



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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**JOHN J. WILLIAMS
BOROUGH MAYOR**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ron Long, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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

EMAIL: Bear Creek Fire Service Area
Scott Walden, Emergency Manager

FROM: Bonnie L. Golden, Grants Manager

DATE: August 9, 2007

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2007-19-15: Accepting and appropriating a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$54,229 for Bear Creek Fire Service Area

The Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board would like to improve communications equipment for emergency responders in the Eastern Kenai Peninsula. Its goal is to prove a high degree of equipment interoperability and compatibility, and bring communications into compliance with the Alaska Land Mobile Radio Project (“ALMR”). One way to meet this need was to apply for funding through the 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

A grant application was submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (“USDHS”) requesting funding to purchase equipment, including programming upgrades needed to improve radio capabilities, and for training. The ALMR project requires that personnel be trained on the equipment and the new communications system. The request submitted was a regional request. These types of applications are intended to benefit more than one agency. It is the Service Area’s intent to provide equipment upgrades and training to emergency responders in Moose Pass, Hope, Cooper Landing, and the Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The majority of this equipment is borough owned and was provided to these communities through the Borough’s Office of Emergency Management. Once the equipment is purchased, updated and training is completed, the agencies will have a seamless communications system that is ALMR compliant.

The Service Area recently received notice that its regional application has been approved. The total project amount is \$57,083 - the federal share is \$54,229 and the grant match requirement is \$2,854. (See attached copy of notice of grant award.) Funds are available in the Service Area’s approved FY08 budget to meet the match requirement.

The Service Area Board is scheduled to meet on August 14, 2007. Acceptance of this grant and approval for expenditure of the matching funds is on its agenda for that meeting. The results of the Board's actions will be provided to the Assembly prior to final hearing on the ordinance.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program offers workshops each year prior to assist applicants in preparing their applications. At a recent workshop the instructor mentioned that USDHS had noted that the Borough's process for accepting grants was time-consuming and that grant applications from the Borough might be ranked lower for awards because of this process. The only way we can legally expedite our process is to ask for shortened hearing. Therefore, a hearing date of September 4, 2007, is requested. The Assembly's consideration of this request is appreciated.

/bg

Attachments: Ordinance, Notice of Award

FINANCE DEPARTMENT - FUNDS VERIFIED AMOUNT: \$2,854	
Account: _____	
By: _____	Date: _____