



Date: Tuesday, February 11th, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Assembly of
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

From: Mason F. Villarma, *Borough Manager*

RE: Borough Manager's Report

Borough Hiring Status

The following employment opportunities exist within the Borough. For information about any of the positions below, please visit www.wrangel.com/jobs:

- Electric Utility Superintendent – Open Until Filled
- Maintenance I, II, and III (Two Positions) – Open Until Filled
- Police Officer – Reviewing Candidates
- Human Resources Manager/Executive Assistant – First Review March 1st
- Fire/EMS Administrator – First Review February 17th

Sewer Outfall Repair

The Borough has settled with Seine Vessel's Reserve, the insurance pool providing coverage for the vessel that damaged the Borough sewer outfall, for \$50,000 to cover the cost of repairs. The sewer outfall project has been bid out, and an intent to award has been issued to the low bidder, Enviro-Tech Diving, for \$37,529. The bid opening took place on Tuesday, February 4th, and the Borough has finalized the bid tabulation.

Additionally, the Borough will be pursuing mitigation measures to ensure that the sewer outfall line is safeguarded from damage in the future. Mitigation may take the form of a new sign, updating NOAA charts, and marking the outfall with buoys identifying the outfall area as a "No Anchor Zone."

IBEW Police Department Negotiations

The Borough is working on ground rules for the IBEW Police Department negotiations upcoming. Negotiations have been pushed to the month of March due to IBEW capacity restraints. Rather than having a complete standalone agreement, the Borough and IBEW will add the positions to the existing Collective Bargaining

Agreement effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027, and create a section in the existing agreement that clarifies what sections apply to Police Department employees and which do not.

Upcoming Work Sessions and Other Meetings

- February 19th-20th – Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Executive Council Meeting
- Tuesday, February 25th, 2025 – Entitlement Lands/Timber 2025
- Monday, March 3rd – 5th – Timber Stakeholders Meeting (Invitation Only)
- Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 – Fee and Rate Schedule Analysis
- Monday, March 24th, 2025 – Joint School Board Work Session (Round 2)
- Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 – Budget Work Session

Board of Fisheries Meeting Ketchikan – Borough Manager Testimony

On February 4, 2025, I provided testimony to the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries alongside several Wrangell-based commercial fishermen to address proposals impacting the region's fisheries. Representing Wrangell's community, I highlighted the importance of its commercial fishing sector, which includes 60 Gillnet Permits, 7 Seine Permits, 59 Hand Troll Permits, and 50 Power Troll Permits. These fishermen are essential to the local economy, contributing jobs, income, and fresh seafood, while also supporting Wrangell's blue-collar identity.

Opposition was expressed to Proposal 156, which calls for a 25% reduction in the hatchery egg take for pink and chum salmon in Southeast Alaska. Such a measure would impose speculative risks to the local economy, which relies heavily on hatchery-supported fish stocks. The need for evidence-based management strategies that address broader challenges such as bycatch, climate change, and habitat loss was emphasized. Reference was made to Wrangell Borough Assembly's Resolution 11-24-1893, which adamantly opposes Proposal 156.

Support was also voiced for Proposal 159, which proposes amendments to the Wrangell Narrows-Blind Slough Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan. These amendments are vital to maintaining king salmon broodstock at Crystal Lake and ensuring the success of the Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area. The testimony highlighted the recreational and economic importance of Anita Bay, a key resource for Wrangell's residents, visitors, and commercial fishing fleet.

The Board was urged to reject Proposal 156 to prevent unnecessary harm to the community and adopt Proposal 159 to promote a sustainable and balanced approach to managing regional salmon resources.

The Board of Fisheries meeting was a great opportunity to network with commercial fisherman in the region, but also meet with Trident, SEAPA, SSRAA, Alcan, and AIDEA while in Ketchikan. I especially appreciated the time with Chris Guggenbickler, Julie Decker, and Alan Reeves who proudly provided testimony and advocated for Wrangell. I have included a copy of this testimony under my report.

FY 2026 Budget Development Calendar

The Borough is actively progressing on the FY 2026 budget. General Fund budget submissions were submitted to the Finance Department last Friday and will undergo review with each department director in the coming weeks. However, several factors are contributing to ongoing uncertainty, including ambiguity in State and Federal revenue streams, pending insurance renewal information, ongoing police department negotiations, and the need for final approval of fees and rates. As a result, it will take time to develop a clear and comprehensive picture of the budget.

Emergency Operations Plan - Update

The Borough has initiated a comprehensive review of the newly drafted Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The draft plan is available for public review at wrangellplanning.com, and Borough officials, employees, partners, and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback by submitting comments to clerk@wrangell.com. To ensure transparency and community engagement, the Borough plans to host a public event to address questions and concerns.

Wrangell Timber Initiative

A meeting will be held in Wrangell from March 3rd to March 5th, 2025, to further the partnership between the City and Borough of Wrangell and the Trust Land Office with the goal of revitalizing the local timber industry. The event will focus on showcasing Wrangell's timber inventory and deepwater port while facilitating ongoing collaborative discussions. The attendees will include a variety of stakeholders, including representatives from the Trust Land Office, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), the US Forest Service (USFS), the Governor's Office, and local officials, among others.

This gathering will provide an opportunity to continue planning efforts, foster stronger partnerships, and explore the timber industry's potential in Wrangell. A formal agenda will be shared ahead of time, but the primary objective is to align stakeholders around the vision for the timber sector's revitalization and leverage Wrangell's natural assets to drive economic growth.

Wrangell Public Schools Historical Financial Report

The Borough has been holding weekly meetings with Representative Bynum, during which he requested prior year school funding data. I'm providing this information below to offer additional context as we approach our upcoming joint work session

with Wrangell Public Schools:

Wrangell Public Schools							
Historic Data and Estimates as of February 2, 2025							
Fiscal Year	ADM	Adj. ADM	Base Need	State Aid	Teacher FTE	Notes	
2025-26*	280.00	595.52	3,549,288	2,662,910	21.14	Pre-K Estimated	Title 1 Paid Position
2024-25*	258.75	647.52	3,859,208	2,996,706	21.14	Pre-K Estimated	Title 1 Paid Position
2023-24	258.80	671.91	4,004,584	3,329,179	21.28	Pre-K - 12 (Added Pre-K this year)	Title 1 Paid Position added
2022-23	262.05	655.83	3,889,072	3,147,078	19.28	K-12 Hold Harmless Year 3 of 3	
2021-22	257.50	669.23	3,988,534	3,262,572		K-12 Hold Harmless Year 2 of 3	
2020-21	178.80	653.79	3,876,975	3,292,784		K-12 Hold Harmless Year 1 of 3	

* Based on estimated enrollment and Special Education Intensive Counts

Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) / CAPSIS

The deadlines for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) at the federal level and CAPSIS at the state level are fast approaching on February 14, 2025. These programs provide critical opportunities for securing federal and state earmarks for specific projects. Borough leadership is actively working to compile and submit funding requests to meet these deadlines.

Currently, the Borough's FY 2025 CDS requests, submitted by Senator Murkowski, remain pending in Congress. As a result, key projects—including the Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$10M), Public Safety Building (\$2.438M), and East Channel Emergency Access Road (\$2.5M)— are still under consideration.

Looking ahead, the Borough will strategically develop and submit FY 2026 CDS and CAPSIS requests in alignment with the State and Federal Priorities approved by the Borough Assembly. Below is the current proposed list of priorities for consideration:

State Priorities (RES 1-25-1903):

Priority	Project Name
1	Wastewater Treatment Plant Disinfection Upgrades
2	Inner Harbor Replacement
3	Wrangell Timber Infrastructure and Deepwater Port Development Project
4	Wrangell Recreation Complex Roof Replacement
5	McKinnon Street Water and Sewer Utility Replacement
6	Public Safety Building Life, Health, Safety and Mechanical Repairs
7	Petroglyph Beach Visitor Platform Repairs and Restroom Upgrades
8	Downtown Waterfront Planning
9	Wrangell SEAPA Substation Transformer Upgrades

Federal Priorities (RES 1-25-1904)

Priority	Project Name
1	Wrangell Harbor Basin Dredging; Support for Programmatic Funding for the US Army Corps of Engineers Maintenance Dredging Program
2	Wrangell Drinking Water Flume Replacement
3	Wrangell Deepwater Port Subdivision Utility Development
4	Secure Rural Schools; Support for Programmatic Extension
5	Sháchk Kináa Deiyí Federal Land Access Trail Extension
6	Shoemaker Park Highway Safety and Federal Land Access Improvements

A final State and Federal Legislative briefing packet will be compiled for Borough Officials and Administration to reference in the lobbying process.

Barge Ramp Condition Assessment

The Borough will engage PND Engineering to conduct a condition assessment of the Wrangell Barge Ramp, as the last assessment was completed in September 2011. This updated evaluation will provide critical insights into the current state of the ramp and help guide the newly formed special committee in making informed decisions regarding future maintenance, improvements, and potential funding needs. The condition assessment will be an essential tool in ensuring that the barge ramp continues to meet the needs of the community and supports future infrastructure planning.

WCA, Tlingit & Haida, and the Borough – A Partnership to Offer a Solution to Childcare

The Borough is excited to partner with Tlingit and Haida and the Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA) to address the growing need for childcare and early childhood education in our community. Tlingit and Haida has secured funding to establish an Early Head Start program for eight children, ages birth to three years old, as well as a childcare solution for twenty children, ages birth to six years old. Tlingit and Haida will cover the cost of personnel training, and the services provided, and it is anticipated that 8-10 jobs will be created as a result of this partnership. The Borough will provide the necessary facilities for these programs, while Tlingit and Haida and WCA will focus on delivering high-quality programming. This collaborative effort aims to support the early development of our youngest residents. Looking to the future, the long-term vision for this partnership includes conveying the old Wrangell Medical Center property to Tlingit and Haida, where they will have the opportunity to build an educational campus, office space, and a vocational tech hub to further enhance educational and career opportunities for the community. To formalize this partnership, the Borough will form a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tlingit and Haida and WCA, which will be presented for ratification by the Assembly on February 25th, following a signing on February 21st.

Public Safety Building Bond Issuance:

The Borough is currently evaluating options to issue General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$3,000,000 to fund the Public Safety Building Renovation Project. Two potential funding sources are being considered: the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority (AMBBA) and USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Loan Program (USDA-RD). While interest rates may be higher through AMBBA, the process for issuance will be quicker compared to USDA-RD, which, although having potentially lower interest rates, will take longer and come with a higher regulatory burden. Waiting longer for USDA-RD approval presents the risk of higher inflation impacting costs. The Borough plans to use the bond proceeds to recapitalize the roofs in 2025 and execute the remainder of the Public Safety Building project in 2026, assuming the approval of \$2.438M in Community Development Block Grant (CDS) funds secured by Senator Murkowski in the final Senate Bill for FFY25.

Data Center – Cold Storage

The Borough is nearing the final stages of approval for a Master Lease Agreement to submit to EDA, after which the facility will be eligible to house a data center. In support of this project, the Borough is working on scheduling virtual tours with Greensparc and will review prospective sites in person with company representatives from March 3rd to March 4th, 2025.

GFOA – Budget Excellence Award

The Borough is proud to announce that we have received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award for the second consecutive year. This prestigious recognition reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, and excellence in financial planning and budgeting. The award is given to municipalities that meet the highest standards in presenting their budget documents, ensuring they are clear, comprehensive, and accessible to the public. This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our Finance Department. A heartfelt thank you to the entire team for their continued efforts in maintaining the Borough's financial integrity and contributing to this accomplishment.

Upcoming Agreements the Assembly Can Expect

- Tlingit & Haida/WCA/Borough MOU for Childcare
- Tlingit & Haida/WCA/Borough MOU for Early Head Start
- SoA DOT Mutual Aid Agreement – Water Rescue
- SoA DOT Mutual Aid Agreement – EMS
- WAC MOA on Nolan Center
- Rod & Gun Club MOA on Trap and Skeet Range

Community Leaders Meeting

The Borough will be hosting a leadership meeting to discuss the changing operating environment and explore economic opportunities for Wrangell. The meeting will focus on addressing the challenges at both the local and broader state and federal levels, which are creating significant volatility and uncertainty. Key issues to be discussed include local inflation, school funding shortages, Federal workforce reduction, low housing supply, disruptions to our fisheries, critical infrastructure funding shortfalls, outmigration, and a stalled job market. The goal of the meeting is to foster honest and collaborative conversations among community partners to identify solutions and strategies to navigate these challenges.

As always, I am at the Assembly's disposal. I look forward to continued forward momentum across the organization.

Sincerely,

Mason F. Villarma

Mason F. Villarma
Borough Manager





GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**City and Borough of Wrangell
Alaska**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 01, 2024

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL LIBRARY REPORT



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

CC: MASON VILLARMA, BOROUGH MANAGER

FROM: SARAH SCAMBLER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: MONTHLY LIBRARY REPORT

Meeting DATE: 2/11/2025

2024 LIBRARY STATS

Programs: When I became library director in July 2023, one of my top priorities was expanding the library's programming. We increased the number of programs from 34 in FY23 to 111 in 2024, a **223% increase**. Attendance also saw significant growth, rising from 859 participants in FY23 to 2,322 in 2024, a 170% increase.

These programs have included Wrangell Kids Club, Baby Hour, Homeschool Hangout, craft mornings and evenings, a book club, and more, providing a diverse range of opportunities for our community to connect, learn, and engage.

Checkouts: 16,559 items were checked out from the library in 2024.

Patron Counts: Approximately 22,500 patrons walked through the doors of the library in 2024, and library staff answered approximately 2800 reference questions. These stats are taken in accordance with our Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant reporting.

NEW PROGRAMMING

This winter, in response to frequent requests from parents and adult patrons who wish for a program of their own similar to our beloved Summer Reading Program, we launch the first annual **Winter Reading Program for Grownups**. Running from January 5 to March 21, 2025, the program encourages participants to read and complete BINGO challenges for prizes. Readers earn drawing tickets for each completed square, with special prizes for BINGOs and a Blackout challenge. Participants who complete at least one BINGO are invited to an end-of-program party on March 22, where prize drawings will take place. The program is primarily for adults, though younger participants can earn small incentives. It has been wildly popular so far, and we have already passed out over 150 BINGO cards. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

WINTER READING PROGRAM FOR GROWNUPS

1. A NEW RELEASE 	2. HAS A MOVIE ADAPTATION 	3. ALASKANA 	4. MYSTERY 	5. PUBLISHED IN THE EARLY 2000s 
6. FANTASY 	7. REREAD A CHILDHOOD FAVORITE 	8. BIOGRAPHY 	9. WON AN AWARD 	10. COMEDY 
11. ROMANCE 	12. TRUE CRIMES 	13. READER'S CHOICE 	14. A CLASSIC 	15. ON DISPLAY AT THE LIBRARY 
16. AUDIOBOOK 	17. WINTER THEMED 	18. BANNED BOOK 	19. INTERNATIONAL AUTHOR 	20. GRAPHIC NOVEL 
21. BY A LOCAL AUTHOR 	22. RECOMMENDED BY A FRIEND 	23. ABOUT AN ATHLETE OR SPORT 	24. HAS A RECIPE 	25. HAS A NUMBER IN THE TITLE 

One Square Per Book

Sponsored by
The Friends of the Library



IRENE INGLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
907-874-3535 • library@urangel.com



PROGRAMMING

In 2025 the library plans to offer the following programs:

- ANNUAL:
 - Winter Reading Program for Grownups
 - Bookmark Contest (In partnership with the Public Schools)
 - National Library Week Activities
 - Early Literacy Night (In partnership with the Public Schools)
 - The Summer Reading Program (Using Public School's Renaissance Subscription)
 - Banned Book Week Activities
 - Holiday Cookie Decorating
 - Magic Show (based on availability of Magician)
 - Pajama Story Time
- MONTHLY
 - Craft Mornings
 - Adult Book Club
 - Baby Hour
 - Homeschool Hangout
- WEEKLY
 - Toddler Story Time (winter months)
 - Wrangell Kids Club (Winter and Summer)
 - eSports Club (under development - sponsored by the WCA)
 - Teen Book Club (bi-weekly in summer months)

Programs may be added or removed based on staff availability, and/or budget. Many of these programs are sponsored by The Friends of the Library

SERVICES

The Irene Ingle Public Library provides a wide range of services to the Wrangell community, one of the most important being exam proctoring. Recently, we have proctored a variety of exams, including seven EMT 1 exams, three U.S. Postal Service exams, and multiple tests for our own Public Works Department in wastewater treatment and collections. Additionally, we are the only public facility in Wrangell offering access to GED testing.

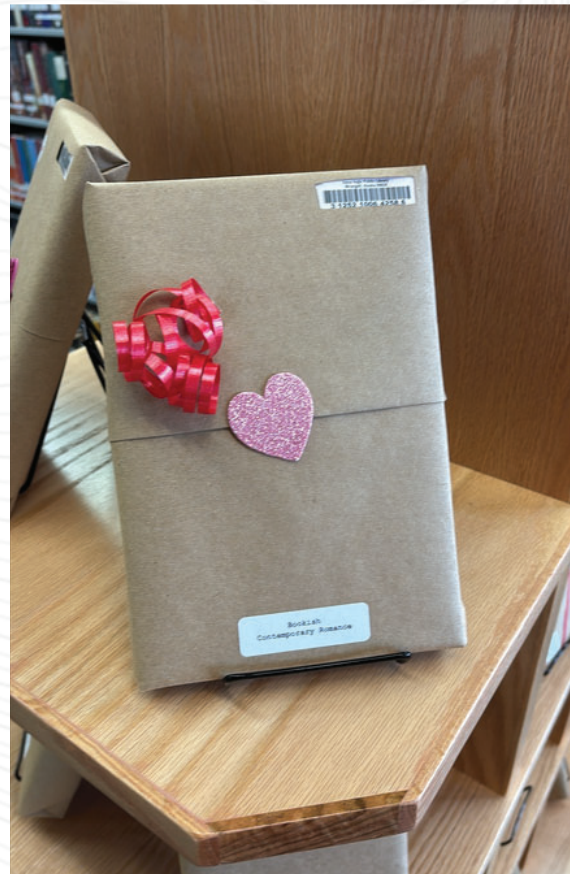
We've also recently introduced 3D printing services to the public for a small operations fee. While this service has primarily been used by children so far, it is available to the entire community.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Through funding from an IMLS grant available to us through the WCA, we've recently expanded our collection of Playaway audiobook devices! These portable MP3 players come pre-loaded with a single audiobook, requiring no downloads or internet connection—just press play and enjoy. Each device includes a battery and can be checked out just like a book. We now have 70 Playaway titles available, with more on the way!

For Valentine's Day, don't miss our special display:

Blind Date with a Book – Check out a mystery book knowing only its genre, and take a chance on a new literary adventure!



As always, thank you to the Assembly for your continued support of the library!

Sincerely,

SARAH SCAMBLER
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

02/11/2025



Item d.

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

CC: MASON VILLARMA, BOROUGH MANAGER

FROM: JORDAN BUNESS, FIRE CHIEF, WRANGELL FIRE
DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: MONTHLY FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

DATE: 02/11/2025

2024 RUN TOTALS

The yearly report of run totals for Fire, EMS and Search and Rescue responses have been completed.

- Fire incidents: 2024 total of 22 Fire related responses. This total includes false alarms, activated fire/sprinkler alarm systems, vehicle fires, brush/forest fires, structure fires, etc. The average response had 7.2 personal per incident.
- EMS incidents: 2024 total of 260 EMS responses. The average response for EMS incidents was 4.3 personal per incident.
- SAR responses: 2024 total of 40 SAR related responses. Wrangell SAR responded to a wide variety of SAR related missions, including multiple sunken vessels, rescue of injured individuals in remote locations, responding to vessel collisions, assisting in underwater recovery, locating overdue vessels, locating overdue persons, standing by while waiting for further tasking from the USCG Sector Southeast Command Center, etc. Wrangell SAR utilizes a wide variety of transportation for SAR. Common methods include using volunteer and commercial vessels, ATV's, commercial and privately owned airplanes, etc. Wrangell SAR was particularly busy in the summer months, 23 of our 40 responses came from the months of June, July and August.
- Fire/EMS/SAR training. 2024 was a busy year for our training program. In total our members had in excess of 4000 training hours. Our in house trainer completed

the certification of 7 new Alaska EMT-1's. Currently 25 of our 27 members on the roster hold a minimum of an EMT-1 certificate.

January 2025 Totals

Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department responded to the following Fire/EMS/SAR calls in January of 2025

- EMS: 13 EMS related calls. The calls represent a wide range of emergencies.
- Fire: No reported fire calls in January.
- SAR: No reported SAR calls in January.

Fire/EMS training Meetings

- There were 3 weekly training meetings for Fire and EMS personnel in the month of January. These trainings represent approximately 160 hours of training.

Fire Department Registration

Wrangell Volunteer Fire Department has applied for and has been granted renewal of their State of Alaska Registered Fire Department status.

Advertisement of the Fire/EMS Administrator Position

The currently vacant Fire/EMS Administrator position has been posted and is currently accepting applications. We hope to have someone interviewed and selected by the next monthly Directors report.

WVFD Live-in Positions

WVFD has 2 "apartments" that are available to the volunteers as a live in position, these positions come with elevated responsibilities such as a higher minimum response to call volume and weekly apparatus checks. The position at the PSB has been filled and the volunteer occupied the apartment recently. We have also recently selected a volunteer for the 5 Mile Substation and we hope to have the volunteer moving in within the next few weeks after some minor repairs are completed.

#2 Ambulance was returned from South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department

#2 Ambulance was recently returned from STVFD. On April 9th 2024 the South Tongass VFD's station caught on fire. I immediately reached out to my contacts in their department to see how we could help. Their main concern was their ambulance was severely damaged in the fire and was unusable. The barge was still at the Wrangell barge ramp and I contacted the Samson Tug Wrangell Manager to see if they could delay the departure while we unloaded our equipment that they didn't need from the ambulance and got it to the barge. The ambulance was delivered to STVFD within 24

hours of their Station fire and it was in service for approximately 8 months while they awaited a permanent replacement. #2 Ambulance has been placed back in service at the PSB and will likely be placed at the 5 Mile Substation to enhance responses to residents out the road once the apartment is occupied in the very near future.

Walker Foundation Grant received

In December the WVFD applied for and received a \$26,000 grant from the Walker Foundation to enhance our training program.

The grant provided for the following;

- 4 new QCPR baby mannequins
- 4 new QCPR adult mannequins
- 4 new Slishman traction devices
- 1 new Difficult Airway training device
- 1 wound assessment kit for our Mega Code Kelly Mannequin
- 1 new EZ-IO trainer and 2 new EZ-IO drills
- 1 new interactive smart-board for the training room
- Funding for an EMT-2 course, course is scheduled for mid-March. An instructor from South Tongass VFD will be coming up to teach the class.

PFAS State of Alaska DEC Reimbursement Program

WVFD has applied for and has been approved for up to a \$25,000 reimbursement related to disposal of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF). WVFD no longer uses AFFF but has AFFF in storage as well as the Wrangell Port Dept. This project is expected to be completed by the end of February.

WVFD Equipment Demonstration

WVFD has scheduled an “Open House” on February 17th at 6pm to showcase our volunteers, equipment and associated capabilities. This initial event is offered only to our various external stakeholders that support our department in grant funding as well as including our retired volunteers and Assembly Members. We plan to have an “Open House” available to the general public in the near future.

Sincerely,

Jordan Bunes
Fire Chief

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

CAPITAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT REPORT

January 16, 2025



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

CC: MASON VILLARMA, BOROUGH MANAGER

FROM: AMBER AL-HADDAD, CAPITAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CAPITAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT REPORT

DATE: February 7, 2025

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Capital Projects Department provides for the planning and management of CIP capital projects and major maintenance to City and Borough of Wrangell infrastructure.

The department currently has thirty-three (33) active projects with a value of approximately \$77,000,000. Projects are in a variety of planning, permitting, design, and construction.

Highlights of projects which have received funding are provided below. Capital projects for which State or Federal funding applications have been made and are pending award from the funding agency are listed at the end of this report.

Projects in Construction/Implementation Phase

UST (Underground Fuel/Storage Tank) Decommissioning and Environmental Investigations. Further environmental investigations at both the Public Safety Building site and the High School site are required by DEC. We are working with our environmental engineering team to develop the additional work and implement the soil sampling and testing effort. This work has delayed the construction of the above ground tanks work since the construction of the new tank at the High School is planned for the same footprint as the underground tank's location, and the synergies for executing the installation of both new above ground tanks is driving the release of the contract for the Public Safety Building.

5th and 6th Avenue Roads Development (Industrial Park Subdivision). Ketchikan Ready Mix has completed the project and we are working with them to finalize quantities and issue the final change order for project closeout.

Water Treatment Plant Improvements. Construction activities continue to approximately 87% completion. With the Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF), Filter tanks and all associated electrical, mechanical piping, chemical feeds, instrumentation, SCADA etc. in place, we began commission the week of January 20th. Commission should be complete by the end of February as the contract, Engineer, and Water Treatment staff work together to ensure water quality standard are met with the new treatment system.

City Park Pavilion Replacement (Wind Damaged Pavilion). The contract was executed with the contractor and a Notice to Proceed issued mid-October. The contractor offered a \$31,600 value engineered (VE) effort reduction and requested a time extension to be able to accomplish the work following their VE effort. The time extension request was sent to the State in early January and we are waiting to receive the time extension confirmation.

High School Elevator Modernization. The contract was executed with the contractor and a Notice to Proceed issued mid-October. The contractor and the elevator subcontractor have completed their submittal which was returned with approval to fabricate.

Meyers Chuck Harbor Replacement - Float Procurement. The vendor for the Float supply is underway with engineering calculations and design submittal a first round of which was reviewed this week and returned to the vendor requesting additional design information to be able to perform a full review.

Diesel Generator Unit #1 Center Section Overhaul. A contract was executed with Marine Systems, Inc. (MSI) and they have moved to acquire the materials needed for the project. The work is anticipated to commence in Spring 2025.

Public Safety Building Rehabilitation. Staff are working to secure the funding to move the renovation project forward. The \$3,000,000 funds from voter-approval to incur debt is underway, in conjunction with pursuit of the shortfall in funding for the estimated \$5.5M exterior structural and building envelop phased project.

6-Mile Deep-Water Port Site Environmental Assessment (EA) Phase I and II. DEC will not accept the Phase I report, which would allow us to advance to the Phase II work plan development because the Phase I work was performed over a year ago and the concern is that site conditions could have significantly changed in that period. In order to make the EA II phase costs eligible for reimbursement by the PIDP planning grant, we are developing a competitive solicitation for those professional services.

WWTP Secondary Disinfection Analysis. The Sewer Department received the notice of final issuance of the renewed wastewater discharge permit, which includes a November 1, 2025 effective date. The permit requires the Borough to complete a facility plan, which evaluates alternatives to meet the final effluent limitations for bacteria, and select a preferred alternative within twelve months of the effective date of the permit. Following Assembly approval on January 28th, a loan application will be submitted to the ADEC State Revolving Fund to secure the funds for the alternatives analysis.

Three Contaminated Sites. Work plans have been approved by DEC, and we have requested that Shannon & Wilson provide a fee proposal to perform the outlined work.

9MW to 12MW Power Generation Improvements. ML&P staff and EPS have completed the alternative solution for the work which is underway through WML&P force account as directed by Dwight Yancey.

Sewer Outfall Pipe Repairs. On February 4th, five bids were received in response of our construction solicitation. A notice of intent to award has been issued to the low bidder Enviro-Tech Diving in the amount of \$ 37,529.71. Once the agreement is in place a notice to proceed will be issued and substantial completion is scheduled for 60 days post the notice to proceed.

Projects Advancing to Competitive Construction Bidding Phase

Alder Top Village Subdivision Development, Ph II Roads and Utilities. Staff completed design review and are returning comments to the engineering team for corrections / modifications and final contract development. Although project funding was approved under the FY25 capital budget, the Borough is awaiting an engineer's estimate for the final designed work. Given the time of year that the project is now expected to be released for construction bidding and implementation, we anticipate a Spring/Summer 2025 construction season.

A competitive solicitation for the procurement of the electrical transformers was reissued and four bids were received. A contract has been issued for the procurement of those transformers, with the low bidder. The lead time for the transformers is 32-34 weeks.

Nolan Center Standby Generator Upgrades. Contract document preparation and package of the documents for construction bidding is underway.

Above Ground Tank Install (Fuel/Storage Tank), Public Safety Building and High School. The design documents for the installation of the two above ground storage tanks (ASTs), High School and Public Safety Building, are complete; however, due to DEC's recent request on the UST (Underground Fuel/Storage Tank) Decommissioning and Environmental Investigations project for additional work to delineate the vertical and horizontal extent of the soil contamination and data to demonstrate if groundwater has been impacted, we will delay release of the construction bid documents until this matter is clarified.

This DEC requirement for additional soil investigation has delayed the construction of the above ground tanks work since the construction of the new tank at the High School is planned for the same footprint as the underground tank's location, and the synergies for executing the installation of both new above ground tanks is driving the release of the contract for the Public Safety Building.

Sunset Gardens Cemetery Expansion and Columbarium. Design drawings and specifications were received and are under review. As some of our more critical projects are released for bidding, this project will follow.

Projects in Planning and Design Phase

Meyers Chuck Harbor Replacement Design. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently issued their permit for the project, and we are working with our engineering team to finalize the construction design for competitive bidding.

Wrangell Schools Renovations (includes the Stikine Middle School Roof Replacement funded in part by CDBG). The Grant Agreement has been executed between the DEED and the Borough who will act as the responsible party for the grant. Administration met with the DEED CIP Director to discuss the potential for phasing the project in an attempt to see a 2025 roofing project for the schools' flat roof. The request was well received and follow-on request to this end are underway.

Dam Safety and Stabilization Improvements. The State of Alaska appropriated \$5,000,000 through a FY25 Designated Legislative Grant for improvements to Wrangell's dams, which include stabilization, to provide satisfactory seismic performance, with additional hydrology and hydraulics analysis to determine performance during design storm events, repairs to failed outlet pipe/valve works, repairs to spillways, and updating the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) with new inundation maps, as funding allows.

The State grant has been executed and staff have met with Shannon & Wilson, engineers who performed the Dam Stabilization Alternatives Analysis, as well as a joint meeting with the engineers and the State of Alaska, DNR, Dam Safety Office to discussion the work intended and seek their concurrence on our plan.

Through the Dam Stabilization Alternatives Analysis work of Shannon & Wilson, the project is at approximately 35% complete and needs to be completed and turned into a biddable project with DNR, Dam Safety Office coordination. The Assembly approved the contract with Shannon & Wilson to move this work forward.

(Lower) St Michael Street and Utilities Reconstruction - The Borough is developing the scope of work to aid in securing survey and design assistance with this project.

40-Acre Deep Water Port Development. \$421,000 has been awarded to Wrangell from the MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) to go toward early planning and conceptual design of the 40-Acre Deep Water Port Development to meet our future marine transportation needs at the 6-mile, deep-water port site.

As we work to accomplish NEPA requirements before signing the grant agreement, Our PIDP team has deferred further cooperation on the pre-award work until they review program terms and conditions related to:

- References to rescinded Executive Orders.
- Historically Disadvantaged Communities using the same statutory definition for Areas of Persistent Poverty.
- Review of all grant agreements or contracts that must include terms that are in compliance with Section 3(C)(iv) of EO Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.

DEC will not accept the Phase I report, which would allow us to advance to the Phase II work plan development because the Phase I work was performed over a year ago and the concern is that site conditions could have significantly changed in that period. In order to make the EA II

phase costs eligible for reimbursement by the PIDP planning grant, we are developing a competitive solicitation for those professional services.

Wrangell Harbor Basin Float System Replacement. The federal DOT RAISE program has been changed to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. Our BUILD team has deferred further cooperation on the pre-award work until they review program terms and conditions related to:

- References to rescinded Executive Orders.
- Historically Disadvantaged Communities using the same statutory definition for Areas of Persistent Poverty.
- Review of all grant agreements or contracts that must include terms that are in compliance with Section 3(C)(iv) of EO Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.

Skeet Range Improvements, Phase II. The Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game Hunter Safety program has notified us of the award of the \$230,364, with a 10% match requirement equal to \$25,596. The draft grant agreement was returned to the funding agency for minor corrections and the Borough awaits the final agreement to be brought forth to the Assembly for acceptance, along with a budget amendment to approve the match for inclusion in the FY25 capital budget for this project.

Staff met with the Stikine Sportsmen group in late Fall 2024 to discuss the overall design for Skeet and Trap, allowing them to move forward with the NRA-funded trap project. They may request an extension to their grant to align with our larger skeet range development project.

Eastern Channel Emergency Access Route. The grant agreement was recently executed with the State and next steps are to identify the scope of work to be included in a competitive solicitation for professional services for initial project planning efforts.

Projects with Pending Funding Requests

Shoemaker Harbor Ramp Replacement. A grant application has been submitted to the State of Alaska, Dingle Johnson Grant program for the replacement of the Shoemaker Harbor Boat Launch Ramp.

Congressional Direct Spending (CDS) Request for FFY 2025. Three CDS project funding requests submitted in FY25 that were included in one of the FY25 Senate Appropriations bills required reapplication for FY26. Prior submissions did not automatically carry over were required to be resubmitted for consideration to allow our delegation to continue working effectively while Congress finalizes FY25 appropriations bills and enacts new spending measures. Resubmissions were made this week and included the following projects:

- Public Safety Building Rehabilitation \$ 2,438,000
- Emergency Access Road \$ 2,500,000
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Disinfection \$10,000,000

Congressional Direct Spending (CDS) Request for FFY 2026. Two capital project funding requests are planned for submission through Senator Murkowski's office, due by February 14th. These will include the following projects:

- Wrangell Drinking Water Flume Replacement; project cost development is underway
- Wrangell Deepwater Port Subdivision Utility Development; project cost development is underway

State of Alaska Legislative Capital Projects Priorities for FY 2026. Nine capital project priorities are planned for submission to the State for funding consideration under the State capital budget or as otherwise may be funded through State programmatic programs:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Disinfection Upgrades Design
- Inner Harbor Replacement
- Wrangell Timber Infrastructure and Deepwater Port Development Project
- Wrangell Recreation Complex Roof Replacement
- McKinnon Street Water and Sewer Utility Replacement
- Public Safety Building Rehabilitation
- Petroglyph Beach State Park Improvements
- Downtown Waterfront Planning
- Wrangell SEAPA Substation Transformer Upgrades

Sincerely,
Amber Al-Haddad
Capital Projects Director

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE SHOW REPORT



INTRODUCTION

This report details our experience promoting Wrangell, Alaska, at the recent Chicago Travel and Adventure Show. This year, we opted to explore the adventure travel market by attending this show instead of having a booth at the Seattle Boat Show. Two staff members from the Economic Development Department attended, along with the Tourism Director from the Wrangell Cooperative Association.

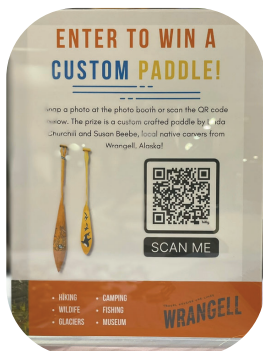


STRATEGIC RATIONALE FOR CHICAGO

We selected the Chicago Travel and Adventure Show for several key reasons. Our past positive experiences with midwest, coupled with analytics reports highlighting strong interest in Alaskan travel from the region, made it a prime target. Chicago is a major travel hub with a broad audience interested in diverse destinations. Strategically, our location at the show, nestled between booths for Anchorage and Fairbanks, allowed us to effectively represent the three major accessible tourism regions of Alaska. This created a comprehensive picture of Alaska travel opportunities for attendees.

EMPHASIS ON ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

A key focus of our outreach was highlighting the accessibility of Wrangell. We specifically promoted Alaska Airlines as a convenient and cost-effective travel option, emphasizing their direct flights from Chicago to Seattle, which significantly improves affordability and travel time to Wrangell. Many attendees were under the impression that Southeast Alaska was only accessible by cruise ship. We actively corrected this misconception and showcased the diverse range of iconic Alaskan activities available in Wrangell. We emphasized that visitors can experience these activities while still feeling connected to the local community and making a positive impact through responsible tourism.



OUTREACH AND MATERIALS

We distributed a substantial amount of promotional material, including 360 travel guides, 250 itinerary booklets, and approximately 500 business cards. The Wrangell Cooperative Association generously donated two locally carved paddles, which were raffled off to those who signed up for our email list or participated in our photo booth. We also made valuable connections with dozens of media representatives, travel advisors, and content creators.



MEASURABLE RESULTS

Our participation in the show generated significant increases in traffic to our website and Google search analytics. We also saw positive engagement from our followers on social media platforms, including Instagram and Facebook. We collected over 100 additional leads, which have been added to our customer relationship management (CRM) system. We will begin direct engagement with these prospective visitors through targeted email campaigns within one week. We anticipate receiving a full report from the Travel and Adventure Show organizers, including total visitor numbers, demographic, and geographic information.



COLLABORATION AND IMPACT

The Wrangell Cooperative Association's investment in this trip, through staff time and travel allocation, was instrumental to the success of our booth management. We estimate that we had direct, face-to-face conversations with over 1,000 people, many of whom expressed interest in visiting Wrangell this year or next. We also provided marketing materials and connected with sales representatives from Viking Cruise Line and Norwegian Cruise Line.



SEATTLE BOAT SHOW ENGAGEMENT

In lieu of an independent booth at the Seattle Boat Show, we sent our harbor director to participate in the Ports and Harbors Association of Alaska booth for two days. This cost-effective approach allowed us to support regional efforts related to transient vessels and marine services, while also staying informed about activities at the Port of Seattle and the boat show itself.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our positive experience in Chicago, I strongly recommend that we continue building our presence within the Travel and Adventure Show circuit. We should also explore other creative avenues to further develop yacht traffic to Wrangell. Travel Wrangell welcomes further collaboration with the Wrangell Cooperative Association to enhance local tourism initiatives.



WRANGELL

YOUR ICONIC ALASKAN ITINERARY



one flight.
one town.
all the adventure

DAY 1

ARRIVAL & PETROGLYPH BEACH



10am | Wrangell welcomes you. Settle in, breathe deep.

WRANGELL ISLAND IS ONLY A 4 HOUR FLIGHT FROM SEATTLE OR A THREE DAY FERRY RIDE FROM BELLINGHAM THROUGH THE INSIDE PASSAGE



1pm | Explore Petroglyph Beach State Historic Site or tee off at the par 70 championship course (with disc golf too!)

CHECK RESTAURANT SPECIALS FOR LOCAL ROCKFISH, HALIBUT, SHRIMP AND MORE...

GLACIER TOUR

Item f.

9am

Depart from City Dock in a heated jet boat for the sparkling ice fields of LeConte Bay



HUNDREDS OF WATERFALLS LINE THE MASSIVE FJORD

5pm | Why not try a halibut bacon pizza, or local fish and chips!

FOLLOW IN JOHN MUIR'S FOOTSTEPS BY CLIMBING THE HALF-MILE MT. DEWEY TRAIL FOR A STUNNING OVERLOOK OF WRANGELL AND THE SURROUNDING ISLANDS

DAY 3

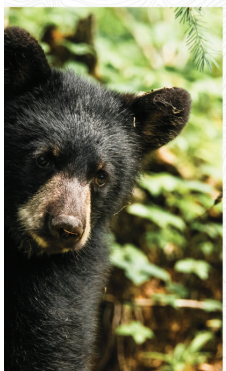
ANAN BEAR AND WILDLIFE OBSERVATORY

*Available late June-Early September

WORLD CLASS PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITY!

8am

Follow a local expert bear guide down an ancient rainforest path to the creekside observation deck



Watch from feet away as wild black bears brown bears and eagles catch & feast on spawning pacific salmon

3pm

Return to Wrangell and explore the historic heart of Front Street.

ANAN UNAVAILABLE? CHARTER A FISHING TRIP AND BRING HOME THE TASTE OF ALASKA.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE LINES
WRANGELL

DAY 4

HIKING & PADDLING

SHELTERS TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

9am

Choose a trail, enter the Tongass National Forest. Bring water and bear spray, return with awe and connection to these wild lands



2pm

Rent kayaks or canoes to explore the rugged island shorelines and bask in the abundance of seaweed, starfish, shorebirds and more



JOIN THE WRANGELL PUB SCENE! MEET LOCALS, SHARE STORIES, AND ENJOY THE TOWN'S FRIENDLY FRONTIER ATMOSPHERE.

DAY 5

NATIVE CULTURE AND MARINE WILDLIFE

9am | Explore centuries of history at the Wrangell Museum, Kiks.ádi Totem Park, and Chief Shake's Island



LUNCH OPTIONS MAY INCLUDE A SHRIMP BASKET, BURGERS, SMOKED MON BAGEL, OR HALIBUT MAC AND CHEESE...

1p | Find a boat charter for a chance to observe humpback orca whales, sea otters, sea lions, and seals



DAY 6

THE STIKINE RIVER WILDERNESS

8am

Meet your local jet boat captain at City Dock and set out across the 18 miles of tidal sand flats to the river's mouth

EXPERIENCE AN ENDLESS PRISTINE WILDERNESS OF WATERFALLS, A GLACIAL LAKE, AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE



WRANGELL IS WAITING

UNCOVER YOUR NEXT ALASKAN ADVENTURE
Find out more at travelwrangell.com

