

MEMORANDUM

TO: Grace Merkes, Assembly President
Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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

EMAIL: Bear Creek Fire Service Area

FROM: Bonnie L. Golden, Grants Manager

DATE: December 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2007-19-35: Accepting and appropriating a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$59,050 for Bear Creek Fire Service Area

Bear Creek Fire Service Area is committed to the health and safety of its firefighters. With this goal in mind, the service area applied for grant funding to replace 22 complete sets of firefighting gear.

A grant application was submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security requesting funding under the Assistance to Firefighters Program to purchase personal protective equipment. In addition, funds were requested for a washer-extractor and turnout gear racks to keep the equipment in operational readiness. Most of their current gear is 5 to 10 years old and not in compliance with OSHA or NFPA standards, thus putting firefighters' safety in jeopardy. Replacing ill fitting, outdated, and worn out turnout sets and other personal protective equipment will help ensure volunteer firefighter safety. Turnout gear that is compliant with current OSHA and NFPA standards will better protect the firefighters during fires, rescues, and medical incidents. Having a washer-extractor at the fire station will ensure proper handling of the new turnout sets. Proper care and storage of the turnout gear will increase their lifespan, improve the efficiency of the department, and improve firefighter and public safety.

The Service Area recently received notice that its application has been approved. The total project amount is \$62,158 - the federal share is \$59,050 and the grant match requirement is \$3,108. (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 met on December 11, 2007, and considered acceptance of this grant and approval for expenditure of the matching funds. The Board voted unanimously to accept the grant, use funds from the operating budget to meet the match requirement, and use monies from fund balance to pay the administrative fee.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program offers workshops each year to assist applicants in preparing 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. Also, this grant is for less than one year. The Service Area will need adequate time to purchase the equipment and file required reports before the expiration of the grant. Therefore, a hearing date of January 22, 2008, is requested. The Assembly's consideration of this request is appreciated.

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Attachments: Ordinance, Notice of Award

FINANCE DEPARTMENT - FUNDS VERIFIED AMOUNT: \$4,903	
Account:	_____
By: _____	Date: _____