state for transportation and housing. If the Homer City Jail isn’t operating, they (AST/DOC) will be responsible for housing and transportation to Wildwood as it is the closest state facility.”

City Council passed a resolution earlier this year supporting both programs. This resolution is intended to go to legislators to remind them of the value of the programs to municipal partners as they work on operating budget amendments.

Recommendation

Pass Resolution 26-025