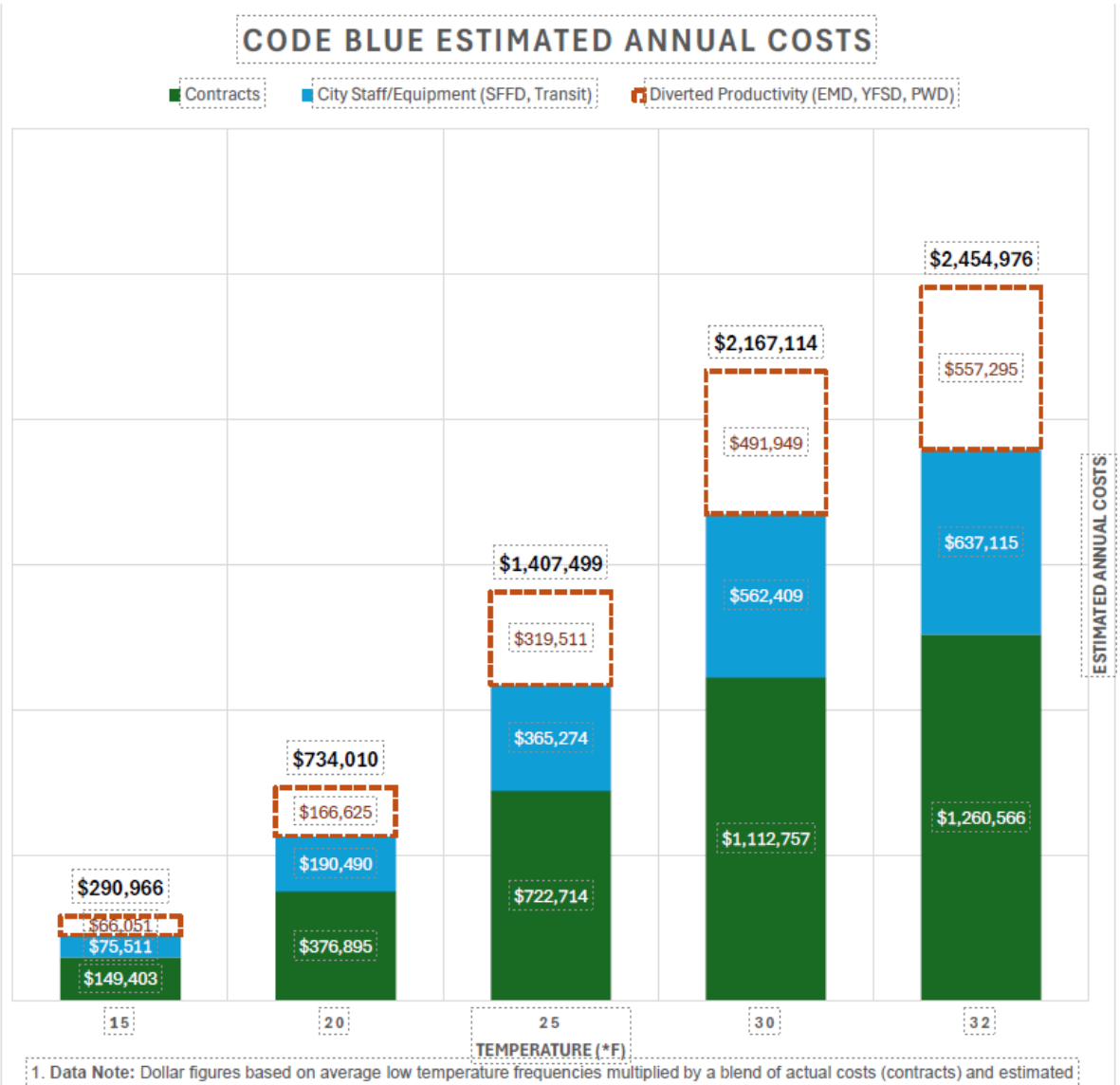
CITY OF SANTA FE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Fiscal Impact Analysis – 15 to 32°F



1. **Data Note:** Dollar figures based on average low temperature frequencies multiplied by a blend of actual costs (contracts) and estimated costs associated with staffing, equipment, and diverted productivity.
2. **Contract** costs include shelter staffing, mass feeding, and janitorial costs. Calculated at $8,715 per night based on 2025-26 actuals.
3. **Staff and Equipment** include estimated costs for 2 CARES units and staff and 2 City Transit buses and staff working 8 hour shifts in a mix of standard and OT hourly rates
4. **Diverted Productivity** is an estimate of hourly equivalent costs for 2 Emergency Managers, 4 YFSD staff, and 3 Park Rangers working

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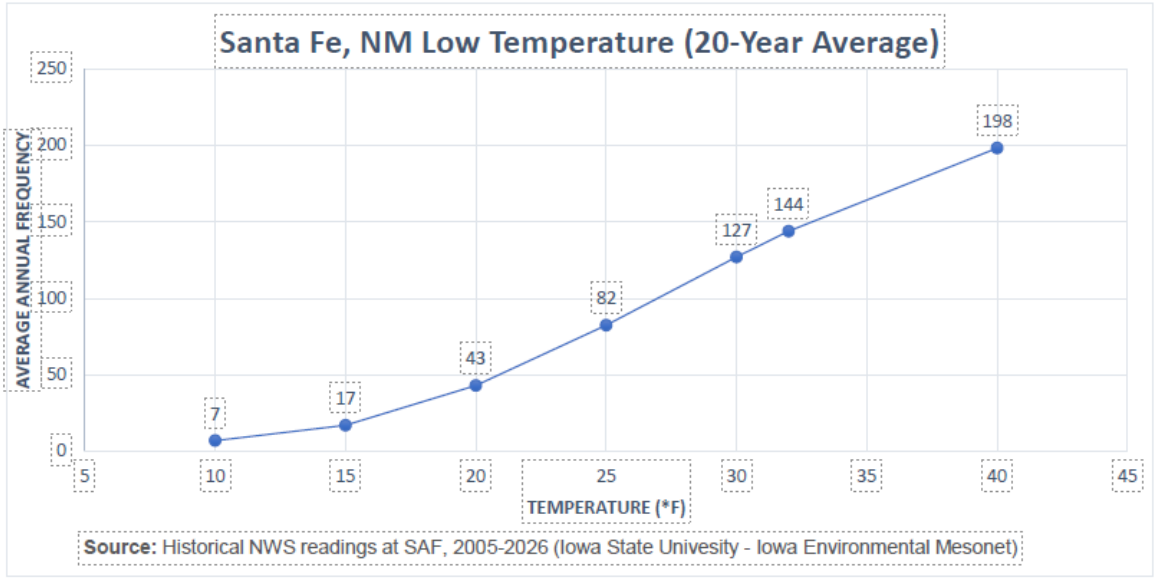
Current Funding Availability

- **2026-27 Funding Availability:** $50,000 in Youth and Family Services Division's budget ($0 recurring budget)
- **Expected Funding Need:** $145,000 for sheltering and feeding contracts (15-day planning assumption)
- **Gap to Maintain Operations:** $95,000 (approx.)

City Departments will absorb personnel, equipment, facilities, and transportation costs within their own budgets while managing staff fatigue and diverted productivity.

Temperature Analysis

Based on historical NWS data, the current 15°F threshold Santa Fe results in an activation on an average of 17 nights, or roughly 5% of the year. This does not include Winter Storm Warnings which also trigger a Code Blue activation. These are less frequent than temperatures at or below 15°F but may be more common during El Nino seasons that generally see increased winter precipitation in Santa Fe.



Source: Historical NWS readings at SAF, 2005-2026 (Iowa State Univesity - Iowa Environmental Mesonet)

Key Takeaways:

- A 32°F trigger would result in 144 Code Blue nights per year on average and would result in an emergency response for every night of the winter (90 days), with 54 additional days spread between fall and spring.
- A 20°F trigger (increase of 5°) would nearly triple the number of activations in an average year, requiring an emergency response for nearly half the nights of every winter.
- Either proposal would require a sustained seasonal or year-round sheltering model managed by a full-time human services agency or NGO, rather than a limited expansion coordinated by Emergency Management.
- While not easily captured in a chart, increasing the number of activations per winter would lead to increased staff fatigue and burnout, hampering efforts to address the steady-state problem.

Considerations and Recommendations:

- **Keep Code Blue activation triggers as-is, focusing on the absolute coldest nights of the year.**
- **Support and resource City, County, and regional homelessness response programs and their efforts to mitigate this issue year-round.**