

Mayor
Alice Ruby

City Manager
Jack Savo Jr.



Dillingham City Council
Triston Chaney
Tracy Hightower
Steven Carriere
Curt Armstrong
Kaleb Westfall
Kevin McCambly

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Abigail Flynn, City Clerk's Department
Through: Jack Savo Jr, City Manager
Date: September 22, 2026, 2026
Re: Council Decisions on Travel to AML

SUMMARY: Please come to the October 15, 2026 or the October 22, 2026, Council meeting prepared to decide which two Council members will attend the Alaska Municipal League (AML) conference in December. The budget provides for two Council members to attend. Please also consider whether to use reimbursed taxi or rideshare trips between the Anchorage airport and conference hotel in place of a City-funded rental vehicle, where practical. Seats on Alaska Airlines fill up fast so it is very important the Clerk be able to book the tickets as soon as possible.

BACKGROUND: When travel authorizations were prepared in August, the estimated cost was \$3,653.70 per Council member, or \$7,307.40 for two. These are estimates and may increase as the travel date approaches. Last year, the rental vehicle for one Council member attending AML cost \$858.62 and the additional cost to park that vehicle downtown was an additional \$150. Taxi or rideshare costs tend to be around \$60 total and include both to and from the airport. There is a potential to save the taxpayers almost \$2,000 on this trip alone.

DISCUSSION: Staff members already seek ways to reduce City travel costs when they travel. Depending on the trip, they use taxis or rideshares, arrange rides with friends or family, or pay personally for a rental vehicle for their own use to be used only after training sessions are finished each day. Staying near the conference and arranging only the needed transportation to and from the airport can also make it easier to attend the full daily program. The council hotel is already booked for the Marriott as it is walking distance to the AML conference location. Some residents raised concerns on social media last year about public spending on AML travel. Considering ground transportation costs publicly gives the Council an opportunity to respond to those concerns while deciding what arrangements are practical for its members.

COUNCIL DECISION: At the October 15 or 22 meeting, please select the members who will attend and decide whether their ground transportation should generally be reimbursed taxi or rideshare trips between the Anchorage airport and hotel, subject to the City's travel rules and receipts, or another approved arrangement. The Council may consider a rental vehicle if circumstances warrant it or may consider one rental vehicle to be shared between the members attending.