



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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JOHN J. WILLIAMS  
MAYOR

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Grace Merkes, 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

**DATE:** October 2, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance No. 2008-19-27: Accepting and appropriating a \$218,110 grant from the State of Alaska for the Bear Creek Fire Service Area

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The Bear Creek Fire Service Area board intends to participate in the Alaska Land Mobile Radio system (“ALMR”) in order to enhance interoperability for disaster response. In addition, the board is assisting other first responders on the Eastern Peninsula to comply with ALMR requirements. Improved communications is a priority. Bear Creek volunteers have experienced frequent breakdowns in transmission of critical information when trying to communicate with other responding agencies. One way to meet this need was to apply for funding through the Public Safety Interoperable Communications grant program to purchase ALMR-compatible equipment. The funding request also included monies for establishing standard operating procedures and training on the new equipment.

The Service Area board submitted a grant application to the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The request was an area-wide request that includes communications equipment and training for emergency responders on the Eastern Peninsula, including Hope, Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, Seward and Lowell Point. Each of these areas will benefit from a communications system that ensures the most effective response, care and support for communities and patients.

The Service Area board recently received notice that funding in the amount of \$218,110 has been approved. Funds are to be used to purchase communications equipment, including ALMR-compatible radios, training for that equipment, and development of standard operating procedures for interagency communications on the Eastern Peninsula. Grant funds are federal funds that require a 20% match. The State has committed to paying the 20% match requirement.

The State requests that the signed grant documents be returned within 30 days. In this instance, the due date would be October 11. We have applied for, and have been approved, an extension until October 30 to submit the documents. Due to the State's requirement, a shortened hearing date has been requested.

The Service Area Board is scheduled to meet on October 14, 2008. Acceptance of this grant will be addressed by the Service Area Board prior to final hearing on the ordinance. The results of the Board's actions will be provided to the Assembly prior to final hearing.

Enactment of the attached ordinance will provide the Service Area funding it needs to move this project forward. Your consideration of this ordinance is appreciated.

Attachments:

- Ordinance
- DHS&EM award letter
- Grant application cover letter
- Notice of intent to accept grant award

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