



City of Homer

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Volunteer Fire Department

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Memorandum 19-131

TO: City Council and Mayor Castner

THROUGH: Katie Koester, City Manager

FROM: Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

DATE: October 8, 2019

SUBJECT: HVFD Mobile Radio Replacement Grant Award

We have been awarded an FY2017 reallocation grant award from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the amount of \$53,324.58 to continue the upgrade of the City of Homer's emergency communications radio equipment.

This grant will nearly complete an upgrade to the Homer Volunteer Fire Department's vehicle mounted mobile radio system, including mobile radio and repeater units for our two Command Vehicles and nearly all response apparatus. HVFD's mobile units are fifteen years old and are aging out of their expected functional life span. They are subject to the daily wear and tear of constant exposure to temperature fluctuations, a harsh coastal climate, dust, dirt, saltwater and unimproved bumpy roads common in our area. With each passing year, the units experience more frequent break downs that take them out of service for repair. Due to their age, the manufacturer (Motorola) no longer supports the radios with spare parts or software upgrades.

We are very pleased to have been awarded the grant. I recommend Council authorize the City to accept this grant and ask for further authorization to enter into a sole source contract with ProComm Alaska for the equipment. ProComm is the only full service Motorola dealer in the state and the Motorola equipment is the only equipment compatible for use with our system and the State of Alaska's Land Mobile Radio System, commonly referred to as ALMR.

There is no other option for us to pursue when it comes to replacing our radio equipment. ProComm provides us 24/7 response services and is also the only radio service provider that fields public safety certified technicians with Motorola factory training. I understand they have provided superb service to us over the years. For these reasons, I request a sole source contract be awarded to ProComm Alaska.