



City of Homer

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Volunteer Fire Department

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Memorandum 20-188

TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
FROM: Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
DATE: November 5, 2020
SUBJECT: FY2020 SHSP Grant Acceptance & Procomm Alaska Sole Source Request

We have received an FY2020 grant award from Homeland Security to make important upgrades to the HVFD Public Safety Communications System.

The grant of \$56,658.00 is to purchase hand-held radios carried by first responders and installing mobile repeaters in the Department's command vehicles.

This equipment will enhance our operational capabilities and bring us in line with ICS compliance. HVFD portable radio units are used on a daily basis and subject to the daily wear and tear, constant exposure to temperature fluctuations, a harsh coastal climate, dust, dirt, saltwater and unimproved bumpy roads common in our area.

I recommend accepting this grant as the units are sixteen years old and have aged out of their expected functional life span. Due to their age, they are no longer supported by the manufacturer with spare parts or software upgrades. Without manufacturer support, they are highly vulnerable to hardware/parts failure, software glitches and malfunction due to computer virus without recourse.

I also request that this purchase be approved for a sole source purchase through ProComm Alaska.

We have to purchase Motorola Brand equipment. The Motorola equipment is the only equipment that will interface properly with our existing system allowing system functionality to remain the same. We currently conduct the vast majority of our radio communications on the State Of Alaska's Land Mobile Radio System, (ALMR). Utilizing ALMR gives us the capability to easily and efficiently coordinate and participate in mutual-aid and multi-agency responses to any natural disaster or serious public safety incident and provides for complete interoperability between all responders.

We request to complete this project with a sole source contract to ProComm Alaska for the following reasons:

ProComm Alaska, (PCA), has serviced our radio system for over 17 years. Their service has been superb and delivered in an extremely professional manner. They are intimately familiar with our system and the unique radio frequency anomalies in our area. They have installed every piece of radio equipment in our system.

PCA is the only firm in the state authorized to function as a full service manufacturer's representative for Motorola. They are the only firm in the state capable of providing new Motorola brand equipment to us and integrating it into our system.

PCA is Motorola's only certified APCO P25 Systems Specialist in the State of Alaska. Public safety radio systems must meet P25 standards.

PCA is the only radio service provider in the state that provides public safety certified technicians with Motorola factory training. PCA technicians are also third party certified by the Electronics Technicians Association International.

To help ensure we are obtaining the best possible pricing, we contacted the Motorola Factory Representative for Alaska. Our pricing is based on the annually re-negotiated NASPO Value Point.

