DATE: **November 2, 2026**

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC NOTICE: FY25-27 CCFR Secure Rural Schools Act Title III – County Funds (SEC. 301-304) Spending Plan Proposal**

BACKGROUND

Under federal law, state and local governments receive payments through various programs due to the presence of federally owned land within their jurisdictions. Some of these payment programs are based on the revenue generated from specific land uses and activities. For example, Congress has authorized payments to the counties containing national forests—managed by the Forest Service—based on the revenue generated from those lands.

Revenue-generating activities include timber sales, recreation, grazing permits, and land use rentals, among other activities; timber sales have been the largest historical source of revenue. Starting in the 1990s, however, federal timber sales began to decline substantially, which led to reduced payments to the counties. In response, Congress enacted the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS; P.L. 106-393) as a temporary, optional program of payments, starting in FY2001. Congress has since extended the payments for every year except FY2016. Counties with eligible lands (national forests, O&C, and CBWR lands) can opt to receive either an SRS payment or a revenue-sharing payment, although most counties have elected to receive the SRS payment. Because a larger subset of counties are eligible, the bulk of the SRS payment goes to the lands managed by the Forest Service. The SRS payment is divided into three parts, each named after its respective title in the authorizing law and each with different requirements for how the funds may be used. Title III payments are to be used for specified county purposes.

As part of the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025, Public Law (P.L.) No: 119-58 extended the Secure Rural School program until 2026. This reauthorization extended the date by which Title III projects must be initiated to September 30, 2028, and the date by which Title III funds must be obligated to September 30, 2029. These deadlines apply to all unobligated Title III funds, including Title III funds under the current reauthorization of the SRS Act and Title III funds received under the previous authorization. Title III funds may be spent on the following authorized uses:

1. To carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program
2. To reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols
3. To cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency service described in Title III Section 302; and
4. To develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans
5. Provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services

PROPOSAL

The City and Borough of Juneau has elected to receive the SRS payment from the federal government for FY13-27. The following table details how Capital City Fire and Rescue has spent and plans to spend these funds in FY25-27.

CCFR FY25-27 Title III Funding Spending Plan (rounded to nearest hundred)

		FY25 Actual Expenses	FY26 Actual Expenses	FY27 Anticipated Expenses
Personnel Services (Regular & Overtime)				
	Rescue Response	$ 985	$ -	$ 15,000
	Training	$ 22,928	$ -	$ -
Equipment				
	Rescue Equipment Response	$ 2,213	$ -	$ 10,000
	Special Teams Equipment Water	$ 22,893	$ -	$ 15,000
	Special Teams Equipment Rope	$ 8,029	$ -	$ 15,000
	Inflatable Rescue Boat w/ Jet Motor	$ -	$ -	$ 25,000
	Double Stack Trailer for Two Rescue Boats	$ -	$ -	$ 15,000
Repairs				
	Rescue Equipment Repairs	$ -	$ -	$ 1,000
Total Title III Expenses		**$ 57,048**	**$ -**	**$ 96,000**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pursuant to Section 302(b)(1) of P.L. 117-58, this notice by the City and Borough of Juneau initiates a 45-day public comment period on the proposed use of funds as published (as a reference to this document) in a newspaper of local record. The City is also sending this proposal to the Juneau Resource Advisory Committee pursuant to Section 302(b)(2). The public can submit comments to Davy Anderson, City and Borough of Juneau Budget Analyst, electronically at davy.anderson@juneau.gov, or via mail to 155 Heritage Way, Juneau, AK 99801.

Following the 45-day public comment period, and after taking into full consideration the comments received, the City and Borough of Juneau will issue a decision on the proposed use of funds. If in the future the City and Borough of Juneau decides to apply these funds for different uses that meet the requirements of Title III of P.L. 117-58 other than the uses described in this document, a subsequent public notice will be issued for a 45-day public comment period.

This proposal will not pass through the City and Borough of Juneau's Assembly for public hearing. The FY25 and FY26 funds have already been appropriated and the revenue received with the adoption of the FY25 and FY26 city budgets, and the Assembly appropriated the funds to Capital City Fire and Rescue for the purpose outlined in this document in FY27 through the adoption of the FY27 City Budget.

Sources used for background information relating to the SRS Act:

- "The Secure Rural Schools And Community Self-Determination Act: Background And Issues". *Everycrsreport.Com*, 2023, https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R41303.html.