

Homer  
Volunteer  
Fire  
Department

# Memo

11-018

604 east pioneer avenue  
homer, alaska 99603  
907/235-3155  
fax 907/235-3157  
fire@ci.homer.ak.us

**To: Walt Wrede, City Manager**

**From: Robert Painter, Fire Chief**

**CC:**

**Date: January 17, 2011**

**Re: Budget Revision**

*W. Wrede*  
*[Signature]*

It is very important to approve this budget revision to allow the fire department to consolidate its data collection on to single data management systems. Prior to 2009 all fire department data collection and mandatory fire reporting was handled by our existing software, called FireHouse. This system tracked our personnel records, training records, equipment inventory, hose testing records as well as fire and EMS reports. In 2009 the State of Alaska EMS Office mandated that all EMS agencies adopt electronic data collection with at least monthly data submission (just like is required for fire reporting to the State Fire Marshal's Office). The State EMS Office developed a program called Aurora which stands for Alaska Uniform Response Online Reporting Access. This system is powered by software developed by a company called Image Trend. Unfortunately this system, as provided free from the state, does not meet our needs for other fire department data management. This upgrade will allow the fire department to convert all of our data to Image Trend's "Rescue Bridge" which is a full featured data management suite that will meet our needs into the foreseeable future. In addition, this new data management system is web-based which means that the company "hosts" the data at their secure site (fully encrypted to meet HIPAA security rules) and they can convert our existing data so that we don't lose the ability to easily look back for old reports and existing data from previous years. Though the original fire department request was for \$15,000, I would like to increase that to \$17,000 to provide for any cost overruns due to our increased number of calls for 2010 (over the estimated 500) that the first quote was based on.

CITY OF HOMER  
DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST  
YEAR 2011

Requesting Department Fire Department Date 8/13/2010

Level of Need: Urgent  Essential  Necessary  Desirable

**Request for Additional Personnel:**

Position Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Salary Range & Step \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full-time  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Part-time  Hours Per Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Request Other Than Personnel:**

Description Fire Department Data Collection  
Software Upgrade/Replacement

Fund Name: Fire Department Administration

Account Name: Professional and Special Services

Account # 100-150-5210

Estimated Cost: \$15,000

**(FINANCE DEPT WILL COMPLETE)**

5101 Permanent Employees \_\_\_\_\_  
 5102 Fringe Benefits \_\_\_\_\_  
 5103 P/T Employees \_\_\_\_\_  
 5104 Fringe Benefits P/T \_\_\_\_\_  
 5105 Overtime \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Personnel Cost** \_\_\_\_\_

**Justification:**

In 2009 the State of Alaska EMS office mandated that all ambulance services provide electronic collection of data via a State funded systems they named Aurora. The State office provided, free of charge the software to allow us to collect that data on our existing hardware, free of charge (we paid only an annual software maintenance fee following the first year). This system has proven to be very user friendly and robust but has at the same time created some difficulty in that we now collect our data into two systems; one for fire and one for EMS thus creating additional work for our staff. This project would allow us to replace our existing database system with one making data collection and dissemination more accurate and eliminate the need for running on two systems simultaneously. Image Trend, the vendor being used by the State, provides excellent technical support, training and data security and is fully HIPPA compliant and hosts the data storage off site which would mean less need for local storage space for our data. This project would also allow us to transfer our existing data to the new system so that information does not have to be archived (more difficult to access). This project has been reviewed by the System Manager and has his endorsement. Once new software has been installed the annual operation costs will be only a per run fee (\$3.00 per call) plus an annual service/maintenance fee of \$1,500.

Requestor's Name: Robert L. Painter, Fire Chief

Department Head Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

City Manager Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Denied \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: THIS WAS REQUESTED BUT NOT INCLUDED IN DRAFT BUDGET.