

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ron Long, Assembly President  
Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**THRU:** John J. Williams, Borough Mayor  
Craig Chapman, Finance Director

**FROM:** Bonnie L. Golden, Grants Manager

**COPY:** Nikiski Fire Service Area

**DATE:** July 26, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance No. 2007-19-08: An Ordinance accepting and appropriating \$50,000 from the State of Alaska for Purchasing Emergency Response Equipment for the Nikiski Fire Service Area

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The Nikiski Fire Service Area ("Service Area") is in need of emergency response equipment to adequately and safely respond to emergency situations. Funding is needed to purchase: (1) off-road response vehicles and equipment, (2) lights for response vehicles, and (3) rescue tools.

Approximately 300 cabins/homes within the Service Area cannot be reached by fire/medical/rescue responders via an established road system. ATVs and snow machines are needed in order to provide the Service Area with the ability to respond to critical and non-critical incidents in remote areas, and to comply with personal safety requirements. The trailer/sled will be fitted with wheels for summer use with the ATVs, and skis for winter use with the snowmobiles. Declining revenues are being pushed to the limit due to helicopter usage costs, estimated at \$5,700 per hour. Off-road response vehicles and equipment will provide residents with more timely and efficient access to medical and/or fire services.

A similar request has been submitted to FEMA under its Assistance to Firefighters Program. If Federal funding is received for the ATVs, snowmobiles, and sleds, and funding is available from the State Legislature, then the Service Area would use the state funds to purchase truck lights and/or rescue tools (Jaws of Life). Scene lights can be mounted on response vehicles to provide sufficient lighting at the location of an accident or other emergency situations. The term "Jaws of Life" refers to tools known as cutters, spreaders and rams, which are used to pry open vehicles involved in accidents when a victim may be trapped. These devices are also used to extricate victims from collapsed concrete and steel structures after earthquakes.

A request for funding of emergency response equipment was included in the Borough's 2007 State Funding Priorities as the Service Area's number one priority. Funding for the project was included in Senate Bill 53, the State's capital budget, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in June 2007. The State Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development has notified the Borough that \$50,000 is available to the Service Area for emergency response equipment. The Service Area Board approved the acceptance of this grant at its meeting of July 11, 2007. Enactment of the attached ordinance will accept and appropriate the grant, making funds available to the Service Area to purchase emergency response equipment.

Attachments: Ordinance, DCCED notification letter