# CITY OF JOPLIN
# COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

**ITEM**
Council Bill No. 2025-001 – amending (repealing) Chapter 86 – Parks and Recreation, Article II – Park Rules and Regulations, Section 86-37 - Camping, by enacting a new Section 86-37 – Camping.

**MEETING DATE**
March 17, 2025

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT**
Legal

**ATTACHMENTS**
Council Bill No. 2025-001

**REVIEWED BY**
City Attorney Peter Edwards; Police Chief Richard Pearson; Parks & Recreation Director Paul Bloomberg; City Manager Nicholas Edwards.

**SUMMARY**
This Council Bill amends Chapter 86 of the City Code relating to camping on public property by deleting a section from the current ordinance that requires the police department check with local homeless shelters regarding available beds to make it consistent with a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision.

**BACKGROUND**

The enforcement of generally applicable laws regulating camping on public property does not violate the U.S. Constitution. The Supreme Court held in *Grants Pass v. Johnson* that the town's ordinance barring people from sleeping outside in public using a blanket, pillow, or sleeping bags did not violate the Constitution. This decision overturned a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that required law enforcement check to see if shelter beds were available before issuing citations. The City is proposing this ordinance revision to be consistent with the Supreme Court decision.

**FUNDING SOURCE**
N/A

**RECOMMENDATION**
Staff recommends this Council Bill be placed on First Reading.