



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Volunteer Fire Department

604 East Pioneer Ave
Homer, Alaska 99603

fire@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3155

(f) 907-235-3157

Memorandum 20-201

TO: Homer City Council
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel
FROM: Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
DATE: December 9, 2020
SUBJECT: 2021 Covid-19 hires

In March of 2020 the Fire Department, through the City Manager's office, hired two temporary full-time Emergency Responders to aid in emergency medical response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding expires on December 30th. At the time the emergency hires were made, we had no clear idea how long the pandemic would last nor did we know what effect it would have on the emergency response system in Homer. The pandemic has proven to have had a significant effect on the health and wellbeing of Homer residents. It has also resulted in the Fire Department making changes to its operational response to meet this new challenge in a safe manner. While there are preparations underway for the deployment of vaccines, it is anticipated that COVID-19 will have an impact well into 2021.

For the proposed 2021 fiscal year (January 1 through June 30), I would like to retain one of the emergency hire positions and then fill the equivalent of a second position with temporary hires (depending on the available work force, temp hours could be split between more than one individual to provide coverage equivalent to one full-time temp employee). This will allow us to continue to provide emergency response that meets the needs of the community while managing the safety of our first responders. Additionally, the use of temporary hire(s) will result in savings of approximately \$20,000 when compared to maintaining two emergency hires for the same period.