



# City of Homer

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## Memorandum 20-179

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
FROM: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects & Communications Coordinator  
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
DATE: October 22, 2020  
SUBJECT: CARES Act Close Out Plan Backup

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This memo presents a draft CARES Act Close Out Plan as proposed in Resolution 20-104 and provides backup information on projects staff and some Councilmembers have proposed for inclusion in the Plan.

The CARES Act Close Out Plan is intended to reflect Council's prioritized expenditures from the COVID-19 Response fund so that CARES Act funds can be maximized for COVID-19 response and recovery within the remaining eligibility period. The plan directs staff on incurring eligible CARES Act expenses.

Please review the CARES Act Project Close Out Plan, discuss the proposed prioritization and suggest and approve any amendments.

For instance, attached to this memo is an erosion mitigation proposal from Councilmember Evensen for potential CARES Act funding. From Administration's perspective, while some of the beaches and parks have experienced the impacts Councilmember Evensen lists, it may be challenging to make a direct connection between a beach reclamation project and the public health, which is required by US Treasury for capital projects utilizing CARES Act funding. Council may advise otherwise and move to amend the plan to include this project.

Once approved by Council, staff will provide regular reports detailing costs incurred through the CARES Act Close Out Plan so that City Council can adjust the Plan as needed to respond to COVID-19. Amendments to how programs or projects are prioritized, including the addition of new programs or project will be made by resolution.

The Close Out Plan includes a list of prioritized expenditures. The first four priorities are to complete funding for any unfunded applicants of the SBERG, NERG, MARRG, and FERG programs should grant applications overreach appropriations for any of the Economic Relief Grant programs. Below, I provide backup information about the other items in the proposed prioritization.

### **5. Kenai Peninsula College – equipment necessary for teaching remote/online classes**

### **6. Kenai Peninsula College – Homer Resident Student Scholarships**

Kenai Peninsula College reached out to the City Manager for CARES Act funding in support of costs associated with changes in operations to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. A letter requesting funding for the two projects listed above is attached to this memo.

## **7. Port & Harbor repeater, base station and 15 portable radios**

## **8. 6 Port & Harbor 6 mobile radios**

Communications is one of the most important tools during an emergency to maximize the number of people who take appropriate and timely action to ensure the safety and protection of life and property; the COVID-19 health emergency is no exception. The Port of Homer is the destination port for medical evacuations from non-road connected communities throughout Lower Cook Inlet. Surface transport of COVID patients is the COOP plan for when weather does not permit VFR flights, or when the air transport companies refuse to transport COVID-19 patients in small aircraft.

With this current COVID-19 pandemic, harbor staff use our communications system to talk with vessels approaching the Port, to assist them with filing state required travel reports, and to arrange vessel quarantine. We have relied on radios heavily in these situations where early contact is imperative, and local phone numbers for arriving individuals are unknown, to ensure that conditions are safely managed and clear direction is given. We have already experienced operational communications issues with the following COVID response activities:

- Managing large vessels under quarantine that need to anchor offshore and tender to the harbor for supplies, medical interventions, etc.
- Port of Homer is the home port the AMHS vessel Tustumena and which was directed to quarantine at the Port of Homer during the June shipboard outbreak of Covid-19. Communications with the inbound vessel were paramount to a successful resolution.

The Port & Harbor plays an important role in the safety and protection of life and property. This project corrects deficiencies in the communications system, improves resiliency and will bring huge benefits to our lower Cook Inlet communities and mariners during this current Covid-19 emergency and the next emergency that comes our way.

Components include: Radios- Handheld and mobile radios are utilized by all operations staff, maintenance staff, and the Harbormaster. These units are seven-year-old hand me downs from the police department which are an upgrade from the 12-year-old units that they replaced. However, these units are no longer able to be serviced by the manufacturer as they no longer support that model. In order that the Port can maintain our classification as a regulated facility by the USCG we are required to stay current with FCC regulations and to maintain interoperable communications with our State, Federal and local agencies partners.

Repeater- When the on-duty officer is making their rounds in the harbor we often don't hear calls from vessels outside the harbor basin and this can include Regulated vessels such tugs and barges, ferry's and small passenger vessels. The placement of a repeater at the Skyline site will correct this weak link in the network, in partnership with the base station. Looking into the future the repeater will allow us to maintain communications between harbor basins when we expand the port and add a large vessel harbor.

Base station- (Moving the base station system to the city's tower located on Skyline Drive) From this vantage point we will be able to vastly extend our base station's range. The radio repeater will connect our

handhelds directly into the base effectively giving our handhelds the same range as the base station. Increasing our range makes everything in the communications system more effective, and since this is a system we rely heavily on in an emergency for its reliability and flexibility, the farther it reaches the more effective we become as a whole.

### **9. 1 Lucas CPR device:**

This request would outfit two HVFD ambulances with Lucas CPR devices. One Lucas CPR device (of two requested) was funded with CARES Act funds by Ordinance 20-63(A). The Lucas provides “consistent quality” CPR for those in cardiac arrest. What makes it specifically useful during the transportation of COVID-19 cases is that it allows responders to perform quality CPR without exposing EMT’s to the risk of COVID-19 airborne/droplet particles that are always generated during CPR events. We need 2 of them so that both of our frontline ambulances are equipped with the equal equipment as we often have simultaneous calls happening. There is no way of knowing what the call type is before it happens so equipping both ambulances is the only way to assure that proper care is provided every time. Additionally, it provides the highest degree of safety for first responders as it eliminates the need to have additional volunteers in the ambulance during transport.

### **10. 1 Patient power load system & gurney:**

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among emergency responders, HVFD has reduced staff to two medical providers on calls when possible. Typically the Fire Department would have between 4 to 5 Fire/EMS personnel and possibly a police officer to help with manually loading patients into the ambulance. The reduction in emergency responders on call heightens the department’s risk to the national leading cause of injury to EMS personnel which is back injury due to the amount of lifting that is required in this field. The power load patient lift system has greatly reduced the risk of back injury to EMS providers by limiting the heavy lifting of patients. It is very common to have a single lift of patient and equipment exceed 350—400 pounds.

### **11. 3 Cardiac/Respiratory monitors:**

The Zoll Cardiac/respiratory monitors are better suited to treat COVID-19 patients than our current cardiac monitor. The Zoll monitors are Bluetooth capable which will allow us to transmit patient information directly to the hospital as they are currently using Zoll products. The Zoll monitor have both audio and video prompts that will help provide vital information to the EMS responders that will directly assist them in patient care decisions. The telemetry these monitors provide to the hospital gives them real time information to better prepare them to treat the patient remotely, and provide them with more information that will allow them to be better prepared to receive COVID-19 patients at the ER.

### **12. Park Maintenance COVID-19 Mitigation Actions – Parks Custodian seasonal positions:**

Due to COVID-19 concerns, Park Laborers who usually clean City public restrooms in the summer quit and Public Works could not find any new hires. Temporary Parks Maintenance Custodian positions were specifically created to fill this need.

### **13. HPD & HVFD**

US Treasury permits the use of CARES Act dollars to cover first responder payroll during the eligible period March 1, 2020 – December 30, 2020. As of the last pay period, HPD and HVFD payroll expenses not applied to

CARES Act funding thus far totals \$1,962,776. After December 30, staff will have a total amount of first responder payroll and can reimburse this expense with Coronavirus Relief Funds.



# Kenai Peninsula College

UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA ANCHORAGE

## **Kenai Peninsula College Kachemak Bay Campus Proposal for Homer CARES Funding**

KPC and the rest of the University of Alaska started operating mostly remotely in March when COVID-19 became a pandemic. Campuses were closed, 90% of classes were delivered remotely and stringent guidelines were put into place that greatly impacted how we could serve students. This continued in the current fall semester and it has been decided KPC will operate under these same conditions in the Spring 2021 semester.

As a direct result of the pandemic, KPC's Kachemak Bay Campus (KBC) requests the following economic relief so they can better serve their students and the Southern Peninsula:

### **Faculty teaching from home**

**Cost: \$19,600**

As all of our 30+ faculty are teaching from home this fall and this coming spring we need to continually replace damaged and/or outdated equipment that we use to teach distance.

10 Dell laptops (\$1,500/each)

8 Dell USB-C Dongles for monitors (\$75/each)

2 Multi-camera instructor following platforms (\$1,000/each)

10 Headsets (\$50/each)

10 Webcams (\$150/each)

### **Homer Resident Student Scholarship**

**Cost: \$24,000**

The majority of KPC students work while attending college. Due to the pandemic many are struggling financially due to the closure or reduced hours of businesses that typically employ college students. The Homer Resident Student Scholarship will be offered to students currently admitted or have pending admissions to a UA degree program and are taking six or more credits. Students must be enrolled and admitted/pending admission before the deadline for the spring 2021 semester. This

estimate is based on the 48 Homer residents currently enrolled at KBC meeting these requirements.

Students will be asked to complete an online scholarship application which will require a statement of need and how the pandemic has impacted them. Each student will receive a scholarship of \$500.

**Total funding requests:**

**\$43,600**

Park and Campground Economic Recovery

<b>Anomalous COVID effects May-Sept 2020</b>	<b>Severity of effects Ranking (0 to 5)</b>	<b>City park/campground</b>	<b>Remedy &amp; repair</b>	<b>Financial need for Repair (suggested)</b>
illegal parking, overuse driftwood removal	4	spit beach area 1	permanent, aesthetic blockade re-vegetation; signage beach berm stabilization	\$ 147,000
illegal parking & camping driftwood removal	4	spit beach area 2	permanent, aesthetic blockade re-vegetation; signage beach berm stabilization	\$ 147,000
overuse	2	end of the road park	parking & signage; misc. repairs	\$ 36,750
overuse	1	nick dudiak fishing hole	parking & signage; misc. repairs	\$ 18,375
illegal parking & camping	4	mariner beach area	permanent, aesthetic blockade beach berm stabilization partial cost of bathroom installation	\$ 147,000
illegal camping, overuse	4	bishops beach area	permanent, aesthetic blockade beach berm stabilization partial cost of bathroom installation	\$ 147,000
overuse	3	bayview park	parking & signage; misc. repairs	\$ 73,500
all of above	5	karen hornaday park	permanent, aesthetic blockades signage; roadwork & trailwork bathroom repairs/reconstruction	\$ 294,000
security exposure/needs	3	City park properties	monitoring cameras to assist low levels of staffing	\$ 147,000
			<i>total</i>	\$ 1,157,625

**City of Homer CARES Act Project Close Out Plan**

Approved by Council Resolution 20-104

<b>Program/Project Name</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Total Expended</b>	<b>Unexpended</b>
		<i>(up to)</i>	<i>(to date)</i>	
Household Economic Relief Grants	10/16/2020	\$1,500,000.00	\$ 311,239.44	\$1,188,760.56
Nonprofit Economic Relief Grant Round 2	11/8/2020	\$ 516,927.50		
AHFC Mortgage & Rent Relief Program	11/29/2020	\$ 763,200.00		
Fisherman's Economic Relief Grants	11/29/2020	\$ 1,300,000.00		

**CARES Act Project Close Out Prioritization**

The following list prioritizes how the City of Homer will incur expenses associated with second-order effects of the COVID-19 health emergency and direct emergency response. All expenses will be incurred between March 1, 2020 - December 30, 2020. After December 30, 2020 but before March 30, 2021, Administration will bring forward an ordinance to Homer City Council that reimburses qualifying expenses with Coronavirus Relief Funds received through the State of Alaska's Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant Agreement.

1. Unfunded Small Business Relief Grant applicants
2. Unfunded Nonprofit Economic Relief Grant applicants
3. Unfunded Mortgage & Rent Relief Grant applicants
4. Unfunded Fisherman's Economic Relief Grant applicants

	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Total Expended</b>	<b>Unexpended</b>
<b>Kenai Peninsula College</b>			
5. Equipment for remote/online teaching	\$ 19,600.00		
6. Homer Resident Student Scholarship	\$ 24,000.00		
<b>Emergency Communications Equipment</b>			
7. Port & Harbor repeater, base station, 15 portable radios	\$ 150,000.00		
8. 6 mobile radios	\$ 33,000.00		
<b>HVFD COVID-19 Mitigation during Emergency Transport</b>			
9. 1 Lucas CPR machine	\$ 15,245.19		
10. 1 Power Load patient lift system & gurney	\$ 35,490.63		
11. 3 Zoll Cardiac/Respiratory monitors	\$ 88,240.06		
<b>Public Safety Payroll</b>			
12. COVID-19 Compliance Custodian positions			
13. HPD			
13. HVFD			