We study the existence and comparison of smallest positive eigenvalues of the fourth order difference equations \( \Delta^4 y_i - 2 = \lambda_1 p_i y_i \), \( \Delta^4 y_i - 2 = \lambda_2 q_i y_i \), \( i \in \{1, \ldots, n\} \), each satisfying the boundary conditions \( y_0 = \Delta^2 y_{-1} = \Delta y_n = \Delta^3 y_{-1} \), by applying the theory of \( u_0 \)-positive operators with respect to a cone in a Banach space. (Received June 26, 2015)